

Soft Component Activities

Sr. No.	Soft component activity*	Amount sanctioned as per DPR	Whether activity has been undertaken	If not, planned date of the activity	Expenditure made till date (in Rs.)
1	Entrepreneurship Development Workshop	60,000	Done	24th Oct 2024-26th Oct 2024	60,076 (Rs.76/- bear by college)
2	Research Methodology Course Work for Ph.D	1,50,000	No	03rd March 2025-13th March 2025	-
3	National Conference on Indian Knowledge System Regarding NEP 2020	2,00,000	No	14th Dec 2025	-

4	Research Methodology Course Work for Ph.D	1,50,000	No	20th July 2025-30th July 2025	-
5	National Conference on Interdisciplinary Studies	2,00,000	No	16th Dec 2025	-
6	Seminar on Intellectual Property right (IPR)	45,000	No	26th April 2025	-
7	Photography and Videography Course	15,000	No	17th March 2025-24th March 2025	-
8	Audio and Video Editing Program	15,000	No	21st Feb 2025- 29th Feb 2025	-

9	Communication Skills and Public Speaking Course	15,000	No	15th Feb 2025-22nd Feb 2025	-
10	Reporting and newspaper making Course	15,000	No	17th Feb 2025-24th Feb 2025	-
11	Emerging Challenges of Equitable Growth in the Indian Economy	1,00,000	No	15th Jan 2025	1,00,000
12	Workshop on Research Methodology in Commerce and Management amid of NEP2020	2,00,000	No	22nd Aug 2025-23rd Aug 2025	-
13	One Day National Conference (Interdisciplinary) on Contribution of Sports in Nation Building	1,00,000	No	25th Feb 2025	-

14	Ethics and VALues in Higher Education	1,00,000	No	10th April 2025	-
15	FDP on NEP 2020 regarding learning , teaching and evaluation in HEI	1,25,000	No	20th Jan 2025-22nd Jan 2025	-
16	Orientation Programme for Administrative Staff	50,000/-	No	11th March 2025	-

लोकसत्ता

नागपूर, मुंबई, पुणे, अहिल्यानगर, छत्रपती संभाजीनगर आणि दिल्ली येथून प्रसिद्ध

लोकमान्य, लोकशक्ती!

क्रीडा
रोहितचा शतकी
झंझावात!



अगलेख
'आप'ले मरण पाहिले...
राजधानी हातात नाही, ही सल दूर
करण्यासाठी भाजप सर्व ताकद पणाला
लावणार हे दिसत होते. त्या तुलनेत
केजरीवाल गाफील राहिले...

तापमान
कमाल ३४.०° से
किमान १५.०° से
हवामानाचा अंदाज
आकारा निरक्षर राहिले.

काय चाललंय काय!



त्यातल्या त्यात एक समाधान आहे की
आपल्या या कामगिरीत एक प्रकारचे
टिकम धरलेलं सातत्य आहे !!

**हवाई दलप्रमुख आणि
लष्करप्रमुखांची 'तेजस' भरारी**

बंगळूरु : हवाई दलप्रमुख एअर चीफ
मार्शल ए. पी. सिंग आणि लष्करप्रमुख
जनरल उपेंद्र द्विवेदी यांनी रविवारी
हलके लढाऊ विमान 'तेजस' मधून
भरारी घेतली. दर दोन वर्षांनी होणारे
'एअरो इंडिया' हे हवाई प्रदर्शन
बंगळूरु येथे सोमवारपासून सुरू होत
असून ते १४ फेब्रुवारीपर्यंत चालेल.
'आपल्या आयुष्यातील हा सर्वात
चांगला क्षण आहे,' अशी प्रतिक्रिया
लष्करप्रमुखांनी 'तेजस' मधून उड्डाण
केल्यानंतर दिली. पान २

**इस्त्रायली सैन्याची
गाझातून माघार / २**

**अजित पवार यांची
'वॉर रूम' थंड / ४**

सुमित पाकलवार, लोकसत्ता

गडचिरोली : छत्तीसगड-महाराष्ट्र
सीमेवर सुरक्षा जवान आणि
नक्षलवाद्यांमध्ये झालेल्या
चकमकीत ११ महिलांसह ३१
नक्षलवादी ठार, तर दोन जवान
शहीद झाले आहेत. दोन जवान
जखमी असल्याचीही माहिती आहे.
गडचिरोली जिल्ह्याला लागून
असलेल्या छत्तीसगडमधील
बिजापूर जिल्ह्यात ही चकमक
झाली. परिसरात अद्याप शोध मोहीम
सुरू असून मृतांचा आकडा
वाढण्याची शक्यता आहे.

पोलिसांकडून मिळालेल्या
प्राथमिक माहितीनुसार, बिजापूर
जिल्ह्यातील इंद्रावती राष्ट्रीय उद्यान
परिसराला लागून असलेल्या
तोडका जंगल परिसरात
नक्षलवाद्यांचे दोन दलम लपून

३१ नक्षलवादी ठार

छत्तीसगड-महाराष्ट्र सीमेवर चकमक | दोन जवान शहीद, दोघे गंभीर जखमी



चकमकीत जखमी झालेल्या जवानांना रायपूर येथे आणण्यात आले असून त्यांच्यावर उपचार सुरू आहेत.

बसल्याची माहिती मिळाल्यानंतर
सुरक्षा जवानांनी त्या परिसरात



नक्षलमुक्त भारतचे
उद्दिष्ट साध्य करण्याच्या
दिशेने सुरक्षारक्षकांना
छत्तीसगडच्या बिजापूरमध्ये मोठे
यश मिळाले आहे. ही कारवाई
करताना शहीद झालेल्या
जवानांचा देश सदा ऋणी राहील.
शहीद जवानांच्या कुटुंबीयांप्रति
मी सहवेदना व्यक्त करतो.
त्याबरोबरच ३१ मार्च २०२६च्या
आधी देशातून नक्षलवाद
मुळापासून नष्ट करण्याच्या
संकल्पाची पुनरावृत्ती करतो.
- **अमित शहा**, केंद्रीय गृहमंत्री

जवान सहभागी झाल्याची माहिती
छत्तीसगडचे उपमुख्यमंत्री विजय

शर्मा यांनी दिली. कारवाईदरम्यान
दडून बसलेल्या नक्षलवाद्यांनी
सुरक्षारक्षकांच्या दिशेने गोळीबार
सुरू केला. जवानांनी दिलेल्या
प्रत्युत्तरात ३१ नक्षलवादी ठार झाले.
चकमकीत दोन जवान शहीद झाले
असून जखमी झालेल्या जवानांची
प्रकृती चिंताजनक असल्याची
माहिती आहे.

गेल्या काही वर्षांपासून सुरक्षा
जवानांनी केलेल्या आक्रमक
कारवायांमुळे नक्षलवादी एका
राज्यातून दुसऱ्या राज्यात स्थलांतरित
होत आहेत. तसेच दोन राज्यांच्या
सीमांवरील अंतर्गत भागात बैठकाही
घेत आहेत. गुप्तचर यंत्रणेकडून
मिळालेल्या माहितीच्या आधारे
सुरक्षा दलांनी बिजापूर जिल्ह्यात
रविवारी कारवाई केली.
चकमकस्थळ गडचिरोली
जिल्ह्याच्या (पान ४ वर)

विकृत युवकाद्वारे १७ शाळकरी मुलींचा विनयभंग

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : शाळेजवळ असलेल्या
दुकानाचे शटर दुरुस्त करण्यासाठी
आलेल्या विकृत युवकाने तब्बल
१७ शाळकरी मुलींचा विनयभंग
केला. काही मुलींनी पालकांकडे
तक्रारी केल्यानंतर हा धक्कादायक
प्रकार उघडकीस आला. या
घटनेमुळे शाळा परिसरात एकच
खळबळ उडाली आहे.

याप्रकरणी नंदनवन पोलिसांनी
गुन्हे दाखल करून आरोपी
युवकास अटक केली. रवी प्रकाश

लाखे (३२, गंगाविहार कॉलनी,
नंदनवन) असे आरोपीचे नाव
आहे. गेल्या दोन आठवड्यांपूर्वीच
नागपुरातील एका विकृत
समुपदेशकाने तब्बल १५० मुली,
तरुणी आणि विवाहित महिलांचे
लैंगिक शोषण केल्याची घटना
उघडकीस आली होती, हे विशेष.
नागपुरातील नंदनवन परिसरात
नामोक्त शाळा आहे. या शाळेच्या
बाजूला शालेय साहित्य विक्रीचे
(स्टेशनरी) दुकान आहे. या
दुकानाचे शटर नादुरुस्त होते.
त्यामुळे (पान ४ वर)

दिल्लीत मुख्यमंत्रीपदासाठी चुरस

प्रवेश वर्मा, विजेन्द्र गुप्ता यांच्या नावाची चर्चा, शपथविधी १५ तारखेनंतरच?

लोकसत्ता विशेष प्रतिनिधी

नवी दिल्ली : दिल्ली विधानसभा
निवडणुकीतील अभूतपूर्व
विजयानंतर भाजपमध्ये
मुख्यमंत्रीपदासाठी संभाव्य नावांची
चर्चा सुरू झाली आहे. 'जायंट
क्लिर' प्रवेश वर्मा, माजी विरोधी
पक्षनेते विजेन्द्र गुप्ता यांची नावे
आघाडीवर असल्याची माहिती
सूत्रांनी दिली. दुसरीकडे
शपथविधीसाठी घाई केली जाणार
असून पंतप्रधान नरेंद्र मोदी
अमेरिकेच्या दौऱ्याहून



प्रवेश वर्मा विजेन्द्र गुप्ता

परतल्यानंतरच हा भव्य सोहळा
होईल, अशी शक्यता आहे.
भाजपला दिल्लीमध्ये २७
वर्षांनंतर सत्ता मिळाली असल्यामुळे
शपथविधीचा दिमाखदार
शपथविधी सोहळा करण्याचा
भाजप नेतृत्वाचा (पान ४ वर)

**महिला नेतृत्वाचाही
विचार**

भाजपने महिला मुख्यमंत्री
देण्याचा निर्णय घेतल्यास शेट्टर
केलाशमध्ये आपचे दिग्गज नेते
सौरभ भारद्वाज यांना पराभूत
करणान्या शिखा रॉय यांच्या
नावाचा विचार केला जाऊ
शकतो, अशी माहिती सूत्रांनी
दिली. शिवाय माजी खासदार
स्मृती इराणी यांचेही नाव चर्चेत
असल्याचे पक्षात बोलले जात
आहे.

मणिपूरचे मुख्यमंत्री अखेर पायउतार

पक्षश्रेष्ठींशी चर्चेनंतर बिरेन सिंह यांचा राजीनामा



मणिपूरचे मुख्यमंत्री एन. बिरेन सिंह यांनी रविवारी पदाचा राजीनामा
राज्यपाल अजयकुमार भल्ला यांच्याकडे सुपूर्द केला. त्यावेळी भाजप
प्रदेशाध्यक्ष एन. शारदा, खासदार संवित पात्रा उपस्थित होते.

**पीटीआय,
नवी दिल्ली / इम्फाळ**

सुमारे दोन वर्षांपासून मणिपूरमध्ये
सुरू असलेल्या हिंसाचाराच्या
पाश्र्वभूमीवर मुख्यमंत्री एन. बिरेन
सिंह यांनी रविवारी अखेर आपल्या
पदाचा राजीनामा दिला. नवी
दिल्लीमध्ये केंद्रीय गृहमंत्री अमित
शहा आणि भाजप अध्यक्ष जे. पी.
नड्डा यांच्याशी चर्चा केल्यानंतर
त्यांनी इम्फाळ येथे राज्यपालांकडे
राजीनामा सुपूर्द केला.
मणिपूरमध्ये मे २०२३ पासून
मैतेई आणि कुकी या दोन
समाजांमध्ये संघर्ष सुरू असून
हिंसाचार थांबविण्यात राज्य
सरकारला सपशेल अपयश
आल्याचा आरोप होत होता. सिंह
यांच्या राजीनाम्याचीही मागणी
विरोधकांनी लावून धरली होती.
अखेर रविवारी केंद्रीय नेतृत्वाशी
प्रदीर्घ चर्चा केल्यानंतर
विधिमंडळाचे अर्थसंकल्पीय

**पंतप्रधानांच्या दौऱ्याची
प्रतीक्षा - काँग्रेस**

बिरेन सिंह यांना राजीनामा
देण्यास खूप उशीर झाल्याची
टिप्पणी करताना 'सगळीकडे
फिरणारे' पंतप्रधान मोदी
मणिपूरला केव्हा येतात, याची
आता प्रतीक्षा असल्याचा टोला
काँग्रेसचे माध्यम प्रभारी
सरचितणीस जयराम रमेश यांनी
लगावला. काँग्रेसने अविश्वास
प्रस्तावाची तयारी केली होती. हवा
बदलत असल्याचे ओळखून सिंह
यांनी राजीनामा दिला. मणिपूर
जळत असताना मे २०२३पासून
आम्ही हीच मागणी करीत होतो,
असे रमेश यांनी आपल्या 'एक्स'
वरील संदेशात लिहिले आहे.
अधिवेशन तोंडावर आले असताना
त्यांनी राज्यपाल अजयकुमार
भल्ला यांच्याकडे आपला
राजीनामा सोपविला. यावेळी
त्यांच्याबरोबर (पान ४ वर)

प्रत्येक दिवसाला आपलं सर्वस्व देणे आहे जीवनाची SIP

जीवनासाठी SIP

अधिक माहितीसाठी आपल्या MFD/RIA यांच्याशी
संपर्क साधा किंवा स्कॅन करा



SIP चे फायदे



मार्केटला टाइम
करण्यापासून स्वातंत्र्य



गुंतवणूक रक्कम
निवडण्याचे स्वातंत्र्य



गुंतवणूकदारांसाठी प्रशिक्षण आणि जागरूकता उपक्रम

SIP - सिस्टिमॅटिक इन्व्हेस्टमेंट प्लॅन. म्युच्युअल फंडात गुंतवणूक करण्यासाठी नो युवर कस्टमर (केवायसी)ची प्रक्रिया एकदाच पूर्ण करण्यासंबंधी अधिक माहिती जाणून घेण्यासाठी <https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how> येथे भेट द्या. गुंतवणूकदारांनी फक्त नोंदणीकृत म्युच्युअल फंडांसोबत व्यवहार करावा, ज्यांचा तपशील सेबीच्या वेबसाईटवर (www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html) तपासून पाहता येईल. कोणत्याही प्रकारची चौकशी, तक्रार असल्यास किंवा तक्रार निवारण्यासाठी गुंतवणूकदार एएमसीज आणि इन्व्हेस्टर रिलेशन्स अधिकाऱ्यांशी संपर्क साधू शकतात. त्याचबरोबर, गुंतवणूकदार एएमसीकडे थेट तक्रारी नोंदवू शकतात, एएमसी कडून देण्यात आलेल्या उत्तराने त्यांचे समाधान झाले नाही तर <https://scores.gov.in> वरील स्कोअर्स पोर्टलद्वारे ते तक्रार करू शकतात. स्कोअर्स पोर्टल द्वारे गुंतवणूकदारांना सेबी कडे ऑनलाईन तक्रार नोंदविण्याची आणि नंतर त्याची स्थिती तपासून पाहण्याची सुविधा उपलब्ध आहे. जर एएमसीकडे थेट केलेल्या अथवा स्कोअर्स पोर्टलद्वारे केलेल्या तक्रारीवर मिळालेल्या प्रतिसादाने ते <https://smartodir.in/login> वरील स्मार्ट ओडीआर वर कोणतीही तक्रार नोंदवू शकतात.

म्युच्युअल फंडातील गुंतवणूक बाजारातील जोखमीच्या अधीन असते, योजनेशी संबंधित सर्व दस्तावेज काळजीपूर्वक वाचावेत.



संक्षिप्त

नामिबियाच्या प्रथम अध्यक्षाने निधन

ओश्वेटी : नामिबियाचे स्वातंत्र्यसैनिक आणि प्रथम

अध्यक्ष सॅम नुजोमा यांचे शनिवारी रात्री निधन झाले. ते ९५ वर्षांचे होते. वर्षभेद

मानणाऱ्या दक्षिण आफ्रिकेकडून स्वातंत्र्य मिळवण्यासाठी त्यांनी दीर्घकाळ लढा दिला. त्यांच्या लढ्याला १९९०मध्ये यश आले आणि नामिबियाची स्वतंत्र राष्ट्र म्हणून स्थापना झाली. त्यांना नामिबियाचे राष्ट्रपिताही मानले जाते. त्यांनी १९९० पासून १५ वर्षे राष्ट्राध्यक्ष म्हणून जबाबदारी सांभाळली.

मालमत्तेच्या वादातून उद्योगपतीची हत्या

हैदराबाद : वेल्जन समूहाचे अध्यक्ष आणि व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक व्ही सी जनार्दन राव (८६) यांची त्यांच्या नातवाने भोसकून हत्या केल्याची माहिती पोलिसांनी शनिवारी सांगितले. राव यांचा नातू के. किर्ती तेजा यांचे मालमत्तेच्या वादातून त्यांच्या राहत्या घरी ६ फेब्रुवारीच्या रात्री त्यांच्यावर चाकूने हल्ला केला, त्यामध्ये त्यांचा तत्काळ मृत्यू झाला अशी माहिती पोलिसांनी दिली. किर्ती तेजा शनिवारी अटक करण्यात आल्याचे पंजाबगुट्टा पोलिसांनी सांगितले.

लिबियात

स्थलांतरितांचा गूड मृत्यू

कैरो : लिबियाच्या आग्नेय भागातील वाळवंटांमध्ये असलेल्या दोन सामूहिक दफनभूमीमधून जवळपास ५० मृतदेह सापडल्याची माहिती तेथील अधिकाऱ्यांनी शनिवारी दिली. हे मृतदेह लिबियाच्या मागिनी युरोपला जाण्याचा प्रयत्न करणाऱ्या स्थलांतरितांचे असल्याचे सांगण्यात आले.

इस्त्रायलची गाझातून माघार

उत्तर भागात पॅलेस्टिनी परतण्यास सुरुवात

एपी, मुद्रका (गाझा पट्टी)

इस्त्रायल आणि हमासदरम्यान झालेल्या युद्धविराम करारानुसार इस्त्रायलच्या फौजांनी गाझा कॉरिडोरमधून मागे फिरण्यास सुरुवात केली आहे. इस्त्रायलच्या अधिकाऱ्यांनी शनिवारी ही माहिती दिली. याबरोबरच, रविवारी नेट्झारिमच्या रस्त्यावर मिळेल त्या वाहनातून सामान घेऊन आपापल्या घरी परत निघालेले पॅलेस्टिनी दिसत होते. या वाहनांना कोणताही अडथळ्या आणणार नाही असे इस्त्रायलने सांगितले आहे.

या करारानुसार नेट्झारिम कॉरिडोरपासून ६ किलोमीटर अंतरावरील इस्त्रायलच्या फौजा मागे परतणार आहेत. या कॉरिडोरमुळे गाझाचे उत्तर आणि दक्षिण असे दोन भाग पडतात. युद्धदरम्यान इस्त्रायलने या भागाचे रूपांतर पूर्ण लष्करी



भागात केले होते. गेल्या महिन्यात इस्त्रायल आणि हमास संघटनेत युद्धविराम करार झाला. त्यानंतर इस्त्रायलने उत्तर गाझा पट्टीमध्ये नागरिकांना जाण्याची परवानगी दिली. विस्थापित झालेले हजारो नागरिक उत्तरेकडे रवाना झाले. इस्त्रायलचे सैन्य आता प्रत्यक्ष मागे जात असल्याने या करारातील आणखी एक बाब पूर्ण होणार आहे.

युद्धविराम कराराचा दुसरा टप्पा केव्हा होईल, याचा प्रतीक्षेत सारे आहेत. दुसऱ्या टप्प्यात इस्त्रायलच्या आणखी ओलिसांची सुटका आणि शस्त्रसंधी करारास मुदतवाढ देण्यात येण्याची शक्यता आहे. दुसऱ्या टप्प्याच्या वाटाघाटीसाठी इस्त्रायलचे पंतप्रधान बिन्यामिन नेतान्याहू यांनी कतारला पाठवलेल्या शिष्टमंडळीत दुय्यम महत्त्व असलेल्या

अधिकाऱ्यांना पाठवल्यामुळे त्यांना पुढील टप्प्यात रस आहे की नाही याबद्दल शंका निर्माण झाल्या आहेत. या मुद्द्यावर पुढील चर्चा करण्यासाठी नेताऱ्याहू यांनी या आठवड्यात महत्त्वाच्या मंत्र्यांची बैठक बोलावली आहे.

कतार, इजिप्त आणि अमेरिकेच्या मध्यस्थीमुळे १९ जानेवारीपासून सुरू झालेला युद्धविराम पहिल्या टप्प्यात सहा आठवडे चालणार असून मार्चच्या पहिल्या आठवड्यापर्यंत त्याची मुदत आहे. युद्धविराम लागू होण्यापूर्वी आणि लागू झाल्यानंतरही दोन्ही बाजूंमध्ये अनेक वेळा मतभेद झाले. मात्र, आतापर्यंत तरी कराराच्या सर्व अटींचे पालन करण्यात आले आहे. शनिवारी हमासने तीन इस्त्रायली ओलिसांची आणि इस्त्रायलने १८३ पॅलेस्टिनी कैद्यांची सुटका केली.

आतिशी यांचा राजीनामा

रचनात्मक विरोधक म्हणून काम करण्याची पक्षाची भूमिका

पीटीआय, नवी दिल्ली

दिल्लीच्या मुख्यमंत्री आतिशी यांनी रविवारी नायब राज्यपाल व्ही के सक्सेना यांना भेटून त्यांच्याकडे मुख्यमंत्रीपदाचा राजीनामा दिला. विधानसभा निवडणुकीच्या शनिवारी लागलेल्या निकालात आम आदमी पक्षाने बहुमत गमावले असून २७ वर्षांनंतर भाजपला सत्ता मिळाली आहे. आतिशी यांनी राज निवास येथे नायब राज्यपालांची भेट घेतली असे अधिकाऱ्यांनी सांगितले.

सक्सेना यांनी त्यांना नवीन सरकार स्थापन होईपर्यंत काळजीवाहू मुख्यमंत्री म्हणून काम करण्यास सांगितले असल्याची माहिती नायब राज्यपालांच्या कार्यालयाने 'एक्स'वरून दिली. आपल्या अरविंद केजरीवाल, मनिष सिंसोदिया, सौरभ भारद्वाज अशा दिग्गज नेत्यांचा पराभव झाला असताना आतिशी यांना काल्काजी मतदारसंघ राखण्यात यश आले.



आप रचनात्मक विरोधी पक्ष म्हणून काम करेल. भाजपने आशवासन दिल्याप्रमाणे ते ८ मार्चपर्यंत महिलांना दरमहा २,५०० रुपये दिले जातील, ३०० युनिटपर्यंत मोफत वीजपुरवठा केला जाईल आणि लोकांच्या इतर सुविधा कायम ठेवतील याची आम्ही खबरदारी घेऊ. - आतिशी, मावळच्या मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

भाजप उमेदवारांचा विजयोत्सव

भाजपच्या विजयी उमेदवारांनी रविवारी आपापल्या मतदारसंघांमधून फेऱ्या काढल्या आणि मतदारांचे आभार मानले. तसेच मिठाई वाटून, केक कापून त्यांनी आपला आनंद साजरा केला. "मतदारांनी माझ्यावर दाखवलेल्या विश्वासबादल त्यांचे आभार मानण्यासाठी येथे आलो आहे. मी त्यांच्या कल्याणासाठी प्रामाणिकपणे काम करेन, सार्वजनिक शाळांमध्ये पाणीपुरवठ्यासारख्या प्रश्नांवर लक्ष केंद्रित करेन," असे मोतीनगरचे नवनिघुक्त आमदार हरिश खुराणा यांनी सांगितले.

दरम्यान, माजी मुख्यमंत्री अरविंद केजरीवाल यांची रविवारी त्यांच्या निवासस्थानी पक्षाच्या विजयी उमेदवारांनी भेट घेतली. यावेळी केजरीवाल यांनी त्यांना लोकांसाठी

काम करण्याचा आणि त्यांच्या समस्या सोडवण्याचा सल्ला दिला. पक्ष रचनात्मक विरोधक म्हणून काम करेल असे आतिशी यांनी बैठकीनंतर पत्रकारांशी सांगितले.

हवाई दलप्रमुख आणि लष्करप्रमुखांची 'तेजस' भरारी

पीटीआय, बंगळूर

हवाई दलप्रमुख एअर चीफ मार्शल ए. पी. सिंग आणि लष्करप्रमुख जनरल उपेंद्र द्विवेदी यांनी रविवारी हलके लढाऊ विमान 'तेजस' मधून भरारी घेतली. दर दोन वर्षांनी होणारे 'एअरो इंडिया' हे हवाई प्रदर्शन बंगळूर येथे सोमवारपासून सुरू होत असून ते १४ फेब्रुवारीपर्यंत चालेल.

'आपल्या आयुष्यातील हा सर्वात चांगला क्षण आहे,' अशी प्रतिक्रिया लष्करप्रमुखांनी 'तेजस' मधून उड्डाण केल्यानंतर दिली. लष्करप्रमुखांनी या वेळी एअर चीफ मार्शल ए. पी. सिंग यांना आपले गुरू मानले आणि 'लष्कराऐवजी मी हवाई दलाची निवड का केली नाही,' असे ते मिश्रिकलपणे म्हणाले. जनरल द्विवेदी म्हणाले, 'एअर चीफ मार्शल



माझ्या बॅचचे असून एनडीएपासून आम्ही बरोबर आहोत. ते मला यापूर्वी भेटायला हवे होते. मी कदाचित हवाई दलाची निवड केली असती. आजपासून ए. पी. सिंग माझे गुरू असतील. 'तेजस' मधून उड्डाण केल्यानंतर आकाशात त्यांनी मला

बऱ्याच गोष्टी शिकविल्या.' संरक्षणमंत्री उपस्थित राहणार नवी दिल्ली : 'एअरो इंडिया'ला संरक्षणमंत्री राजनाथसिंह उपस्थित राहणार आहेत. या 'एअर शो' मधील भारताच्या विभागाचे ते उद्घाटन करतील. संरक्षण क्षेत्रातील

अत्याधुनिक तंत्रज्ञान आणि जागतिक स्तरावरील अद्ययावत माहिती या प्रदर्शनातून मिळणार आहे. एकूण ४२ हजार चौरस किमी क्षेत्रफळावर भरवण्यात येणारे हे आतापर्यंतचे सर्वात मोठे 'एअरो इंडिया' प्रदर्शन असेल. यातून नवीन

'एचएल' आणि 'बीईएल'चा सहभाग

'हिंदुस्तान एअरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड' देशी बनावटीची उत्पादने प्रदर्शनात देवणार आहे. यामध्ये 'लाइट युटिलिटी हेलिकॉप्टर' आकर्षणाचे केंद्र असेल. याखेरीज 'भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड' ही उत्पादक कंपनीही आपली विविध उत्पादने प्रदर्शनात देवणार आहे.

भारताचे सामर्थ्य, लवचिकता आणि स्वावलंबन दिसून येते असा विश्वास संरक्षणमंत्र्यांनी व्यक्त केला. हवाई दलाच्या येलाहोका हवाई तळवर भरवले जाणार असून त्यामध्ये १५० परदेशी कंपन्यांसह ९०० कंपन्या सहभागी होत आहेत.

फ्रान्समध्ये आजपासून 'एआय' शिखर परिषद

एपी, पॅरिस

फ्रान्समध्ये सोमवारपासून दोन दिवसीय कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता शिखर परिषद सुरू होत असून पंतप्रधान नरेंद्र मोदी त्याला उपस्थित राहणार आहेत. या परिषदेमध्ये ते फ्रान्सचे अध्यक्ष इमॅन्युएल मॅक्रॉन यांच्यासह अध्यक्षपद भूषणवणार आहेत. तसेच या दौऱ्यात ते भारत-फ्रान्स मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकाऱ्यांच्या (सीईओ) गटाशी संवादही साधणार आहेत.

या परिषदेला जागतिक नेते, महत्त्वाच्या कंपन्यांचे अधिकारी आणि तज्ज्ञ हजेरी लावणार असून त्यामध्ये कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्तेचे भू-राजकीय परिणाम यावर प्रामुख्याने लक्ष केंद्रित केले जाणार आहे.

अमेरिकेचे अध्यक्ष डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प यांनी शपथविधीनंतर लगेचच 'एआय' साठी ५०० अब्ज डॉलरची गुंतवणूक करणार असल्याचे जाहीर केले होते. त्यांची 'एआय' संबंधी महत्त्वाकांक्षा, चीनने बाजारात आणलेले डीपसीक याचा परिषदेवर प्रभाव पडण्याची शक्यता आहे. या परिषदेला जगभरात अत्यंत गांभीर्याने घेतले जात आहे. अमेरिकेचे उपाध्यक्ष जे डी व्हायस हे या परिषदेला हजर राहणार असून त्यांचे अध्यक्ष क्षी जिनपिंग त्यांचा विशेष दूत पाठवणार आहेत.

कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्तेचा प्रत्येकाला लाभ करून घेताना त्याचे अपरिमित धोके थांबवण्याच्या दृष्टीने त्याचा कसा वापर करून घेता येईल यावर दोन दिवस विचारमंथन केले जाईल.

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Practice Paper

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY - Part-I

Time : 2 hrs

Max. Marks : 40

Q.1 (A) Choose the correct alternative from the given options. (5)

- The modern periodic table was prepared by
 - Newlands
 - Dalton
 - Moseley
 - Mendeleeve
- In the Wilefley table method, the particles of gangue are separated by _____ separation method.
 - Magnetic
 - Froth floatation
 - Hydraulic
 - Gravitational
- A convex lens forms a virtual image of an object placed _____.
 - at infinity
 - between '2F₁' and 'F₁'
 - at F₁
 - between 'F₁' and optical Centre 'O'
- If height of the satellite's orbit increases, the critical velocity _____.
 - increases
 - decreases
 - no difference
 - changes
- When a ray of light passes through glass slab, refraction of light occurs _____.
 - once
 - twice
 - thrice
 - many times

Q.1 (B) Answer the following questions. [5]

- Identify the pairs of elements and their group numbers from the following.

Group A	Group B
a. Calcium	1) Group No. 13
b. Aluminium	2) Group No. 2
	3) Group No. 12

- Say **True OR False** "The density of water is maximum at 4°C".
- Complete the analogy. The first artificial satellite: Sputnik :: The first Indian satellite : _____.
- Find the odd one out. Methane, butane, ethene, propane

इयत्ता दहावी, एस.एस.सी. बोर्ड परीक्षा सराव कृतिपत्रिका

- Write the name of group : "The group with valency zero".

Q.2 (A) Give scientific reason: (Any 2) (4)

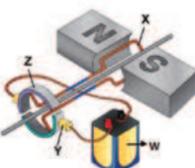
- Anodes need to be replaced from time to time during the electrolysis of alumina.
- Sodium, Potassium and Lithium elements are placed in 1st group.
- In cold regions in winter, the rocks crack due to anomalous expansion of water.

Q.2 (B) Answer the following. (Any 3) (6)

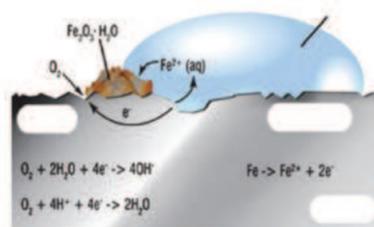
- What is a geostationary satellite? Why are geostationary satellites not useful for studies of polar region?
- Write structural formulae for the following IUPAC names.
 - butan-2-ol
 - pentan - 2- one
- Distinguish between Groups and Periods.
- Define the followings.
 - Specific latent heat of vaporization
 - The dew point temperature
- Write down any two rules used for drawing ray diagrams for the formation of image by convex lens.

Q.3 Answer the following questions. (Any 5) [15]

- Identify the type of chemical reaction given below:
 - $\text{CuSO}_4 + \text{Fe} \rightarrow \text{FeSO}_4 + \text{Cu}$
 - $2\text{Mg} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{MgO}$
 - $2\text{KClO}_3 \rightarrow 2\text{KCl} + 3\text{O}_2\uparrow$
- For an electric motor as shown in figure:
 - Name the X, Z, Y and W
 - On which principle or rule an electric motor runs?



- Observe the following figure and write the answer to the question.



- Which process is shown in the figure?
- Explain the chemical reaction shown in the figure.
- What is corrosion?

- Identify the figures and explain their use.



- Write the demerits of Mendeleev's periodic table.
- Draw a scientifically correct labelled diagram of a human eye and answer the questions based on it:
 - Name the type of lens in the human eye.
 - Name the cells which are on retina and responsible for intensity of light.
 - State the nature of the image formed of the object on the screen inside the eye.

- Answer the following questions:
 - Define Hydrocarbons.
 - Name the types of Hydrocarbons.
 - Name the two alkanes

8) Complete the following table for convex lens:

Sr. No.	Position of the object	Position of the image	Nature of the image
1.	Beyond 2F ₁
2.	At infinity
3.	Real, inverted and enlarged

Q.4 Answer the following questions. (Any 1) (5)

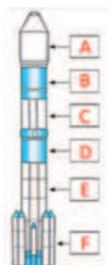
- Observe the following skeleton diagram of modern periodic table and answer the questions

1	2	13	14	15	16	17	18
1							
2			D			B	
3	A						C
4							

- In which block element 'A' lie ?
- In which period element 'B' lie ?
- State group of element 'D'
- What is valency of element 'C'.
- What is valency of element 'B'.

- Observe the following diagram and answer the questions

- Identify the adjoining figure/diagram .
- Which part of figure provides initial trust (force)?
- In which part liquid fuel is used?
- In which part satellites are stored?
- In which part solid fuel is stored/used?



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Chembur English High School.

समन्वयक : सी. डी. वडके

उद्याचा विषय : Science And Technology Part -II

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असल्याने पचन सुधारण्यास त्याचा फायदा होतो. ते रक्तातील साखरेची पातळी नियंत्रित करण्यास मदत करते, तसेच ऊर्जा आणि सहनशक्ती वाढवते.

बहुतेक व्यक्तींसाठी दररोज १२०-२४० मिली पालकाचा रस पुरेसा असतो. पण, आरोग्य उपाय म्हणून फक्त पालक रस पिण्याऐवजी त्याचबरोबर भाज्या, फळे, प्रथिने आणि निरोगी फॅट्सयुक्त संतुलित आहार घ्यावा. दीपलक्ष्मी यांनी इशारा देताना सांगितले की, जास्त प्रमाणात पालक रसाचे सेवन केल्याने शरीरात ऑक्सलेटचे प्रमाण जास्त होऊ शकते. त्यामुळे लोह शोषण्यास अडथळ बघू शकतो. यासाठी लिंबाचा रस किंवा संत्र्याच्या रसाबरोबर पालकाचा रस पिण्याचा सल्ला दिला आहे. त्याचबरोबर दुग्धजन्य पदार्थांसह पालकाचा रस घेण्याचा सल्लाही दिला. कारण कॅल्शियम हे लोह शोषणात व्यत्यय आणू शकते, असे आहारतज्ज्ञांनी सांगितले.

स्ट्रेस ? डिप्रेसन ? मनोविकार ?

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मधुश्री, ठाणे 9820075813

अर्थसंकल्पामुळे देशातील मध्यमवर्गीया मोठा दिलासा मिळाला आहे. यासोबतच रोजगारवाढीवर मोठा भर देण्यात आला आहे. यासाठी देशातील ५० पर्यटन स्थळांचा विकास करण्यात येणार असून खासगी क्षेत्राच्या मदतीने ते चालवले जाणार आहेत. याचाच भाग म्हणून

साडेसात लाख कोटींची विदर्भात गुंतवणूक

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लोकसत्ता खास प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : अत्यंत यशस्वी अशा खासदार औद्योगिक महोत्सवाच्या दुसऱ्या आवृत्तीमधून विविध प्रकल्पामधून साडेसात लाख कोटींची गुंतवणूक विदर्भात होत आहे. याशिवाय गडचिरोली जिल्ह्यात जगात सर्वात उत्तम दर्जाचे लोहखनिज असून यामुळे नजीकच्या जिल्ह्यात मोठमोठे उद्योग सुरू होतील अशी अपेक्षा, केंद्रीय मंत्री नितीन गडकरी यांनी व्यक्त केली.

असोसिएशन फॉर इंडस्ट्रियल डेव्हलपमेंटच्या वतीने राष्ट्रसंत तुकडोजी महाराज नागपूर विद्यापीठाच्या परिसरात सुरू असलेल्या तीन दिवसीय अॅडव्हॉंटेज विदर्भ-२०२५ खासदार औद्योगिक महोत्सवाचा समारोप समारंभात ते बोलत होते. यावेळी मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस, केंद्रीय मंत्री पीयूष गोयल, खासदार प्रफुल्ल पटेल आदींची उपस्थिती होती. भारताने औद्योगिक क्रांती ४.० ही संधी गमावून चालणार नाही असे



नागपुरात 'विदर्भ ग्लोबल स्किल युनिव्हर्सिटी'

भारतातले सर्वात मोठे लॉजिस्टिक हब नागपूरमध्ये निर्माण होत आहे. यामुळे जगात कुठेही व कितीही निर्यात नागपुरातून होऊ शकेल. बडोदा येथील गती शक्तीची स्किल युनिव्हर्सिटी याचा अभ्यास करून ग्लोबल युनिव्हर्सिटी ऑफ स्किल अॅंड लॉजिस्टिक्स तयार करण्याचा प्रस्ताव एआयडी चमूने दिला असल्याची माहिती गडकरी यांनी दिली. यासाठी महाराष्ट्र सरकारने १०० एकर जागा द्यावी, असे निवेदन त्यांनी केले. यावर मुख्यमंत्री फडणवीस यांनी जागा देण्याची घोषणा केली. त्यामुळे लवकरच नागपुरात 'विदर्भ ग्लोबल स्किल युनिव्हर्सिटी' होणार हे निश्चित आहे. यातून जागतिक दर्जाचे प्रशिक्षण दिले जाणार असल्याचे गडकरींनी सांगितले.

नागपूर, अमरावती हे 'मॅगनेट क्षेत्र' : मुख्यमंत्री

मुख्यमंत्री फडणवीस यांनी सामंजस्य करारातून मोठ्या प्रमाणात रोजगार निर्मितीची अपेक्षा व्यक्त केली. विदर्भाच्या समग्र विकासाचा उद्देश असून यासाठी नागपूर आणि अमरावती हे 'मॅगनेट क्षेत्र' तयार करण्याचे प्रयत्न सुरू असल्याचे ते म्हणाले. यामुळे नजीकच्या भागांचा विकास होईल असे मत त्यांनी व्यक्त केले. आगामी क्षेत्रात पर्यटन आधारित कॉन्व्हेल्व्ह द्यावे असे ते म्हणाले.

सामंजस्य करार

● आर्टिफिशियल इलेक्ट्रॉनिक इंटेलेक्ट मटेरियल लिमिटेड हे नागपुरात इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सेमीकंडक्टर क्षेत्रात नागपुरात १०० हजार कोटींची गुंतवणूक करणार असून १०० रोजगार निर्मिती होणार आहे. राज्य सरकारकडून उद्योग सचिव पी. अनबलगन यांनी हा करार केला.

● श्रेम ग्रुप ऑफ कंपनीज बायोइंधन क्षेत्रात विदर्भात ८०० कोटींची गुंतवणूक करणार असून त्यातून १०० रोजगार निर्माण होणार आहे. राज्य सरकारकडून उद्योग सचिव पी. अनबलगन यांनी हा करार केला.

● ओलेक्झा इंड्रीचे वेयरमन के. व्ही. प्रदीप यांनी नागपुरात होऊ घातलेल्या गुंतवणुकीबद्दल माहिती दिली. हा सामंजस्य करार दावोसमध्ये झाला होता.

पंतप्रधान मोदी म्हणाले असून औद्योगिक क्षेत्राकडून त्यांच्या अपेक्षा आहेत. अशातच खासदार औद्योगिक महोत्सवाच्या

चित्रा वाघ, आमदार राजेश वानखेडे, माजी खासदार अजय संचेती, उद्योग सचिव पी. अनबलगन, संचालक महाराष्ट्र

पर्यटन विकास महामंडळ मनोज सूर्यवंशी, आयआयएम संचालक डॉ. भीमराया मेत्रा आदींची उपस्थिती होती.

नवीन ५० पर्यटनस्थळांचा विकास - पीयूष गोयल

लोकसत्ता खास प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : अर्थसंकल्पामुळे देशातील मध्यमवर्गीया मोठा दिलासा मिळाला आहे. यासोबतच रोजगारवाढीवर मोठा भर देण्यात आला आहे. यासाठी देशातील ५० पर्यटन स्थळांचा विकास करण्यात येणार असून खासगी क्षेत्राच्या मदतीने ते चालवले जाणार आहेत. याचाच भाग म्हणून

अर्थसंकल्पात दीड लाख कोटींची तरतूद करण्यात आली आहे. पर्यटक उद्योगकांना ५० वर्षांचे बिनव्याजी कर्ज दिले जाणार असल्याची माहिती, केंद्रीय वाणिज्य आणि उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल यांनी दिली. 'अॅडव्हॉंटेज विदर्भ-२०२५ : खासदार औद्योगिक महोत्सवा' साठी आले असता त्यांनी प्रसारमाध्यमांशी संवाद साधला. गोयल म्हणाले,

अर्थसंकल्पामुळे मध्यमवर्गीया मोठा फायदा होणार आहे. मध्यवर्गीयांची खर्च करण्याची ताकद वाढणार असून यामुळे देशाच्या अर्थव्यवस्थेला अधिक पाठबळ मिळेल. भारतात पर्यटन व्यवसायाला मोठी संधी आहे. त्यासाठी ५० नवीन पर्यटन स्थळांचा विकास केला जाणार आहे. यासाठी खासगी उद्योगकांची मदत घेतली जाणार

असून त्यांना ५० वर्षांसाठी बिनव्याजी कर्ज दिले जाईल अशी माहिती गोयल यांनी दिली. जानेवारी २०१६ मध्ये केवळ चार हजार स्टार्टअप होते. आता १ लाख ६० हजार नवीन स्टार्टअपची नोंदणी देशात झाली आहे. अर्थसंकल्पामध्ये संशोधनाला बळ देण्यात आले असून २० हजार कोटींची तरतूद करण्यात आल्याचे गोयल यांनी सांगितले.

तंत्रज्ञानाच्या माध्यमातून सायबर गुन्हेगारीला आळा - मुख्यमंत्री

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : सायबर गुन्हेगारांनी तंत्रज्ञानाचा गैरफायदा घेऊन अनेकांची आर्थिक फसवणूक केली आहे. मात्र, आपल्या देशात उच्च बौद्धिक क्षमता असलेले सायबर तज्ज्ञ आहेत. अनेक विद्यार्थ्यांनी या क्षेत्रात केलेल्या नवसंशोधनामुळे सायबर गुन्हेगारीवर आळा घालता येईल, त्यासाठी राज्य शासन सर्व प्रकारची मदत करण्यास तयार आहे, अशी ग्वाही राज्याचे मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस यांनी दिली.

'सायबर हॅक २०२५' स्पर्धेचे बक्षीस वितरण



नागपूर पोलीस आयुक्तालय आणि असोसिएशन फॉर इंडस्ट्रियल डेव्हलपमेंट, अॅडव्हॉंटेज विदर्भ, आयआयएम नागपूर, इन्फेड, डिडोड यांच्या विद्यमाने 'सायबर हॅक २०२५' स्पर्धेचे आयोजन केले होते. या स्पर्धेत ५९२ संघांनी सहभाग घेतला होता. त्यापैकी २० संघांची अंतिम फेरीसाठी निवड करण्यात आली होती. त्याच्या पारितोषिक वितरण समारंभात

स्पर्धा आयोजित केल्यास सायबर तज्ज्ञांची संख्या नक्कीच वाढेल. नवसंशोधकांना आपले कसब दाखवण्याची संधी मिळेल. स्पर्थेन रामदेवबाबा महाविद्यालयाचे पहिला पुरस्कार पटकावला तर दुसऱ्या स्थानावर इन्फोसिस महाविद्यालयाचा संघाने बाजी मारली. तिसरा क्रमांक रायसोनी महाविद्यालयाच्या संघाने पटकावला. \

तीनही संघांना मुख्यमंत्र्यांच्या हस्ते पुरस्कार वितरण करण्यात आले. कार्यक्रमाला राष्ट्रीय सायबर त अमितकुमार दुबे, पोलीस आयुक्त डॉ. रवींद्रकुमार सिंगल, सहआयुक्त निसार तांबोळी, अतिरिक्त आयुक्त आणि उपायुक्त मंचावर उपस्थित होते. सायबर शाखेचे उपायुक्त लोहित मतानी यांनी आभार मानले.

उद्योगांसाठी १० हजार एकरचे अतिरिक्त भूसंपादन - उदय सामंत

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : महाराष्ट्रात उद्योगक्षेत्रात गुंतवणूक वाढत असल्याने जमिनीचा प्रश्न उद्भवू नये, यासाठी चंद्रपूर, भंडारा, गडचिरोलीसह इतर भागात सुमारे १० हजार एकर जमिनीचे संपादन करण्यात येणार आहे, यापैकी ४ हजार एकरच्या प्रस्तावास मंजुरी प्रदान करण्यात आली, अशी माहिती उद्योगमंत्री उदय सामंत यांनी येथे पत्रकार परिषदेत दिली. दाओमध्ये झालेले गुंतवणूक करार तसेच नागपूरमधील अॅडव्हॉंटेज विदर्भमध्ये झालेले करार लक्षात घेता भविष्यात उद्योगांसाठी जमीनीची गरज भासणार आहे. त्यासाठी अतिरिक्त भूसंपादनाचा निर्णय घेण्यात आला,

असे सामंत म्हणाले. विदर्भातही मोठ्या प्रमाणात गुंतवणूक होत आहे. अमरावतीत वस्त्रोद्योग हबसाठी एक हजार एकर भूसंपादन करण्यात आले. दारूगोळा तयार झाल्यानंतर पॅकेजिंगसाठी कापसाचा वापर होतो. शास्त्रनिर्मिती करणाऱ्या उद्योगाकडून याबाबतच्या प्रकल्पासाठी जागेचा प्रस्ताव दिला आहे. नागपुरातही वायनरी उद्योगासाठी मोठी मागणी असल्याचे सामंत म्हणाले. प्रत्येक जिल्ह्यात उद्योग भवन उभारले जाणार आहे. महिला एमआयडीसीसाठी 'एचपीसी' कामठीत महिला एमआयडीसी सुरू करण्याची सरकारने घोषणा केली. यासाठी उच्चाधिकार समिती स्थापन करण्यात आली असल्याचे सामंत म्हणाले.

चारचाकी वाहने असणाऱ्या 'लाडक्या बहीण' योजनेच्या लाभार्थी !

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : महिला व बाल कल्याण विभागाने लाडकी बहीण योजनेसाठी आलेल्या अर्जांची पडताळणी सुरू झाली असून निकषात न बसणाऱ्यांचे अर्ज बाद ठरवले जात आहे. नागपूर जिल्ह्यात चारचाकी वाहने असणाऱ्या १२२८ लाभार्थ्यांकडे चारचाकी वाहने असल्याचे निष्पन्न झाले आहे. त्यामुळे त्यांचे अनुदान बंद होण्याची शक्यता वर्तवली जात आहे. नागपूर जिल्ह्यात यासाठी ९.८४ लाख अर्ज आले होते. ग्रामीण भागात ५ लाख १९ हजार ३९३ अर्ज आले. त्यापैकी ४ लाख ८४ हजार ६१२ अर्ज पात्र ठरवण्यात आले होते. शहरात एकूण ४ लाख ९९ हजार लाभार्थी आहे. एकूण जिल्ह्याचा

विचार केला तर ही संख्या ९.८४ लाखावर जाते. महायुती सरकार पुन्हा सत्तेवर आल्यास लाभार्थ्यांच्या अनुदानात १५०० रुपयांवरून २२०० रुपये करण्याची घोषणा करण्यात आली होती. महायुती पुन्हा सत्तेवर आली. याशिवाय योजनेमुळे सरकारच्या तिजोरीवर आर्थिक भारही वाढला. त्यामुळे निवडणुकीपूर्वी करायाची अर्जांची पडताळणी सरकारने आता सुरू केली आहे. राज्यात पाच लाखवर अधिक महिला निकषात बसत नसल्याने योजनेपासून बाद ठरवण्यात आल्या. नागपूर जिल्ह्यात ही संख्या १२२८ आहे. यापैकी काटोलमध्ये १२२१, नरखेडमध्ये पाच व नागपूर ग्रामीण व सावनेर तालुक्यात प्रत्येकी एका महिलेचा समावेश आहे. त्यांना या योजनेचा लाभ मिळणार नाही.

'अॅडव्हॉंटेज विदर्भ'मध्ये विद्यार्थ्यांचे संशोधन प्रकल्प विद्यापीठाच्या विविध स्टॉल्समधून कौशल्याचे सादरीकरण



लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : राष्ट्रसंत तुकडोजी महाराज नागपूर विद्यापीठ परिसरात खासदार औद्योगिक महोत्सव अंतर्गत सुरू असलेल्या 'अॅडव्हॉंटेज विदर्भ २०२५' मध्ये संशोधन प्रकल्प सादर केले आहे. औद्योगिक महोत्सवाच्या निमित्ताने विद्यापीठाच्या विविध स्टॉल्सच्या माध्यमातून कौशल्य जगासमोर आणण्याची संधी विद्यार्थ्यांना मिळाली

आहे. केंद्रीय मंत्री नितीन गडकरी यांच्या संकल्पनेतून होत असलेल्या 'अॅडव्हॉंटेज विदर्भ' या औद्योगिक महोत्सवात विद्यापीठाच्या विद्यार्थ्यांना त्यांचे संशोधन कौशल्य सादर करण्यास वाव मिळाला आहे. विद्यापीठाच्या वतीने महोत्सवात डी-५ ते डी-१२ असे ८ स्टॉल्स लावण्यात आले आहे. आयक्यूएसी संचालक डॉ. स्मिता आचार्य यांच्या नेतृत्वात १० विभागातील

शिक्षक या स्टॉल्सचे नेतृत्व करीत आहेत. यामध्ये इनक्युबेशन सेंटर, रुसा सेंटर, भौतिकशास्त्र विभाग, प्राणिशास्त्र विभाग, भूगर्भशास्त्र विभाग, मॉलिक्युलर बायोलॉजी विभाग, प्रवास व पर्यटन विभाग, औषधी निर्माणशास्त्र विभाग, रसायनशास्त्र विभाग, आजीवन अध्ययन व निरंतर शिक्षण विभाग, प्राचीन भारतीय इतिहास संस्कृती व पुरातत्त्व विभाग आदी विविध विभागांचे नाविन्यपूर्ण संशोधनाचे स्टॉल्स या महोत्सवात लावण्यात आले.

लोकसत्ता क्लासिफाइड्स

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००७०९३४८५-९

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संपर्क-२८०६२०४, २८०६२०३

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Shri. Shivaji Education Society Amravati

DHANWATE NATIONAL COLLEGE

NAGPUR (M.S.)

TENDER NOTICE No.2/25

Sealed B-1 (Percentage rate) tenders are invited from the experienced contractors registered in appropriate class for civil works under PM USHA 3.0 at Dhanwate National College, Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender	Earnest Money Deposit 1%	Initial Security Deposit 2%	Total Security Deposit	Time limit for Completion	Cost of blank tender copy
1	Proposed Acoustic treatment and Interior Design Renovation of Audio-Visual Center at Dhanwate National College, Congress Nagar, Nagpur.	Rs. 16,18,306/-	Rs. 16,183/-	Rs. 32,366/-	5%	3 months	Rs. 2000/-
2	Proposed Construction, renovation and repairing works of various buildings at Dhanwate National College, Congress Nagar, Nagpur. [1] Proposed Renovation work of Canteen [2] Proposed Construction of Boys Toilet. [3] Proposed repairing work of Rain Water Harvesting Filter	Rs. 4,13,130/-	Rs. 4,133/-	Rs. 8,267/-	5%	2 month	Rs. 1000/-

1) Last date of submission of tender is 15th February 2025 Upto 5:00 p.m.

2) E.M.D. Should be paid online in favour of Shri. Shivaji Education Society Dhanwate National College A/c. No. 1201700042, IFSC- CBN0283465, Dhanwate National College Nagpur Branch, Nagpur.

3) All works required registered contractor with PWD Maharashtra state or other state govt.

4) Additional security deposit for more than 10% below the tender rates successfully, contractor should submit 1% for every percentage after 10% below percentage in addition of 2% initial security deposit within stipulated time.

5) G.S.T. shall be applicable as per prevailing Government rules and regulations.

6) Competent authority reserves the right to reject any or tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

7) Information of e-tendering is available on the following website / Notice board. <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

(Harshvardhan Deshmukh) President
Shri. Shivaji Education Society Amravati

(Diilp B. Ingole) Chairman
Construction Committee Dhanwate National College Nagpur

(Dr. Prashant Kothe) Principal
Dhanwate National College Nagpur



संक्षिप्त

जरांगे यांचा मेहुणा तडीपार

जालना : विविध गुन्ह्यांचे आरोप असलेल्या अंबड तालुक्यातील सात आणि घनसावंगी तालुक्यातील दोन, अशा नऊ जणांवर उपविभागीय अधिकाऱ्यांनी जिल्ह्यातून तडीपारीची कारवाई केली. यामध्ये मनोज जरांगे यांचा मेहुणा विलास खेडकर यांचाही समावेश आहे. तडीपार करण्यात आलेल्यापैकी सात जण अंबड तालुक्यातील असून, जरांगे यांच्या आंदोलनाचे केंद्रबिंदू असलेले आंतरवाली सराटी गाव याच तालुक्यातील आहे.

विकृत युवकाद्वारे १७ शाळकरी मुलींचा विनयभंग (पान १ वरून) दुकानमालकाने रवी लाखे याला शटर दुरुस्तीसाठी बोलावले होते. दुकानदाराने त्याला शटर उघडून दिले आणि घरी निघून गेला. रवी हा दुकानात एकटाच होता. विकृत मानसिकतेच्या रवी काम सोडून शाळेच्या प्रवेशद्वारासमोर उभा राहिला. शाळकरी मुलींकडे वाईट नजरेने बघत होता. एका पालकाने त्याला हटकल्यामुळे तो तेथून दुकानात आला. दुकान उघडे बघून काही शाळकरी मुली दुकानात आल्या. त्यांनी काही वस्तू मागिल्या. मात्र, रवीने दुकानात कुणी नसल्याचा गैरफायदा घेऊन मुलींना आत बोलावले. मुलींना नको तेथे स्पर्श करून अश्लील चाळे करीत होता. काही मुलींनी धावतून तेथून पळ काढला. जवळपास दोन तासांच्या वेळेत १७ मुली दुकानात आल्या. रवीने सर्व मुलींना पैसे न घेता बिक्रीट-चॉकलेट दिले. त्यानंतर आत बोलावून त्यांचा विनयभंग केला.

रवीने केलेल्या कृत्यामुळे काही मुली धावल्या. दोन मुलींनी शाळेच्या घ्यायला आलेल्या पालकांना रवीने केलेल्या कृत्याबाबत सांगितले. पालकांनी नंदनवन पोलिसांना माहिती दिली. लेखी तक्रारीवरून पोलिसांनी रवी लाखेविरुद्ध गुन्हा दाखल करून अटक केली.

आवश्यक सुविधांसाठी खास 'दूत' नेमल्याने आयोजकही अवाक

शफी पठाण, लोकसत्ता

नागपूर : ऐरवी साहित्य संमेलनाला दोन कोटींचा निधी देवून स्वतःला संमेलनापासून नामनिराळे ठेवणारे राज्य सरकार यंदा मात्र दिल्लीत होणाऱ्या संमेलनासाठी फारच 'उदार' झाल्याचे चित्र आहे. या संमेलनाच्या यशस्वीतेसाठी सरकारने खास 'दूत' नेमला असून वाढीव निधीसह आवश्यक सर्व सुविधा पुरवण्याची जबाबदारी या दुताला सोपवण्यात आल्याचे कळते. विशेष

म्हणजे, सरकारच्या या 'अनपेक्षित' पाठबळाने आयोजक व साहित्य महामंडळही अवाक झाले असून पंतप्रधान मोदी संमेलनाचे उद्घाटन करणार असल्याने सरकारने हा विषय प्रतिष्ठेचा केल्याची चर्चा आहे.

यंदाचे ९८वे अखिल भारतीय मराठी साहित्य संमेलन राष्ट्रीय राजधानी दिल्लीत २१,२२, २३ फेब्रुवारी रोजी होत आहे. या संमेलनासाठी राज्य सरकारने 'प्रथेप्रमाणे' दोन कोटींचा निधी

साहित्य महामंडळाला सोपवला. परंतु, संमेलन दिल्लीत असल्याने व खर्चाचा आकडा सातत्याने वाढत असल्याने अधिकच निधी मिळावा, यासाठी महामंडळाने ७ जानेवारी रोजी सरकारला विनंतीपत्र दिले होते. परंतु, महिनाभर त्यावर विचारच झाला नाही. त्यामुळे आयोजकांनी आवश्यक निधी उभा करण्यासाठी पर्यायांचा विचार सुरू केला. काही निधी उभाही झाला. पण, खर्चाच्या तुलनेत तो फारच तोकडा होता. दरम्यान, ही बाब सरकारपर्यंत

मदतीसाठी एकाच सरकारमधील दोन पक्षांत 'शर्यत'



पोहोचली व पंतप्रधान ज्या संमेलनाला येत असल्याने तिथे पेशांअभावी कुठलाही 'कमीपणा' जाणवू नये यासाठी सरकार

दिल्लीतील संमेलनात काही कमी पडू नये यासाठी, शिंदे सेनेचे नेते व मराठी भाषा मंत्री उदय सामंत यांच्याही दिल्ली वाऱ्या वाढवल्या आहेत. संमेलनाच्या निमित्ताने मराठीशी संबंधित दिल्लीतील प्रलंबित विषय मार्गी लावण्यासाठी त्यांनी १३ फेब्रुवारी हा पूर्ण दिवस दिल्लीत घालवण्याचा निर्णय घेतल्याचे कळते. यात 'जेएनयू'तील मराठी अध्यासनाचा तिढा सोडवण्याचा प्रयत्नही होऊ शकतो. संमेलनासाठी कोण जास्त मदत करतो, अशी एक 'अघोषित शर्यत' एकाच सरकारमधील दोन पक्षांत सुरू असल्याचे यावरून स्पष्ट होत असून या अघोषित शर्यतीमुळे आयोजकांच्या अडचणी आपोआपच दूर होत असल्याचे चित्र आहे.

राज्य सरकार अचानक सक्रिय झाले असे म्हणणे योग्य नाही. संमेलन दिल्लीला होणार हे जाहीर झाल्यापासून सरकारकडून अपेक्षित ती सर्व मदत मिळत आहे. या संमेलनाच्या निमित्ताने मराठीशी संबंधित इतर प्रश्नही सोडवण्यासाठी सरकार प्रयत्न करीत आहे. शेवटी हे संमेलन केवळ साहित्य महामंडळाचे नाही तर अवघ्या महाराष्ट्राचे आहे आणि महाराष्ट्राच्या भाषिक प्रगतीसाठी सरकारने पुढाकार घेणे अपेक्षितच आहे. **-संजय नहार**, संस्थापक, सरहद संस्था.

अचानक सक्रिय झाल्याची माहिती आहे. केवळ निधीच नाही तर संमेलनाच्या यशस्वीतेसाठी आवश्यक त्या सर्व बाबींवर योग्य

लक्ष देता यावे आणि संवादाअभावी ऐनवेळी कुठलीही गडबड होऊ नये, यासाठी राज्य सरकारने आयोजक व सरकारमधील दुवा म्हणून मुख्यमंत्री

कार्यालयातील कामाचा मोठा अनुभव असलेल्या एका वरिष्ठ अधिकाऱ्याला 'खास दूत' नेमल्याचे कळते.

उपमुख्यमंत्री अजित पवार यांची 'वॉर रूम' थंडावली

उमाकांत देशपांडे, लोकसत्ता

मुंबई : एकनाथ शिंदे मुख्यमंत्रीपदी असताना उपमुख्यमंत्री अजित पवार यांनी सुरू केलेली 'वॉर रूम' देवेंद्र फडणवीस मुख्यमंत्री झाल्यापासून थंडावली आहे. राज्यातील पायाभूत सुविधा, रस्ते, सिंचन व अन्य प्रकल्पांच्या कामांवर वॉर रूमच्या माध्यमातून नियंत्रण व देखरेख ठेवली जाते.

शिंदे यांच्या अडीच वर्षांच्या कारकीर्दीत मुख्यमंत्री कार्यालयातील वॉर रूम सुरू असतानाही पवार यांनी उपमुख्यमंत्री कार्यालयातही वॉर रूम सुरू केली होती. पुणे शहर व जिल्ह्यातील रिंग रोड प्रकल्पासह रस्तेविकास महामंडळाचे १२-१३ प्रकल्प व अन्य काही प्रकल्पांच्या कामांवर पवार यांच्या कार्यालयातील वॉररूमच्या माध्यमातून देखरेख सुरू होती.

पवार यांनी तत्कालीन मुख्य सचिव, विविध खात्यांचे अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव, प्रधान सचिव यांच्या बैठकाही घेतल्या होत्या व वॉर रूमच्या बैठकांना हे अधिकारी उपस्थित राहात होते. पवार यांनी या बैठकांमध्ये वेळोवेळी निर्देशही दिले होते.

मात्र फडणवीस मुख्यमंत्री



तूर्तास बैठकच नाही

पवार हे पुण्याचे पालकमंत्री असून पुणे शहर व जिल्ह्यातील प्रकल्पांच्या कामांवर ते देखरेख ठेवू शकतात. पण पुणे रिंगरोडसह काही प्रकल्पांवर मुख्यमंत्र्यांच्या वॉररूमकडून नियंत्रण ठेवले जात असल्याचे उच्चपदस्थ अधिकार्याने 'लोकसत्ता'ला सांगितले. सरकारचा शपथविधी झाल्यावर नागपूर अधिवेशन झाले, मंत्रालयातील दालनांचे नूतनीकरण व अन्य कामे सुरू आहेत. पवार यांनी सर्व मंत्र्यांशी व इतरांशी अर्थसंकल्पपूर्व चर्चेसाठी बैठका घेतल्या आहेत आणि सध्या ते अर्थसंकल्पाच्या कामात व्यस्त असल्याने वॉररूमची बैठक झाली नसल्याचे सूत्रांनी स्पष्ट केले.

पवार यांच्या कार्यालयास जागेचा तुटवडा

पवार यांच्या कार्यालयास जागेचाही तुटवडा जाणवत असून सातत्या मजल्यावरील त्यांच्या कार्यालयाकडे असलेली दालने मुख्यमंत्री कार्यालयाचे ताब्यात घेतली होती. त्यामुळे दहा-बारा अधिकारी व कर्मचाऱ्यांना बसायचे कोठे, हा प्रश्न निर्माण झाला होता. मुख्यमंत्री वैद्यकीय कक्षासाठी ही जाणा घेण्यात आली होती. मात्र पवार यांनी फडणवीस यांच्याशी चर्चा केल्यावर त्यांनी निर्देश दिले व पवार यांच्याकडे या दालनांचा ताबा तूर्तास कायम ठेवण्यात आला आहे.

झाल्यावर त्यांच्या कार्यालयात 'वॉर रूम' सुरू झाली आहे. त्यात अनेक मेट्रो प्रकल्प, पायाभूत सुविधा, रस्ते, सिंचन व अन्य प्रकल्पांवर देखरेख ठेवून कामाच्या प्रगतीचा आढावा घेण्यात येत आहे आणि वेळोवेळी संबंधित अधिकार्यांना आदेशही दिले जात आहेत. पवार यांच्या वॉर रूममध्ये समावेश असलेल्या पुणे

रिंगरोडसह अन्य काही प्रकल्पांचा आढावा फडणवीस यांनी काही दिवसांपूर्वी वॉर रूमच्या बैठकीत घेतला आहे. त्यामुळे फडणवीस मुख्यमंत्री झाल्यापासून पवार यांनी वॉर रूमच्या बैठकाही घेतलेल्या नाहीत. त्यामुळे पवार वॉर रूम गुंडाळली जाण्याची शक्यता असल्याची चर्चा सुरू झाली आहे.

'आनंदवन' मानवतेचे मंदिर - फडणवीस

कृष्णरोगमुक्त भारत अभियानात सहभागी करणार; संस्थेला ७५ कोटींच्या मदतीचे आश्वासन

लोकसत्ता, वार्ताहर

चंद्रपूर : पंतप्रधान नरेंद्र मोदी यांनी २०२७ पर्यंत भारताला कुष्ठरोगमुक्त करण्याचा संकल्प केला आहे. या अभियानात बाबा आमटे यांच्या संस्थेचा महत्त्वपूर्ण सहभाग आहे. त्यामुळे आनंदवनाच्या महारोगी सेवा समितीला सहभागी करून घेतले जाईल तसेच संस्थेला ७५ कोटींचे आर्थिक पाठबळही उपलब्ध करून दिले जाईल, अशी घोषणा मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस यांनी केली.

बाबा आमटे आणि साधनाताई आमटे यांनी स्थापन केलेल्या महारोगी सेवा समिती आनंदवनच्या ७५ व्या वर्षपूर्तीनिमित्त आयोजित कृतज्ञता सोहळ्यात ते बोलत होते. यावेळी मंचावर राज्याचे आदिवासी विकास मंत्री तथा चंद्रपूर जिल्ह्याचे पालकमंत्री डॉ. अशोक उर्डेके, उद्योगमंत्री उदय सामंत, माजी राज्यपाल राम नाईक, आमदार किशोर जोरगेवार, करण देवतळे, महारोगी सेवा समितीचे सचिव डॉ. विकास आमटे, डॉ. प्रकाश आमटे, डॉ. भारती आमटे, डॉ. मंदाकिनी आमटे आदी मान्यवर उपस्थित होते.

मुख्यमंत्री म्हणाले, अतिशय कठीण काळात बाबा आमटेंनी महारोगी सेवा समितीच्या माध्यमातून समाजसेवेचे काम सुरू केले. समाजामध्ये ज्या कामाला मान्यता



अनेक अडचणींचा सामना आनंदवनला करावा लागत असला तरी विचलित न होता आनंदवनचे काम निरंतर सुरू आहे. विविध क्षेत्रातील लोक या संस्थेसोबत जुळले आहेत. यात कला, संगीत, फिल्म, उद्योग आदींचा समावेश आहे. मूलभूत सेवांचा उत्कृष्ट नमुना आनंदवनात आहे. **- देवेंद्र फडणवीस**, मुख्यमंत्री

अनुदानात वाढ

● आनंदवन येथे कौशल्य विकास केंद्र उभे राहत आहे. तसेच निवासी ५०० लोकांचे केंद्रसुद्धा येथे सुरू होणार आहे. २०१२ पासून आनंदवनला देण्यात येणाऱ्या अनुदानात आता बदल करण्यात येत असून प्रति रुग्ण २२०० ऐवजी आता ६ हजार रुपये तर पुनर्वसन अनुदान अंतर्गत प्रतिरुग्ण २ हजार वरून ६ हजार रुपये देण्यात येणार आहे.

● आनंदवनला १० कोटी रुपये 'कॉर्पस फंड' लगेच देण्यात येईल. उर्वरित ६५ कोटी रुपये कॉर्पस फंड देण्याकरिता नक्कीच प्रयत्न करू. आनंदवन ही समाजाची संस्था आहे. सकारात्मक संस्थेच्या मागे उभे राहणे ही शासनाची जबाबदारी आहे, असेही फडणवीस म्हणाले.

नव्हती, अशा स्थितीत बाबा आमटे यांनी कुष्ठरोग्यांच्या सेवेचे व्रत हाती घेतले.

आज ७५ वर्षांनंतर अनेक प्रतिष्ठित लोक या संस्थेची जुळले आहेत. या सर्व लोकांना आनंदवनतून आत्मिक समाधान मिळत असते. त्यामुळेच आनंदवन हे खऱ्या अर्थाने मानवतेचे मंदिर आहे. पंतप्रधान नरेंद्र मोदी यांचा २०२७ पर्यंत कुष्ठरोगमुक्त भारत करण्याचा

संकल्प आहे. या कामासाठी आनंदवनसारख्या संस्थांची मोलाची मदत घ्यावी लागणार आहे.

सेवाभाव उल्लेखनीय : सामंत आनंदवन येथे दिव्यांगांसाठी कौशल्य विकास केंद्र सुरू होत असून उद्योगांशी समन्वय करून देण्यात आला आहे. या केंद्राच्या माध्यमातून दिव्यांगांना नोकरी मिळवण्यास मदत होईल. आनंदवनसारखे किमान २ टक्के

काम, इतर ठिकाणी करू शकलो, तर ती बाबा आमटे यांना खरी श्रद्धांजली ठरेल, असे उद्योगमंत्री उदय सामंत म्हणाले.

बाबा आमटे यांच्या जीवनावर चित्रपट

बाबा आमटे यांच्या जीवनावर मराठी आणि इंग्रजी भाषेचे आधारित चित्रपटांचे ऑनलाईन पद्धतीने मुख्यमंत्री यांच्या हस्ते उद्घाटन करण्यात आले.

एसटीचे आगार विमानतळाप्रमाणे तयार करणार

उपमुख्यमंत्री शिंदे यांच्या वाढदिवशी वातानुकूलित विश्रांतीगृहाचे उद्घाटन

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

ठाणे : ज्याप्रमाणे विमानतळ तयार झाले आहेत. त्याप्रमाणे राज्य परिवहन सेवेचे आगार देखील तयार केले जाणार असल्याची माहिती उपमुख्यमंत्री एकनाथ शिंदे दिली. एसटीचा चेहरा-मोहरा बदलायचा आहे. एसटीमध्ये सर्वसामान्य नागरिक प्रवास करतात. हे सरकार सर्वसामान्यांचे आहे. राज्यातील परिवहन सेवा मला पंचतारांकित करायची आहे. एसटी प्रवासी सुखावतील अशी सुविधा येथे घ्यायची आहे असे शिंदे म्हणाले. मी सर्व मंत्र्यांना थेट जनतेमध्ये जाण्यास सांगितले आहे असेही शिंदे म्हणाले. उपमुख्यमंत्री एकनाथ शिंदे यांच्या वाढदिवसानिमित्ताने एसटीच्या चालक आणि वाहकांसाठी खोपट बस स्थानकात तयार करण्यात आलेल्या वातानुकूलित विश्रांतीगृहाचा उद्घाटन सोहळा आणि राज्यातील आरोग्य विषयक उपक्रमांचा लोकार्पण सोहळा ठाण्यात पार पडला. त्यावेळी एकनाथ



दरे गावात निसर्गोपचार केंद्र- जाधव

आरोग्य विषयक उपक्रमाच्या शुभारंभास केंद्रीय मंत्री प्रतापराव जाधव उपस्थित होते. उपमुख्यमंत्री एकनाथ शिंदे यांच्या दरे गावात केंद्र आणि राज्य सरकारच्या माध्यमातून ७० कोटी रुपयांचे निसर्गोपचार केंद्र तयार करण्यात येणार असल्याची घोषणा केंद्रीय मंत्री प्रतापराव जाधव यांनी केली. या भागात राष्ट्रीय स्तरावरील वनऔषधीसंबंधीचे उद्यान तयार करण्यात येणार आहे असेही त्यांनी सांगितले.

शिंदे बोलत होते. मागील वर्षी एमआयडीसीच्या माध्यमातून ५०० कोटी रुपये खर्चून एसटीच्या १११ बसस्थानकांच्या परिसराचे कॉन्क्रीटकरण करण्याचे काम आपण हाती घेतले आहे.

नुतनीकरण केलेल्या विश्रांतीगृहाप्रमाणे इतर बसस्थानकांमध्येही अशाच पद्धतीने विश्रांतीगृह करण्याच्या सूचना त्यांनी दिल्या.

आरोग्य विषयक उपक्रमाच्या लोकार्पण सोहळ्यात शिंदे म्हणाले की, मी खूप संवेदनशील व्यक्ती आहे. दुसऱ्यांच्या वेदना कमी करण्याच्या संवेदना आपल्याकडे असल्या पाहिजेत. सध्या सगळ्यात मोठी चिंता कर्करोगाची आहे. हा आजार संपला पाहिजे यासाठी शासन कटीबद्ध आहे. माध्यम गावी मोठी निसर्गसंपदा आहे. ५०० प्रकराच्या दुर्मिळ वनऔषधी आहेत. तिथे संशोधन केल्यास दुर्मिळ औषधे बनविता येतील.

अडीच वर्षांत आम्ही रखडलेले प्रकल्प मार्गी लावले. राज्यात दोन कोटी महिलांची आरोग्य तपासणी करण्यात येणार आहे. या तपासणीमुळे उपचार परिणामकारक होतील. नागरिकांचे प्राण वाचविण्याचे काम आमचे आहे. रुग्णाला तात्काळ उपचार मिळायला हवे असेही शिंदे यांनी सांगितले.

दिल्लीत मुख्यमंत्रीपदासाठी चुरस

(पान १ वरून)

मानस आहे. सोहळ्याला भाजपचे सर्व मुख्यमंत्री, 'एनडीए'च्या घटक पक्षांचे नेते यांना आमंत्रित केले जाणार आहे. पंतप्रधान १२ व १३ फेब्रुवारी रोजी अमेरिकेच्या दौऱ्यावर असून नवनियुक्त राष्ट्राध्यक्ष डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प यांची ते भेट घेणार आहेत.

त्यामुळे ते दिल्लीला परतल्यानंतर, १५ फेब्रुवारी किंवा त्यानंतर राजधानीला नवा मुख्यमंत्री मिळू शकेल, असे भाजपच्या नेत्यांचे म्हणणे आहे. मुख्यमंत्री निवडीच्या प्रक्रियेलाही रविवारी वेग आला असून भाजपचे राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष जे. पी. नड्डा यांनी केंद्रीय गृहमंत्री अमित शहा यांच्याशी संभाव्य नावांबाबत चर्चा केल्याचे सांगितले जाते. दुसरीकडे दिल्ली भाजपच्या कार्यालयात पक्षाच्या सर्व नवनियुक्त आमदारांची प्रभारी जय पांडा यांनीही बैठक घेतली. नवी दिल्ली

मतदारसंघातून माजी मुख्यमंत्री अरविंद केजरीवाल यांचा पराभव करणारे प्रवेश वर्मा हे मुख्यमंत्रीपदाचे आघाडीचे दावेदार मानले जात आहेत. त्यांचे वडील व दिग्गज जाट नेता साहिबसिंह वर्मा दिल्लीचे मुख्यमंत्री होते. माजी विरोधी पक्षनेते विजेंद्र गुप्ता हे २०१५ व २०२०च्या निवडणुकांमध्ये 'आप'च्या झंडावातही विजयी झाले होते. माजी प्रदेशाध्यक्ष व जुनेजाणते ब्रह्मण नेता सतीश उपाध्याय यांचेही नाव स्पष्टतः असून पंजाबी शीख नेत्याचा विचार केला गेला तर मनजिंदर सिंह सिरसा यांना संधी दिली जाऊ शकते. नव्या विधानसभेचे सदस्य नसलेल्या नेत्याकडे मुख्यमंत्रीपद सोपवण्याची भाजपच्या केंद्रीय नेतृत्वाची तयारी असेल, तर प्रदेशाध्यक्ष वीरेंद्र सचदेवा, खासदार मनोज तिवारी व रामवीरसिंह बिधुडी यांचाही संभाव्य नावांमध्ये समावेश होऊ शकतो.

मणिपूरचे मुख्यमंत्री अखेर पायउतार

(पान १ वरून)

मणिपूरच्या भाजप प्रदेशाध्यक्षाए. शारदा, ईशान्येकडील राज्यांचे पक्षप्रभारी सविता पात्रा यांच्यासह भाजप आणि एनपीएफ पक्षाचे किमान १४ आमदार उपस्थित होते. 'प्रत्येक मणिपुरी नागरिकाच्या हिताचे रक्षण व्हावे, यासाठी केंद्राने वेळोवेळी केलेली मदत, विकासकामे आणि केलेल्या कृतीबाबत मी आभारी आहे,' असे सिंह यांनी आपल्या राजीनामापत्रात म्हटले आहे. विशेष म्हणजे आज, सोमवारपासून विधिमंडळाचे अर्थसंकल्पीय अधिवेशन सुरू होणार असून त्याच्या आदल्याच

दिवशी ही मोठी राजकीय उलथापालथ झाली आहे. या अधिवेशनाच्या पार्श्वभूमीवर त्यांनी शनिवारी सत्ताधारी पक्षाच्या आमदारांची बैठक घेतली होती. यावेळी राज्यात शांतता आणि स्थैर्य प्रस्थापित करण्यासाठी आपले सरकार सर्वतोपरी प्रयत्न करीत असल्याचे त्यांनी म्हटले होते. मात्र अर्थसंकल्पीय अधिवेशनात काँग्रेसच्या नेतृत्वात विरोधी पक्षांनी अविश्वास प्रस्ताव आणण्याची तयारी केली होती. या पार्श्वभूमीवर रविवारी वेगाने घडामोडी घडल्या व सिंह यांना पदाचा राजीनामा द्यावा लागला.

३१ नक्षलवादी ठार

(पान १ वरून)

सीमेपासून जवळ आहे. ठार झालेल्या सर्व नक्षलवाद्यांचे मृतेदेह जवानांनी ताब्यात घेतले आहेत. तीन जिल्ह्यांतील सीआरपीएफ, डीआरजी आणि एसटीएफच्या जवानांनी संयुक्तपणे ही कारवाई (३२) तराजु (३३) प्रामाणिक किंवा पतदार मनुष्य (३४) बसण्याची लांब व टेंगणी चौकी, मनातली तेढ, वक्रता (३५) स्तुतिपाठक

नक्षलवाद्यांकडून मोठ्या प्रमाणात शस्त्रास्त्रे व दारूगोळा जप्त करण्यात आला आहे. गृहमंत्री अमित शहा यांनी मार्च २०२६ पर्यंत नक्षलवाद संपवण्याची घोषणा केल्यानंतर छत्तीसगड-गडचिरोलीत नक्षलवाद्यांच्या विरोधात मोठ्या प्रमाणात कारवाया सुरू आहे.

दिनदर्शिका

सोमवार, १० फेब्रुवारी २०२५
 भारतीय सौर २१ माघ शके १९४६
 मिती माघ शुक्लपक्ष
 त्रयोदशी १८ : ५८ पर्यंत.
 नक्षत्र : पुनर्वसू १८ : ०१ पर्यंत.
 तंद्र : मिथुन ११ : १७ पर्यंत.
 सूर्योदय : ०७ : ११
 सूर्यास्त : १८ : ३५
 ● मेघ : कौटुंबिक एकोपा राहिल.
 २ वृषभ : आत्मविश्वास वाढेल.
 ३ मिथुन : अर्थप्राप्ती होईल.
 ४ कर्क : संयम ठेवा.
 ५ सिंह : नियमाबाह्य गोष्टी टाळा.
 ६ कन्या : ज्ञानात भर पडेल.
 ७ तुळ : यश मिळेल.
 ८ वृश्चिक : धनलाभ होईल.
 ९ धनु : थोडकेच बोला.
 १० मकर : कल्पनेत रमाल.
 ११ कुंभ : खर्च सामाळा.
 १२ मीन : आवक वाढेल.
 शुभ राशी : मिथुन, मीन

शब्दकोडे- ३४

१	२	३	४	५	६	७
८				९		
१०		११	१२	१३		
		१४	१५	१६		१७
१८	१९		२०		२१	
	२२		२३	२४	२५	
२६			२७		२८	२९
३०		३१	३२			
		३३	३४		३५	
३६			३७			

आडवी विधाने : (१) चढाओढ, स्पर्धा, ईर्ष्या (५) आश्चर्यकारक, विलक्षण, चमत्कारिक, विचित्र (८) अधिक चांगला, उत्कृष्ट (९) घट्ट विणीचे, गंभीर, परिपूर्ण (१०) टोपली, रोवळी (११) यशस्वी, फलद्रूप (१३) हार, नवरात्रातला दिवस (१४) आठवड्यातला ठरलेला दिवस, घाव, जखम (१५) मारणे, चोपणे (१८) प्रचलित, तापलेले (२१) शेवट, मावळणे, अंत (२२) वचन, आश्वासन (२३) फक्त माणसाला पायी जाता येईल एवढी अरुंद वाट (२६) मुरली, पावा (२७) ओवलेला फुलांचा किंवा मोत्यांचा हार, पावसाची झड (२८) रात्री दिशाभूल होऊन भलतीकडेच जाणे (३०) दात, काढून टाकलेले, नामंजूर केलेले (३१) XX वसे ते स्वप्नी दिसे- एक म्हण (३२) दह्यापासून तयार होणारे एक पेय (३३) तळ्यातला गणपती असलेले हे उद्यान पुण्यातील एक महत्त्वाचे आकर्षण आहे (३५) पुढे घडणारे, अपेक्षित, भविष्य (३६) खराटा, झाडू, केरसुणी

सुडोकू - ३४

४	३					१
			२	१	४	
७		५		६		
	१			९	४	
८						९
		७	८		१	
९		८	१			२

सुडोकू - ३३चे उत्तर

३	२	९	६	८	४	७	१
१	७	४	९	३	२	५	६
५	६	८	१	४	७	२	३
२	८	३	७	५	९	९	४
४	९	५	३	२	६	८	१
७	१	६	८	९	४	३	२
६	३	७	४	८	९	५	२
९	५	१	२	७	३	६	४
८	४	२	६	१	५	७	३

‘जीवाची मुंबई; श्रमाची आनंदवारी’

घरकाम करणाऱ्या महिलांना विमानवारी

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : घरकाम करणाऱ्या महिलांच्या जीवनात आनंद निर्माण व्हावा म्हणून ‘रसिकाश्रय’ या संस्थेने या महिलांना नागपूर ते मुंबई हा प्रवास विमानाने घडवून आणण्यासोबत त्यांना मायानगरी मुंबईची सफर घडवून आणण्यात येणार आहे. ११ तारखेला सकाळी या महिला नागपूरहून रवाना होणार आहेत.

पुढारात पडलेल्या परिस्थितीशी संघर्ष करीत, आयुष्यभर काबाडकट करून जीवनात समाधान शोधणाऱ्या, घरकाम करणाऱ्या महिला कामगार दररोज सकाळी उठून अनेक ठिकाणी

धुणी-भांडी करणे, साफसफाई अशी कामे करतात. ज्या घरी त्या काम करतात त्या घरचे शिल्लक अन्न विनातक्रार स्वीकारतात. आयुष्यभर काबाडकट करणाऱ्या या महिलांच्या जीवनात आनंद नसतोच. शिवाय घरात अठराविश्व दारिद्र्य आणि घरातील पुरुषांचे व्यसनाचे प्रमाण या सर्व समस्यांना तोंड देत आपली स्वतःची कुचंबणा हाेत असताना या महिला जीवन जगत असतात. त्यांना आनंद देण्यासाठी ‘जीवाची मुंबई - श्रमाची आनंदवारी’ हा उपक्रम हाती घेण्यात आला आहे. त्या अंतर्गत २० निवडक महिलांना घेऊन ११ फेब्रुवारीला सकाळी ७.४५ ला

विमानाने मुंबईला जाणार आहेत. आकाशात उडणारे विमान पाहून त्यात आपल्याला कधी बसयाना भेटेल असा कधीही विचार केलेला नसताना ती संधी त्यांना उपलब्ध झाली आहे. समुद्रकिनारी खेळणार, ताज हॉटेलमध्ये वेगवेगळे पदार्थ खाणार, अभिनेते, अभिनेत्रींशी गप्पा करणार, कामगार कल्याण मंडळाचा आयुक्त आणि मंत्र्यांना भेटणार आहेत. सोमवारी सायंकाळी ५ वाजता धरमपेट महिला बँकेच्या रामनगर शाखेत या महिलांचा सत्कार करण्यात येणार आहे, असे रसिकाश्रयचे समन्वयक महेश पवार यांनी कळवले आहे.

शिष्यवृत्ती परीक्षेत ३२ हजार विद्यार्थ्यांचा सहभाग

लोकसत्ता खास प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : महाराष्ट्र राज्य परीक्षा परिषद पुणे यांच्यावतीने दरवर्षी पूर्व उच्च प्राथमिक शिष्यवृत्ती परीक्षा इयत्ता पाचवी व पूर्व माध्यमिक शिष्यवृत्ती परीक्षा इयत्ता आठवीची राज्यभरात घेण्यात आली. रविवारी जिल्ह्यातील २१२ केंद्रांवर ही परीक्षा घेण्यात आली. यात शहर व ग्रामीण भागातील तब्बल ३२ हजार ७२९ विद्यार्थ्यांनी सहभाग नोंदविला. सर्व केंद्रांवर ही परीक्षा सुरळीतरित्या पार पडल्याचा दावा प्रशासनाने केला आहे.

शिष्यवृत्तीच्या मुख्य परीक्षेसाठी रविवारी शहर व ग्रामीणमध्ये या परीक्षेसाठी इयत्ता पाचवीसाठी १२३ तर आठवीसाठी ८९ परीक्षा केंद्र निश्चित केले होते. यात इयत्ता पाचवीतून २० हजार ५५१ पैकी १९ हजार ६०० आणि इयत्ता आठवीसाठी १३ हजार ७२६ पैकी १२ हजार १२९ असे एकूण ३४ हजार २७७ पैकी ३२ हजार ७२९ विद्यार्थी उपस्थित होते. रविवारी सकाळी ११ ते दुपारी १२.३० वाजेपर्यंत परीक्षेचा पहिला पेपर त्यांनंतर दीड तासांचा विद्यार्थ्यांना ब्रेक दिल्यावर दुपारी २ ते ३.३० पर्यंत दुसरा पेपर झाला.

शेतीला पाणी देणारे अभिनव यंत्र ‘वायसीसीई’च्या विद्यार्थ्यांची निर्मिती



लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : शेतातील पिकांना आवश्यकतेनुसार पाणी देणारे यंत्र यशवंत चव्हाण कॉलेज ऑफ इंजिनियरिंगच्या विद्यार्थ्यांनी तयार केले आहे. कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता वापर करून तयार केलेल्या या यंत्राद्वारे शेतकऱ्यांना योग्यवेळी पिकांना पाणी देणे सोयीचे होणार आहे.

रविवारी संपलेल्या औद्योगिक महोत्सवात विद्यार्थ्यांच्या दालनात हे यंत्र ठेवण्यात आले होते. विद्यार्थ्यांनी

दिलेल्या माहितीनुसार शेतकऱ्यांना हे यंत्र त्यांच्या शेतात लावण्यासाठी एकरी ३५०० रुपये खर्च येणार आहे. यंत्र सौर उर्जेवर आधारित असून याचा वापर विद्यार्थ्यांनी निर्माण केलेल्या ‘इको प्लस ॲप’ द्वारे करता येणार आहे. शेतकरी घररून यंत्र चालू, बंद करू शकतात. विद्यार्थ्यांच्या या संशोधनाला भारतीय औद्योगिक संस्थान भोपाळ येथे झालेल्या प्रदर्शनात प्रथम क्रमांक मिळाला होता. महोत्सव दरम्यान आमदार सुधीर मुनगंटीवार यांनी येथे भेट दिली.

मागासवर्गीय विद्युत कर्मचारी संघटनेचे द्विवार्षिक अधिवेशन

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : महाराष्ट्र राज्य मागासवर्गीय विद्युत कर्मचारी संघटनेचे २३ वे राज्यव्यापी द्विवार्षिक अधिवेशन हार्डिरोली येथील आर.के. सॅलिब्रेशन हॉल येथे पार पडले. अधिवेशनाच्या दुसऱ्या दिवशी (९ फेब्रुवारी) ‘देश घडवणाऱ्या महापुरुषांची विचारधारा व आम्ही भारताचे लोक’ या विषयावर चर्चासत्र झाले.

ज्येष्ठ पत्रकार संजय आवटे यांचे भाषण झाले. व्यासपीठावर स्वतंत्र मजदूर युनिअनचे राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष जे.एस. पाटील, संघटनेचे अध्यक्ष डॉ. संजय घोडके, कार्याध्यक्ष संजय मोरे, मुख्य संघटक सुर्वकांत जनबंधू हे

उपस्थित होते. अध्यक्षस्थानी सरचिटणीस प्रेमचंद मोयं हे होते. आवटे म्हणाले, आमच्या महापुरुषांना नव्या संदर्भात समजून घेणे आवश्यक आहे. जनभूमी हा नव्या जगाचा पासवर्ड असून देश एकसंघ हॉल येथे पार पडले. अधिवेशनाच्या ठेवण्याची गुरुकिल्ली आहे. विचार मांडण्याचा अधिकार नसेल तर लोकशाही टिकू शकत नाही; असेही ते म्हणाले. आभार केंद्रीय उपाध्यक्ष दयानंद हाडके यांनी मानले. कार्यकर्ता चर्चासत्रामध्ये सर्व झेान व विद्युत निर्मिती केंद्र शाखा पदाधिकाऱ्यांनी त्यांच्या शाखांचा आढावा सादर केला. सर्व केंद्रीय पदाधिकाऱ्यांनी संघटनेच्या वाटचालीच्या पुढील संकल्पाबाबत भूमिका मांडली.

२८ लाखांनी फसवणूक

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : उच्चशिक्षित युवक नोकरीच्या शोधात असताना तो एका टोळीच्या जाळ्यात अडकला. त्या टोळीने पोस्ट विभाग, रेल्वे विभाग किंवा सामाजिक न्याय विभागात नोकरी लावून देण्याचे आमिष दाखवून २८ लाख रुपये उकळले.

त्याला बनावट नियुक्तीपत्र देऊन बोळवण केली. फसवणूक झाल्याचे लक्षात येताच पोलिसांत तक्रार केली. पोलिसांनी टोळीतील पृथ्वीराज साखरे

(५२) रा. बुद्धनगर, मिलिंद कांबळे (४५) रा. गणेशपेट आणि दीपक मोपट्टीवार (६४) रा. बेसा यांच्याविरुद्ध नऊ दहाळ केले. मायानगर, इंदोरा येथील रहिवासी फियादी देवदास जांभूळकर (६८) वेकॉलिमध्ये कार्यरत होते. आठ वर्षांपूर्वीच ते सेवानिवृत्त झाले. त्यांचा मुलगा विनीतचं वी.एस्.सी.प्रभंत शिक्षण झाले आहे. त्यांना आरोपींबद्दल माहिती मिळाली की, ते पैसे घेऊन नोकरी लावून देतात. त्यामुळे फियादीने त्यांच्याशी संपर्क साधला होता.

अल्पवयीन मुलीचा विनयभंग

नागपूर : आई कामावर गेल्यानंतर घरी खेळत असलेल्या दहा वर्षीय मुलीशी घरमालकाच्या ५५ वर्षीय भावाने अश्लील कृत्य केले. मुलीने त्याच्या तावडीतून पळ काढत

आईला सर्व प्रकार सांगितल्यानंतर पोलिसांनी या नराधमाला अटक केली. कमाल जमाल अंसारी (रा. मोमीनपुरा) असे आरोपीचे नाव आहे.

दैनंदिनी

हिवसे सर्फिस सेंटर - ‘एक्सलुझिव हॅन्डलून एक्सो’, दक्षिण मध्य क्षेत्र सांस्कृतिक केंद्र, सिव्हिल लाईन्स, दुपारी 9 ते रात्री ९ पर्यंत.

रसिकाश्रय - घरेलू कामगार महिलांचा सत्कार, धरमपेट महिला बँक, रामनगर चौक, सायंकाळी ५ वाजता.
भरतनगर नागरिक मंडळ - श्री शैलगमनयारा उत्सवाविमित संत व धोर व्यक्तिदर्शनावर रणजीत जोशी व सुबंद जकातदार यांचे प्रवचन, ५३, भरतनगर, अमरावती मार्ग, सायंकाळी ६.३० वाजता.

अट्टल चोरट्यास अटक

नागपूर : सुट-वूट घालून एक युवक कारने वस्तीत येत होता. हातात लाखभर किमतीचा प्रमणध्वनी घेऊन वस्तीतील लमनघर हेराचवा. कार उभी करून लमनघरातील दागिने, सामान आणि दागिनेंनघर हात साफ करायचा. चोरीचा पैशांवर मौजमजा करायचा. पैसे संपल्यानंतर पुन्हा अशाचप्रकारे चोरी करायला निघायचा. अशा ‘हायफाय’ चोरट्याला हुडकेश्वर पोलिसांनी अटक केली. पोलिसांनी तब्बल शंभर ‘सीसीटीव्ही’ तपासले. ‘लाईव्ह लोकेशन’ मिळवून मध्यप्रदेशातील भोपाळ शहरातून त्याला अटक केली. रजनीकांत चानोरे (२४) रा. भंडारा असे अटकेतील आरोपीचे नाव आहे.



अचल मालमत्तेच्या विक्रीसाठी सूचना

(सिक्युरिटी इंटरस्ट (एनफोर्समेंट) रुल्स, 2002 च्या नियम 9(1) आणि सह वाचण्यात येणाऱ्या नियम 8(6) अंतर्गत)
सिक्युरिटी इंटरस्ट (एनफोर्समेंट) रुल्स, 2002 च्या नियम 8(6) व नियम 9(1) सह वाचण्यात येणाऱ्या सिक्युरिटीयड्रेशन अँड टिकन्स्ट्रक्शन ऑफ फायर्नॉन्सअल ॲसेट्स् अँड एनफोर्समेंट ऑफ सिक्युरिटी इंटरस्ट अँड, 2002 अंतर्गत अचल मतेच्या विक्रीसाठी 15 दिवसांची ई-लिलाव विक्री सूचना.
वाढारे सर्वसामान्य जनतेस आणि कर्जदार/सह-कर्जदार किंवा त्यांचे कार्यदेशीर वास्तू/ प्रतिनिधी (कर्जदार) यांना सूचित करण्यात येते की टाटा कॅपिटल हॉऊसिंग फायनान्स लि. (टीसीएचएफएल) यांचेकडे ताणग असलेल्या खालील नमुद अचल मालमत्तेचा टीसीएचएफएल च्या प्राधिकृत अधिकार्यांनी तयार केलेली असून त्यांची खाली नमुद कर्जदार व सह-कर्जदारांकडून घेणे असलेल्या थकबाकीच्या वसुलीसाठी दि. 27-02-2025 रोजी **“जशी आहे जो जेथे आहे”** व **“जशी आहे जे काही आहे” आणि जे काही आहे तेथेच आहे”** तय्यार विक्री करण्यात येईल. आरंभित किंमत व वयाणा रकम खाली नमुद करण्यात आलेली आहे.
वाढारे सूचित करण्यात येते की विक्री वरूे डब्ल्यूप्यात/व्हाईल करण्यात न आल्यास, सरदर अनामद मत्ता/मालमत्तेची दि. 27-02-2025 रोजी दु. 2 वाजता ई-लिलावाद्वारे विक्री करण्यात येईल. ई-लिलावात सहभागासाठी वयाणा रकमेचा डिमांड ड्राफ्ट असलेला मोहवर्ध लिनफा 25-02-2025 रोजी सायंकाळी 5 वाजेपर्यंत पर्यंत **टाटा कॅपिटल हॉऊसिंग फायनान्स लिमिटेड** यांचे शाखा कार्यालय टाटा कॅपिटल हॉऊसिंग फायनान्स लिमिटेड, दुसरा मजला, श्री आर्केड, घर क्र. 186, प्लॉट क्र. 130/19, रेड क्रॉस रोड, गांधी चौक, सदर, नागपूर- 440001 येथे सादर करण्यात यावा. अनामद मत्ता/मालमत्तेची विक्री “जशी आहे जेथे आहे” अटीवर खाली नमुद केलेल्या संक्षिप्त वर्णानुसार करण्यात येईल.

अ. क्र.	कर्ज खाते क्र.	कर्जदार / सह-कर्जदार / कार्यदेशीर वास्तू / कार्यदेशीर प्रतिनिधी / जामीनदाराचे नाव	मागणी सूचनेनुसार रकम	आरंभित किंमत	वयाणा रकम	ताब्याचा प्रकार	30-01-2025 रोजी थकबाकी रकम
1	10172116	श्री अमीनूद्दीन अन्वरहित खान, श्रीमती रेखामजहान अमीनूद्दीन खान	रु. 38,87,720/- (रुपये अडतीस लाख सत्तरांशेही हजार सातशे वीस फक्त)	रु. 24,30,000/- (रुपये चौवीस लाख तीस हजार फक्त)	रु. 2,43,000/- (रुपये दोन लाख त्रेचाळीस हजार फक्त)	प्रत्यक्ष	रु. 6,4863666/- (रुपये चौसट लाख शहाऐशी हजार तीसशे सहासष्ट फक्त)

अचल मालमत्तेचे वर्णन: अकोला महानगर पालिकेच्या हद्दीतील आणि उन-निबंधक अकोला यांचे अधिकार-क्षेत्रातील नव्हल शीट क्र. 39-ए, नव्हल प्लॉट क्र. 274, एकूण क्षेत्रफळ सुमारे 194.35 चौ.फू. व तेथील दोन मजले असलेली निवासी इमारत, पैकी दुसऱ्या मजल्यावरील सदनिका, विल्ड-अप क्षेत्रफळ सुमारे 63.91 चौ.मी. व जमिनीमधील गुणोत्तमच्या प्रमाणातील हिस्सा, मौजे कसबे अकोला, प्रमाणे तह. व नि. अकोला. चतुःसीमा: पूर्वेस- सेचा गल्ली, पश्चिमेस - नईम खान निवाज खान यांची मालमत्ता, उत्तरेस - कोदरी वझार रोड, दक्षिणेस - फातिमाबी शकूरुखा ट्रस्ट ची मालमत्ता.

2	TCHHFO27500010089739 & TCHHFO27500010089794	श्री कमल मदनलाल बजाज श्रीमती सरोज मदनलाल बजाज	आपल्याकडून करार क्र. TCHHFO27500010089739 अंतर्गत रु. 1236327/- (रुपये चार लाख ळ्शिस हजार तीसशे सतावीस फक्त) आणि करार क्र. TCHHFO27500010089794 अंतर्गत रु. 535387/- (रुपये पाच लाख पत्तीस हजार तीसशे सत्तरांशेही फक्त) असे एकूण रु. 1771714/- (रुपये सतरा लाख एकाहत्तर हजार सातशे चौद फक्त) थकबाकी व घेणे आहेत	रु. 10,80,000/- (रुपये दहा लाख ऐंशी हजार फक्त)	रु. 1,08,000/- (रुपये एक लाख आठ हजार फक्त)	प्रत्यक्ष	आपल्याकडून करार क्र. TCHHFO275000100089739 अंतर्गत रु. 1766023/- (रुपये सतरा लाख सहासष्ट हजार तेवीस फक्त) आणि करार क्र. TCHHFO275000100089794 अंतर्गत रु. 718805/- (रुपये सात लाख अठरा हजार आठशे पाच फक्त) असे एकूण रु. 2484828/- (रुपये चौवीस लाख चौराशेऐशी हजार आठशे अठ्ठवीस फक्त) थकबाकी व घेणे आहेत
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अचल मालमत्तेचे वर्णन: संपूर्ण मालमत्ता म्हणजे नागपूर धक्कूळ क्र. एल/1-6, एल.आयजी/मानकापूर, पहिला मजला, विल्ड-अप क्षेत्रफळ 34.77 चौ.मी. (374.37) चौ.फू. नागपूर घर क्र. 3443/न/एल-1/6, प्लॉट क्र. 57, सिटी सर्वे क्र. 681, शीट क्र. 20, मौजा मानकापूर, तहसील आणि जिल्हा नागपूर. चतुःसीमा: पूर्वेस- घक्कूळ क्र. एल/1-5, पश्चिमेस- मोकळे आकाश, उत्तरेस- मोकळे आकाश, दक्षिणेस - जिना आणि मोकळे आकाश.

3	TCHHFO275000100195451 & TCHIN0275000100200214	श्री महेश कुमार श्यामलाल कोशिक श्रीमती धियांका कोशिक	आपल्याकडून करार क्र. TCHHFO27500010019541 अंतर्गत रु. 4192498/- (रुपये चार लाख एकोणिसाठ हजार चारशे अद्वयान्णव फक्त) आणि करार क्र. TCHIN0275000100200214 अंतर्गत रु. 147008/- (रुपये एक लाख सत्तेचाळीस हजार आठ फक्त) असे एकूण रु. 4339506/- (रुपये त्रेचाळीस लाख एकोणचाळीस हजार पाचशे सहा फक्त) थकबाकी व घेणे आहेत	रु. 45,00,000/- (रुपये पंचचाळीस लाख फक्त)	रु. 4,50,000/- (रुपये चार लाख पन्नास हजार फक्त)	प्रत्यक्ष	आपल्याकडून करार क्र. TCHHFO275000100195451 अंतर्गत रु. 4966926/- (रुपये एकोणपन्नास लाख सहासष्ट हजार नऊशे सव्वीस फक्त) आणि करार क्र. TCHIN0275000100200214 अंतर्गत रु. 178491/- (रुपये एक लाख अद्वयान्णहत्तर हजार चारशे एकव्याण्णव फक्त) असे एकूण रु. 5145417/- (रुपये एकावन्नव लाख पंचेचाळीस हजार चारशे सतरा फक्त) थकबाकी व घेणे आहेत
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अचल मालमत्तेचे वर्णन: अनुसूची-अ- एकूण सुमारे 264.680 चौ.मी. (हे क्षेत्रफळ नियमितीकरण पत्र आणि कर्तविषय डिमांड नुसार आहे) असलेल्या प्लॉट क्र. 133, 134 मधील 16.666% अविभाजित हिस्सा व हितसंबंध, साई नगर को-ऑप. हॉऊसिंग सोसायटी लि., नागपूर, ख.क्र. 31, मौजा पारधी, प.ह.न. 34, महाशालिका घर क्र. 610/ए/133 व 134, वॉर्ड क्र. 21, शीट क्र. 8, सिटी सर्वे क्र. 29, नागपूर महानगर पालिका आणि नागपूर सुधार प्रण्यस, नागपूर च्या हद्दीत, तहसील व जिल्हा नागपूर आणि सदर जमिनीच्या चतुःसीमा: उत्तरेस- रस्ता, दक्षिणेस- प्लॉट क्र. 141 व 142, पूर्वेस - प्लॉट क्र. 135, पश्चिमेस - प्लॉट क्र. 132. **अनुसूची- ब-** आर.सी.सी. बांधकाम असलेली निवासी सदनिका क्र. 102, पहिला मजला, सुधा अपार्टमेंट, विल्ड-अप क्षेत्रफळ सुमारे 700 चौ.फू. (म्हणजे 65.032 चौ.मी.) आणि चर्डी क्षेत्रफळ सुमारे 522 चौ.फू. (48.49 चौ.मी.) आणि सदर सदनिकेच्या चतुःसीमा: उत्तरेस- मोकळे आकाश, दक्षिणेस - मोकळे आकाश, पूर्वेस - जिना + सदनिका क्र. 101, पश्चिमेस- मोकळे आकाश.

4	10033251 & 10015743	श्री सचिन मधुकर कर्दार (कर्जदार) & श्रीमती कीर्ती सचिन केदार (सह-कर्जदार)	आपल्याकडून करार क्र. 10015743 अंतर्गत रु. 22,13,405/- (रुपये बावीस लाख तैरा हजार चारशे पाच फक्त) आणि करार क्र. 10033251 अंतर्गत रु. 1,20,365/- (रुपये एक लाख वीस हजार तीसशे पासष्ट फक्त) थकबाकी व घेणे आहेत	रु. 17,10,000/- (रुपये सतरा लाख दहा हजार फक्त)	रु. 1,71,000/- (रुपये एक लाख एकाहत्तर हजार फक्त)	प्रत्यक्ष	आपल्याकडून करार क्र. 10033251 अंतर्गत रु. 535589/- (रुपये पाच लाख पत्तीस हजार पाचशे एकोणनवद फक्त) आणि करार क्र. 10015743 अंतर्गत रु. 5487835/- (रुपये चौरात्र लाख सत्तरांशेही हजार आठशे पत्तीस फक्त) असे एकूण रु. 6023424/- (रुपये साठ लाख तेवीस हजार चारशे चौवीस फक्त) थकबाकी व घेणे आहेत
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अचल मालमत्तेचे वर्णन: निवासी सदनिका क्र. 302, तिसरा मजला, “आर्यंस रॅसिडेन्सी” या इमारतीत, महानगर पालिका घर / प्लॉट क्र. 302 आणि 302/ए, विल्ड-अप क्षेत्रफळ 45.146 चौ.मी. आणि सुपर विल्ड-अप क्षेत्रफळ 78.752 चौ.मी. यासह प्लॉटचे एकूण क्षेत्रफळ सुमारे 193.43 चौ.मी. (2081.31 चौ.फू.) यात 16.66% अस्थिर अविभाजित हिस्सा व हितसंबंध, मौजा-नागपूर, शीट क्र. 221, सिटी सर्वे क्र. 397/2/ए आणि 397/1, वॉर्ड क्र. 26, नागपूर महानगर पालिकेच्या हद्दीत, नागपूर आणि नागपूर सुधार प्रण्यस यांच्या हद्दीत, तहसील आणि जिल्हा नागपूर चतुःसीमा: पूर्वेस- नव्दुजी सावकर यांचे घर, पश्चिमेस- माणिकराव टाकरे यांचे घर, उत्तरेस- रस्ता, दक्षिणेस- लगतची सदनिका क्र. 301.

5	9599605 & 10687160	श्रीमती सुशीला रामवतू अग्रवाल, श्री रामवतू छगनलाल अग्रवाल	आपल्याकडून करार क्र. 9599605 अंतर्गत रु. 43,59,613/- (रुपये त्रेचाळीस लाख एकोणसहास्र हजार सहाशे तेरा फक्त) आणि करार क्र. 10687160 अंतर्गत रु. 19,08,320/- (रुपये एकविंशतीस लाख आठ हजार तीसशे वीस फक्त) असे एकूण रु. 62,67,933/- (रुपये बासवट लाख सत्तीस हजार नऊशे तेहतीस फक्त) थकबाकी व घेणे आहेत / 16-06-2021	रु. 55,00,000/- (रुपये पंचचाळीस लाख फक्त)	रु. 5,50,000/- (रुपये पाच लाख पन्नास हजार फक्त)	प्रत्यक्ष	आपल्याकडून करार क्र. 9599605 अंतर्गत रु. 8900826/- (रुपये आठ लाख तीन हजार चारशे चौवीस फक्त) आणि करार क्र. 10687160 अंतर्गत रु. 3559945/- (रुपये पत्तीस लाख एकोणसाठ हजार नऊशे पंचेचाळीस फक्त) असे एकूण रु. 11563771/- (रुपये एक वीस लाख त्रेसष्ट हजार सातशे थकबाकी व घेणे आहेत
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ज्येष्ठ नागरिक प्रतिष्ठानतर्फे अन्नधान्य, खाद्य सामग्री वितरित

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी

नागपूर : ज्येष्ठ नागरिक प्रतिष्ठानतर्फे चालवण्यात येत असलेले ‘पूर्णब्रह्म अभियान’ निराधार वृद्धांखाऱ्या आधार आहे, असे मत खासालेखाडे येथील संजीवनमाला वृद्धाश्रमाला संचालक प्राजक्ता चक्रवर्ती यांनी व्यक्त केले आहे.

सरकार किंवा समाजातून विशेष मदत नसलेले अनेक वृद्धाश्रम नागपूर आणि नागपूर जिल्ह्यात सामाजिक कार्यकर्ते चालवत

आहे. त्यांना शोधून ज्येष्ठ नागरिक प्रतिष्ठान मदतीचा हात देत आहे, हे प्रतिष्ठानच्या कार्याचे वैशिष्ट्य आहे, असेही त्या पुढे म्हणाल्या.

ज्येष्ठ नागरिक प्रतिष्ठानतर्फे संजीवनमाला वृद्धाश्रमाला अंदाजे ४ किंवदंल धान्य आणि खाद्यसामुग्री प्रदान करण्यात आली.

खाद्यसामुग्री प्रतिष्ठानशिवाय श्रीहरिनागर ज्येष्ठ नागरिक मंडळाचे अध्यक्ष सुरेश उरकुडे, स्वामी समर्थ जेष्ठ नागरिक मंडळाचे अशोक कातुरे, संत

गजानन महाराज मंडळाचे विनायक तिजारे, शेणभर येथील महिला मंडळाच्या उपाताई शिंदे यांचे सहकार्य या उपक्रमाला मिळाले.

कार्यक्रमाला समन्वय समितीचे सदस्य मिलिंद वाचणेकर, सत्यनारायण राठी, राजेश आहुजा, अंगदसिंग सोलंकी, सुरेश उरकुडे, विनीता आहुजा, सुनीता लद्दू, विनायक तिजारे, अरूण भुरे, अशोक कातुरे, रोशन सहारे आदी अनेक सदस्य उपस्थित होते.

अचल मालमत्तेचे वर्णन: मालमत्ता क्र. 1: घर क्र. जी-1028, क्षेत्रफळ सुमारे 87.3 चौ.मी., वॉर्ड क्र. 17, ब्लॉक क्र. 49, शीट क्र. 6, मौजा-कामटी, चतुःसीमा: पूर्वेस- रमनारायण यांचे घर, पश्चिमेस- जयस्वाल यांचे घर, उत्तरेस- नाली, दक्षिणेस-रस्ता							
मालमत्ता क्र. 2: क्षेत्रफळ सुमारे 56.45 चौ.मी. याचा पश्चिम भाग, घर क्र. जे-1029, 1030, आणि 1031, क्षेत्रफळ सुमारे 112.9 चौ.मी., वॉर्ड क्र. 17, ब्लॉक क्र. 29, शीट क्र. 6, मौजा कामटी, चतुःसीमा: पूर्वेस- रमनारायण यांचे घर, पश्चिमेस- जयस्वाल यांचे घर, उत्तरेस- नाली, दक्षिणेस- रस्ता.							
6	10077266	श्री योगेश विलासराव कुकडे (कर्जदार), श्रीमती सायना योगेश कुकडे (सह-कर्जदार)	रु. 30,42,529/- 11-डिसें-2018	रु. 18,00,000/- (रुपये अठरा लाख फक्त)	रु. 1,80,000/- (रुपये एक लाख ऐंशी हजार फक्त)	रु. प्रत्यक्ष	रु. 6701345/- (रुपये सट्टासह लाख एक हजार तीसशे पंचेचाळीस फक्त)

अचल मालमत्तेचे वर्णन: निवासी सदनिका क्र. 201, दुसरा मजला, “आर्यंस रॅसिडेन्सी” या इमारतीत, महानगर पालिका घर / प्लॉट क्र. 302 आणि 302/ए, विल्ड-अप क्षेत्रफळ 45.146 चौ.मी. आणि सुपर विल्ड-अप क्षेत्रफळ 78.752 चौ.मी. यासह प्लॉटचे एकूण क्षेत्रफळ सुमारे 193.43 चौ.मी. (2081.31 चौ.फू.) यात 16.66% अस्थिर अविभाजित हिस्सा व हितसंबंध, मौजा-नागपूर, शीट क्र. 221, , नागपूर महानगर पालिकेच्या हद्दीत, नागपूर आणि नागपूर सुधार प्रण्यस यांच्या हद्दीत, तहसील आणि जिल्हा नागपूर चतुःसीमा: पूर्वेस- नव्दुजी सावकर यांचे घर, पश्चिमेस- माणिकराव टाकरे यांचे घर, उत्तरेस- लगतची सदनिका क्र. 202, दक्षिणेस- हलीम बी यांचे घर.

7	9415348	श्री नितीन मधुकर साठार श्री मधुकर मागोती साठार	रु. 12,08,827/- (रुपये बारा लाख आठ हजार आठशे सत्तावीस फक्त)	रु. 8,75,000/- (रुपये आठ लाख त्रेचाळीस हजार फक्त)	रु. 87,500/- (रुपये सत्तरांशेही हजार पाचशे फक्त)	रु. प्रत्यक्ष	रु. 1915772/- (रुपये एकोणवीस लाख पंधरा हजार सातशे बव्हातर फक्त)
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अचल मालमत्तेचे वर्णन: प्लॉट क्र. 1 यात 0.880794 टक्के (46.71 चौ.मी.) अविभाजित हिस्सा व हितसंबंध, क्षेत्रफळ सुमारे 5304.08 चौ.मी., संपूर्ण जमीन ख.क्र. 380/2 चा भाग, मौजा-सासोड (हिरपूर), संपूर्ण आरसीसी बांधकाम, सदनिका क्र. 404, विंग-बी, सुपर विल्ड-अप क्षेत्रफळ 82.28 चौ.मी. आणि चर्डी क्षेत्रफळ 46.167 चौ.मी., चौथा मजला, “तपक सिटी” या बांधलेल्या इमारतीत, गाव-सासोड (हिरपूर), ग्रामपंचायत सासोड (हिरपूर) यांच्या हद्दीत, तहसील आणि जिल्हा वार्ड. आणि चतुःसीमा: पूर्वेस- 9.00 मी. रॅन्ड रस्ता, पश्चिमेस- 9.00 मी. रॅन्ड रस्ता आणि ख.क्र. 379, उत्तरेस- 9.00 मी. रॅन्ड रस्ता, दक्षिणेस- ख.क्र. 379, सदर सदनिका क्र. 404, विंग-ए, चतुःसीमा: पूर्वेस- सदनिका क्र. 401, पश्चिमेस- ख.क्र. 379, उत्तरेस- सदनिका क्र. 403, दक्षिणेस-सी विंग

लोकमानस

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हकालपट्टी ही दबावतंत्राची नीती ?

अमेरिकेतून परत पाठवलेल्या अनधिकृत भारतीय स्थलांतरितांविषयी उलटसुलट चर्चा होत आहे. अनधिकृतपणे दुसऱ्या देशात शिरणे हा गुन्हा असेल आणि अशा सगळ्याच लोकांची हकालपट्टी अमेरिका करीत असेल तर भारतीयांसाठीच वेगळ्या वागणुकीची आपण कशी अपेक्षा करणार ?

डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प यांचा हा निवडणुकीचा मुद्दा होता. ट्रम्प नीतीच्या अंतरंगात शिरले तर ही अवैध स्थलांतरितांची हकालपट्टी आणि भारतावर अतिरिक्त आयात कर लावण्याची धमकी या दोन्ही बाबी संयुक्तपणे अमेरिकाघाजिंच्या व्यापाराच्या उद्दिष्टाने उचललेले एक पाऊल आहे. अमेरिकेने आपली लढाऊ विमाने भारतावर लादण्याचा आतापर्यंत केलेला प्रयत्न भारताच्या याबाबतीतील स्वतंत्र भूमिकेमुळे साकार झालेला नाही. आता पंतप्रधान जेव्हा ट्रम्प भेटीस जातील तेव्हा आयात कर आणि अवैध स्थलांतरितांचे प्रकरण यामध्ये शिथिलतेची किंमत म्हणून आमची विमाने तुम्ही घ्या असा प्रस्ताव मांडला गेल्यास आश्चर्य नाही. अमेरिकेतील अनेक निर्यातजन्य पदार्थांवर भारताने अतिरिक्त आयात कर कमी करावा या बाबतीतही दबाव येण्याची शक्यता आहे.

■ **दीपक मच्याडो**, वसई

ते सगळे कायदे पायदळी तुडवतात...

‘‘**डंकीं डंख!**’’ हे संपादकीय (८ फेब्रुवारी) वाचले. एक एक कोटी रुपये खर्च करून जे भारतीय डंकी मार्गाने अमेरिकेत प्रवेश करतात त्यांच्याबद्दल हसावे की रडावे हेच कळत नाही. ज्या मुलाकडे एक कोटी रुपये असतात, भले ते कुटुंबाने जमाविलेले असोत, त्याला या देशात भविष्य न दिसणे हा या येथील उपलब्ध सोयींचाच अपमान आहे. ५० लाख खर्च कराून कोणताही धंदा करण्यावर कोणाची बंधने आहेत ? पण ते न करता इथे काही उरलेच नाही म्हणून अशा मार्गाने दुसऱ्या देशांत जाऊ पाहतात हा निष्कर्ष चुकीच्या पायावर आधारित वाटतो. सगळे आंतरराष्ट्रीय कायदे पायदळी तुडवून जे अमेरिकेत स्थायिक होऊ पाहतात त्यांना यापेक्षा वेगळी वागणूक का मिळवी ?

■ **नंदकुमार पाटकर**, मुलुंड, मुंबई

सारे काही पोटासाठी...

‘‘**डंकीं डंख!**’’ हा अग्रलेख वाचला. पण परदेशी जाण्यामागच्या इतर कारणांचा विचार करावा असे वाटते. **१. आपली शिक्षण व्यवस्था:** शाळा - कॉलेजमधून बाहेर पडल्यावर पोट भरण्यासाठी उद्योग कुशलता नसते. फक्त कारकून म्हणून सरकारदरबारी अर्ज करणे हाच पर्याय. तिथे लाखांनी अर्ज येतात. आणि भरतीसाठी २-३ वर्षे सहज जातात. **२. कामाची उच्च-नीचता:** कोणतेही काम हलके नाही असे आपण फक्त म्हणतो. प्रत्यक्षात वेळ आली की आपली पत आठवते. शाळेत नागरिक शास्त्र नावालाच आहे. **३. संशोधनात आघाडी नाही:** आयटी कंपन्यांत फार थोडे संशोधन होत. शास्त्रज्ञांना कमी पगार मिळतो. केलेल्या कामाचे चीज होत नाही. आपण चांगले काम करणाऱ्याला काळ्या यादीत टाकतो. **४. भ्रष्टाचार:** एखादा कारखाना उभा करायचा तर १०० परवाने मिळवावे लागतात आणि ५० जणांचे हात ओले करावे लागतात. **५. क्लासेसचे स्तोम:** आता क्लासेस हे मुद्दुछ झाले आहेत आणि कॉलेज नावाला आहे. कसे होणार मुलांचे ? सरकारी शाळांवर कोले नाहीत, भिती पडलेल्या. पैसा नाही म्हणतात आणि फुकट वाटतात. पोटाचा प्रश्न आला की माणूस काहीही करायला तयार होतो.

■ **दीपक घाटे**, सांगली

व्यवस्थेवरचा अविश्वास

‘‘**डंकीं डंख!**’’ संपादकीय वाचले. वेड्या आणि साखळ्या घालून मिलिटरी विमानातून रवानगी झालेल्या या ‘बेकायदेशीर’ स्थलांतरितांनी एजंटंना दिलेल्या रकमा वाचल्यावर हे सर्व सधन राज्यांतील मध्यमवर्गीय नागरिक आहेत, हे समजते. त्यांना ५० लाख आणि एक कोटी रुपये अशा बऱ्यापैकी रकमेच्या गुंतवणुकीवर भारतात मिळू शकणाऱ्या परताव्याची खात्री नाही. तीच परिस्थिती श्रीमंत / अतिश्रीमंत वर्गातील ‘कायदेशीर’ स्थलांतरितांची. त्या वर्गातील साधारण २८ हजार लोक मागील तीन वर्षांत देश सोडून गेले. यावरून गुंतवणूकदारांना आपल्या अर्थव्यवस्थेवर किती विश्वास आहे हे दिसून येते.

■ **राजेश नाईक**, बोळिंड, विरार

फक्त बेरोजगारी कारणीभूत कशी ?

‘‘**डंकीं डंख!**’’ हा अग्रलेख वाचला. या परिस्थितीला स्वतः स्थलांतरित लोक जबाबदार नाहीत असे कसे म्हणता येईल ? अमेरिकेपर्यंत पोहचण्यासाठी लागणारे कोटी रुपये मोजण्याची त्यांची तयारी होती, शिवाय हे सर्व सुशिक्षित लोक होते, परिणामांची त्यांना चांगलीच कल्पना होती, असे असूनही इतके अवाजवी धाडस त्यांनी केले असेल तर फक्त भारतातील बेरोजगारी याला कारणीभूत आहे असे नक्कीच म्हणता येणार नाही. इतका पैसा असेल तर इतकी जोखीम न घेता इथेही ते नक्कीच यशस्वी होऊ शकले असते.

■ **डॉ. योगिता पाटील**, सोलापूर

कपटी मित्रापासून सावध राहावे

‘‘**डंकीं डंख!**’’ हा अग्रलेख वाचला. अमेरिका हा भारताचा मित्र कधीच नव्हता. मात्र पंतप्रधान मोदींनी नवीन मित्र तयार केला याचे सगळ्या भारतीयांनी स्वागतच केले. पण अमेरिका असो की चीन, हे पक्के व्यापारी आहेत. त्यांनी जागतिक पातळीवर आपला कच्चा माल तयार आहे तो आपल्यासारख्या देशांच्या माध्यमातून. ते आपल्याकडे फक्त कच्चा माल म्हणून बघतात. अजूनही मोदी यांनी कपटी मित्रापासून सावध राहावे.

■ **आनंद निकम**, वैजापूर

राजकारणी, प्रशासक जबाबदार

‘‘**डंकीं डंख!**’’ हा अग्रलेख वाचला. कमकुवत अर्थव्यवस्था आणि प्रचंड लोकसंख्या आहे, अशा देशांतील बेरोजगार व महत्त्वाकांक्षी लोकांना विकसित देश आकर्षित करतात. वास्तविक त्या देशात या स्थलांतरितांसाठी लाल गालिचा अंधरलेला नसतो. मात्र तेथील लोकांना शांततेने जगण्याचा जो हक्क तेथील शासनाने दिलेला आहे तो भारतातल्या राजकारण्यांनी/प्रशासनातल्या सर्वच स्तरावरील अधिकाऱ्यांनी भारतीय नागरिकांना दिलेला नाही.

कोणताही देश कितीही चांगला मित्र असला तरीही त्या देशाच्या प्रमुखाला स्वतःच्या देशाचे हितच प्रथम पाहावे लागते. म्हणूनच ट्रम्प मोदींचे कितीही जवळचे मित्र असले तरीही भारत सरकारही अमेरिकेचे न एकटा इराण व रशिया यांच्याकडून खनिज तेल, वायू खरेदी करतच असते. तसेच ब्रिक्स देशांमध्ये आघाडीचा असणारा भारत हा स्वतःच्या चलनातून इतर देशांचे देणे देऊ इच्छितो. त्या टिकाणी मोदी ट्रम्प हे संबंध पाहून चालत नाही.

■ **सुदर्शन मर्हित्कर**, सोलापूर

हा कर भरणाऱ्यांच्या पैशांचा चुराडाच

‘**अपात्र बहिणींमुळे** साडेचारशे कोटींचा फटका’ ही बातमी (८ फेब्रुवारी) वाचली. हा प्रामाणिकपणे कर भरणाऱ्या नागरिकांच्या पैशांचा चुराडाच. निवडणुकीआधी कोणतीही छाननी न करता सर्व लाडक्या बहिणींचा अर्ज सरकारने का स्वीकारले ? असे केल्यास आपल्या देशात अनेक अपात्र अर्जदार फायदा उचलणारे हे सांगण्यासाठी कोणत्याही तज्ज्ञाची गरज नाही. लोकहिताचे नसले तरी लोकप्रिय असे निर्णय घेण्यात आपल्या नेतेमंडळींचा हात कोणीही धरू शकत नाही. तसेही सत्तेसाठी काहीही करण्याची शपथ सर्व नेत्यांनी घेतली आहेच म्हणा. पण सामान्य नागरिकांच्या मेहनतीच्या पैशांचे असे आंधळे वाटप कितपत योग्य ? लोकांना प्रामाणिकपणे कमावलेल्या पैशांची अशी उधळपट्टी करताना या सरकारला ‘हिंदुत्वा’ची शिकवण आठवली नाही काय ?

■ **जयेश घोडविंदे**, शहापूर (ठाणे)

लोकोपयोगी योजनांना कात्री लागेल

‘**अपात्र बहिणींमुळे** साडेचारशे कोटींचा फटका’ या बातमीत म्हटल्याप्रमाणे हा फटका सरकारला नाही, करदात्यांना आहे. पण लाख लाभार्थी अपात्र निघावेत ही चीड आणणारी गोष्ट आहे. पात्रतेच्या निकषांकडे दुर्लक्ष करणाऱ्यांवर वसुलीची कारवाई करायला हवी. साडेचारशे कोटी रुपये ही काही कमी रक्कम नाही. पण कारवाई होणार नाही हे आपणा सर्वांना माहीत आहे. कारण जास्तीत जास्त अर्जद्वारांना (योग्य लाभार्थी नव्हे) निवडणुकीतुम्वीं पैसे वाटप व्हावे म्हणून घाई करण्यात आली. हा खड्डा भरण्यासाठी आता काही लोकोपयोगी योजनांना कात्री लावण्यात येईल.

■ **नरेंद्र दामाडे**, चोपडा

विचार

पाश्चात्य तत्वज्ञानातला अदृश्य केंद्रबिंदू...

सॉक्रेटिस कसा होता याविषयीचे वादप्रवाद विसरून ‘कोरी पार्टी’ ठेवून पाश्चात्य तत्वज्ञान अभ्यासलं, तरी सॉक्रेटिस नाकारता येत नाही...



तत्त्व-विवेक

शरद बाविस्कर

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‘*Sapere aude!*’ - *Horace (popularized by Immanuel Kant)*
जगलेलं आयुष्य आणि जगासमोर आलेलं आयुष्य यांत नेहमी अंतर असतं, जे ज्ञानमीमांसेचा मध्यवर्ती प्रश्न म्हणून चर्चितं जातं. इमॅन्युएल कांटच्या भाषेत म्हणायचं झालं तर जगलेल्या आयुष्यातील घटितं आणि गोष्टी (Ding an sich) अगम्य असतात. जे काही गम्य असतं ते पूर्वाप्राप्त चौकटींचा आणि नंतर लावलेल्या अन्वयार्थांचा परिपाक असतो. घटितंविषयीच्या आकलनाचा संबंध ज्ञाताच्या पूर्वाप्राप्त चौकटींवर, दृष्टिकोनावर आणि प्रयोगावर निर्णायकपणे अवलंबून असतो. त्यामुळे उपरोक्त प्रश्न फक्त सत्यासत्यतेचा नसून अर्थपूर्णतेचा देखील असतो. कारण मनुष्याच्या द्विधा प्रकृतीत कार्यकारणभावाच्या अनिवार्यतेसोबत स्वातंत्र्याचा देखील अंतर्भाव होत असतो.

उदाहरणार्थ, आयुष्यात एखादी निर्णायक घटना घडते जी आयुष्याचा अर्थ पूर्णपणे बदलून टाकते. त्या निर्णायक कृतीचा चौकटीतून समग्र आयुष्याच्या बहुपदरी आणि बहुजिनसी वास्तवाला ठरावीक अर्थ दिला जातो. बहुरंगी जीवनाला विशिष्ट रंगात रंगवलं जातं. उपरोक्त प्रक्रिया लोकोत्तर व्यक्तींविषयी प्रकथने दिसून येते. ‘अवतार’, ‘प्रेषित’, ‘मसीहा’, ‘संत’, ‘महात्मा’, ‘युगपुरुष’ सारख्या विशेषणांभोवती सर्वसामान्यांना नमवणारी कथानक रचली जातात. मात्र असं करताना त्यांना लोकांपासून अनेकदा तोडलं जातं. धार्मिक आणि पौराणिक गोष्टींचा पगडा असलेल्या समाजात तर लोकोत्तर व्यक्तींना दैवी रंग चढवणं जणूकाही क्रमप्राप्त असावं. अशा मिथकीकरणच्या आणि दैवतीकरणाच्या प्रक्रियेत मानतेच्या पातळीवर आरसा दाखविणारं सान्त माणुसपण अदृश्य केलं जातं. त्यामुळे लोकोत्तर विभूती आणि लोक यातील अभेद्य दरी निर्माण होते.

मात्र सॉक्रेटिसच्या बाबतीत ही ऐतिहासिक प्रक्रिया त्याचं माणुसपण पुसण्यात यशस्वी झालेली दिसत नाही. हे खरं आहे की तत्त्वज्ञानत आणि एकूणच लोकसाहित्यात त्याची प्रतिमा ध्रुवीकरण करणारी आहे. पण त्याच्या आयुष्याचं दैवतीकरण झालेलं नाही. जणू सॉक्रेटिसनं दैवतीकरणाच्या प्रक्रियेपासून स्वतःला वाचवण्यासाठी तशी तजवीज केली असावी. प्रस्तुत लेखत सॉक्रेटिसनं संभाषा



सॉक्रेटिसच्या बाबतीत ही ऐतिहासिक प्रक्रिया त्याचं माणुसपण पुसण्यात यशस्वी झालेली दिसत नाही. हे खरं आहे की तत्त्वज्ञानत आणि एकूणच लोकसाहित्यात त्याची प्रतिमा ध्रुवीकरण करणारी आहे. पण त्याच्या आयुष्याचं दैवतीकरण झालेलं नाही. जणू सॉक्रेटिसनं दैवतीकरणाच्या प्रक्रियेपासून स्वतःला वाचवण्यासाठी तशी तजवीज केली असावी. प्रस्तुत लेखत सॉक्रेटिसनं संभाषा

कुतूहल

भूकंप

भूकंप ही एक नैसर्गिक आपत्ती आहे. भूकंप घडून येण्याचे कारण समजण्यासाठी आपण हे लक्षात घ्यायला हवे, की पृथ्वी मूलतः तीन आवरणांनी बनली आहे. पृथ्वीच्या गोलाच्या मध्यभागी गाभा असून त्याची त्रिज्या सुमारे ३५०० किमी आहे. त्यावरच्या आवरणाला प्रावरण म्हणतात.

त्याची जाडी सुमारे २९०० किमी आहे, आणि त्यावर, म्हणजे सर्वांत वरती, ४० ते १०० किमी जाडीचे खडकांचे कवच किंवा शिलावरण आहे.

काही तुकडे एकत्र जोडून एखाद्या त्रिज्याची जुळणी करण्याचा मुलांचा एक खेळ

(जिगसाॅ पझल) असतो. अगदी तसेच पृथ्वीचे कवच आणि प्रावरणाचा वरचा थर सात प्रचंड मोठ्या, आणि आठ लहान तुकड्यांमध्ये विभागलेला आहे. या तुकड्यांना भूपट्ट म्हणतात. भूपट्टांच्या कडा खडबडीत असून मुलांच्या चित्रजुळणीच्या खेळातल्या तुकड्यांप्रमाणे त्या एकमेकांत घट्ट अडकलेल्या असतात. भूगर्भातील हालचालींमुळे काही ठिकाणी दोन भूपट्ट एकमेकांकडे ओढले जातात, काही ठिकाणी भूपट्ट एकमेकांपासून दूर ढकलले जातात. अन्य काही ठिकाणी दोन भूपट्टांच्या कडा एकमेकांवर घासल्या जातात.

या हालचालींमुळे खडकांमध्ये ताण निर्माण होते, आणि तो वाढतच जातो. तो सहन करण्याची खडकांची जी मर्यादा असते; ती ओलांडून ताण वाढला की तिथल्या खडकांना प्रचंड मोठा तडा जातो. तड्याकडे आलेली बाजूचे खडक एकमेकांवर घासत विरुद्ध दिशांना सरकतात. खडकांमधल्या या

संरचनात्मक बदलाला प्रस्तरभंग म्हणतात.

प्रस्तरभंग झाल्याक्षणी खडकांवरचा ताण नाहीसा होतो आणि त्यातून खूप मोठी ऊर्जा मुक्त होते. ती आसमंतातल्या पाषाणप्रस्तरांना प्रभावित करते. याचा परिणाम म्हणून एखाद्या तड्यातल्या संथ पाण्यात दगड

टाकला, तर पाण्यात तरंग निर्माण होतात, तसे पृथ्वीच्या पाषाणप्रस्तरांमध्ये तरंग निर्माण होऊन ते कंप पावू लागतात. त्यालाच आपण भूकंप म्हणतो. ज्या कंपन लहरी निर्माण होतात त्यांना भूकंप लहरी म्हणतात. या लहरींमुळे अगदी अल्पकाळ काही सेकंद किंवा

एखादे मिनिट पृथ्वीच्या फार मोठ्या भागातली जमीन अक्षरशः हादरते. त्याचे अनेक दुष्परिणाम दिसून येतात. घरे कोसळतात, जमिनीला भेगा पडतात, रस्ते आणि रेल्वेमार्ग यांची दुर्दशा होते, विजेचे खांब पडून विद्युत् सेवा खंडित होते, जीविताची आणि मालमत्तेची अपरिमित हानी होते.

जमिनीखाली जिथे या लहरी निर्माण होतात त्या स्थानाला भूकंपाची नाभी (फोकस) म्हणतात. नाभीच्या नेमक्या वर असणाऱ्या पृथ्वीच्या पृष्ठभागावरच्या बिंदूला भूकंपाचा केंद्रबिंदू (एपिसेंटर) म्हणतात. भूकंपाच्या कंपन लहरी या नाभीपासून सर्व दिशांना पसरतात.



अनघा शिराळकर

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संकेतस्थळ : www.mavipa.org

वारसा मागे सोडला नसल्याने त्याच्या व्यक्तिमत्त्वाभोवती अंतर्विरोधात्मक साहित्य निर्माण झालेलं आहे. सॉक्रेटिस पाश्चात्य तत्त्वज्ञानातला असा अदृश्य केंद्रबिंदू आहे जिथून एकमेकांना छेद देणारं वैचारिक प्रवाह निघतात. सॉक्रेटिस चिद्वदादी होता की भौतिकवादी, अपोलोनियन होता की डायनॅशियन, इरॉटिक होता की स्टोइक, सॉफिस्ट होता की सॉफिस्टांचा विरोधक इत्यादी वार्दांविषयी सगळ्या बाजूंनी साहित्यनिर्मिती झाली आहे. सॉक्रेटिसच्या सिंदियथेचं ठळक उदाहरण म्हणजे एक्रोगिंसाव्या शतकातला जर्मन विचारवंत फ्रेडरिक नित्स्चेची सॉक्रेटिसविषयीची संप्रभावकथा. नित्स्चेने समग्र पाश्चात्य तत्त्वज्ञानावर आसूड ओडले आहेत. त्याच्या दृष्टीनं प्लेटोप्रणीत पाश्चात्य परंपरा म्हणजे मनुष्याच्या दीर्घ दमनाची आणि खचीकरणाची गाथा होय. प्लेटोच्या अमूर्त, पारलोकवादी आणि कौरंड्या बुद्धिवादावर आधारित पाश्चात्य तत्त्वज्ञानाची वाटचाल म्हणजे मनुष्याच्या अंगभूत उदात्ततेचं खचीकरण आणि गुलाम मानसिकतेचं तुष्टीकरण करण्याची मोहीम.

नित्स्चेचं ‘गॉड इज डेड’ हे विधान सर्वश्रुत आहे. पण तत्त्वज्ञानाचाही मूत्यु झालेला आहे या निष्कर्षांवर तो येऊन पोहोचला होता. पाश्चात्य संस्कृतीची संकटग्रस्त अवस्था आणि आजारपणाचं निदान करताना त्याने प्लेटोच्या चिद्वदादी जीवनदृष्टीला कारणीभूत ठरवलं आहे. समग्र पाश्चात्य तत्त्वज्ञानावर हातोड्याने प्रहार करून पाश्चात्य तत्त्वज्ञानाच्या तात्विक स्तंभांना उद्ध्वस्त करणारा नित्स्चे सॉक्रेटिसच्या बाबतीत मात्र द्विधा मनस्थितीत दिसतो. थोडक्यात, सॉक्रेटिस समग्र पाश्चात्य परंपरेचं ध्रुवीकरण करणारा अदृश्य केंद्रबिंदू आहे. मात्र त्यानं कुठल्याही एका युटोपिक ध्रुवाला अंतिम न मानता लोगोसला ‘गोठवण्या’चा मोह टाळला.

(ब) सॉक्रेटिसप्रणीत ज्ञान संकल्पनेत झालेलं स्थिरत्व : डेल्फनीच्या भाकितानुसार सॉक्रेटिस अथेन्समधील सगळ्यात ज्ञानी माणूस समजला जात होता. पण ‘स्वतःला जाणून घे’ या सुविचाराचा स्वतःवर प्रयोग केल्यावर सॉक्रेटिसला स्वतःच्या अज्ञानाची प्रखर जाणीव होते. स्व-अज्ञानाची प्रखर जाणीव असल्यामुळे डेल्फनीनं त्याला सगळ्यात ज्ञानी ठरवलं असेल असा वरील कोड्याचा अर्थ निघतो. कारण *सॉक्रेटिसच्या ज्ञानमीमांसेत स्वतःच्या अज्ञानाची प्रखर जाणीव ही ज्ञानाच्या शक्यतांची पूर्वअट समजली* जाते. त्यादृष्टीनं, स्वतःच्या अज्ञानाची जाणीव सॉक्रेटिसची tabula rasa ची कृती समजली जाते. ‘ताबुला राझा’ म्हणजे पूर्वाप्राप्त धारणा, कल्पना आणि परंपरागत समजुतींना प्रश्नांकित करण्याची आणि पुसण्याची धाडसी कृती करून स्वतःला *कोरी पार्टी* समजण्याचा प्रयोग. खरंतर पाश्चात्य तत्त्वज्ञानाच्या ऐतिहासिक

वाटचालीत हा ‘ताबुला राझा’ चा प्रयोग अनेकदा झालेला आढळून येतो. म्हणून ‘आपली प्रतीक परंपरा जिवंत आहे आणि त्यांची कापची भेती’ असा आत्ममुग्ध युक्तिवाद अज्ञानाचं ज्ञापक ठरतो. पाश्चात्यांच्या काही परंपरा आपोआप मेल्या नसून त्यांनी जाणीवपूर्वक पुसल्या आहेत. कुठलीही परंपरा आपो आप टिकून राहात नसून प्रयत्नपूर्वक टिकवून ठेवली जाते. अनिष्ट, हिणकस आणि गतार्थ गोष्टी कोण आणि का टिकवून ठेवतं हा संशोधनाचा विषय आहे. पाश्चात्य परंपरेतील काही रूढींपरंपर त्यांना बौद्धिक, तथ्यात्मक, नैतिक पातळीवर अविवेकी, अनिष्ट आणि गतार्थ वाटल्या म्हणून ‘जुनं ते सोनं’ या मानसिकतेत न अडकता सामूहिक रीतीने पुसून टाकण्यात आल्या आहेत.

‘ताबुला राझा’चे प्रयोग आणि ज्ञानाची नव्यानं केलेली मांडणी या प्रक्रियेला डायलेक्टिक्सची प्रक्रिया वस्तुमानत. युरोपमध्ये १५ वा शतकापासून अनिष्ट परंपरांना पुसून टाकण्याचा हा प्रयोग अधिक वेगात झालेला दिसून येतो. पाश्चात्य परंपरतल्या प्राचीन किंवा मध्ययुगीन गोष्टी आजच्या युगात दिसत नसतील तर त्यासाठी तेथील लोकांची ‘ताबुला राझा’ चा प्रयोग करण्याची इच्छाशक्ती आणि धाडस जबाबदार आहे.

‘ताबुला राझा’चा प्रयोग खासगीत स्वतःवर करणं तुलनेनं सोपं असतं. या प्रयोगाला सार्वजनिक करण्यात मात्र मोठी जोखीम असते. त्यासाठी धाडस लागतं. सॉक्रेटिसनं *अज्ञान ओळखण्याचं* आणि ज्ञाननिर्मितीच्या शक्यतांचं पद्धतीशास्त्र **सार्वजनिक** करून पाश्चात्य परंपरेसाठी तत्त्वज्ञानात्मक धाडसाचा वस्तुनिष्ठ घालून दिलेला आहे. ज्ञानाच्या खासगी, व्यक्तिनिष्ठ, स्थितिशील व्याख्येला बाद करून सार्वजनिक, वस्तुनिष्ठ आणि गतिशील ज्ञानाची नवी व्याख्या मांडून सॉक्रेटिसनं ज्ञानाचं लोकेशनच बदलेलं आहे. ज्ञानाचं सॉक्रेटिक लोकेशन मोर्निंडिक माणूस, पौरुष्य किंवा थिजजलेल्या पोथीनिष्ठ संस्था नसून *सार्वजनिक अवकाशातील मानवी संबंध आणि मानवी संबंधांच्या दाट जाळ्याला प्रतिबिंबित करणारा ‘लोगोस’* आहे. ज्ञानाच्या संकल्पनेचे हे धाडसी स्थित्यंतर घडवताना त्याने किंमत मोटली आहे.

सॉक्रेटिसच्या फिलॉसफीच्या व्याख्येत ज्ञानाविषयी प्रेम, मैत्री, लालसेसोबतच धाडस हा मानवी पैलूदेखील अभिप्रेत आहे. त्यामुळे अठराव्या शतकात एमॅन्युएल कांटनं ‘प्रबोधन म्हणजे काय?’ या प्रश्नाचं उत्तर देताना ज्ञानाचा संबंध स्पष्टपणे धाडसाशी (Saper aude!) जोडून सॉक्रेटिक क्षणाची वैश्विकता अधोरेषित केली आहे. थोडक्यात, अडीच हजार वर्षांपूर्वीच्या या सूर्य पाहिलेल्या धाडसी माणसानं पाश्चात्य परंपरेत आजदेखील समकालीनत्व टिकवून ठेवलं आहे.

व्यवितवेद्य

‘**प्रिन्स**’ असे बिरुद, सुटाबुटातला व आलिशाण प्रासाद-मोटारींसह वावर आणि तरीदेखील इमाम आणि आध्यात्मिक उपदेशक अशी ओळख... प्रिन्स करीम अल हुसेनी ऊर्फ आगा खान चौथे हे असे अजब रसानेदार होते. धर्माशी संबंधित होते पण पुराणमत्वावादी नव्हते. अतिशय दानशूर होते. पण त्याचबरोबर आधुनिक काळाशी सुसंगत छंद, सवयी त्यांना त्याच्या नव्हत्या. त्यांनी जगभरातील अनेक संस्थांना मदत केली. उत्तम वास्तूंच्या निर्मितीस हातभार लावला. घोड्यांच्या शर्यती, पैदास यातही त्यांना विलक्षण रुची. उत्तम राहणीमान, राजघराण्यातील धुरंधर आणि राष्ट्रप्रमुखांबरोबर ऊठबस असूनही त्यांचे पाय सदैव जमिनीवर राहिले. त्यांनी रूढार्थाने हार्वर्डमध्ये धर्मशास्त्राचे शिक्षण घेतले. पण धर्माच्या एककल्ली कर्कशणापासून ते फ्लॉगिंभर दूरच राहिले. धर्म हे जोडण्याचे आणि आधाराचे माध्यम आहे, असे ते मानत. धर्मावरून संपर्ष तीव्र असलेल्या आजच्या किंवा कुठच्याही काळासाठी ही शिकवण अत्यंत मूलभूत तरी महत्त्वाचीच.

प्रिन्स आगा खान हे इस्लामचे प्रेषित मोहम्मद पंगंबर आणि त्यांची कन्या फातिमा व जामात अली यांचे वंशज मानले जातात. निझारी इस्मायली शिया पंथाचे ते इमाम. प्रेषितांचे खरे वारसदार कोण या मुद्द्यावरून इस्लाममध्ये सुन्नी आणि शिया असे दोन प्रमुख पंथ निर्माण झाले. यांतील शिया पंथाीयांचेही तीन उपपंथ निर्माण झाले, त्यांतील एक इस्मायली शिया. या उपपंथांमध्येही निझारी इस्मायली आणि दाऊदी बोहरा असे दोन आणखी उपपंथ आहेत. आगा खान आणि त्यांचे नजीकचे पूर्वज हे निझारी इस्मायली पंथातले. आगा खान हे पदनाम इराणच्या शाहकडून १९व्या शतकात बहाल करण्यात आले.

प्रिन्स करीम अल हुसेनी यांचा जन्म १९३६ मध्ये

जिनिव्हात झाला. प्रिन्स अली खान यांचे ते ज्येष्ठ चिरंजीव, तर सर सुल्तान मोहमद शाह ऊर्फ आगा खान तिसरे यांचे नातू. स्वित्झर्लंड, नैरोबीत बालपण गेल्यानंतर प्रिन्स करीम यांनी हार्वर्ड विद्यापीठात इस्लाम आणि इतिहासात पदवी घेतली. त्यांचे आजोबा सर सुल्तान मोहमद शाह १९५७ मध्ये निवर्तले, पण इच्छापत्रात त्यांनी करीम यांनाच उत्तराधिकारी नेमले. आपल्या मुलापैंगवी नावावला आगा खान नेमण्यामागे त्यांची भूमिका अशी होती, की आधुनिक काळाशी सुसंगत आणि वयाने युवा असलेल्या आपल्या नातवाने निझारी इस्मायली पंथाचा वारसा पुढे चालवावा. अणुयुग सुरू झाले असताना असे करणे योग्य ठरले, असेही आगा खान तिसरे यांना वाटायचे.



प्रिन्स आगा खान चौथे

आगा खान चौथे यांनी आपल्या पूर्वजांपेक्षा अधिक लोकप्रियता आणि पाटिंबा मिळवला. त्यांचा पंथ सुन्नींच्या तुलनेत अल्पसंख्य होता आणि त्याचे परिणामही इस्मायलींना भोगावे लागायचे. पण प्रत्येक वेळी आगा खान मदतीस धावून यायचे. त्यांच्या सर्भाना इस्मायली मोठ्या संख्येने हजेरें लावायचे. घोड्यांच्या शर्यती आणि उंची पाटांमध्ये दिसणारी ही व्यक्ती धार्मिक निरूपणेही तितकेच तमयवतीने करायचे. इमाम होणे म्हणजे रोजच्या जीवनातून निवृत्ती घेणे नव्हे. उलट इमामाने त्याच्या समुदायाचे रक्षण आणि मार्गदर्शन सहभागार्तून केले पाहिजे, असे आगा खान यांनी एकदा म्हटले होते. ‘आगा खान डेव्हलपमेंट नेटकर्स’ या धर्मादाय संघटनेच्या माध्यमातून जगभर आरोप्य, गृहनिर्मिती, शिक्षण, संस्कृतीसंवर्धन, ग्रामीण विकास या क्षेत्रांमध्ये आगा खान यांनी भरभरून योगदान दिले आहे. या संघटनेचे वार्षिक अंदाजपत्रकच एक अब्ज डॉलर इतके असल्याचे सांगितले जाते. आगा खान चौथे यांचे नुकतेच वृद्धापकाळाने निधन झाले.

करताना लक्षात येते.

तर्कतीर्थ लक्ष्मणशास्त्री जोशी हे रॉय यांच्या विचारांकडे कसे आकर्षित झाले, ते त्यांनी ‘मी रॉयवादी का झालो?’ शीर्षक लेखात (‘धनुर्मासी’, दिवाळी, १९४६) नमूद करून ठेवले आहे. त्यानुसार, ‘हिंदी जनतेच्या स्वातंत्र्याचा झगडा लोकसत्तात्मक स्वातंत्र्याचा झगडा व्हावयास पाहिजे. हिंदी समाजाची हल्लीची रचना बदलून नवीन रचना करण्यास समर्थ असे लोकसत्तात्मक राज्य स्थापन व्हावयास पाहिजे. सद्यःकाली मानवातजाती श्रेष्ठ संस्कृती, नैतिकता आणि व्यक्तिस्वातंत्र्याचा प्रत्येक जणच्या धोका दिवसेंदिवस वाढत आहे. म्हणून नैतिक मूल्यांचा आश्रय घेण्याची गरज निर्माण झाली आहे आणि मानवी मूलभूत हक्कांकरिता झगडा निर्माण होऊन या हक्कांची स्थापना व्हावयास हिंदुस्थानात व रशिया खंडात वैचारिक क्रांतीची चळवळ निर्माण व्हावयास पाहिजे.’’ या चार कारणांसाठी तर्कतीर्थानी रॉयवाद अंगीकारला असल्याचे स्पष्ट केले आहे. सन १९४० ते १९४८ चा कालखंडात त्यांनी याअनुषंगाने मानवेंद्रनाथ रॉय यांच्या नेतृत्व व मार्गदर्शनाखाली पक्षकार्य केले; पण भारतीय जनमानस क्रांतिसमर्थक नसल्याने रॅडकल पार्टी मूठभर बुद्धिजीवींपर्यंतच मर्यादित राहिली.

‘आप’ले मरण पाहिले...

राजधानी हातात नाही, ही सल दूर करण्यासाठी भाजप सर्व ताकद पणास लावणार हे दिसत होते. त्या तुलनेत केजरीवाल गाफील राहिले...

दिल्ली विधानसभा निवडणुकीत 'आम आदमी पक्षा'चा कपाळमोक्ष होणार ही काळ्या दगडावरची रेष होती. तसेच झाले. या निवडणुकीत भाजपने दोन तृतीयांश बहुमत मिळवत 'आप'ला सत्ताच्युत केले. भाजपच्या विजयाची आणि म्हणून 'आप'च्या पराजयाची अप्रिहरा्यता, त्या मागील कारणे इत्यादींचा ऊहापोह करण्याआधी भाजपचे अभिंदन करणे आवश्यक ठरते. 'आप'चे सर्वेसर्वा अरविंद केजरीवाल हे एक अत्यंत भंपक गृहस्थ आणि त्याहूनही अधिक भंपक राजकारणी आहेत. 'लोकसत्ता'ने आतापर्यंत अनेकदा त्यांच्या आणि 'आप'च्या राजकारणाच्या मर्यादा दाखवून दिल्या. आपण म्हणजे कोणी नैतिकशिरोमणी आहोत आणि अन्य झालून सारे जणू अनैतिकांची अवलाद असा या केजरीवालांचा तोरा शिसारी आणणारा होता. प्रत्यक्षात ते तसे असते तर एकवेळ सहन करता आले असते. पण 'आप' म्हणजे अन्य कोणत्याही राजकीय पक्षासारखा 'वरून कीर्तन आतून तमाशा' असाच प्रकार. नाटकीपणा आणि केजरीवाल हे जणू एकमेकांचे समानार्थी शब्द असावेत असे त्यांचे वर्तन. 'आप' म्हणजे ना धड राजकीय पक्ष, ना धड स्वयंसेवी संस्था असे ना गाढव ना घोडा असे खेचर. स्वयंसेवी संस्थेचा आव आणून राजकारण करण्याचा त्यांचा प्रयोग काही काळ यशस्वी झाला. पण

काही काळच. कारण आपल्याकडे नैतिक असणाऱ्यापेक्षा मिरवण्याऱ्याचेच स्तोम अधिक. आणि या असल्या मिरवण्यात केजरीवालांच्या श्रावणबाळी प्रतिमेची भुरळ अनेकांस काही काळ पडली. पण त्यांची ही नौका आज ना उद्या भाजपच्या खडकावर आदळून फुटणार हे दिसत होते. ते एकदाचे झाले. याचे कारण भाजपशी लढण्यास केवळ नाटकीपणा पुरेसा नाही, हे केजरीवाल यांस उमगले नाही. त्या एका मुद्द्यावरही भाजपत केजरीवालांपेक्षा किती तरी सराईत अभिनेते आहेत. दुसरे असे की आजच्या भाजपशी सामना एकास-एक असा नसतो. भाजपशी लढणे म्हणजे केवळ दोन हात असणाऱ्याने दशभुजा पैलवानास अंगावर घेण्यासारखे असते. ते केजरीवालांच्या क्षमतेपलीकडचे होते. नायब राज्यपाल, केंद्रीय गृहमंत्रालय, केंद्र सरकार, निवडणूक आयोग, केंद्रीय यंत्रणा असा हा एक विरुद्ध पाच असा सामना होत. हे नमूद करताना भाजपच्या कमालीच्या विजिगी वृत्तीस वा १२ महिने १४ काळ निवडणूक सज्ज असण्याच्या क्षमतेस कमी लेखण्याचा उद्देश नाही. याबाबत आज कोणताही एक वा सर्व राजकीय पक्ष एकत्र मिळूनही भाजपशी स्पर्धा करू शकत नाहीत. त्याचमुळे लोकसभा निवडणुकीत बसलेला फटका क्षणाधीत विसरून भाजप पुढच्या तयारीस लागला. त्यास

दिल्ली खुपत होती. इतका दिविजयी पक्ष; पण राजधानीतील विजय त्यास हुलकावणी देत होता. ही सल दूर करण्यासाठी भाजप सर्व ताकद पणास लावणार हे दिसत होते. त्या तुलनेत केजरीवाल हे गाफील राहिले. एका बाजूला प्रत्येक पावलावर आडवे येणारे नायब राज्यपाल आणि आडवे करू पाहणारे केंद्र सरकार



...प्रत्येक पावलावर आडवे येणारे नायब राज्यपाल आणि आडवे करू पाहणारे केंद्र सरकार असताना केजरीवाल यांनी अधिक राजकीय शहाणपण दाखवणे गरजेचे होते.

असताना केजरीवाल यांनी अधिक राजकीय शहाणपण दाखवणे गरजेचे होते. पण त्याचाच त्यांच्या ठायी अभाव. नैतिकतेचा आव आणणाऱ्याने प्रत्येक पाऊल जपून टाकायचे असते. सत्तेसाठी आतुर भाजप हा असतील

नसतील ते घोटाळे बाहेर काढणार, निदान तसे आरोप करणार, नायब राज्यपाल चौकशीचे आदेश देणार, केंद्रीय यंत्रणा तत्परतेने त्याची दखल घेणार हे सारे असेच होणार हे उघड होते. याचे भान केजरीवाल यांस राहिले नाही. या सर्वांस पुरून उरायचे तर कारभार तरी चोख हवा. दिल्लीत तेही नाही. रस्ते, पाणी, शहर व्यवस्थापन आदी प्रत्येक मुद्द्यावर दिल्लीकरांस 'आप'चा अनुभव अलीकडच्या काळात असमाधानकारक होता. म्हणजे एकेकाळी ही मंडळी मिरवत होती तो प्रामाणिकपणाही नाही आणि समाधानकारक कामही नाही. याच्या जोडीला निवडणुका जाहीर झाल्यावर केली गेलेली आठव्या वेतन आयोगाची घोषणा आणि अर्थसंकल्पातील १२ लाख रुपायंपर्यंतच्या उत्पन्नावरची करसवलत या दोन घोषणा. त्या सरळसरळ निवडणूक-केंद्री होत्या. पण निवडणूक आयोग आणि 'वाईट पाहू नये, वाईट बोलू नये आणि वाईट ऐकू नये' म्हणून डोळ्यावर, तोंडावर आणि कानावर हात ठेवून बसलेल्या आपल्या पूर्वजांची प्रतिमा यात साम्य असल्याने या सगळ्याची दखल घेतली जाणे अशक्य होते. या अर्थसंकल्पीय आयुधांच्या सहाय्याने भाजपने मध्यमवर्गीय मते सहज आपल्याकडे चळवली. सबब केजरीवालांचा कपाळमोक्ष अटळ होता.

एकच गोष्ट होती. काँग्रेसशी हातमिळवणी. पण या सहकाराच्या मुद्द्यावर अधिक कपाळकरंटे कोण, काँग्रेस की आप असा प्रश्न पडवाव अशी स्थिती. दोघेही आडमुठे आणि आपल्या राजकीय कर्तृत्वापेक्षा अधिक मोठा अहं असलेले. त्यामुळे होता होता काँग्रेस आणि आप ही निवडणूकपूर्व आघाडी होऊ शकली नाही. या दोन्ही पक्षांचे वर्तन कडाकडा भांडणाऱ्या नवरा-बायकोने एकमेकांस 'मी मरेन पण तुला विधवा/विधुर करेन' अशी धमकी द्यावी आणि ती प्रत्यक्षात आणावी असे होते. निकालावरून दिसते ते असे की किमान १३ मतदारसंघ असे आहेत की जेथे काँग्रेसला पडलेली मते पराभूत विजयी भाजप उमेदवार आणि पराभूत 'आप' उमेदवार यांच्या मतांमधील फरकापेक्षा जास्त आहेत. खुद्द केजरीवालांच्या मतदारसंघातही तसेच. याचा अर्थ काँग्रेस आणि आप ही निवडणूक आघाडी झाली असती तर किमान या १३ टिकाणी तरी निकाल वेगळा लागू शकला असता. बरे; इतके करून काँग्रेसच्या मतांत तरी सणसणीत वाढ झाली आहे असे म्हणावे तर तेही नाही. इतका जिवाचा आटापिटा करून काँग्रेसची मते जेमतेम दोन टक्क्यांनी वाढली. विधानसभेत त्या पक्षाची पाटी कोरी ती कोरीच. ही सलग तिसरी विधानसभा अशी असेल की जेथे काँग्रेसचा एकही आमदार नसेल. एकेकाळी ज्या पक्षाने दिल्लीवर एकहाती सत्ता गाजवली

आणि शोला दीक्षित, अजय माकन आदी नेते दिले, त्या पक्षाचा एकही आमदार विधानसभेत नाही. महाराष्ट्रप्रमाणे याही निवडणुकीत राहुल गांधी यांनी जेमतेम चार सभा घेतल्या. तीन सभा रद्द केल्या. या निवडणुकांच्या काळात समग्र काँग्रेस नेतृत्व बेळगावी, बाबासाहेब आंबेडकरांचे महू इत्यादी ठिकाणी 'संविधान बचाव' वगैरे उदात्त लढ्यात मग्न होते. आपल पक्ष वाचणार की नाही याची फिकीर नाही; पण बचाव पक्षाच्या अर्थव्यवस्थेच्या वाढीला असेच वागत राहिल्यास संविधानही नाही वाचणार आणि पक्षही गाळात गेलेला असेल 'आप' शी हातमिळवणी न करता लढायचेच होते तर ते तरी जीव ओतून तरी लढायचे. पण तेही नाही. तेव्हा आप आणि काँग्रेस यांच्या आत्मकेंद्री राजकारणामुळे 'तुला नाही; मला नाही; घाल भाजपला' असे झाले. दिल्ली विधानसभेच्या या थण्डीनंतरही विरोधी पक्षीयास अक्कल आली नाही, तर पुढेही असेच होईल. महाराष्ट्र गेला, दिल्ली गेली. आता उद्या विहार याच मार्गाने जाणार नाही असे नाही. तेव्हा भाजपशी दोन हात करायचे असतील तर कित्येक पट अधिक शहाणपण आणि समजुतदारपणा दाखवावा लागेल. 'आपले मरण पाहिले म्या डोळ्य' हे आता 'आप'बाबत झाले. उद्या इरांवरही हीच वेळ येऊ शकते.

लाल किल्ला

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भाजपसाठी वर्ग टरला 'धर्म'!

अन्वयार्थ
कपातशून्यतेला अखेर विराम!

दिल्लीत आम आदमी पक्ष हरला याचा भाजपला आनंद होणार हे वेगळे सांगण्याची गरज नाही. पण, केजरीवालांची सत्ता गेल्यामुळे काँग्रेसही सुखावलेला आहे. भाजप आणि काँग्रेस या दोन कट्टर राष्ट्रीय पक्षांना आपण जिकलो असे एकाचवेळी वाटावे असा दुर्मीळ योग केजरीवालांनी घडवून आणला आहे! केजरीवालांनी एक तपाच्या राजकीय आयुष्यात अनेक किमया केल्या, त्यातील ही एक मानायला हरकत नाही. दिल्ली विधानसभा निवडणुकीच्या निकालाचा दुसरा निष्कर्ष असा की, भाजपने तात्पुरत्या उभ्या केलेल्या 'ब चम्'ला स्वतःच गारद केले. २०१२ मध्ये काँग्रेसविरोधातून केजरीवाल राजकीयदृष्ट्या मोठे झाले. भ्रष्टाचारविरोधी आंदोलनाला भाजप व संघाने बळ दिले होते. या आंदोलनाचा पुढचा भाग म्हणून केजरीवालांनी काँग्रेसच्या शोला दीक्षित यांच्या दिल्लीतील सरकारविरोधात रणशिंग फुंकले आणि सत्ता मिळवली. 'आप'च्या दिल्लीतील सत्तेने भाजपसाठी बफर म्हणून काम केले. आता या 'बफर'ची भाजपला गरज उरलेली नव्हती. केजरीवालांचा पराभव करणे भाजपसाठी आवश्यक बनले होते. यंदच्या निवडणुकीत भाजपने 'आप' व केजरीवालांना धूळ चारली.



दिल्ली विधानसभा निवडणुकीमध्ये भाजपच्या नेत्यांनी महाराष्ट्रात दिल्या तशा 'बटेंगे तो कटेंगे' सारख्या घोषणा दिल्या नाहीत. केजरीवालांच्या हातातून दिल्ली घेण्यासाठी त्यांच्याच पावलावर पाऊल टाकत भाजपने सगळा भर दिला तो रेवड्यांवर. त्यातही करमुक्तीची रेवडी दिल्लीतल्या मध्यमवर्गीय मतदारासाठी सगळ्यात आकर्षक ठरली.

केजरीवालांविरोधात मोहीम उघडली गेली त्याचे प्रमुख कारण केजरीवालांची भाजपला गरज उरलेली नव्हती हेच आहे! दिल्ली ताब्यात घेण्यासाठी भाजपला मार्ग मोकळा होता आणि ही बाब निकालावरून अधोरेखित झाली. दिल्ली ताब्यात नसणे ही भाजपची दुखरी नस होती, अख्खा देश पादाक्रांत करण्याची महत्त्वाकांक्षा आपण बाळगतो, पण आपल्याला दिल्लीला एकदा पकड मिळवता येत नाही, हा विचार भाजपला कासावीस करत होता. अरविंद केजरीवाल आणि 'आप'ला आपण उभे केले, पण हा पक्ष दिल्लीतून बाजूला व्हायला तयार नाही याची खंत भाजपला होती. २०१५ ते २०२० हा पाच वर्षांचा काळ दिल्लीत काँग्रेसला संपवण्याचा होता. २०१४ मध्ये काँग्रेसने 'आप'बरोबर युती केली आणि काँग्रेसचा दिल्लीत ऱ्हास सुरू झाला. २०१५ मध्ये काँग्रेसला एकही जागा जिंकता आली नाही. त्यामुळे २०२० मध्ये दिल्लीत 'आप'ला हटवण्याची वेळ आली होती. त्यादृष्टीने भाजपने पावले टाकली खरी, पण केजरीवालांच्या चलाखीमुळे केंद्रीय गृहमंत्री अमित शाहांचा धुवीकरण्याचा डाव फसला. त्यावेळी 'सीए' व 'एनआरसी' विरोधात आंदोलन सुरू झाले होते. शाहीनबागेत मुस्लीम आंदोलनाला बसले होते. ही वेळ साधून दिल्लीमध्ये शहांनी हिंदू-मुस्लीम धुत्रीकरण्याच्या आधारे दिल्ली मिळवण्याचा प्रयत्न केला होता, पण हे धुवीकरण केजरीवालांच्या रेवड्यांमुळे निष्प्रभ झाले. धर्मापेक्षा मोफत योजना अधिक आकर्षक ठरल्या. तेव्हा भाजपला रेवड्यांचे महत्त्वच समजले नव्हते. ही चूक यावेळी भाजपने केली नाही. म्हणून तर २०२५ च्या दिल्ली विधानसभा निवडणुकीमध्ये भाजपने दिल्लीची निवडणूक धर्माच्या आधारावर लढवली नाही. उत्तर प्रदेशचे मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ यांच्या सत्ता झाल्या, पण भाजपच्या एकाही नेत्याने धर्माचे नाव घेतले नाही. त्यावरून वाचाळपणा केला नाही. भाजपने रेवड्यांपेक्षा भाजपची रेवडी अधिक आकर्षक ठरली.

दोघांनाही झाली होती. निम्न आर्थिक स्तरातील झोपडपट्टीबासी मतदारांना खेचण्यासाठी भाजपने खूप प्रयत्न केले, पण दिल्लीतील ४५-५० टक्के मध्यमवर्ग ही भाजपची खरी चिंता होती. हा मध्यमवर्ग लोकसभा निवडणुकीमध्ये मोर्दीकडे बघून भाजपला मते देत होता. सलग तीन लोकसभा निवडणुकीमध्ये दिल्लीतील सातही जागा भाजपला मिळाल्या, पण विधानसभा निवडणुकीत हाच मतदार 'आप'ला मते देत होता. हा 'फ्लोटिंग' मतदार आपल्याकडे आल्याशिवाय दिल्ली विधानसभा निवडणूक लढवता येणार नाही ही बाब भाजपच्या लक्षात आली. या मध्यमवर्गीला फक्त धर्माच्या आधारे जिंकता येणार नाही, हे उघड होते. लोकसभा निवडणुकीमध्ये धर्माच्या आधारे हा मध्यमवर्ग भाजपने अंकित केला होता, मात्र विधानसभा निवडणुकीत मध्यमवर्गीला मोफत योजना, नागरी सुविधा, आर्थिक लाभ हवे होते. गेली दहा वर्षे रेवड्या आणि नागरी सुविधांच्या आश्वासनांमुळे केजरीवाल जिंकले. हे बघून भाजपने रेवड्यांविरोधी धोरण बाजूला ठेवले. 'रेवड्या जिदाबाद' म्हणत भाजपने सुरुवातीला 'आप'च्या मोफत योजना कायम राहतील असे आश्वासन दिले. मग, स्वतःच्या नव्या रेवड्यांची खेरात वाटली. दिल्लीतही 'लाडकी बहीण' योजनेची घोषणा केली. सत्ता मिळाली तर आम्ही चालण्या नागरी सुविधा देऊ असे भाजपने सांगितले. यमुना प्रदूषित झाली, केजरीवालांनी काहीच केले नाही. आम्ही यमुना शुद्ध करू, असा प्रचार भाजपने केला. भाजपच्या शीशमहल आणि मद्यघोटाळ्याच्या आरोपांमुळे 'आप'वर नाराज असलेला मध्यमवर्ग आपणखी दूर गेला, पण भाजपला मते देण्यासाठी या वर्गीला प्रवृत्त करण्याची गरज होती. त्यासाठी मोफत योजनांच्या रेवड्यांचे आकर्षण पुरेसे नव्हते. त्यांचे लक्ष वेधण्यासाठी रेवडीही तितकचीच गोड असायला हवी होती. केंद्रीय अर्थसंकल्पात १२ लाखांच्या करमुक्तीची घोषणा करून भाजपने 'आप'ची अभंग्य भित तोडून टाकली. 'आप'कडे दलित-मुस्लीम, निम्नआर्थिक

करमुक्तीने मध्यमवर्गासाठी 'आप'च्या रेवड्या आकर्षक राहिल्याच नाहीत. करमुक्तीला दिल्लीतील मध्यमवर्ग इतका भुलला की, त्यांनी स्वतःच झाडू घेऊन 'आप'ला साफ केले आणि हातात कमळ घेतले. अर्थसंकल्पातील करमुक्तीने मध्यमवर्ग आपल्या हातातून निसटला आहे, याची जाणीव केजरीवालांना झाली नसेल असे नाही, पण ते हतबल होते. भाजपने प्रचाराची सुरुवात केजरीवालांच्या भ्रष्टाचाराने केली, मग, वळणे घेत नागरी समस्यांचा पाढा वाचला, त्याचबरोबरने रेवड्या वाटल्या आणि अखेरीस करमुक्ती देऊन 'आप'च्या सत्तेवर हातोडा मारला.

भाजपने प्रचाराची दिशा बदलताना कुठेही धर्माच्या आधारे धुवीकरण्याचा प्रयत्न केला नाही. भाजपचे हिंदुत्व कुठेही गेलेले नव्हते, पण निवडणूक जिंकण्यासाठी धर्माचाच वापर केला पाहिजे असे भाजपला वाटले नाही. महाराष्ट्रामध्ये प्रचाराच्या अंतिम टप्प्यामध्ये 'बटेंगे तो कटेंगे'ची मात्रा लागू पडली. दिल्लीत त्याची गरज उरली नाही. देशभरातील मध्यमवर्ग भाजपच्या हिंदुत्वाकडे बघून लोकसभा निवडणुकीत मते देतो, महाराष्ट्रात विधानसभा निवडणुकीतही त्याने भाजपला मते दिली, पण दिल्लीमध्ये भाजपला आर्थिक रेवडी द्यावी लागली. दिल्लीत भाजपने शेवटच्या चार दिवसांमध्ये निवडणूक पूर्ण फिरवली, असे म्हणता येईल. करमुक्ती होण्याआधीच्या काळात असे मानले जात होते की भाजपच्या मतांचा टक्का आणि जागाही वाढतील. केजरीवालांच्या दहा वर्षांच्या काळात नाराज झालेले मतदार भाजपकडे जाऊ शकतील, पण तरीही 'आप' सत्ता टिकवू शकतो. दलित-मुस्लीम 'आप'बरोबर आहेत. रेवड्या आहेतच, असे म्हटले जात होते. पण करमुक्तीने मध्यमवर्ग फिरला, त्यामुळे दलित-मुस्लीम 'आप'बरोबर कायम राहिला तरी काही फरक पडणार नाही हे स्पष्ट झाले. मतदानाला चार दिवस उरले असताना पळवाट शोधून रेवड्या वाटणे हे नैतिक की अनैतिक, हा प्रश्न एखाद्याला पटू शकतो. पण, सुमारे तीन दशकांनंतर दिल्ली काबीज केली एवढेच भाजपसाठी महत्त्वाचे ठरते.

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ट्रम्प यांच्या धोरणांमुळे अमेरिकेच्या समन्यायी, सर्वसमावेशक प्रतिमेला तडा?

ट्रम्प कोणता विभाग बंद करणार आहेत? अध्यक्षपदाची शपथ घेतल्यानंतर डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प यांनी अमेरिका व जगाच्याही भविष्यावर दूरगामी परिणाम करणारे अनेक निर्णय घेतले. त्यामध्ये अमेरिकेला 'डीईआय' विभाग बंद करण्याच्या निर्णयाचा समावेश असून या विभागातील सर्व कर्मचाऱ्यांना पगारी रजेवर जाण्यास सांगितले आहे. त्यांना इतरत्र सामावून घेणार की आठ महिन्यांचे वेतन देऊन कामावरून कमी करणार याबाबत अद्याप स्पष्टता नाही. यासह अमेरिकी संघराज्यात नोकरभरतीमध्ये सुधारणा करण्याच्या आदेशावरही ट्रम्प यांनी सही केली. या दोन्हींचा फटका विविध पारश्वभूमीतून येणाऱ्या लोकांना बसणार आहे.

'डीईआय' म्हणजे काय? 'डीईआय' म्हणजे 'डायव्हर्सिटी, इक्वालिटी आणि इन्क्लुजन' म्हणजेच विविधता, समानता आणि समावेश. 'डीईआय' हे अमेरिकेला ६० वर्षे जुने धोरण आहे. सरकारी आणि बिगर-सरकारीही नोकऱ्या, संस्था, शैक्षणिक संस्था अशा ठिकाणी विविध पारश्वभूमीतून आलेल्यांना सामावून घेण्यासाठी हे धोरण लागू होते. अमेरिकेला अधिकाधिक समावेशक करणे आणि ऐतिहासिकदृष्ट्या वंचित समुदायांविरुद्ध भेदभाव थांबवणे हा त्यामागील मुख्य हेतू होता. यामागील भूमिका काहीशी आपल्याकडील

राखीव जागांसारखी आहे. मात्र, भारतात केवळ जातींवर आधारित आरक्षण आहे, अमेरिकेत त्यासाठी अनेक निकष आहेत.

'डीईआय'ला ट्रम्प यांचा विरोध का? 'डीईआय' योजना कट्टरपंथी, बेकायदा आणि भेदभावपूर्ण असल्याचे ट्रम्प यांचे ठाम मत आहे. या योजनेसाठी दरवर्षी खर्च केले जाणारे अब्जावधी डॉलर्स वाया जातात असा त्यांचा दावा आहे. 'डीईआय'चा लाभ घेऊन चालवल्या जाणाऱ्या संस्थांमधून कथित जागृती व डाव्या विचारसरणीचा प्रसार केला जातो असाही ट्रम्प यांचा आरोप आहे. ट्रम्प यांचे खंदे समर्थक आणि अब्जाधीश बंदद्योजक हर्बॉन मस्क यांनी या योजनेचे वर्णन वर्णभेद करणारी असल्याचे केले आहे.

यांचे सांभळ्य परिणाम काय? 'डीईआय' अंतर्गत अनेक सरकारी, बिगर-सरकारी विभाग आणि संस्थाना प्रशिक्षण देण्यासाठी सरकारकडून निधीही उपलब्ध करून दिला जातो. तो आता बंद होणार आहे. त्यांचा फटका विविध पारश्वभूमीतून येणाऱ्या व्यक्तींना रोजगार व शिक्षणाच्या संधी उपलब्ध करून देणाऱ्या संस्थांना होणार आहे. निधी बंद झाल्यामुळे अर्थातच भिन्नभिन्न पारश्वभूमीच्या लोकांना पुरेशी संधी मिळणे बंद होईल. त्यामुळे त्यांच्या वैयक्तिक प्रगतीला खीळ बसण्याबरोबरच अमेरिकेची बहुस्तरीय

लोकशाही धोक्यात येईल असे मत कॉमन कॉज या स्वयंसेवी संस्थेचे अध्यक्ष कास सोलोमन यांनी व्यक्त केले आहे.

रिपब्लिकन पक्षाची भूमिका काय आहे? ट्रम्प यांचा रिपब्लिकन पक्ष 'डीईआय' धोरणाला अनेक वर्षांपासून विरोध करत आला आहे. या धोरणामुळे श्वेतवर्णीयांच्या, विशेषतः श्वेतवर्णीय पुरुषांच्या गुणवत्तेवर आधारित नोकरभरती, बढती आणि शैक्षणिक संधींना धोका निर्माण झाला असल्याचा रिपब्लिकन पक्षाचा दावा आहे. त्याशिवाय आशियाई वंशाच्या अमेरिकींचाही या धोरणाला विरोध आहे. यामुळे उच्च यश प्राप्त करणारे विद्यार्थी आणि कर्मचारी यांच्या संधींवर मर्यादा येतात असे त्यांचे म्हणणे आहे. तर यामुळे अनेक वर्षांपासून होणाऱ्या प्रगती कमकुवत होते अशी तक्रार काही कृष्णवर्णीय गटांनी केली आहे.

'डीईआय'चा फायदा काय? 'डीईआय'मुळे गेल्या ६० वर्षांमध्ये अमेरिकेत गुणवत्ता असलेल्या कोणत्याही व्यक्तीला तिच्या योग्यतेप्रमाणे संधी मिळाली. त्यातून त्या व्यक्तीची, समुदायांची आणि पर्यायाने अमेरिकेचीही भरभराट झाली. अमेरिकेला जगभराचा मेल्लिंग पॉट हे विशेषण मिळण्यामागील हे एक महत्त्वाचे कारण होते. वंश, वर्ण, धर्म, मूळ राष्ट्रीयत्व, भाषा, संस्कृती, लैंगिकता, लिंग अशा सर्व प्रकारच्या भिन्नता

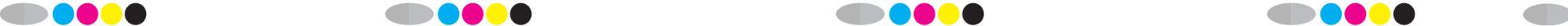
असणाऱ्या विविध प्रकारच्या गटांना सामावून घेतल्यामुळे अमेरिकेला शक्य तितक्या सर्व थरांमधून गुणवत्ता मिळवणे शक्य झाले आहे.

'डीईआय'चा लाभ घेणाऱ्या संस्था? उत्तर कॅरोलिनाच्या सार्वजनिक विद्यापीठ प्रणालीत जवळपास २०० जणांना 'डीईआय' अंतर्गत नोकऱ्या देण्यात आल्या आहेत. टेक्सास विद्यापीठात ३०० पूर्ण आणि अर्धवेळ कर्मचारी आहेत, तर डीईआयचे प्रशिक्षण देणारे अन्य ६०० कर्मचारी आहेत. ओक्लाहोमा विद्यापीठ, व्हर्झीनिया विद्यापीठ या नामवंत विद्यापीठांनाही या योजनेअंतर्गत लक्षावधी डॉलरचा निधी मिळाला आहे. त्यातून मोठ्या प्रमाणात भिन्न गटांना नोकऱ्या देण्यात आल्या आहेत.

'डीईआय' समर्थकांचे म्हणणे काय? अमेरिकेच्या वाढत्या वैविध्यपूर्ण लोकसंख्येच्या गरजा पूर्ण होतील याची खबरदारी घेण्यासाठी ही योजना आवश्यक असल्याचे 'डीईआय' समर्थकांचे म्हणणे आहे. ही योजना रद्द केल्यास केवळ बिगर-श्वेतवर्णीयांबरोबरच मोठ्या प्रमाणात अमेरिकी लोकांना फटका बसेल अशी भीतीही व्यक्त केली जात आहे. फेब्रुवारी २०२३ मधील एका सर्वेक्षणानुसार, ५६ टक्के अमेरिकी नागरिकांनी 'डीईआय'ला पाठिंबा दिला होता तर केवळ १६ टक्क्यांनी विरोध केला होता.

अशावान मध्यमवर्ग, पगारदारांच्या दृष्टीने जिद्दाळ्याची बाब म्हणजे, बँकांकडून कर्जहप्त्याचा भार हलका होईल काय? बँकिंग व्यवस्थेत हा कपात झरा झिरपत जाणाला, पर्यायाने कर्ज आणि ठेवींच्या देखील व्याजदरंमध्ये बदल दिसून येण्यासाठी दोन तिमाही अर्थात सहा महिने वाट पाहावी लागेल, अशी स्पष्टोक्ती डेप्युटी गव्हर्नर स्वामिनाथन जे यांनी पत्रकार परिषदेत केली. कपात निर्णय येऊन ४८ तास उलटत आले तरी कोणत्याही बँकेकडून कर्ज स्वस्त करणारे पाऊल न पडणे ही गोष्टही सूचकच. बाह्य मानदंडाशी संलग्न म्हणजे रेषेे दराशी संलग्न कर्जांच्या व्याजदरात कपातीचे त्वरित प्रतिबिंब उमटेल. या प्रकारची कर्जे तुरळक आणि बदलही किरकोळच असेल अशीच शक्यता. मुळात बँकांना कर्ज देता यावे, यासाठी पुरेशा पैसा हवा अर्थात रोख तरतौता त्यांना हवी आहे. ती पुरवण्यासाठी रिझर्व्ह बँकेने गेल्या महिन्यापासून प्रयत्न सुरू केले. पण जिाकी गरज आहे त्याच्या निम्मीही पूर्तता झालेली नाही. त्यामुळे अनेक वर्षांनंतर झालेली ही कपात निष्फळच, अशी बँकिंग वर्तुळातच प्रतिक्रिया आहे.

मन मोहवून टाकणाऱ्या वसंताच्या आगमनाने आशावाद जागवला खरा. पण हा ऋतू बदलाचा टप्पा तात्पुरताच. म्हणूनच साय्या केवळ कपातशून्यतेला मिळालेला हा विराम आहे, कपात चक्राची ही सुरुवात मानली जाऊ नये, हे स्वच्छपणे ध्यानात घेतले जावे.



प्रतिशब्द

सचिन रोहेकर

अर्थ-व्यापारातील अनेक शब्द, संज्ञा किंवा अभिव्यक्ती जी खूपदा वापरता येतात, पण इंग्रजीतील उच्चलेल्या या शब्दयोजनांमधील नेमका अर्थही लक्षात घेऊ या.

केल्याने व्याज कर्तन

Interest Rates / व्याज दर

शहरवासीयांना भाडे काही चुकलेले नाही. आल्यागेल्याला प्रत्येक बाबतीत भाडे देणे येतेच. ट्रेन, बस, सिनेमा घर जेथे जाल तेथे ठरलेले भाडे भरूनच तुमची व्हिवाट खुली होती. महिनाकाठचा हिशेब केवळ टीव्ही, इंटरनेट, मोबाईल फोन अशी नाना भाडी भरूनच पूर्ण होते. आपणखी एक भाडे या गणतीत येते. कर्जावरील 'इएमआय' हे देखील भाडेच असते. मुळावत व्याजदर हे दुसरे तिसरे काही नसून 'पेशांचे भाडे'च असते. आपण उसनवारी करतो पैसे तालुरते वापरण्यासाठी आणि या वापरारे भाडे म्हणून व्याजदर भरत असतो. या पेशांच्या भाड्यामध्ये जवळपास पाच वर्षांनंतर बदल करणारा निर्णय रिझर्व्ह बँकेने कालच्या शुक्रवारी घेतला. मात्र यातून भाडेवाढ होण्याबाबत म्हणजे सर्वसामान्यांसाठी कपातीचा लाभ पाच वर्षांत पहिल्यांदाच देऊ केला गेला आहे.

आठवड्यापूर्वी टॅक्सी-रिक्षा भाडेवाढ झाली, हे भाडे असू द्या अथवा वर ज्यांचा उल्लेख आला ते कोणतेही भाडे असो, ते केवळ वाढतच असते. ते कधी घटले असे कुठे अपवाद म्हणूनही उदाहरण सापडणार नाही. पण पेशांचे भाडे म्हणजेच व्याजदर हे जसे जास्त होते, तसे अंधेमेधे कमीही होत असते. असे का घडते? याचे उत्तर म्हणून उसनवारीचा व्यवहार समजून घेतला पाहिजे. पैसे उधार घेतले जातात तेव्हा त्याचे भाडे म्हणजे व्याज हे तुम्हाला द्यावे लागते. पण तुम्ही पैसे बचत करता तेव्हा तुम्ही बँकेकडून व्याज मिळवत असता. याचा अर्थ तुम्ही बँकेत बचत करता, म्हणजे तुमचा पैसा तुम्ही बँकेला तालुरता उधारच दिलेला असतो.

मात्र आपण छोटे कर्जदार हे पेशांच्या भाड्याच्या लांबलचक साखळीतील शेवटची कडी केवळ असतो.

आठवड्याचे प्रतिशब्द

Repo Rate / रेपो दर

MCLR / एमसीएलआर / किमान सीमान्त व्याज दर

EBLR / ईबीएलआर - बाह्य मानदंडाशी संलग्न व्याज दर

EMI / ईएमआय / सममूल्य मासिक हप्ता

CIBIL Score - सिबिल पतगुणांक (सविस्तर वाचा - Loksatta.com र)

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प्रमुख व्यवसाय:

पॉवर ट्रान्समिशन आणि वितरण: यात पॉवर ट्रान्समिशन आणि वितरणसाठी गॅल्वनाइज्ड स्टील स्ट्रक्चर्सची डिझाईनिंग, मॅन्युफॅक्चरिंग, टेस्टिंग, इन्स्टॉलेशन आणि पुरवठा यासारख्या विस्तृत सेवांचा समावेश आहे. शिवाय, कंपनीचे सबस्टेशन प्रकल्पदेखील उभारले आहेत.

रेल्वे विद्युतीकरण:

कंपनी रेल्वे उद्योगाच्या नागरी आणि विद्युत गरजा पूर्ण करते. त्यांच्यासाठी ओव्हरहेड उपकरण प्रकल्प सादर केला आहे आणि विविध विद्युतीकरण, सिमनलिंग, मातीकाम आणि दूरसंचार कामे राबविली आहेत.

नागरी बांधकाम:

कंपनी पूल, बोगदे, उन्नत रस्ते आणि इतर नागरी पायाभूत सुविधा प्रकल्पांच्या बांधकामावर लक्ष केंद्रित करते, ज्यात भारतमाला प्रकल्पाचा समावेश आहे. हा प्रकल्प एनएचएआयने बिहारमधील कोसी नदीवरील भारतातील सर्वांत लांब नदी पुलाच्या बांधकामासाठी दिला आहे.

खांब (पोल) आणि प्रकाशयोजना:

कंपनी हाय मास्ट, स्ट्रीट पोल,

माझ्यासाठी 'सही' टरशील ?

संदीप वाळुंज

संपत्तीनिर्माण हे पावरी पावरी चढून जातच साधले जाते, त्या अंगाने आवश्यक सवयी, नेहमी पडणारे प्रश्न आणि महत्त्वाच्या संकल्पांची उकल करणारे पाश्चि संकल्प

आपण नुकत्याच गुंतवलेल्या म्युच्युअल फंड किंवा शेअरमध्ये लगेचच घसरण दिसायला लागणे हा निराशाजनक अनुभव असतो. पण अनेक गुंतवणूकदारांना भांडवली बाजारात हा अनुभव येतो. प्रथमदर्शनी हा नशिबाचा खेळ किंवा म्युच्युअल फंड वितरकांचे चुकीचे फंड दिले असे वाटू शकते. मात्र बऱ्याचदा यामागे अशी काही कारणे असतात जी आपण टाळू शकतो किंवा अशा घसरणीसाठी मानसीकरित्या तयार राहू शकतो. या मानसिकतेची तयारी कशी करावी यावर आजच्या लेखात चर्चा करूया.

१. आर्थिक वर्तणुकीची कारणे

- 'दलवार क्वॉटिटेडिव्ह अॅनालिसिस ऑफ इन्व्हेस्टर बिहेव्हियर' (क्यूएआयबी) सातत्याने दर्शविते की, वैयक्तिक गुंतवणूकदाराला त्याच्या गुंतवणूकीवर व्यापक बाजारपेठसापेक्ष बऱ्याचदा कमी परतावा मिळतो. याचे मुख्य कारण असे की, ते गुंतवणूक करण्यापूर्वी असे गुंतवणूकदार स्पष्ट संकेतांची किंवा सकारात्मक कल मिळण्याची प्रतीक्षा करतात. बहुतेकदा त्यांना गुंतवणूकीत चूक होण्याची किंवा नफा गमावण्याची भीती असते. जेव्हा त्यांना खात्री वाटते तेव्हाच ते गुंतवणूक करतात, पण ते कदाचित बाजार आधीच खूप चर गेलेला असल्याने सकारात्मक कल मिळत असतात. ज्यामुळे बाजार आपणखी तात्काळ वाढले या आशेवर ते गुंतवणूक करतात. प्रत्यक्षात चाणूषा गुंतवणूकदारांनी

माझी गुंतवणूक केल्या केल्या का घसरते?

नफारूपी विक्री सुरू केलेली असते. तेजीवाल्यांचा पाठलाग करण्याची ही प्रवृत्ती आणि गुंतवणूकीच्या परिणामांवर त्याचा होणारा प्रतिकूल परिणाम अधोरेखित करणारे आर्थिक वर्तणुकीशी निगडित असे बरेच संशोधन आज उपलब्ध आहे.

२. कळय मानसिकता

- वाढत्या किमती पाहून अनेक गुंतवणूकदार इतरांचे अनुकरण करतात. जेव्हा ते अनेक मोठ्या संख्येने सहकारी किंवा मित्र गुंतवणूकदारांना समभाग/ म्युच्युअल फंडमध्ये गुंतवणूक करण्याची शिफारस करतात. तेव्हा त्यांना वाटते की, ही गुंतवणूक सुरक्षित आहे. जेव्हा असा आशावाद वाढत जातो, तेव्हा निर्देशांक शिखरावर असताना त्यांच्याकडून मोठ्या प्रमाणात अशा घसरणीसाठी मानसीकरित्या तयार राहू शकतो. या मानसिकतेची तयारी कशी करावी यावर आजच्या लेखात चर्चा करूया.

३. पुनरावृत्तीचा पूर्वग्रह (रिसेन्सी बायस)

- जेव्हा एखादा समभाग किंवा म्युच्युअल फंड चांगली कामगिरी करत असतो, तेव्हा अनेकांना ती कंपनी किंवा तो फंड सुरक्षित गुंतवणूक असल्याचे वाटते आणि लोक अंतर्निहित जोखमीच्या मानांकनाकडे दुर्लक्ष करतात. उदाहरणार्थ, जोखीम घेण्याची क्षमता कमी असलेले अनेक गुंतवणूकदार परतावा चांगला दिसतो म्हणून स्मॉल कॅपकडे आकर्षित होताना दिसतात. 'लोकसत्ता अर्थवृत्तान्त' च्या वाचकांना माहिती आहे की, स्मॉलकॅप अस्थिर असतात. अशा अनावश्यक पूर्वग्रहांपासून दूर राहणे आवश्यक आहे.

४. जोखमीची भीती

- जेव्हा बाजार अस्थिर असतो आणि स्थिरतेच्या संकेतांची वाट पाहत असतो,

तेव्हा गुंतवणूक करण्यास गुंतवणूकदार संकोच करतात. दुर्दैवाने, बाजार पूर्णपणे आपल्याला हवा तसा होइपर्यंत बाजारात आणखी वाढीची शक्यता बरीचशी कमी झालेली असते.

५. बाजारपेठेची वेळ साधण्यातली चूक

- बाजार स्वाभाविकपणे अस्थिर असतो आणि अल्पकालीन चढ-उतार कायमच सुरू असतात. जर प्रमुख निर्देशांक किंवा एखाद्या कंपनीचा शेअरचा भाव शिखरावर असताना किंवा मूल्यांकन अधिक असताना गुंतवणूक केली, तर तुमच्या गुंतवणूकीमध्ये स्वाभाविक अशी घसरण होऊ शकते

६. 'मीन रिव्हर्शन'

- बाजाराची गती (मोमेंटम) अनेकदा अल्पावधीत समभाग किंवा म्युच्युअल फंडाची किमत वाढवते. परंतु 'मीन रिव्हर्शन' (सरासरी कामगिरीच्या पूर्वपदावर परत येणे) बहुतेकदा लागूच सुरू होते. गतीचा (मोमेंटम) पाठलाग करणारे गुंतवणूकदार या सामान्य सांख्यिकीय वर्तनाला गुंतवणूकीनेतर लगेचच कमी कामगिरी झाली, असे म्हणू शकतात.

७. इतर गुंतवणूकदारांची नफावसुली

- जेव्हा समभागांच्या किमती खूप वेगाने वाढतात, तेव्हा काही गुंतवणूकदारांनी नफावसुलीसाठी शेअर्सची विक्री करून किमतीत घसरण होऊ शकते. उदा. संस्थात्मक गुंतवणूकदार वारंवार पोर्टफोलिओचे पुनर्संतुलन करतात. अतिमूल्यांकित मालमत्ता विकतात आणि कमी



मूल्यांकित मालमत्ता खरेदी करतात. त्यांचा पोर्टफोलिओ तुलनेत मोठा असल्याने, हे अनेकदा समभागांच्या घसरणीला कारणीभूत ठरतात.

हा अनुभव कसा हाताळावा

१. मूल्याधारित गुंतवणूक (व्हॅल्यू इन्व्हेस्टमेंट)

- अलीकडील कामगिरी किंवा कल यापेक्षा समभागांच्या आंतरिक मूल्यावर (इंटरेन्सिक व्हॅल्यू) लक्ष केंद्रित करा. मूल्यांकन, कंपनीच्या प्रति समभाग उत्पन्नातील (ईपीएस) वाढ, उद्योगक्षेत्रात तुलना आढळते किंवा संघी यासारख्या घटकांचा आढावा घेऊन म्युच्युअल फंड किंवा समभागांच्या

खरेदी / विक्रीविषयी निर्णय घ्या.

२. नियोजनबद्ध गुंतवणूक योजना (एसआयपी)

- एकरकमी गुंतवणूक करण्याऐवजी, 'एसआयपी' करणे अधिक श्रेयस्कर असते. यामुळे सर्व बाजार परिस्थितीमध्ये थोडीथोडी गुंतवणूक करण्याची संधी असते, ज्यामुळे बाजारपेठेतील अस्थिरतेचा परिणाम कमी होण्यास मदत होते.

३. संशोधन आणि गुंतवणूकीतील विविधता

- केवळ गत कामगिरीवर अवलंबून निर्णय घेणे टाळायला हवे. तसेच, एका क्षेत्रातील अस्थिरतेचा परिणाम कमी करण्यासाठी गुंतवणूकीत अथवा पोर्टफोलिओमध्ये विविध मालमत्ता वर्ग, उद्योग क्षेत्र आणि भौगोलिक क्षेत्रांत विभागणी केलेली असावी.

४. गुंतवणूक योजनेशी एकनिष्ठ राहा

- तुमच्या उद्दिष्टां आणि जोखीम सहनशीलतेशी गुंतवणूकीची योग्य सांगड घाला. अल्पकालीन कल किंवा बदलांवर अवलंबून भावनिक निर्णय टाळा.

५. बाजाराची वेळ साधण्याचा मोह/ अट्टहास टाळा

- गुंतवणूकीसाठी योग्य वेळेचा अंदाज लावणे जवळजवळ अशक्य आहे. त्याऐवजी, गुंतवणूकीत संतुलन आणि सातत्य राखण्यावर लक्ष केंद्रित करायला हवे. विचारपूर्वक, शिस्तबद्ध आणि माहितीपूर्ण गुंतवणूक तुम्हाला या अल्पकालीन घसरणीपासून वाचवण्यास आणि आर्थिक उद्दिष्टे साध्य करण्यास मदत करेल.

मागील लेखात (अर्थवृत्तान्त, १३ जानेवारी) म्हटल्याप्रमाणे, गुंतवणूकीतील यशाचा मूलमंत्र म्हणजे, बाजारातील अस्थिरतेला मित्र बनवणे आहे.

कॉक वोगल यांनी 'वेळ हा तुमचा मित्र, आवेग हा तुमचा शत्रू' असा मोलाचा सल्ला दिला आहे. त्यात थोडा बदल करून मी असे म्हणणे की, 'अस्थिरतेशी मैत्री करा आणि आवेगाशी शत्रूत्व पत्करा'.

लेखक मोतीराल ओसवाल फायनान्सियल सर्व्हिसेसमध्ये कार्यरत असून, लेखात व्यक्त केलेली मते त्यांची वैयक्तिक आहेत

फंड जिज्ञासा

कौस्तुभ जोशी

अनेक नवीन गुंतवणूकदार म्युच्युअल फंडाकडे वळणे स्वागतार्हच, पण गुंतवणूकीच्या या प्रकाराला समजून घेताना घेण्याचा अडवणी, प्रश्न, शंका लोकांनी घेत विचाराव्यात, त्याची समाकलन उतर देणारे पाश्चि संकल्प...

नमस्कार सर, मी आपला 'लोकसत्ता अर्थवृत्तान्त' मधील १३ जानेवारी २०२५ चा लेख वाचला. मी अर्थशास्त्राचा विद्यार्थी असून अर्थवेळेक काम करतो. महिन्याला सगळा खर्च करून दोन हजार रुपये शिल्लक राहतात. एवढ्या कमी पैशात गुंतवणूक करता येणे शक्य आहे का? शक्य असल्यास कोणत्या योजनेत करावी. कृपया सुचवावे.

- सुनील

म्युच्युअल फंडातील दीर्घ काळ गुंतवणूक निश्चितच फायद्याची !

उत्तर : आपण अर्थशास्त्रात पदव्युत्तर शिक्षण घेत असाल म्हणजे आपण निश्चितच तिथीच्या आतले असाल, असे तुमचा व्यवसाय सुरू झाला तर जसजसे अर्थवेळेक काम करून दोन हजार रुपये शिल्लक राहत असतील तर त्यातील एक हजार रुपयाची म्युच्युअल फंडात 'सिस्टिमॅटिक इन्व्हेस्टमेंट प्लॅन' च्या (एसआयपी) माध्यमातून गुंतवणूक करणे हा चांगला पर्याय आहे. आपल्याला कौटुंबिक जबाबदाऱ्या व अन्य खर्च याचा विचार करता फार पैसे शिल्लक उरणार नाहीत, म्हणूनच गुंतवणूक करण्यासाठी मर्यादा आहेत. ही मर्यादा आणि जोखीम विचारात घेता सगळे पैसे म्युच्युअल फंडाच्या इक्विटी योजनेत गुंतवणे योग्य ठरणार नाही, म्हणूनच उरलेल्या १००० रुपयांच्या बँकेत आवर्ती ठेवी किंवा 'हार्बिज्ड डेट' प्रकारचे म्युच्युअल फंड या दुष्टीने विचार करता येईल. तुमच्याकडे आकस्मिक खर्चासाठी लागणारा पैसा उभा करण्यासाठी अन्य स्रोत आहेत असे गृहीत धरले आहे. त्यामुळे म्युच्युअल फंडातील तुम्ही करत असलेली ही गुंतवणूक मध्यम ते दीर्घ

काळासाठी ठेवली तर त्याचा निश्चितच फायदा होईल. तुमचे शिक्षण संपल्यावर तुम्हाला पूर्णवेळ नोकरी मिळाली किंवा तुमचा व्यवसाय सुरू झाला तर जसजसे उत्पन्न वाढेल तसतसे 'एसआयपी' तील गुंतवणूकीचे प्रमाण वाढवायला हवे. कमीतकमी तीन ते पाच वर्षे हा कालावधी डोळ्यासमोर ठेवून लाज आणि मिडकॅप फंडांमध्ये 'एसआयपी' च्या माध्यमातून पैसे गुंतवणे ही चांगली सुरुवात ठरू शकते. त्याचप्रमाणे पण वाढत जाईल तसे मुदत विमा आणि आरोग्य विम्याचा समावेश आर्थिक नियोजनात करायलाच हवा.

मी सेवानिवृत्त सरकारी कर्मचारी असून पाच वर्षांपासूनच म्युच्युअल फंडातील गुंतवणूकीला सुरुवात केली आहे. म्युच्युअल फंड योजनांची नावे वाचताना 'ब्लू-चिप' हा शब्द येतो. 'ब्लू-चिप' म्युच्युअल फंड आणि लाज कॅप म्युच्युअल फंड हे वेगवेगळे असतात का? म्युच्युअल फंडाच्या नावावरून आपल्याला हे ओळखता येईल का ?

- अविनाश बिराजदार

उत्तर : 'ब्लू-चिप' हा शब्द फंड योजनेच्या संदर्भात नसून शेअरच्या संदर्भात विचारात घेणे आवश्यक आहे, हे लक्षात घ्या. शेअरची निवड करताना कंपनीच्या बाजारमूल्यानुसार म्हणजेच आकारमानानुसार मोठा, मध्यम आणि लहान विस्तार असलेल्या कंपन्यांना लाजकॅप, मिडकॅप आणि स्मॉलकॅप असे म्हणतात. बहुधा म्युच्युअल फंड योजनांना अशीच नावे देण्याचा प्रयत्न केलेला असतो. भांडवली बाजार नियामक 'सेबी'ने प्रसिद्ध केलेल्या मार्गदर्शक तत्त्वांनुसार, म्युच्युअल फंड योजना अधिक आकर्षक वाटावी अशा प्रकारे तिचे नामकरण करणे आता शक्य होत नाही. त्यामुळेच बऱ्याच फंड योजनांची नावे सारखी वाटतात. तुमच्या प्रश्नाचा विचार करायचा झाल्यास 'ब्लू-चिप' या शब्दाचा शब्दशः अर्थ विचारात घेऊया. ज्या कंपनीचे बाजारातील स्थान भक्कम आहे, ज्या कंपनीचा व्यवसाय फायद्यात आहे, कंपनीचे भागभांडवल विस्तारलेले आहे आणि बाजारातील कंपन्यांमध्ये ती कंपनी समभागधारकांना समाधानकारक परतावा देत आहे, असे

असेल तर त्या कंपनीचा उल्लेख करताना 'ब्लू-चिप' असा शब्द वापरला जातो. सर्वसाधारणपणे लाज कॅप या श्रेणीतील फंड योजना बाजारातील उपलब्ध शेअरपैकी पहिल्या शंभर शेअरची निवड आपल्या पोर्टफोलिओसाठी करतात, म्हणजेच या कंपन्या बाजारातील आघाडीचे निर्देशांक निफ्टी आणि सेन्सेक्समधील पहिल्या शंभर कंपन्या असतात. जोखमीचा विचार करता मिडकॅप आणि स्मॉलकॅपपेक्षा लाजकॅप श्रेणीतील म्युच्युअल फंड योजना कमी जोखमीच्या असतात. फंड निवडताना 'ब्लू-चिप' म्हणजे लाजकॅप असे लक्षात ठेवल्यास हरकत नाही.

(म्युच्युअल फंड गुंतवणूकीविषयी तुमच्या अडवणी, प्रश्न घेत आम्हाला ईमेल arthmanas@expressindia.com द्वारे कळवा)

डिस्क्लेमर: म्युच्युअल फंड योजना आणि त्यातील गुंतवणूक बाजारातील जोखमीच्या अधीन आहे, योजनेविषयीचे दस्तऐवज वाचून आणि गुंतवणूक सल्लागाराच्या माध्यमातूनच गुंतवणूक करावी.

माझा पोर्टफोलिओ

अजय वाळिंबे

वर्ष २००८ मध्ये स्थापन झालेली ट्रान्सरेल लाइटिंग लिमिटेड ही एक एकात्मिक ट्रान्समिशन आणि वितरण कंपनी असून ती खांब उत्पादक कंपनीदेखील आहे. टॉवर, कंडक्टर आणि खांब उत्पादन करण्यासाठी कंपनीचे देवळी (महाराष्ट्र), बडोदा आणि सिल्व्हासा (गुजरात) येथे एकंदर चार प्रकल्प आहेत. त्यांच्याकडे देवळी, बडोदा आणि सिल्व्हासा येथे टॉवर, कंडक्टर आणि खांब तयार करण्यासाठी उत्पादन सुविधा आहेत. कंपनीने गेल्याच महिन्यात ४३२ रुपये प्रतिसमभाग दराने प्रारंभिक समभाग विक्रीच्या माध्यमातून ८३९ कोटी रुपयांची निधी उभारणी केली आणि त्याला गुंतवणूकदारांकडून उत्तम प्रतिसाद मिळाला होता.

जीवनवाहिनी रेल्वेच्या पायाचा ढगड

ल्युमिनरीज, पॉवर ट्रान्समिशन आणि डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन मोनोपोल, स्टॅडियम लाइटिंग, डेरिक स्ट्रक्चर्स, रोड गॅन्ट्री आणि साईनेज, प्लॅंगमास्ट, सोलर

स्ट्रीटलाइट्स, डेकोरेटिव्ह पोल इत्यादींचे उत्पादन करते. ती एक उत्पादक म्हणून काम करते आणि पोल आणि प्रकाशयोजना विभागात सेवा प्रदायांचा

पुरवठा करते. कंपनी बांगलादेश, इंडोनेशिया, भूतान, जॉर्डन, केनिया, कॅनडा, इजिप्त, मेक्सिको, कुवत, नेपाळ, पोलंड, घाना, अमेरिकेसह ५८ देशांमध्ये उत्पादने निर्यात करते.

१५ जानेवारीला कंपनीने दुसऱ्या तिमाहीचे (३० सप्टेंबर २०२४) निकाल जाहीर केले आहेत. गतवर्षीच्या तुलनेत कंपनीच्या उलाढालीत ११.५ टक्के वाढ होऊन ती १,०६८ कोटीवर गेली आहे. तर नक्त नफ्यात २२ टक्क्यांची वाढ होऊन तो ४८ कोटीवर पोहोचला आहे. कंपनीकडे १०,३५८ कोटी रुपयांचे कार्यदेश प्रलंबित असून कंपनी लवकरच विस्तारीकरण प्रकल्प हाती घेत आहे. उत्पादन क्षमता वाढवण्यासाठी कंपनीच्या संचालक मंडळाने ३२६.६ कोटी रुपयांचा भांडवली खर्च मंजूर केला आहे. पायाभूत सुविधा क्षेत्रातील ही कंपनी आगामी कालावधीत उत्तम कामगिरी करून दाखवेल, अशी अपेक्षा आहे.

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सूचना : १. प्रस्तुत लेखामध्ये सुचविलेल्या कंपनीच्या शेअरमध्ये लेखकाची वा त्याच्या जवळच्या नातेवाईकांची (उल्लेख्य माहितीप्रमाणे) कुठलीही गुंतवणूक नाही किंवा असल्यास ती कंपनीच्या भरणा झालेल्या भाग भांडवलाच्या एक टक्क्यापेक्षा कमी आहे. तसेच सुचविलेल्या कंपनीची लेखकाचा कुटुंबीय संबंध नसून त्याने कंपनीकडून कुठलेही मासपत्र अथवा भेटवस्तू घेतलेली नाही. २. लेखात सुचविलेल्या कंपनीचे संशोधन हे वाचकांच्या माहितीसाठी असून, प्रत्यक्ष कंपनीच्या शेअरमध्ये गुंतवणूक वाचकांनी स्वतःच्या जोखीमवर या सल्लागाराच्या सल्ल्याने करावी. ३. वरील लेख केवळ वित्तीयसल्लाक संशोधन असून तो गुंतवणूक सल्लाक नाही.

तू तेव्हा तशी...

ससा कासवाची गोष्ट

आशीष ठाकूर

निफ्टी निर्देशांकांत १६ डिसेंबर २०२४ ला २४,७८१ वरून, २७ जानेवारी २०२५ ला २२,७८६ अशी 'दोन हजार अंशांची' छातीत धडकी भरवणारी घसरण झाली आहे. या घसरणीने, निफ्टीने जानेवारीच्या मंदीत 'मी तेव्हा तशी' दाखवून दिलं, तर अवघ्या आठ कामकाज दिवसांत २७ जानेवारी ते ५ फेब्रुवारीच्या कालावधीत हजार अंशांची तेजी / आपल्यात सुधारणा करत, मंदीने कोमेजलेल्या गुंतवणूकदारांच्या मनावर हळुवार फुंकर घालत 'या तेजीत मी ही अशी' हे देखील निफ्टीने दाखवून दिलं. फेब्रुवारी महिन्याच्या पूर्वार्धात आर्थिक जगतातील दोन महत्त्वाच्या

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१,७५० रुपये
- **उत्साहवर्धक बातमीचा परिणाम:** समभागाने १,७५० रुपयांचा स्तर राखत, प्रथम वरचे लक्ष्य १,८०० रुपये, द्वितीय लक्ष्य १,८५० रुपये.
- **बातमीचा उदासीन परिणाम:** १,७५० रुपयांचा केंद्रबिंदू स्तर तोडत १,६७० रुपयांपर्यंत घसरण
- **स्टेट बँक:**
७ फेब्रुवारीचा बंद भाव- ७३७.२० रुपये
- **महत्त्वाचा केंद्रबिंदू स्तर-** ७५० रुपये
- **उत्साहवर्धक बातमीचा परिणाम:** ७५० रुपयांचा स्तर राखत, प्रथम वरचे लक्ष्य ७७५ रुपये, द्वितीय लक्ष्य ८०० रुपये.
- **बातमीचा उदासीन परिणाम:** ७५० रुपयांचा केंद्रबिंदू स्तर तोडत



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- **उत्साहवर्धक बातमीचा परिणाम:** २३,४०० / ५०,००० चा महत्त्वाचा केंद्रबिंदू स्तर राखत, या निर्देशांकांचे प्रथम वरचे लक्ष्य अनुक्रमे २३,७०० / ५०,८५० ते ५१,००० आणि द्वितीय लक्ष्य २४,००० / ५१,४५० असे असेल.
- **बातमीचा उदासीन परिणाम:** या निर्देशांकांत २३,४०० / ५०,००० चा महत्त्वाचा केंद्रबिंदू स्तर तोडत २३,००० / ४८,९०० स्तरापर्यंत घसरण शक्य. लोखंड गाडवली बाजार विद्वेषक आहेत. ashishthakur1966@gmail.com

अस्वीकृती : शेअर बाजारातील व्यवहार हे बाजारातील जोखीमाच्या अधीन आहेत. अंतर्गत चुकल्यास मुख्य न्यायाधीश शक्यता असते. हे टाऊन्यासाठी 'स्टॉप लॉस' आणि इच्छित लक्ष्य वा संकल्पनांचे पालन करणे आवश्यक आहे. गुंतवणूक करण्यापूर्वी आपल्या गुंतवणूक सल्लागाराचा सल्ला घेणे आवश्यक आहे.

अर्थ वृत्तान्त

जोखमीची गुंतवणूक कोणती?



सगळ्यात जोखमीची गुंतवणूक कोणती? या प्रश्नाचे उत्तर भल्याभल्यांना सापडणार नाही. वित्तीय गुंतवणुकीच्या जगात या गुंतवणुकीच्या जोखमीला तोंड दिल्याशिवाय, नुकसानीच्या शक्यतेशी खेळल्याशिवाय पर्याय नाही. या जोखमीच्या व्यवस्थापनावर कित्येक व्यवसाय, जोखीम व्यवस्थापन अर्थात रिस्क मॅनेजमेंट कंपनी उभ्या आहेत. उत्तम परतावा मिळवण्यासाठीच या गुंतवणुकीच्या जगातील तज्ज्ञ आणि सामान्य गुंतवणूकदार आटापिटा करत असतात. पण खरे तर जोखीम म्हणजे नक्की काय? रिस्क म्हणजे नक्की काय? गुंतवणूकदाराला त्या गुंतवणुकीवरील व्याज किंवा परतावा कमी मिळणे ही जोखीम वाटते. ही झाली वित्तीय गुंतवणुकीची जोखीम. यासाठी सोने नाणे, जमीन जुमला यात गुंतवणूक केली तरी चोरी, कुटुंब कलहातून नुकसान अशा अनेक कारणांनी जोखीम असते. या व्यतिरिक्त व्यक्तीला सहसा लक्षात न येणाऱ्या इतरही बाबी आहेत. तीन प्रकारच्या असुरक्षित आणि जोखमीला तोंड द्यावे लागते. यातील एक म्हणजे, क्षमता जोखीम किंवा 'कॅपॅसिटी रिस्क'.



रंजित कुर्कर्णी

अनिश्चितता आणि जोखीम हाच स्थायीभाव बनलेल्या सदास्थितीचा जिम्मा अर्थात संरक्षक हमी ठराव्यात अशा विद्याच्या तटबुद्धीचा प्रपंच मांडणारे पाक्षिक तट

तिसऱ्या जोखमीचा प्रकार म्हणजे महागाई, युद्ध अस्थिरतेमुळे येणारी अतिमहागाई, अतिदीर्घायुष्य यासारख्या कारणांनी विशिष्ट अडथळ चुकल्याने जमापुंजी अपुरी पडणे.

गुंतवणूक करताना सामान्यपणे आपण व्याज किती मिळेल हाच विचार करत असतो. मुद्दलाची सुरक्षितता, आपत्कालीन गरजेची पूर्तता आणि करसुलभता या बाबींचा विचारही आवश्यक आहे. गेली काही वर्षे आर्थिकमंडील गुंतवणुकीसंदर्भात एक प्रकारचे प्रतिकूल वातावरण निर्माण झालेले आहे. शेअर बाजारातील आणि कारणांने त्याच्या क्षमतेवर परिणाम होऊ शकतो. दुसरी जोखीम म्हणजे मुद्दलाची जोखीम किंवा 'कॅपिटल रिस्क'. म्हणजे चुकीचे निर्णय, अतिव्याजाचे लोभापायी, फसवणूक, दिवाळखोरी यामुळे कमावलेले धन नष्ट होणे.

आयुर्विम्ब्याचे संरक्षण आणि दीर्घकाळ बचतीचे अनन्यसाधारण महत्त्व दुर्लक्षून चालणार नाही, परंतु दुर्दैवाने हे सर्व सामान्यांना पटत नाही आणि वित्तीय सल्लागार त्यांना ते यशस्वीपणे पटवून न देता 'सही है' असाच सल्ला देतात. परंतु खरे पाहता गुंतवणुकीमध्ये सोने, जमीन, पोस्टातील बचत ठेवी, बँक ठेवी, कंपनी ठेवी, शेअर, म्युच्युअल फंड, प्रॉव्हिडंट फंड या सर्वांचे आणि त्याबरोबर आयुर्विम्ब्याचेही स्थान असले पाहिजे. जेवणाच्या थाळीत ज्याप्रमाणे समतोल आहाराचा महत्त्व आहे, त्याप्रमाणे गुंतवणुकीमध्ये समतोल संतुलनाला महत्त्व आहे. हे संतुलन आपल्या गरजांनुसार ठरते आणि माणसाच्या गरजा आणि त्यांचे महत्त्व त्याच्या जीवनातल्या कोणत्या टप्प्यावर तो आहे त्यानुसार बदलत जातात.

मॅसलो या मानसशास्त्रज्ञांने मानवाच्या वर्तणुकीचा अभ्यास करून त्याच्या गरजेचे पाच टप्पे परिर्मिडच्या आकारात चढत्या क्रमाने दर्शवले. उदा सर्वात मूलभूत गरज, अन्न, निवारा या पुऱ्या झाल्यावर, पुढील स्तरावर आरोग्याची निगा आणि भविष्यातील उत्पन्नाची सुरक्षितता महत्त्वाच्या वाटू लागतात, त्यानंतरच्या स्तरावर कुटुंब आणि मित्रपरिवार नातेसंबंध समाज, समुदाय यांच्याशी बांधिलकी यातून सुरक्षा आणि याच्याशी असलेल्या नातेसंबंधांना प्राधान्य मिळते, चौथ्या पातळीवर समाजातील आपले स्थान, नावलौकिक, समाजातील प्रतिष्ठा, मानसन्मान आदी महत्त्वाचे वाटू लागतात. मग पाचव्या टप्प्यावर शेवटी आत्मसमाधान, समाजतृण फेडण्याची

गरज आणि ओढ वाटू लागते. पहिल्या दोन टप्प्यांवरील गरजांची पूर्तता झाल्यावर, तिसऱ्या आणि चौथ्या टप्प्यावर स्वतःची समाजिक प्रतिष्ठा वाढावी अशी इच्छा आणि ती वाढेल अशा वस्तूंची गरज निर्माण होते. त्यामुळे डोक्यावर छप्पर असावे या पहिल्या टप्प्यातील गरजेचे रूपांतर विकासाच्या तिसऱ्या टप्प्यावर कुटुंबासाठी प्रत्येकाच्या सोयीची खोली असणारे, आवडीचे मोठे घर असावे, गाडी असावी, त्याही पुढे चौथ्या टप्प्यात सामाजिक वजन वाढण्यासाठी मोठी गाडी, फार्म हाऊस, 'सेकंड होम' घ्यावे अशा समाज प्रतिष्ठा वाढविण्यासाठीच्या गरज पुऱ्या करण्याकडे कल होऊ लागतो. वित्तीय गुंतवणुकीसाठीदेखील अशा परिर्मिडची कल्पना करता येऊ शकते.

वित्तीय परिर्मिडचा पाया म्हणजे मूलभूत गरजा पूर्ण करण्यासाठी लागणारी तरतूद, तिची पूर्ती आणि सुरक्षितता. यासाठी सर्वप्रथम आयुर्विमा टर्म पॉलिसी आणि आरोग्यविमा याची तरतूद आवश्यक आहे. या मूलभूत गरजांसाठीच्या पैशाची सोय झाल्यानंतर दुसऱ्या टप्प्यावर भविष्यातील उत्पन्नाची शाश्वतता महत्त्वाची ठरते आणि यासाठी बँक ठेवी, पोस्ट ऑफिस बचत ठेवी आणि 'एन्डोव्हमेंट' विम्यातील गुंतवणूक उपयोगी ठरते. या वर्तमानातील मूलभूत गरज आणि भविष्यातील सुरक्षितता यांची तजवीज झाल्यावर तिसऱ्या पातळीवर मालमत्तेची वाढ करण्यासाठी सोने-नाणे, स्थावर मालमत्ता यात गुंतवणूक करता येते. यापुढचा टप्पा मात्र काहीशी

जास्त जोखमीची आणि जास्त परतावा देणारी गुंतवणूक दर्शवते. या टप्प्यावर मुच्युअल फंड, शेअर, रोखे यामध्ये गुंतवणूक होऊ शकते. पाचव्या आणि शेवटच्या पातळीवर जेव्हा मूलभूत गरज, सुरक्षित भविष्य, काहीशी मालमत्ता यात पैसे गुंतवून उर्वरित असेल तर अतिजोखमीच्या गुंतवणुकीमध्ये तो गुंतवायला येतो. उदा. वायदे बाजार म्हणजेच पन्चर्स-ऑप्शन्स, आभासी चलन (क्रिप्टो करन्सी), नवउद्यम, दुर्मीळ वस्तू, चित्रे. वरील वित्तीय परिर्मिड हे मॅसलोच्या गरजांच्या परिर्मिडशी सुसंगत आहे. पण दुर्दैवाने प्रत्यक्षात मात्र गुंतवणूक करताना गुंतवणूक हा झटपट श्रीमंत होण्याचा मार्ग आहे असे समजले जाते. 'ईझी मनी', 'फास्ट मनी'च्या नादात वित्तीय परिर्मिड उलटा होतो आणि नवीन नोकरी आणि संसाराला लागलेल्या व्यक्ती विम्याकडे दुर्लक्ष करून थेट पाचव्या टप्प्यावर उडी मारून आभासी चलन आणि शेअर बाजाराच्या मोहात पडतात. मुद्दा हा आहे की, पैसे शेअर बाजारात बनत नाहीत, तर ते आपल्या नोकरी-व्यवसायातून कष्टाने आपण कमावतो. ते शेअर बाजारात गुंतवतो. गंमत अशी आहे की, लहानपणापासून आपणास घराचे चित्र काढायला सांगितले तर सगळेच प्रथम छप्पर काढतात. पण प्रत्यक्ष बंध घाताना मात्र पायाभरणी सर्वांत आधी करावी लागते. जितकी इमारत उंच तितका पाया अधिक खोल आणि भक्कम. आर्थिक परिर्मिडचा भक्कम पाया हा विमा सुरक्षिततेवर अवलंबून आहे.



मार्ग सुभतेचा तृप्ती राणे

आर्थिक नियोजनाचा एक महत्त्वाचा आधारस्तंभ म्हणजे विमा कवच. कुटुंबासाठी आर्थिक ध्येयासाठी म्हणजे कुटुंबाला जायच्या आधी आपल्या महत्त्वाच्या अंगांचे संरक्षण करण्यासारखं असतं. तसं म्हटलं तर महागाई नावाच्या शत्रूसमोर जर युद्धात टिकायचं असेल तर गुंतवणूक तर हवीच आणि मुळत गुंतवणूक सुरक्षित ठेवण्याचं काम हे विमा कवच करतं. म्हणून त्याला अनन्यसाधारण महत्त्व आहे. गेल्या काही वर्षांमध्ये विम्याबाबत बऱ्यापैकी जनजागृती केली गेलेली आहे. परंतु तरीसुद्धा त्यानुसार आपल्याकडे विमा कवच किती हवं हे ठरवावं लागतं. शिवाय एखादं नुकसान तेवढ्यापुरतं असतं. जसं की, वाहनाला झालेला अपघात, छोटंसं आजारपण, भटकंती करताना गमावलेलं सामान. परंतु काही नुकसानामुळे अनेक समीकरण बदलतात आणि त्याचे पडसाद पुढे अनेक वर्षे राहू शकतात. उदाहरण घ्यायचं झालं तर

अपघातामुळे आलेलं अपंगत्व किंवा अर्धांग वायूच्या झटक्याने निकामी झालेला एखादा अवयव. अशा शारीरिक दुर्बलतेमुळे एखाद्याची काम करून पैसे कमावण्याची क्षमता कमी होते किंवा उरतच नाही. तेव्हा विमा कवच घेताना आपण नक्की कोणतं नुकसान भरून काढायची अपेक्षा ठेवतोय हे समजून घ्यावं. आजारपणाच्या खर्चाची सोय व्हावी म्हणून आरोग्य विमा असतो. कुटुंबामध्ये जर गंधीर आजारांचा इतिहास असेल, तर गंधीर आजार विमा असतो. परदेशी प्रवास करण्यासाठी प्रवास विमा असतो. गृह कर्ज घेणाऱ्यांसाठी गृह-कर्ज विमा असतो. पिकांच्या नुकसानापासून वाचण्यासाठी शेतकरी पीक विमा घेतात. आर्थिक जबाबदाऱ्या असणाऱ्या व्यक्तींचा मुदत विमा काढला जातो.

विमा किती घ्यावा?
जेवढं नुकसान होऊ शकतं तेवढा विमा घ्यावा! वाचताना सोपं वाटलं तरी त्यामागचं समीकरण बऱ्यापैकी क्लिष्ट आहे. कारण विमा कवच आपण आज काढतो पुढे किती नुकसान होऊ शकतं या अंदाजानुसार. आज काढलेली १ लाखाची मेडिकलेम पॉलिसी १० वर्षांनी नक्कीच अपुरी पडणार. आणि पुढे ३० लाख रुपये इतका कधीतरी खर्च येऊ शकतो म्हणून आज ३० लाख रुपये सुरक्षा कवच असलेली पॉलिसी घेतली तर तिचं प्रीमियम (हप्ता) भरपूर पडेल. जर मुदत विमा आज असलेल्या मिळकतीनुसार घेतला आणि पुढे मिळकत आणि महागाई झपाट्याने वाढली आणि त्याचबरोबर कर्ज घेणेही महागवे तर गरजेच्यावेळी महागाईनुसार पुरेशी रक्कम विम्यातून मिळणार नाही. तेव्हा विमा घेताना याबाबत विचार करावा लागतो आणि तो घेतल्यानंतरसुद्धा किती व कधी वाढवावा यावर नीट लक्ष ठेवावं लागतं.

विमा कोणी घ्यावा?
विमा नुकसान होण्याची शक्यता असेल त्याने विमा घ्यावा. गाडीच्या मालकाने, गृह कर्ज देणाऱ्या बँकेने, आर्थिक जबाबदारी असणाऱ्या व्यक्तीने, उद्योग-व्यवसाय करणाऱ्या व्यक्तीने, ज्याचा अपघात होऊ शकतो अशा व्यक्तीने. मग पुढचा प्रश्न असा येतो की लहान मुलांचा, घरातील न कमावणाऱ्या व्यक्तीचा विमा का बरं काढावा?

विमा कवच घेताय... मग हे महत्त्वाचे!



आरोग्य विमा ठीक आहे, पण आयुर्विमा अशा लोकांचा का काढावा? अनेकदा लहान मुलांचा विमा काढताना असं सांगितलं जातं की, त्याच्या पुढील शिक्षणासाठी योग्य वेळी पैसे मिळतील आणि तेसुद्धा करपात्र नसतील. परंतु त्यासाठी त्या मुलाचा विमा का काढायचा? शिस्तित गुंतवणूक का नाही करावीच? आईवडील जर दोघेही कमावते असतील तर दोघांचाही मुदत विमा काढावा, कारण त्यांच्यापैकी एकालाही काही झालं तर त्यांच्या मुलांची आर्थिक चणचण होऊ नये म्हणून. परंतु मुलाचं वय कमी, म्हणून प्रीमियम कमी आणि म्हणून त्याच्या नावाने पॉलिसी घेतली तर पुढे जर त्याच्या आईवडिलांना काही झाल्यास प्रीमियम नाही भरलं तर पॉलिसीतून पैसे कसे मिळणार? आणि मुलांना जर लाभार्थी ठेवून विमा घेतला तर त्यासाठी आपल्याला नक्की किती विमा कवच आणि त्यासाठी किती प्रीमियम भरायचं याचा विचार नक्कीच झाला पाहिजे.

किती काळासाठी घ्यावा?
जे नुकसान दरवर्षी होऊ शकतं त्यासाठी दरवर्षी विमा घ्यावा. उदा. आरोग्य विमा, अपघात विमा, पीक विमा. मुदत विमा घेताना

आपल्या आर्थिक जबाबदाऱ्या कधी संपणार हे लक्षात घ्यावं. अनेकदा वयाच्या साठीपर्यंत जबाबदाऱ्या संपलेल्या असतात, म्हणून तिथपर्यंत मुदत विमा पुरतो. परंतु जेव्हा मोठ्या जबाबदाऱ्या किंवा निवृत्तीनंतरसुद्धा डोक्यावर कर्ज असेल आणि पुरेशी मालमत्ता नसेल तर मुदत विमा ७० ते ७५ वयापर्यंतसुद्धा घ्यावा.

विमा कोणत्या कंपनीकडून घ्यावा? मुदत विमा घेताना ज्या कंपनीचा 'क्लेम सेटलमेंट रेशो' जास्त असेल (९० टक्क्यांपेक्षा जास्त) आणि आरोग्य विमा घेताना ज्या कंपनीचा 'इंकर्ड क्लेम रेशो' ६५ टक्के ते ८५ टक्क्यांमध्ये असेल, अशा कंपन्यांकडून पॉलिसी घ्यावी. ही माहिती गूगलवरून मिळू शकते.

विमा 'एजंट'कडून घ्यावा की नाही?
जर तुम्हाला कोणता विमा घ्यायचा आणि त्याचा क्लेम कसा मिळवायचा हे नीट कळत असेल तर तुम्ही थेट विमा कंपनीकडून विमा पॉलिसी घेऊ शकता. तिथे तुम्हाला प्रीमियम थॉर्डं कमी बसेल. परंतु ज्यांना हे कळत नाही, त्यांनी एखाद्या चांगल्या एजंटकडून नीट समजून पॉलिसी घ्यावी.

आपल्याकडे विमा पॉलिसीतून मिळणाऱ्या रकमेवर कर लागत नाही. पण यालासुद्धा नियम आहेत. सगळ्याच विमा पॉलिसी कर कार्यक्षम आहेत असं नाहीये. जिथे नुकसान भरपाई म्हणून विम्याचे पैसे मिळतात तिथे अजिबात कर बसत नाही, परंतु काही ठिकाणी जेव्हा पॉलिसी कालावधी संपल्यावर पैसे मात्र 'annuity' म्हणून मिळतात तिथे कर लागू शकतो. तेव्हा प्रत्येक पॉलिसी घेताना हे नक्की तपासा आणि शक्यतो विमा कंपनीकडून लेखी घेऊन ते परत एकदा तुमच्या सनदी लेखापालाकडून त्याची पुष्टी करून घ्या. कुणाच्या तरी सांगण्यावर विश्वास ठेवून हे करू नका. जे काही प्रीमियम तुम्ही भरणार त्यावर तुम्हाला किती कर सवलत मिळणार हे आधीच विचारून घ्या. तुम्ही जर नवीन कर प्रणाली वापरत असाल तर त्यात हे काही उपयोगी नाही.

'फ्री लुक' कालावधी, 'सॅरेंडर व्हॅल्यू' आणि 'पेड-अप पॉलिसी'
कोणतीही पॉलिसी तुम्हाला मिळाली की, त्यात किती दिवसात ती परत करता येऊ शकते हे जाणून घ्या. चुकीची पॉलिसी परत देऊन, तुम्हाला तुम्ही भरलेलं प्रीमियम परत मिळू शकतं. परंतु ते सगळं या 'फ्री लुक' कालावधीमध्येच करता येतं. एकदा का ही वेळ गेली की, तुम्हाला पॉलिसी एक तर नुकसान घेऊन बंद करावी लागते किंवा ती तशीच चालू ठेवावी लागते. गुंतवणूकसंलग्न पॉलिसीमध्ये काही ठरावीक प्रीमियम भरल्यास 'सॅरेंडर व्हॅल्यू' मिळते. ही 'सॅरेंडर व्हॅल्यू' बऱ्याचदा तोवर भरलेल्या सर्व प्रीमियमपेक्षा कमी असते. भांडवीली बाजाराशी निगडित पॉलिसी (यूलीप) असेल तर कदाचित जास्त पैसेसुद्धा मिळू शकतात. अशा पॉलिसीमध्ये शेअर बाजारानुसार परतावे मिळतात, तेव्हा त्या पॉलिसीच्या मुदतीआधी जर ती बंद करायची वेळ आली तर ही 'सॅरेंडर व्हॅल्यू' कशी काढली जाते हेसुद्धा पॉलिसीमध्ये लिहिलेलं असतं. ते नीट वाचून आणि समजून घ्या. एखादी पॉलिसी जर अनेक वर्षे चालू आहे, परंतु आता उरलेल्या थोड्या काळासाठी जर प्रीमियम भरता नाही आले, तर तिला 'पेड-अप' करता येतं. त्यामुळे भरलेल्या प्रीमियमनुसार त्या पॉलिसीतून मिळणारी रक्कम उरवून उरलेल्या काळासाठी पॉलिसी चालू ठेवली जाते आणि लाभार्थ्याला कमी नुकसानीत पैसे मिळू शकतात. हे सर्व वेळीच वाचून घेतलं की, पुढे पॉलिसी सांभाळणं सोपं होतं.

मुळत विमा आणि गुंतवणूक हा फरक समजून मग व्यवहार करा. भरपूर प्रीमियम असणाऱ्या अपुऱ्या पडणाऱ्या पॉलिसी घेताना जर नक्की आपण कशासाठी ही पॉलिसी घेतोय हे लक्षात आणा. आपलं ध्येय काय आहे आणि त्यानुसार आपला विमा पर्याय आणि गुंतवणूक पर्याय आहे का हे प्रत्येक वेळी तपासा. 'फ्री लुक' कालावधीचा संपूर्ण वापर करा.

रोहितचा शतकी झंझावात!

भारताची दुसऱ्या एकाद्वितीय सामन्यात इंग्लंडवर चार गडी राखून मात

पीटीआय, कटक

कर्णधार रोहित शर्माचे (१० चेंडूंत ११९ धावा) आक्रमक शतक आणि शुभमन गिलसह (५२ चेंडूंत ६० धावा) पहिल्या गड्यासाठी केलेल्या १३६ धावांच्या भागीदारीमुळे भारताने रविवारी झालेल्या दुसऱ्या एकदिवसीय क्रिकेट सामन्यात इंग्लंडला चार गडी राखून नमवले. यामुळे तीन सामन्यांच्या मालिकेत भारताने २-० अशी विजयी आघाडी घेतली आहे.

बऱ्याच काळापासून लयीच्या शोधात असलेल्या रोहितने फ्लंदांजांना पुरक खेळपट्टीवर २६व्या षटकात आदिल रशीदच्या चेंडूवर फटकार लगावत एकदिवसीय क्रिकेटमधील आपले ३२वे शतक झळकावले. त्याने आपले शतक ७६ चेंडूंत झळकावले. आपल्या शतकी खेळीदरम्यान त्याने १२ चौकार व सात षटकारांची आतषबाजी केली. बारावती स्टॅडियममध्ये फिरकीपटू रवींद्र जडेजाच्या (३/३५) प्रभावी मान्याच्या बळावर इंग्लंडला ४९.५



षटकांत ३०४ धावांवर रोखले. यानंतर आम्हानाचा पाठलाग करणाऱ्या भारताने रोहितच्या खेळीमुळे ४४.३ षटकांतच ६ बाद ३०८ धावा करत विजय नोंदवला. चॅम्पियन्स करंडक स्पर्धेपूर्वी भारताचा हा मालिकाविजय आत्मविश्वास दुणावणारा असेल. रोहितने श्रेयस अय्यरसह (४४

संक्षिप्त धावफलक

● इंग्लंड : ४९.५ षटकांत सर्वबाद ३०४ (जो रूट ६९, बेन डकेट ६५, लिआम लिव्हिंग्स्टोन ४९; रवींद्र जडेजा ३/२५) पराभूत वि.

● भारत : ४४.३ षटकांत ६ बाद ३०८ (रोहित शर्मा ११९, शुभमन गिल ६०, श्रेयस अय्यर ४४, अक्षर पटेल नाबाद ४९; जेमी ओव्हर्टन २/२९)

प्रकाशझोतातील बिघाडामुळे सामन्याला विलंब

भारत व इंग्लंड सामन्यादरम्यान प्रकाशझोतातील बिघाडामुळे ३५ मिनिटांची विलंब झाला. जेव्हा बिघाड झाला, तेव्हा भारताने आम्हानाचा पाठलाग करताना बिनबाद ४८ धावा केल्या होत्या. भारतात सामन्यात चांगल्या स्थितीत होता, पण बिघाडामुळे सर्व खेळाडूंना मैदानाबाहेर जावे लागले. “प्रकाशझोताशी संबंधित असलेली विद्युतजनित्र (जनरेटर) खराब झाल्याने ‘क्लॉक टॉवर’च्या मागील लाइट बंद झाल्या. आम्हाला दुसरे विद्युतजनित्र (जनरेटर) सुरु केले. मात्र, ते करण्यास वेळ लागला. त्यामुळे उशीर झाला,” असे एका अधिकाऱ्याने सांगितले.

धावा) तिसऱ्या गड्यासाठी ७० धावा जोडल्या. रोहित ३०व्या षटकात लिआम लिव्हिंग्स्टोनच्या चेंडूवर मोठा फटका मारण्याच्या प्रयत्नात बाद झाला. रोहित माघारी परतला, तेव्हा भारतीय संघ ३ बाद २२० अशा सुस्थितीत होता. यानंतर अक्षर पटेल (नाबाद ४९) आणि जडेजा (नाबाद

११) यांनी संघाचा विजयापर्यंत पोहोचवले. गेल्या सामन्यात फार काही करू न शकणाऱ्या रोहितने सुरुवातीपासूनच आक्रमक पवित्रा घेतला. त्याने मस अॅटकिन्सन, साकिब महमूद यांच्या गोलंदाजीवर आक्रमक फटके लगावले. त्याने अवघ्या ३० चेंडूंत अर्धशतक झळकावले.

आपल्या वेगाने मार्क वूड फ्लंदांजांच्या अडचणी वाढवत होता, पण रोहित व गिल यांनी त्याला फारशी संधी दिली नाही. यानंतर इंग्लंडचा कर्णधार जोस बटलरने गोलंदाजीत बदल करताना जेमी ओव्हर्टन (२/२७) याला गोलंदाजीकरता आणले. त्याने गिलला बाद केले. विराट कोहलीकडून (५) या सामन्यात अपेक्षा होत्या. मात्र, रशीदने त्याला माघारी घाडले. यानंतर श्रेयस अय्यरनेही धावसंख्येत योगदान दिले. त्यापूर्वी, नाणेफेक जिंकून प्रथम फ्लंदाजी करणाऱ्या इंग्लंडकडून बेन डकेट व जो रूट व कर्णधार जोस बटलर यांनी योगदान दिले. इंग्लंडची धावसंख्या ३५व्या षटकात ३ बाद २०० अशी होती. मात्र, जडेजाने डकेट (६५) व रूट (६९) यांना बाद केले. लिव्हिंग्स्टोनने नंतर ३२ चेंडूंत ४१ धावांची खेळी केली व इंग्लंडला समाधानकारक धावसंख्येपर्यंत पोहोचवले. भारत व इंग्लंड यांच्यातील तिसरा व अखेरचा एकदिवसीय सामना १२ फेब्रुवारीला अहमदाबाद येथे पार पडेल.

आदित्य ठाकरेची भेदक गोलंदाजी

नागपूर : वेगवान गोलंदाज आदित्य ठाकरेच्या (४/१८) भेदक गोलंदाजीच्या जोरावर विदभाने रणजी उपांत्यपूर्व लढतीत दुसऱ्या दिवसअखेरीस तमिळनाडूला पहिल्या डावात ६ बाद १५९ असे रोखण्यात यश मिळविले. विदभानांचा पहिला डाव ३५३ धावांवर संपुष्टात आला. त्यानंतर तमिळनाडूचे फ्लंदाज आदित्य ठाकरेचा सामना करू शकले नाहीत. आंद्रे सिद्धार्थ (८९ चेंडूंत ६५ धावा) वगळता तमिळनाडूचा एकही फ्लंदाज खेळपट्टीवर उभा राहू शकला नाही. तमिळनाडू विदभानांच्या पहिल्या डावातील धावसंख्येच्या अद्याप ११४ धावांनी पिछाडीवर आहे.

साखळी लढतीत सातत्य दाखवणाऱ्या फ्लंदाजांना बाद फेरीच्या सामन्यात लय गवसली नाही. एन.जगदीशन (२२), विजय शंकर (२२), बी. साई सुदर्शन (७) या तीन प्रमुख फ्लंदाजांना प्रभाव पाडता आला नाही.

तमिळनाडूचा डाव एकवेळ ४ बाद ३३ असा अडचणीत आला होता. त्यावेळी शंकर आणि सिद्धार्थ यांच्यात झालेल्या १५ धावांच्या भागीदारीचा तमिळनाडूला दिलासा मिळाला. आदित्यनेच ही जोडी फोडताना शंकरला बाद केले. आता तमिळनाडूची मदत अनुभवी प्रदोष रंजन पॉल आणि कर्णधार साई किशोर या नाबाद जोडीवर राहिल. दिवसाचा खेळ संपता तेव्हा पात १८, तर किशोर ६ धावांवर खेळत होते

त्यापूर्वी, विदभाने पहिल्या दिवसअखेरच्या ६ बाद २६४ धावसंख्येत दुसऱ्या दिवशी आणखी ८९ धावांची भर घातली. करुण नायर १२२ धावांवर बाद झाला. त्यानंतर हर्ष दुबेच्या ६९ धावांच्या खेळीने विदभाला भक्कम धावसंख्या उभी

तमिळनाडूविरुद्ध विदभानांची बाजू भक्कम

मुंबईसमोर आघाडी मिळविण्याचे आव्हान

कोलकाता : सर्वाधिक विजेतेपद मिळविणाऱ्या मुंबई संघाला यंदाच्या रणजी करंडक क्रिकेट स्पर्धेच्या उपांत्यपूर्व फेरीच्या सामन्यात पहिल्या डावात आघाडी मिळविण्यासाठी झुंजावे लागत आहे. मुंबईच्या ३१५ धावांना उत्तर देताना हरियाणाचे दुसऱ्या दिवसअखेरीस पहिल्या डावात ५ बाद २६३ असे जोर प्रत्युत्तर दिले आहे. कर्णधार अंकित कुमारचे (१३६) शतक हरियाणाच्या प्रतिकाराचे वैशिष्ट्य ठरले. दिवसाचा खेळ संपला तेव्हा रोहित शर्मा २२, तर अनुज ठकराल ५ धावांवर खेळत होते. हरियाणा अजूनही मुंबईच्या पहिल्या डावातील धावसंख्येच्या ५२ धावांनी पिछाडीवर आहे.

जम्मू-काश्मीरची आघाडी निश्चित

पुणे : जम्मू काश्मीर संघाने २८० धावांची मजल मारल्यावर दुसऱ्या दिवसअखेरीस केरळला ९ बाद २०० असे रोखून पहिल्या डावातील महत्त्वपूर्ण आघाडी निश्चित केली. अकिब नबी दारने ३६ धावांत ७ गडी बाद केले. युधवीर सिंग आणि साहिल लोटरा यांनी प्रत्येकी दोन गडी बाद करून त्याला सुरेख साथ केली. केरळकडून जलजल सक्सेनेन ६९, तर सलमान निझारने नाबाद ४९ धावांची खेळी केली.

गुजरातचे एक पाऊल पुढे

राजकोट : मनन हिंजाजिआ (८३) आणि जयमीत पटेल (नाबाद ८८) यांच्या फ्लंदाजीच्या जोरावर गुजरातने दुसऱ्या दिवसअखेरीस ४ बाद २६० धावा करून सौराष्ट्राविरुद्ध पहिल्या डावात ४४ धावांची आघाडी मिळवली. मनन आणि जयमीत यांनी चौथ्या गड्यासाठी १३३ धावांची भागीदारी केली. खेळ थांबला तेव्हा जयमीतच्या साथीत उर्विल पटेल २९ धावांवर खेळत होता. सौराष्ट्राला पहिल्या डावात २१६ धावसंख्येपर्यंत मजल मारता आली होती.

करता आली.

सोनू यादव ३/९९)

संक्षिप्त धावफलक

विदभ (पहिला डाव) : १२२.९ षटकांत सर्वबाद ३५३ (करुण नायर १२२, दानिश मालेवार ७५, हर्ष दुबे ६९; विजय शंकर ३/७५,

तमिळनाडू (पहिला डाव) : ४६ षटकांत ६ बाद १५९ (सी आंद्रे सिद्धार्थ ६५, विजय शंकर २२, एन जगदीशन २२; आदित्य ठाकरे ४/९८).

ऑस्ट्रेलियाचे निर्भेळ यश

श्रीलंकेवर अखेरच्या कसोटीत नऊ गडी राखून विजय

गॉल : ऑस्ट्रेलियाने रविवारी श्रीलंकेविरुद्ध दुसऱ्या कसोटी क्रिकेट सामन्यात श्रीलंकेवर ९ गडी राखून विजय मिळवत मालिकेत २-० असे निर्भेळ यश संपादन केले. श्रीलंकेने दिलेल्या ७५ धावांच्या माफक आव्हानाचा पाठलाग करताना मार्नस लबूशेनने (नाबाद २६) चौथ्या दिवसाच्या उपहाराच्या पाच मिनिटांआधी एक धाव काढत ऑस्ट्रेलियाला विजय मिळवून दिला. सलामीवीर उस्मान ख्वाजा २७ धावा करून नाबाद राहिला. ऑस्ट्रेलियाचा २०११ नंतर श्रीलंकेतील हा पहिला कसोटी मालिका विजय आहे. त्यावेळी रिकी पॉन्टिंगच्या नेतृत्वाखाली ऑस्ट्रेलियाने श्रीलंकेला १-० असे नमवले होते. २०१६मध्ये स्टीव्ह स्मिथच्या नेतृत्वाखाली ऑस्ट्रेलियाला श्रीलंकेकडून ०-३ असे पराभूत व्हावे लागले होते, तर २०२२ मध्ये मालिका १-१ अशी बरोबरी राहिली होती. श्रीलंकेने चौथ्या दिवशी ८ बाद २११ धावसंख्येच्या पुढे खेळण्यास



सुरुवात केली, तेव्हा त्यांच्याकडे केवळ ५४ धावांची आघाडी होती. उपकर्णधार कुसाल मॅडिसने नेथन लायनच्या गोलंदाजीवर फटका मारत आपले सामन्यातील दुसरे अर्धशतक झळकावले. मात्र त्यानंतर मॅडिस बाद झाला. स्मिथचा हा कसोटी क्रिकेटमधील २००वा झेल ठरला. स्मिथपूर्वी केवळ जॅक कॅलिस, महेश जयवर्धने, राहुल द्रविड व जो रूट यांचाच अशी कामगिरी करता आलेली आहे. श्रीलंकेच्या लक्ष्याचा पाठलाग

करताना ट्रॅव्हिस हेड (२०) व ख्वाजा यांनी सात षटकांतच ३८ धावा जोडत संघाला चांगली सुरुवात दिली. प्रभात जयसूर्याने हेडला बाद केल्यानंतर ख्वाजाने लबूशेनसह ३७ धावांची अपेक्षे भागीदारी संघाचा विजय निश्चित केला. ऑस्ट्रेलियाचा हा सलग चौथा कसोटी विजय आहे आणि श्रीलंकेचा हा सलग चौथा पराभव आहे. ऑस्ट्रेलिया आणि दक्षिण आफ्रिका यांच्यातील जागतिक कसोटी अजिंक्यपदाचा (डब्ल्यूटीसी) अंतिम सामना जूनमध्ये होणार आहे.

हे पृष्ठ मुद्रक आणि प्रकाशक विवेक विश्वास रामडे यांनी मालक, दि ईडिवन एक्स्प्रेस (पी) लिमिटेड (आधीचे नाव - दि ईडिवन एक्स्प्रेस लिमिटेड), यांच्यासाठी लोकमत, प्लॉट नं. ११२, २०७ आणि २०८, एमआयडीसी इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया, बुटीबोरी, नागूर-४४११०८ येथे छापून प्लॉट नं. ३८, ऑडिसन ट्रेड सेंटर, पहिला मजला, अंबाजोरी ले-आऊट, अंबाजोरी, नागूर-४४००१० येथे प्रसिद्ध केले. ट्यूबची क्रमांक : २२३०४२२, २२३६९९९, पत्रसं क्रमांक : २२२२२१८७. म्हापते कार्यालय : प्लॉट नं. ईश्ल १३६, टेट्टीसी इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया, म्हाणे, नवी मुंबई-४०० ७१०. दूरध्वनी : ०२२-२७६३१९००; फॅक्स : ०२२-२७६३३००८. पृष्ठा कार्यालय : एम्सस हाऊस, प्लॉट नं. १२०५/१/१६, सिरोजे रस्ता, शिवाजीनगर, पुणे ४११ ००४. दूरध्वनी : ०२०-६७४११०००, फॅक्स : ०२०६७४१११००. ■ अध्यक्ष, संचालक मंडळ ■ विवेक गोवंडा ■ कार्यकारी प्रकाशक : वैदही ठकार ■ संपादक : गिरीश कुबेर ■ निवासी संपादक : देवेंद्र गावडे* (*पी.आर.ची. कायद्यानुसार संपादकीय जबाबदारी यांच्यावर आहे.) Loksatta, RNI. No. 5473492, Dated 30-4-92. © दि. ईडिवन एक्स्प्रेस (पी) लिमिटेड. सर्व हक्क सुरक्षित. लेखी मालकीतारिखाची संपूर्ण अथवा अंशतः पुनःप्रकाशनास मनाई.

तेजस शिरसेची सुवर्ण हॅटट्रिक

डेहरादून : अडथळ्यांच्या शर्यतीत तेजस शिरसेने आपल्या परदेशातील प्रशिक्षणाचा पूर्ण फायदा उठवताना ३८व्या राष्ट्रीय क्रीडा स्पर्धेत रविवारी पुरुषांच्या ११० मीटर अडथळ्यांच्या शर्यतीत सपर्धा विक्रमासह सुवर्णपदकाची हॅटट्रिक साधली.

तेजसने यापूर्वी अहमदाबाद आणि गोवा येथील राष्ट्रीय स्पर्धेतही सुवर्णपदकाची कामगिरी केली. अथलेटिक्स क्रीडा प्रकारात चार सपर्धा विक्रमाची नोंद झाली. यातील दोन विक्रम महाराष्ट्राच्या धावपटूंनी नोंदवले. तेजसपाठोपाठ अशी विक्रमाची वेळ पेशव्या मिश्राने महिलांच्या ४०० मीटर शर्यतीत दिली. दरम्यान, आधुनिक अशा मॉडर्नपेंटथ्लॉन प्रकारात पुण्याच्या श्रीवर्णी नीलवर्णने वयाच्या १६व्या वर्षीच एकाच स्पर्धेत दोन सुवर्णपदके मिळविण्याची कामगिरी केली. स्पर्धेच्या १२व्या दिवसानंतरही महाराष्ट्राने २९ सुवर्ण, ४२ रौप्य आणि ४७ कांस्य अशी ११८ पदके मिळवून तिसरे स्थान कायम राखले आहे. सेना दलाने विजेतेपदाकडे कूच करताना ४२ सुवर्ण, १६ रौप्य, १३ कांस्यपदके मिळवून ७९ पदकांसह आघाडी कायम राखली आहे. कर्नाटकने (३१ सुवर्ण, १३ रौप्य, १८ कांस्य) ६२ पदकांसह दुसऱ्या स्थानावर कायम आहे.

राष्ट्रियमध्ये रौप्यपदक

देवेंद्र कुमार, राखी गहेलोट, कौशिक कुमार, वैष्णवी शिपी यांच्या संघाने महाराष्ट्राला राष्ट्रियमध्ये प्रथमच रौप्यपदकाची कमाई करून दिली. महाराष्ट्र संघाने सात कि.मी. अंतराची शर्यत ३५ मिनिटे, ३१.६१ सेकंदात पूर्ण



केली. कर्नाटकने (३४ मि.७.९६७ सेकंद) सुवर्णपदक पटकावले.

तेजस, ऐश्वर्याला सुवर्ण

महाराष्ट्राच्या तेजस शिरसेने ११० मीटर अडथळ्या शर्यतीत १३.६५ सेकंद वेळ देताना आपलाच १३.७१ सेकंदाचा सपर्धा विक्रम मोडला. तेजसने सलग तिसऱ्या राष्ट्रीय स्पर्धेत सुवर्णपदकाची कामगिरी केली. तेजसच्या नावावर ६० मीटर अडथळ्यांच्या शर्यतीमधील राष्ट्रीय विक्रमाची नोंद आहे. सिद्धांत थिंगलिया अडथळून पडल्यामुळे त्याला पदकापासून वंचित रहावे लागले. महिलांच्या ४०० मीटर शर्यतीत ऐश्वर्या मिश्राने ५१.१२ सेकंद वेळेसह सुवर्णपदक मिळवले. ऐश्वर्यानेही आपला ५२.५० सेकंदाचा सपर्धा विक्रम मोडीत काढला. महिलांच्या १०० मीटर अडथळ्या शर्यतीत आंतरराष्ट्रीय धावपटू ज्योती बाराजीने देखिल १३.१० सेकंद वेळ देताना आपला १३.२२ सेकंदाचा सपर्धा विक्रम मोडला. धावण्याच्या शर्यतीत रविवारी ओडिशाच्या पुरुष संघानेही ४ बाय १०० मीटर रिले शर्यतीत सेनादलाचा सपर्धा विक्रम मोडित काढला.

तलवारबाजीत आशादायक कामगिरी

तलवारबाजी (फेंसिंग) प्रकारात सैबर आणि फॉरडल अशा दोन्ही प्रकारात महाराष्ट्राच्या पुरुष महिला खेळाडूंनी यशस्वी सुरुवात केली. कशिश भड, शर्वरी गोसवडे, गौरी मंगलसिंग या महिला, तर मिलिंद जहागिरीदार, शकीर अंबी, मनोज पाटील यांनी पहिल्या फेरीचा अडथळा पार करून पदकाच्या आशा कायम ठेवल्या.

पुण्याच्या श्रावणीचे दुहेरी यश

मॉडर्न पेंटथ्लॉन प्रकारात पुण्याच्या आणि मिश्र रिले शर्यतीत सुवर्णपदक मिळवले. वैयक्तिक प्रकारात श्रावणी १८ मिनिटे ५७.२७ सेकंदाच्या वेळेसह विजेती ठरली. मिश्र दुहेरीत श्रावणीने मर्यांक चाफेकरच्या साथीत १८ मिनिटे २०.४५ सेकंद कायम राखी सरस वेळ देत सोनेरी यश संपादन केले. मर्यांकनेही १६ मिनिट ३४.१० सेकंद वेळ देत वैयक्तिक कांस्यपदक मिळविले.

जिम्नॅस्टिक्समध्ये अंतिम फेरीत

यज्ञेश भोस्तेक, नमन महावर, रितेश बोराडे, प्रशांत गोरे यांनी ४३.४६० गुणांसह पात्रता फेरीत अन्वय क्रमांक मिळवत अंतिम फेरी गाठली. गणेश पवार-आदित्य कर्कुंद्रे यांनी ३९.९५० गुणांसह अंतिम फेरी गाठली. मिश्र दुहेरीत रिद्धी जैसवाल-शुभम सरकरटे यांनी ३५.९७० गुण मिळवून अंतिम फेरीतील स्थान निश्चित केले. सोनाली बोराडे, अनांन टोकेकरे, अर्पणा पाटील या महिला संघाने, तर ऋतुजा जगदाळे, निखिता खिलारे यांनी महिला दुहेरीची अंतिम फेरी गाठली.

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जिल्हा गडचिरोली
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कामाचे नाव	निविदा रक्कम	इसारा रक्कम	निविदा प्रथम रक्कम	कामाचा कालावधी (महिने)
Construction of New Building at Adarsh College Desaiganj (Wadsa) Dist. Gadchiroli	26354130	263541	25000	12

तपशील	दिनांक	वेळ
निविदा प्रसिद्धी दिनांक	10-02-2025	10.00
निविदा प्रथम किती सुरुवातीचा दि.	10-02-2025	10.00
निविदा पूर्व बैठक दिनांक	15-02-2025	11.00
निविदा सादर करणे सुरुवातीचा दि.	10-02-2025	12.00
निविदा सादर करणे अंतिम दि.	24-02-2025	12.00
निविदा उघडण्याचा अंतिम दि.	25-02-2025	12.00

सर्वजनांक बांधकाम विभागाचे अनुभवी नॉलॅण्ट्स व योग्य त्या वर्गावरील कंत्राटदारांकडून उशीर कामाची ई-निविदा प्रचलित दि. लिफ्टाफ पद्धतीने बोलाविल्यात येत आहे. इतर आवश्यक अटी व शर्ती तसेच विस्तृत निविदा सूचना मळदूर शासनचे <https://mahatenders.gov.in> या संकेतस्थळावर प्रकाशित झाल्या आहेत.

स्त्री/-
प्राचार्य
आदर्श कला व वाणिज्य महाविद्यालय

भंडारी को-ऑप. बँक लि. (अवसायनात), मुंबई
 भंडारी बँक भवन, पहिला मजला, पी.एल. काळे गुरुजी मार्ग, दादर (परिषद), मुंबई-४०० ०२८.
 फोन नं. ०२२-२४३२७२३० / मो.क्र. ९८२८८७४०७४, ९००४२७७३९०.
 ईमेल - bhandaribanknig@ gmail.com

ई-लिलाव नोटीस

या नोटीसद्वारे बँकेच्या स्वामालकीच्या खालील मालमतेची ई-लिलाव विक्री दि. १५/०२/२०२५ रोजी करण्यात येत असून अधिक माहितीकरिता <https://eauction.gov.in> या संकेत स्थळाला भेट घ्यावी.

संपर्क क्र.०२२-४००१००२, ४००१००५, ६२७७७८७.
ऑनलाईन नोंदणी अंतिम दिनांक २१/०२/२०२५ रोजी संध्याकाळी ०५.०० वा. पर्यंत भंडारी बँक भवन, प्र. ल. काळे गुरुजी मार्ग, दादर (परिषद), मुंबई-४०००२८.
 १) तळघर (बेसमेंट) कारपेट एरिया १५०६ स्क्वे. फुट
 २) तळमजला कारपेट एरिया १६५० स्क्वे. फुट
 ३) दुसरा मजला कारपेट एरिया २८५५ स्क्वे. फुट
 ४) तिसरा मजला कारपेट एरिया २८५५ स्क्वे. फुट
 ५) तिसरा मजला कारपेट एरिया १६४ स्क्वे. फुट
एकूण कारपेट एरिया ९८३० स्क्वे. फुट एकूण प्लॉट एरिया-७९९.९७ स्क्वे. मीटर (राष्ट्रीय किंमत रु. ५२,९७,४१,५००/-) - अनामत रक्कम (EMD) रु.५२,९७,४१५/- फक्त) लिलावापूर्वीची बोलीधारकांसोबत सभा (Pre Bid Meeting) दि. १८/०२/२०२५ रोजी सकाळी ११.०० ते दुपारी १२.३० वा. या दरम्यान बँकेच्या कार्यालयात आयोजित करण्यात आलेली आहे.
Auction ID No. २०२५_MH_२७५६७
 दि. १०/०२/२०२५

सह/ -
अवसायक,
भंडारी को-ऑप बँक लि. (अवसायनात), मुंबई.

Mohpa Education Society's
BAR. SHESHRAO WANKHEDÉ MAHAVIDYALAYA, MOHPA
 Tah. Kalmeshwar, Dist. Nagpur-441502

मा. मुंबई उच्च न्यायालया, नागपूर खंडपीठाच्या शेट पीटीशन्स क्र. १८८७/२०२३ मधील दिनांक ०७.०२.२०२५ च्या आदेशान्वये खालील जाहिरात देण्यात येत आहे.

WANTED

Post	No. of Vacancies	Nature of Post	Nature of Vacancy	Category	Time of Advertisement
Principal	One	Full Time	Clear; Grant-in-aid	Open	First Time

1. Pay Scale: As per UGC & State Government Norms
2. Essential Qualifications:
 i) Ph.D. degree
 ii) Professor/Associate Professor with a total experience of at least fifteen years of teaching/research in Universities/Colleges/other institutions of higher education.
 iii) A minimum of 10 research publications in peer-reviewed or UGC Care-listed journals
 iv) A minimum of 110 Research Score as per Appendix II, Table 2 of Govt. Resolution dated 8th March, 2019.
Note:- A College Principal shall be appointed for a **tenure of five years**, extendable for another term of five years on the basis of performance assessment by a Committee appointed by the University, constituted as per Rules.
 Applications from eligible candidates on plain paper addressed to the Secretary, Mohpa Education Society are invited at college address along with **10 sets of certified copies** of relevant documents, certificates and testimonials **through proper channel on or before 17/02/2025**. Research score sheet certified by the Principal/Head of Institution must be attached.
A. S. Dhawad, Secretary **Kunda Vijaykar, President**
 SPECTRUM

ई-लिलाव विक्री सूचना

एडेलवाइज असेट रिकंस्ट्रक्शन कंपनी लिमिटेड

CIN: U67100MH2007PLC174759
 रिटेल केंद्रीय व नोंदणीकृत कार्यालय: एडेलवाइज हाउस, सी.एस.टी.मार्गच्या पलीकडे, कलिनग, मुंबई-400098

सिस्टमिटी इंटरनेट (प्रायव्हेट) लिमिटेड, 2002 ("कम्पा") मधील निव्वळ हिस्सा (8.6) आणि 9(

BIREN SINGH SUBMITS RESIGNATION TO GOVERNOR BHALLA

Chorus growing, Manipur CM finally quits; Assembly on hold

Puts in his papers after returning from New Delhi where he met Shah, Nadda



Manipur CM N Biren Singh submits his resignation to Governor AK Bhalla. ANI

SUKRITA BARUAH & LIZ MATHEW
GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI, FEB 9

TWENTY-ONE MONTHS after ethnic violence erupted in Manipur, which remains on the edge, Chief Minister N Biren Singh tendered his resignation Sunday evening, ahead of the start of the Assembly session Monday.

Singh submitted his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar

Why now: Dissent within, Opp no-trust threat, probe plea in SC, dip in ratings

SUKRITA BARUAH & LIZ MATHEW
GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI, FEB 9

AFTER 21 months of opposition from Kuki-Zo leaders, waning popularity in the Meitei-majority Imphal Valley, calls for resignation from the Opposition, withdrawal of support by a key NDA partner, it was pressure from unhappy colleagues in the Valley that finally led to N Biren

Singh's resignation as Manipur Chief Minister on Sunday.

Kuki-Zo groups and 10 MLAs from the community — these include seven BJP MLAs, two of them ministers — have held Singh responsible for the ethnic conflict in the state which began on May 3, 2023.

Rumblings within his own ranks began to grow loud last year and have since intensified. BJP MLAs from the Valley have

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PAGE 7

31 Maoists, 2 security personnel killed in Chhattisgarh gunfight

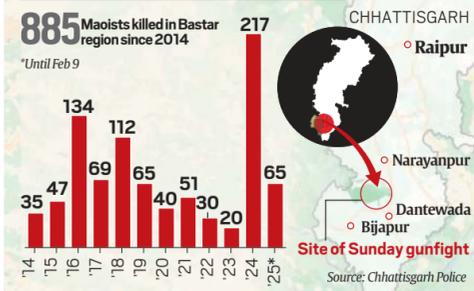
JAYPRAKASH NAIDU
RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 9

AT LEAST 31 Maoists, including 11 women, and two security personnel were killed in an encounter on Sunday at Indravati National Park in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district.

The encounter, which began around 8 am, took place inside the national park, located about 15 km from the Maharashtra border and 28 km from Bijapur's Farsegarh, the nearest village. Intermittent firing between Maoists and security forces went on till around 4 pm, police said.

The security personnel killed were identified as District Reserve Guard (DRG) head constable Naresh Dhruv, a resident of Baloda

THE LAST MAOIST STRONGHOLD



Bazar district, and Special Task Force (STF) constable Vaasit Ravte, a resident of Balod district. Two

BEHIND THE MAJOR SUCCESS IN BASTAR
PAGE 9

LOKNITI-CSDS DELHI ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SURVEY

Why Kejriwal lost: Pollution, lack of drinking water behind voter anger; two-thirds saw AAP as corrupt

Over half the voters had made up mind before campaign began, BJP built a strong coalition of upper castes, OBCs

SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS

SANDEEP SHASTRI, SANJAY KUMAR & SUHAS PALSHIKAR

THE RESULTS of an election are often a by-product of who lost, and, in the process, who won. The just concluded Assembly elections in Delhi are a case in point. After a decade in power, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) saw a sharp decline in public support with the 'credibility quotient' of its leadership clearly taking a dip. A direct corollary to this development was a decisive victory for the BJP.

The Lokniti-CSDS Survey, carried out between January 29 and February 6 (the day after polling) and covering 3,137 respondents across 28 Assembly seats,



Delhi Chief Minister Atishi submits her resignation to L-G VK Saxena, Sunday. PTI

showed that local issues were paramount among voters, there was anger against the AAP MLAs as well as dissatisfaction with its government, and that, contrary to

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GERMAN BAKERY BLAST 15 YEARS ON: SERIES 1 PAGE 4

Maharashtra: Financial stress shows, funds for 'populist' schemes delayed

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

WITH STATE FINANCES getting stretched, the Devendra Fadnis government in Maharashtra has held back funds for the 'Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana', a programme that sponsors senior citizens to visit pilgrim spots. The scheme was launched in June-end, about five months before the 2024 Assembly elections.

In a Cabinet meeting last week, the government also discussed discontinuing two other schemes, the Shiv Bhojan Thali

At Maha Kumbh, tiny bundles of joy: 11 babies born in hospital for pilgrims

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

MANISH SAHU
PRAYAGRAJ, FEBRUARY 9

THE SPRAWLING 4,000-hectare Maha Kumbh area in Prayagraj has seen crores of visitors over the last couple of months. For 11 women and their families, their visits were made all the more special as they gave birth while at Kumbh. The 11 births took place at



The Central Hospital in the Kumbh area is one of 13 hospitals managed by a team of 105, including four gynaecologists

Central Hospital, set up inside the Kumbh area. It is one of 13 hospitals and 10 first-aid posts — managed by a team of 105, including four gynaecologists — set up specifically to cater to the requirements of Kumbh visitors. Women experiencing labour pains while at the Kumbh area are brought to Central Hospital, which is the one equipped with facilities to carry out deliveries, by their families or by one of the 125 ambulances deployed in different locations.

While the Maha Kumbh

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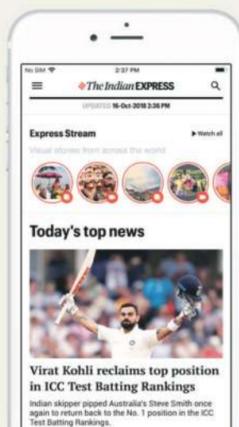
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IIT BOMBAY B.TECH STUDENT SHARES HIS JOURNEY

Classes are informative but also fun and engaging, says Satwik Soni as he reflects on the 'transformative' experience of studying at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

TECH

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EXPRESS AUDIO

Indians and their soaring sporting ambitions

In this episode of *Express Sports*, hosts Mihir Vasavda and Amit Kamath talk about Indians and people of Indian origin investing 'The Hundred', a British cricket league. They also talk about India's bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Chorus growing, Biren quits as CM

Governor had accepted the resignation of Singh and his Council of Ministers. It said the Governor has asked him to continue in office until "alternative arrangements are made".

The Governor issued a notification nixing the Assembly session for the time being by declaring the January order summoning the House "null and void".

Earlier, the Congress had threatened to bring a no-confidence motion against Singh and his government during the Assembly session.

In the Manipur House of 60-Assembly elections in the state are not due until 2027 - the current strength is 59 following the death of NPP MLA N Kayisli last month.

Of the 59 legislators, 37 are from BJP, 6 from NPP, 5 from NPF, 5 from Congress, 2 from Kuki People's Alliance, one from JDU and three independents. Both KPA and NPP, which were part of the

government, have withdrawn support after the violence. At least 2 NPP MLAs continued to back Biren Singh even after the party formally withdrew its support.

Singh had left for New Delhi - his second trip to the national Capital this week - on Saturday evening. He made this trip without any of his Cabinet colleagues.

According to sources, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held an almost two-hour meeting on Sunday, where BJP national president J P Nadda was also present. Singh flew back to Imphal in the afternoon along with BJP's Northeast Coordinator Sambit Patra.

In the evening, Singh, Patra and other senior Manipur BJP leaders, including Manipur BJP president A Sharda Devi and Cabinet ministers Th Biswajit Singh, Sapam Ranjan Singh, Govindas Konthoujam and Th Basanta Singh, met Governor Bhalla, and Singh submitted his

resignation.

His resignation came amid a renewed political churn in Manipur before the Assembly session which was scheduled to start Monday.

The *Indian Express* had reported that several BJP MLAs from Manipur, who had been upset with Biren Singh's leadership and the party-led Centre's management of the Manipur crisis, had again started putting pressure on the party leadership.

Dissident BJP MLAs from Manipur The *Indian Express* spoke to had suggested that they were gearing to take a "big and unprecedented" step in the upcoming Assembly session by supporting a no-confidence motion the Congress had said it was likely to introduce in the Assembly.

"The Congress was all set to move a no-confidence motion against the Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers in the

Manipur Assembly tomorrow. Sensing the climate, the Manipur CM has just resigned," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh wrote on X.

A source who was present with Singh while he submitted the resignation letter indicated that the Assembly was likely to be in suspended animation for a while.

In his resignation letter, Singh emphasised five points as "a request" to the Central government through the Governor.

These include maintaining the "territorial integrity" of the state; a crackdown on "illegal immigrants"; continuing "the fight against drugs and narco terrorism"; the continuation of the revised Free Movement Regime with the application of biometric checks; and the construction of the Indo-Myanmar border. All are issues which he pressed on through the course of his Chief Ministership.

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi targeted the Prime Minister, saying he "allowed him (Singh) to continue despite the violence, loss of life, and the destruction of the idea of India

in Manipur".

In a post on X, Gandhi said, "The resignation of CM Biren Singh shows that mounting public pressure, the SC investigation and the no-confidence motion by the Congress have forced a reckoning. But the most urgent priority is to restore peace in the state, and work to heal the wounds of the people of Manipur."

"PM Modi must visit Manipur at once, listen to the people and finally explain his plan to bring back normalcy," he said.

The Congress said Singh's resignation came "too late".

Congress in-charge for Manipur Girish Chondakar said, "If he (Singh) had resigned earlier, lives, properties, businesses, and education of children could have been saved. He should have resigned a year and a half ago. The trauma that the state has suffered can't be reversed."

"He resigned because he was running a minority government. He didn't have support from his own MLAs. Biren Singh has destroyed this state," Chondakar said.

- WITH ASAD REHMAN IN NEW DELHI

• Pollution, lack of drinking water behind voter anger

the belief that the BJP surged ahead of the AAP in the final lap, more than half the voters had made their choice even before the campaign began.

Three important factors hence merit consideration in explaining the electoral verdict in Delhi:

Firstly, this election was fought, lost and won on inherently local issues. In the second line of his victory speech on Saturday evening, Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to "Yamuna Maiya". In 2020, Kejriwal had made a solemn promise to cleanse the Yamuna, saying the voters could reject him the next time around otherwise.

His accusations of the river water being "poisoned" towards the fag end of the campaign were seen as a poor excuse and did not carry much weight, even as more than eight of every 10 respondents in the Lokniti-CSDS Survey raised problems associated with the Yamuna river as a concern.

Similarly, more than nine of every 10 respondents were disappointed with "the lack of cleanliness" in the city and more than eight of every 10 upset over pollution and the non-availability of clean drinking water.

Corruption charges levelled by the BJP and Congress against the AAP too played a role. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents saw the AAP government as corrupt, while a little over one in four (28%) felt it was very corrupt. Four of every ten saw the 'Sheesh Mahal' (the name given by the BJP to the CM's residence after an allegedly exorbitant revamp by the AAP government) as a sign of wasteful expenditure.

Secondly, the AAP and its leadership faced a severe 'credibility deficit'. Not just the defeat of the party but the defeat of its key leaders in their constituencies was an indicator of the same.

The incumbent AAP MLAs need to share the blame as the Lokniti-CSDS Survey showed that half the respondents were disappointed with the work done by their representatives. More crucially, nearly one in every three (35%) of those disappointed with their MLA's performance were "strongly disappointed". The 'fatigue' factor with the AAP, after

nearly a decade in power, had clearly set in.

Moreover, the AAP itself was seen to have travelled a long journey in this decade. What started off as a party (and leadership), which had risen on an anti-corruption platform and prided itself as an alternative to mainstream political parties, ended up becoming one more alternative among mainstream political parties. The gap between the promise and performance, rhetoric and reality, aspiration and achievement was transparently evident.

The levels of satisfaction with the state and Central government were visibly different. The Lokniti-CSDS Survey indicated that if seven of every 10 respondents were satisfied with the work of the Central government, six of every 10 felt the same of the state government.

The data also indicated that more than half the respondents made a choice of whom to vote for much before the election campaign began. And that many of them voted for the BJP. Only one-fourth of the respondents decided on whom to vote for on the day of voting. These voters were closely split between the BJP and AAP.

Thirdly, the social coalition that the AAP had built up over Assembly elections appeared to have been strongly dented, to be replaced by a wider social coalition crafted by the BJP. The Lokniti-CSDS Survey indicated that the BJP built a strong coalition of upper castes and other backward classes. Save for the Gujjars and Yadavs, the BJP had a stronger presence among the other backward classes.

If the AAP was able to retain 22 seats, it had a lot to do with its support among the Dalits and the Muslims. The AAP continued with an eight-percentage point advantage over the BJP among the poor voters and a six-percentage point advantage among the younger (less than 25 years of age) voters. The BJP was far ahead in its support among the older voters (sixteen percentage points more than the BJP) and the rich (thirty-one percentage points). Among the middle class too, the BJP had a three-percentage point advantage over the AAP.

This support among the poor

was also reflected in the endorsement of the work done by the AAP government in schools, hospitals and power supply.

It is interesting that the Congress, which was in power in Delhi for 15 years, has not opened its account now in three successive Assembly elections. Its spokespersons were more focused on discussing the AAP defeat rather than their own poor showing on Saturday.

The Lokniti-CSDS Survey also indicated that the Congress was viewed by respondents as an 'also-ran', a distant third factor in this election.

Overall, the AAP lost 40 seats with a ten-percentage point dip in its vote share, while the BJP gained 40 seats with a seven-percentage point gain in vote share. The fact that the BJP gave two seats to its alliance partners - the JD(U) and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) - which they both lost, allowed for building a social coalition.

The Congress saw a marginal increase in its vote share, which adversely affected the AAP and consequently benefited the BJP. The fact that the BJP won one-third of its seats (16) by a margin of less than 10,000 votes as did the AAP (8 seats) indicates the three-way contest in a significant number of seats.

The Delhi voters also voted in line with the Lok Sabha polls this time, unlike the trends of 2019 (Lok Sabha), 2020 (Assembly) and 2014, 2015.

With the BJP firmly in the saddle, there will now be a 'double engine sarkaar' in place, so to speak. Tacking forward the economic safety net put in place by the AAP government and resolving the pressing problems of the Delhi residents will clearly be the expectation of the Delhi voter from this comprehensive mandate to the BJP.

Sandeep Shastri is Director-Academics, NITTE Education Trust, and National Coordinator of the Lokniti Network; Sanjay Kumar is Professor and Co-director Lokniti-CSDS; and Suhas Palshikar teaches political science, is chief editor of the journal *Studies in Indian Politics*, and is a columnist for *The Indian Express*

• Why now: Dissent within, Opp no-trust threat, probe plea in SC, dip in ratings

queued up before the party's central leadership over the months, including the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in October 2024, seeking replacement of the CM. The BJP leadership, however, continued to back Singh.

The turning point appeared to be the Budget session of the Manipur Assembly that was set to begin Monday. With their appeals for a leadership change going unheard, dissident MLAs prepared to take an "unprecedented and drastic move" during the session and back a no-confidence motion that the Congress said it was likely to move.

As the divide between Singh's loyalists in the party and the dissidents deepened, the two groups began camping separately by Sunday morning as the Assembly session approached, sources said.

The wheels had begun to turn when Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata Singh, one of the CM's critics, visited New Delhi

last week and met BJP president J P Nadda. Satyabrata Singh, insiders said, told Nadda about the no-confidence motion. According to a source, when he was asked if the introduction of a no-confidence motion could be averted, the Speaker said he would not be able to stop it.

On February 3, Manipur Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh, another known critic of Biren Singh, reached New Delhi. He was said to have warned the BJP leadership that the government would likely collapse if the CM was not replaced. Governor AK Bhalla met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on February 4 to apprise him of the situation.

Why the BJP leadership gave in

On February 5, Biren Singh travelled to New Delhi and, according to insiders, was unable to meet the Union Home

Minister. Following this, he and some ministers loyal to him headed to the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj.

In the face of intensifying pressure and the Assembly session nearing, Biren Singh flew to New Delhi again on Saturday. He met Shah and Nadda on Sunday and after a two-hour discussion it was decided that he would have to step down, sources said.

"Everything has a time, place and a situation. Yes, we have been pushing this for long but the MLAs decided not to wait anymore. We have the majority of the MLAs on our side, from the BJP, the NPP (Naga People's Front), and the NPP (National People's Party)," said one of the BJP MLAs who pushed for Biren Singh's resignation. The NPP and the NPF are BJP allies.

BJP sources also said the Centre recently initiated a series of steps to increase border security and control the law and order situation. The ap-

pointment of Bhalla, a former Union Home Secretary, as Governor and a complete overhaul of the bureaucracy were part of those efforts.

"A no-confidence motion and the fall of the government would have derailed these attempts. The national leadership did not want these efforts to be overshadowed either. The spectacular win in Delhi has just given them more confidence to take such a step," a BJP source said.

For the BJP leadership, the Supreme Court's move to seek a sealed-cover report from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory also raised question marks about the viability of allowing the CM to continue, party sources said. The laboratory is examining "leaked audio tapes" that allegedly point to Biren Singh's role in fuelling the ethnic conflict. Based on the tapes, the petitioner, Kuki Organization for Human Rights Trust, has sought an independent investigation into Singh's

alleged role in the violence that has left more than 200 people dead.

Even though the BJP leadership had continued to support Biren Singh as CM, his leadership came to be seen as a liability by his party colleagues opposed to him.

The collapse of trust in the state BJP government was reflected in the Lok Sabha elections last year when the NDA lost both the seats in Manipur, which it had held earlier, to the Congress. The rumblings of discontent grew strong in November when the homes of MLAs and ministers, including Biren Singh, were targeted and vandalised by angry mobs following the abduction and killing of six Meitei women and children.

At the time, NPP president Conrad Sangma announced that the party, which had seven MLAs then, would no longer support the Biren Singh government, specifically pointing to his "leadership failure".

Tirupati laddu adulteration: CBI arrests four

NIKHILA HENRY
HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 9

The CBI has arrested four people in connection with the Tirupati laddu adulteration case.

Those arrested were Pomil Jain and Bipin Jain, former directors of Bhole Baba Dairy in Roorkee; Apoorva Vinay Kant Chawda, CEO of Vaishnavi Dairy, Poonambakkam; and Raju Rajasekharan, the MD of AR Dairy, Dundigal.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government had claimed last year that Tirupati's Lord Venkateswara Temple's prasadam, which is offered to believers in the form of laddu, was adulterated with animal fat, creating a countrywide uproar. A five-member team, including two officers from the CBI, two from the Andhra Pradesh government and one from the Food Safety Standards Authority of India, has been probing the case. According to sources in the Andhra Pradesh government, "the investigation has revealed serious violations in the ghee supply" to Tirupati during the previous YSRCP government's tenure, which was between 2014 and 2019.

Sources said, "Representatives of Vaishnavi Dairy secured tenders in the name of AR Dairy for ghee supply and fabricated docu-

The TDP gov't had claimed last year that Tirupati's Lord Venkateswara Temple's prasadam was adulterated with animal fat.

ments to claim that the ghee was sourced from Bhole Baba Dairy in Roorkee. The CBI authorities have found that Bhole Baba Dairy did not have the capacity to supply huge quantities of ghee." Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), which manages the temple, uses 15,000 litres of ghee for the preparation of laddus. AR Foods from Tamil Nadu secured a tender to supply the ghee at Rs 320 per kg. When eight tankers carrying the ghee arrived at TTD, four were sent to labs for testing adulteration.

"The ghee was sent for testing on July 8, 2024. On July 17, NDDB lab reports confirmed adulteration," an official said.

The laddu adulteration scandal had become a political flashpoint in Andhra Pradesh, with the TDP lashing out at the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy government for "playing with the most pious of offerings in Tirupati".

• 31 Maoists

other personnel, DRG constable Jaggu Kalmu and STF constable Gulab Mandavi, were injured.

They were part of an operation conducted by a joint team of DRG, STF and Bastar Fighters - all state-level forces specialising in anti-Maoist operations. The operation began Friday after receiving information regarding the presence of Maoists in the national park.

A major challenge for the security forces in the operation was that they did not have any forward base camps in the area, from where the nearest police camp is around 30-35 km away.

• At Maha Kumbh, tiny bundles of joy: 11 babies born at hospital for pilgrims

Mela officially began on January 13, visitors have been gathering in the area since December as a massive tent city came up by the Sangam in Prayagraj, where Central Hospital was already up and running.

The first delivery at the hospital took place on December 29. Sonam (20), from Kaushambi, gave birth to a boy, whom her family named Kumbh. Her husband, Raja, took her to the hospital after she started experiencing labour pains. The couple had come to the Kumbh Mela looking for work and had been living in the Kumbh area.

After the delivery, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister Brajesh Pathak congratulated the family. He told *The Indian Express* that the 100-bed hospital near the Parade Ground in the Kumbh area is equipped with facilities such as an OPD, general ward, delivery

Additional Director General (Naxal Operations) Vivekanand Sinha told *The Indian Express*, "We did not have much presence in the national park. Despite this, our forces conducted an operation where it was thought that operations were not possible."

Inspector General of Police for Bastar Range, Sundarraj P, said, "Two jawans who suffered injuries were evacuated and carried in an IAF helicopter to a hospital in Raipur for treatment. Their condition is said to be stable and they are out of danger."

Weapons, including automatic rifles and a barrel grenade launcher as well as explosives

used to make improvised explosive devices, were recovered from the encounter site. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai commended the security personnel involved in the encounter and expressed grief over the deaths of the two jawans.

"Under our double engine government, 282 Naxalites have been killed in the state so far in 13 months, 1,033 Naxalites have been arrested and 925 Naxalites have surrendered. Under the leadership of... Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji, our state will become free from Naxalism by March 2026. The security forces are rapidly towards

the target," Sai said.

This is the second encounter this year at Indravati National Park, where three Maoists were gunned down on January 12.

The national park area, adjoining Abujhmad, is believed to be a safe haven for Maoists. Spread across 2,799.08 square kilometres, the park was declared a tiger reserve in 1983.

So far this year, 65 Maoists have been killed in encounters in Bastar region. In the same period, 11 security personnel have lost their lives fighting Maoists. At least nine civilians, including five from Bijapur, have been killed by Maoists this year in the region.

of relatives.

After they give birth, the women receive medical care for up to three days before being discharged, said Dr Kaushik.

Among the women who gave birth at the hospital was 24-year-old Jyoti Sharma, a homemaker from Gwalior, who gave birth to a girl on January 27. She had arrived at the Kumbh on January 22 with her family, including her husband, Anand Sharma, a businessman, her in-laws and other relatives.

"We decided to bring Jyoti to Kumbh after her doctor assured us that the delivery was still about a month away. Since the whole family was coming to Kumbh for an extended stay, we chose to bring her to Kumbh with us," her father-in-law, Rakesh Sharma, said. Jyoti was living with her family at an alkhara in the Kumbh area's Sector 18, around two kilometres from the hospital. The Kumbh area is divided into 25 sectors.

In the early hours of January 27, Jyoti experienced labour pains, prompting her family to call an ambulance. Rakesh Sharma said the ambulance arrived within minutes and transported her and her mother-in-law, Sudha Sharma, to a hospital in Sector 18. From there, doctors referred her to Central Hospital in Sector 2, where she had a normal delivery.

"We (other family members) couldn't reach Central Hospital as security officials at the crossing didn't allow us to go there because of the big crowd in the area. We got the news of the baby over the phone. Jyoti was discharged later in the evening," her father-in-law said. They stayed at the Kumbh for two more days before returning to Gwalior.

Since the Kumbh officially began on January 13, the hospitals operating at the site have treated nearly 64,000 patients, Dr Kaushik said.

• Stress on Maharashtra finances

(cooked food including chapati, rice, daal and sabji) for the poor, and Anandacha Shidha (a kit of grocery items such as sugar, edible oil, chana/daal, sooji), distributed during festive occasions), also for the poor. Together, the state spent Rs 1,300 crore so far in the current financial year.

Between July and October last year, 6,424 senior citizens participated in nine tours to Ayodhya's Shriram Temple under the Teerth Darshan Yojana. But after the elections, only one trip, with 800 beneficiaries from Nagpur, went to Gaya, Bihar. There are 13 more tours planned to Ayodhya, and one to Puri, Odisha; these have been held back for now.

"We are focusing on cutting expenses as much as possible. Several decisions were made ahead of the elections, and this is one of them. We are reviewing the program and may put it on hold for a while," a senior Finance Department official told *The Indian Express*.

The delay is on account of the Finance Department's inability to release a Rs 25-crore tranche to facilitate 13 pilgrimages to the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

When contacted, Om Prakash Bakoria, the state's Social Welfare Commissioner, overseeing the pilgrimage program, denied finances were an issue. "The ongoing Mahakumbh has caused delays in the 13 trips to Ayodhya. We will finalise the dates once the Mahakumbh concludes." He said plans for the Puri trip were also underway.

In the run-up to the Assembly elections, the state government rolled out a series of schemes, in-

cluding the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, the Annapurna Yojana, free professional education for girls, the Teerth Darshan Yojana, and a power bill waiver for farmers. Cumulatively, these initiatives are estimated to cost the state exchequer over 71 lakh crore, which the Ladki Bahin Yojana (Rs 1,500 per month to women below the poverty line) itself entails payout of Rs 46,000 crore.

These programmes have started exerting pressure on the government's deficit and debt burden. In the budget for 2024-25, the fiscal deficit was estimated at Rs 71.10 lakh crore. After the announcement of the schemes, including Ladki Bahin, the Finance Department officials said it was estimated to cross Rs 2 lakh crore.

The Mukhya Mantri Teerth Darshan Yojana, a pilgrimage scheme for senior citizens of all religions, was first announced by former Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on June 28, 2024.

Under the scheme, Rs 30,000 is provided to a senior citizen over 60 years with a family income under Rs 2.5 lakh to visit 161 pilgrimage sites in Maharashtra and 88 across India.

In 2024-25, the government allocated Rs 30 crore, of which Rs 20 crore has already been spent. The Social Justice Department required an additional Rs 25 crore to complete the pilgrimages planned for the year.

Recently, the state recently decided to strike off five lakh eligible women from the Ladki Bahin scheme. Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar has emphasised the need for fiscal discipline.

Kondhwa apartment fire kills one, another injured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

A 65-YEAR-OLD woman was killed and her 75-year-old brother-in-law was injured in a fire that started in a fourth floor apartment of a residential building in Kondhwa area of Pune on Sunday afternoon.

Officials from Pune fire brigade said that the fire started around 3.30 pm in a flat on the fourth floor of a building named Suvarnyug Sunshree society in NIBM area of Kondhwa.

Police have identified the deceased as Vrunda Sangwar (65) and the injured person as Manoj Borkar (75), who is the husband of Sangwar's sister.

"After receiving information about the fire, four fire tenders were pressed into action. Our teams took out an elderly woman and an elderly man in an injured state and rushed them to the hospital," said fire officer Sameer Shaikh.

The fire was brought under control around 4.30 pm.

Senior Inspector Vinay Patankar, in-charge of



The fire in the fourth floor flat of a Kondhwa building. Express

Kondhwa police station said, "Initial observations suggest that an oil was lighted in the house which came in contact with a curtain which caught fire. This fire spread to an air conditioning unit causing its compressor to explode. This intensified the fire which spread to other parts of the apartment. Further probe is on."

If Uddhav had felt assured of CM post in 2019, he should've discussed it: Fadnavis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

SPEAKING ABOUT the breakdown of the long-time alliance between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the undivided Shiv Sena after the 2019 Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis alleged on Saturday that Uddhav Thackeray had a tacit understanding with Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar.

"If you (Uddhav Thackeray) were under the impression that you were told you would be made CM behind closed doors, you could have at least discussed it. You didn't discuss it because you had decided since the first day... Sharad Pawar ji had a pre-poll tacit understanding with them," CM Fadnavis said while speaking at an event hosted by The Jaipur Dialogues, a right-wing website, in Pune.

Fadnavis said that when Thackeray demanded the chief minister's post for 2.5 years after the 2019 polls, he discussed it



CM Devendra Fadnavis at the prize distribution ceremony of Cyberhack 2025 in Nagpur Sunday. X/CMOMaharashtra

with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who outright refused to entertain the idea.

According to Fadnavis, he then told Thackeray, "We can't give you the CM post for 2.5 years. We are the largest party and will be the largest party in

the future as well, so the CM post will remain with us for 5 years. We did not give you the deputy CM post last time. We can offer that this time."

Fadnavis said the alliance broke down at that point, but Thackeray reached out for talks

after four days.

At this point, Fadnavis said, Thackeray had given up his demand for the CM post and was instead seeking the Palghar Lok Sabha seat. "Amit bhai and others told me that they are our old partners. 'One seat doesn't matter; you give it to them'. So we gave them the seat with the candidate," he added.

Thackeray later requested a meeting with Shah before a press conference, where they spoke privately for around 10 minutes.

After this meeting, Fadnavis said, he spoke at press conferences as agreed to by both parties, but Thackeray later claimed at another press conference that "all their options were open".

"If you (Uddhav Thackeray) were under the impression that you were told that you would be made CM behind closed doors, you could have at least discussed it... The day their (Maha Vikas Aghadi) government was formed, I tried getting in touch with Uddhav Thackeray, but he even refused to answer my call," the BJP leader said.

On pretext of probe, fake cops 'steal Rs 2.75L gold ornaments'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

THREE PERSONS posing as police personnel duped a 71 year old woman by stealing her jewellery worth Rs 2.75 lakh on the Airport road in Vishrantwadi on Saturday morning.

The victim woman, who is a resident of Tingre Nagar, lodged a first information report (FIR) in this case at the Vishrantwadi police station.

Police said the woman and her husband were passing through the Joshi Wadewale on the Airport road in Vishrantwadi around 10 pm on

Saturday. Three persons posing as policemen approached the woman. They asked the women to remove her jewellery as some investigation had been going on.

After she removed the jewellery, the trio allegedly made off with the gold ornaments worth Rs 2.75 lakh.

The woman later came to know that her jewellery was missing.

Police sub inspector Anil Padekar, the investigation officer said, "No arrest has been made yet. Investigation is on."

Police have booked the accused persons under sections 318(4), 204, 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

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EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION: 04 of 2025

Online applications are invited in the prescribed format through CU-Chayan portal link (<https://curec.samarth.ac.in>) from eligible candidates for appointment of Assistant Professors on substantive basis in the various departments.

The detailed notification regarding the number of vacancies, eligibility and other terms and conditions is available on the University website www.cukashmir.ac.in. The online application form shall be available on CU-Chayan Portal w.e.f February 10th, 2025. The last date for submission of online application form/s for 1st phase of this rolling advertisement is March 10th, 2025 & the submission of downloaded application form/s along with annexures is March 14th, 2025.

No. CUKmr/RCT/F.No.487/25/ 2418
Dated:07-02-2025

Sd/ Registrar



Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Shri D.K. Shivakumar
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4 THE CITY

Rising from the ashes: As wounds heal, memories of a bitter past linger strong

SHUBHAM KURALE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

THE AROMA of freshly baked cookies still wafts through the air at German Bakery in Pune's Koregaon Park, much like it did fifteen years ago. But for those who remember February 13, 2010, the scent carries with it a hint of bitter memories.

February 13, 2010, began like any other Saturday at German Bakery. The winter evening air was crisp, and the bakery hummed with its usual weekend energy. Foreign tourists from the nearby Osho International Meditation Resort lounged at corner tables, while college students clustered around their favourite spots, the aroma of fresh pastries and coffee creating the familiar, cosy atmosphere the establishment was known for.

"It was one of those typically busy weekends. The tables were full, and there was a constant flow of people coming in and out. Through the steady stream of customers, a person entered, seemingly unremarkable among the diverse clientele that typically frequented the bakery. He carried a bag and placed it under one of the tables. In a busy place like ours, with so many tourists often temporarily leaving their bags while ordering, it didn't immediately raise alarms. However, the person left, blending into the crowd outside without taking the bag. Our staff noticed the unattended bag after some time and intended to check for identification while attempting to open it, the package exploded. It was around 7.15 pm," explained Snehal Kharose, founder of the German Bakery.

The German Bakery blast, also known as the 2010 Pune bomb-

GERMAN BAKERY BLAST 15 YEARS ON

PART 1

ing, was a terror attack, which shook the city to its core, it happens to be the first major terror attack in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The blast claimed 17 lives, including five foreign nationals and a staff member and injured over 50 others.

Islamist groups, Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Indian Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the bombing. Mirza Himayat Baig, a resident of Maharashtra, was arrested after investigators found explosives at his home and Abdul Samad, a resident of Bhatkal, a coastal town in the Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka, was identified as the prime suspect.



A view of German Bakery at Koregaon Park recently; (right) The strike was one of the first major terror attacks in India since the 2008 Mumbai terror attack. Express

to start again, would people visit us after such a traumatizing incident? But to our surprise, we have witnessed rising footfalls over the years after reopening in 2013,"

said Kharose. "While the demographic has shifted with fewer foreign tourists compared to its pre-2010 heyday, the bakery has found a new identity. Our clientele now includes college students, young professionals, and families. They visit not just for the culinary experience but also for the story of resilience



this place represents," said Kunal Udane, current owner of the German Bakery. "To avoid repetition of any untoward incident we have weekly Police checks, monthly bomb squad visits and regular checking is done by our private security agency."

"Every morning when I unlock the eatery's doors, I'm reminded of how far we've come," said Tukaram Bhekane, manager at the German Bakery. "The spirit of this place is different now, but somehow stronger."

"The eatery stands as a testament to resilience, having risen from the ashes of what was Pune's first brush with terror. This place represents Pune's unbreakable spirit. Every time I visit with my friends here, I tell them - this is where we choose hope over fear," said Payal Sharma, who has been visiting the place since its reopening in 2013.

'River our superstar': Hundreds gather to protest RFD project

DIPANITA NATH
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

"TWINKLE, TWINKLE, little star / river is our superstar" - This was just one of the slogans that rang out as hundreds gathered at the Kalmadi School in Baner for the Chipko River March on February 9. Improvised slogans, songs, chants, placards and face paints spelled out the message that the Riverfront Development project (RFD) of the Pune Municipal Corporation and the Pune Chinchwad Municipal Corporation did not have the support of a large number of citizens whom it is supposed to benefit. The non-political march culminated at the Ram-Mula confluence.

Actor Sayaji Shinde, who was a part of the march, said, "It is encouraging to see so many people speaking up for the river and the trees. It is necessary to save the river for future generations." Another important figure was Sonam Wangchuk, a climate activist from Ladakh, who had fasted to draw attention to the environmental fragility of Ladakh in 2024. "I am here to thank the people of Pune. They care about the rivers and trees. They also raised their voices when I was protesting for Ladakh. I have come here to support them and to draw inspiration from their effort to protect the rivers," said Wangchuk. At



Punekar take part in a march and chipko movement to protest the RFD project along the Ram-Mula river confluence in Pune on Sunday. Pavan Khengre



the end of the march, he would tell the crowd that as India was a democratic country, the people had voted with their feet today by marching. "You have voted for clean air, the river and

trees," he said to applause. Another eminent face was former mayor and MP Vandana Chavan, "It is evident that there's going to be flooding when rain-fall or excess water comes in. We

have seen this happen in this area before, in 2019, when water had got into Jupiter Hospital and many bungalows and buildings. People had to be evacuated by boat. We have written and spoken to many decision makers. They were busy with elections but now they have to take some steps. They must come down and see what is happening and stop the work," said Chavan.

As the marchers converged on the dry riverbed, they saw the work going on on the PCMC side and heard volunteers explaining the plans by the PMC. People hugged the trees that had been marked by the PMC for possible cutting. Parents took photos as their children spread their arms and embraced the told trees. Volunteers distributed postcards on which the public wrote messages to the Prime Minister. Bharti Fernandes, who lives in Baner, wrote, "Please ardently beg you to save the Pune rivers". A student wrote a long letter asking Narendra Modi to spare a thought for the future generations who would suffer if trees were felled and rivers shrunk. A father, Nitin Vivrekar carried his five-year-old daughter on his shoulders and marched "to make her aware how important it is to save trees and the river". Patients from a support group for Parkinson's disease also participated in the movement to send out the message that early Parkinson's was also due to pollution.

Quoting Mirza Ghalib's famous couplet "hazaron khwahishen aisi ki har khwahish pe dam nikle, bahut nikle mere armaan lekin phir bhi kam nikle", Wangchuk explained the harms of consumerism and how it leads to the destruction of the planet. Humorously remarking that people in Delhi use thicker blankets than people in Ladakh due to the air conditioning being on full blast, Wangchuk said that the people of Pune were much better.

Gurudas Nulkar, Professor, Director Centre for Sustainable Development at GIPE, also spoke at the event and said, "People like Sonam and so many other activists who are working there know the pulse of the people. The elected representatives need to be brought along with that on a much larger scale."

Air pollution kills as many people every year as World Wars did, says activist Sonam Wangchuk

SOHAM SHAH
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

INNOVATOR AND activist Sonam Wangchuk on Sunday noted that the issue of air pollution claims as many lives as the world wars do, while speaking at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE).

"Air pollution alone kills 70 lakh people every year. Add to that some other climate related incidents and at least one crore people die every year... I looked up to compare it with other unnatural deaths in history and it took me to the World Wars... they lasted for around 10 years combined and also killed one crore people every year," Wangchuk said.

Adding to his point Wangchuk said, "Air pollution



Sonam Wangchuk and actor-activist Sayaji Shinde participate in the chipko movement Sunday. Pavan Khengre

matches the death rate for the first and second World Wars yet the difference is that we know them as 'World Wars' but this (air pollution deaths) we don't

even recognize." The third world war is not in the future but it has begun, not between nations but between man and nature, he added.

wanted to do something for myself," she said.

"Not having an MBA used to give me an inferiority complex at work. I didn't feel like I was on the same level as those who held an

AGAINST ALL ODDS

MBA. However, I eventually realised that nothing was stopping me from achieving that big dream. Now, once I learn my degree, I'll be unstoppable."

The availability of online MBA courses at Dr D Y Patil Vidyapeeth Centre for Online Learning has played a vital role in Ray's journey. From Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, she attends online classes regularly and diligently.

"Usha Ray is a remarkable example of strength and determination. At 79, she has demonstrated that her passion for learning knows no boundaries. Her journey serves as an inspiration to us all," said Dr Safia Farooqui, the director of the Dr D Y Patil Vidyapeeth Centre for Online Learning.

The MBA course at DY Patil is

PCMC orders immediate shutdown of unauthorised RO water bottling plants

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

THE PIMPRI Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) ordered the immediate shutdown of all unauthorised RO water bottling plants operating within the city limits from February 8. The action follows growing concerns over the presence of contaminated groundwater in bottled water, which has been linked to the cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and other waterborne diseases.

The decision was taken in a recent municipal meeting in which it was revealed that several private RO water bottling plants in the city were drawing water from borewells and open wells, potentially exposing residents to harmful contaminants. These plants, which supply water in bottles and plastic cans, were found to be operating without proper licenses and failing to meet safety standards.

Under the new directive, all unauthorised plants have been ordered to shut down indefinitely until a thorough review and quality assessment are conducted. The PCMC Water Supply Department, in coordination with the Health and Medical Department, has been tasked with implementing the crackdown. Officials will carry out inspections and enforcement actions to seal non-compliant facilities, officials said.

PCMC Commissioner Shekhar Singh said, "The consumption of contaminated water can lead to serious health hazards, including GBS and other waterborne illnesses. These unauthorised RO plants operate without proper licenses and using unsafe water sources. We cannot allow such a risk."

All operators of illegal RO bottling plants have been instructed to comply with the shutdown orders immediately, failing which legal action will be initiated.

Further, PCMC has urged residents to remain vigilant and avoid consuming bottled water from unauthorised sources. The administration reassured citizens that official municipal water supply remains safe and is regularly monitored for quality and safety.

PCMC chief engineer Pramod Ombhase, said, "This is a necessary step to prevent further health risks."

'Conspiracy by CM to keep my mouth shut': Jarange after kin externed for criminal activities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

THE BROTHER-in-law of Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil and eight others have been externed from Jalna, Beed, Parbhani and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar districts as part of action against the sand mafia and criminal activities, police officials said on Sunday. An angry Jarange Patil criticised Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and called it a conspiracy by him so that he keeps his mouth shut.

The decision to extern Jarange's brother-in-law Vikas Khedkar and eight others was taken by the sub divisional magistrate of Ambad in Jalna, the police said. "Others who have been externed include Keshav Madhav Vaibhat, Sanyog Madhukar Solunke, Gajanan Ganpat Solunke, Amol Keshav Pandit, Gorakh Babanrao Kurankar, Sandeep Sukhdev Lohkare, Ramdas Masurao Taur and Vaman Masurao Taur," the official informed.

Cases have been registered since 2019 against these persons at Ambad, Ghansawangi and Gondli police stations in Jalna for sand theft and arson during the

Antarwali Sarati agitation and obstruction of government work among others, he added.

Six of the accused had taken part in the Maratha quota agitation of Jarange, the official informed.

A senior official in Jalna said, "The externment orders have been issued against nine history sheeters involved in illegal sand mining from Godavari river. These notorious criminals have been part of the sand mafia for the last several years and have been booked multiple times in the past. Following a proposal from the police, an order of externment of nine criminals has been issued by the Sub Divisional Magistrate of Ambad Division two days ago. These nine persons have been externed from Jalna, Beed and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar districts. The nine criminals include Vilas Harihbau Khedkar, the brother-in-law of Manoj Jarange Patil. Khedkar has four offences of illegal sand mining registered against him since 2021."

The order issued under provisions of the Maharashtra Police Act empowers a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) at a city-level jurisdiction and a sub divisional magistrate in a district

to extern a person following a police proposal to banish a criminal from a specific jurisdiction, if there is reasonable case that the said person can pose a danger to law and order based on past records. These orders are subject to judicial scrutiny.

Responding to the police action, Jarange Patil said, "The police have deliberately put my relative's name on their list of those externed. This is 100 per cent a conspiracy of Devendra Fadnis. He has done this so that I keep my mouth shut."

The activist said Fadnis betrayed the Maratha community. "Fadnis had promised to withdraw cases against youths of the Maratha community, but now he is filing false cases against our youths. If he is doing this by sweet-talking, then Maratha youths will not allow him to move around in Maharashtra."

On his part, the Chief Minister said, "The police does not take action based on whether a person is someone's brother in law or relative. If someone has committed a crime, then a case is filed or that person is arrested. I do not any information about this... I will take appropriate information and then speak."

DRDO facility marks its 63rd Raising Day



A series of events were organised through the week to encourage team spirit among employees. Express

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

THE RESEARCH and Development Establishment (Engineers), a premier facility of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which has been instrumental in the development of key strategic systems for armed forces, celebrated its 63rd Raising day on Sunday, marking six decades of engineering innovation and service to the nation.

As part of the raising day celebrations, a series of cultural and sports events were organized throughout the week in the run up to Sunday to encourage team spirit among employees. A five kilometer walkathon was conducted on February 2, where participants walked to and from Dighi Hills. Another key highlight of the celebrations was the Aga Memorial lecture held on February 7 in the honor of their first director facility, Brigadier Aga.

R&DE (Engineers), Pune was established on February 9 in 1962 with the aim to develop systems and technologies for the Corps of Engineers. Since then the facility has been involved in the develop-

Sustainability of Armed Forces infra highlighted at seminar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

A TWO-DAY seminar, on the subject of adopting and accelerating sustainable practices for development and maintenance of infrastructure for Armed Forces, was organised at the College of Military Engineering (CME) in Pune, under the aegis of the Army Training Command on February 7 and 8.

The hybrid-mode seminar brought together eminent speakers, subject matter experts from academia and industry to discuss sustainable infrastructure solutions for the Armed Forces.

The seminar aimed at exploring innovative and sustainable construction practices for the development and maintenance of military infrastructure, including solid and liquid waste management in military stations. It provided a platform for in-depth discussions on ongoing efforts and their effectiveness in aligning military infrastructure development with India's national sustainability goals and climate commitments, stated a release issued in this regard. Delivering the keynote address, Lt Gen Arvind Walia, engineer-in-chief, Corps of Engineers, emphasised the critical need for adopting sustainable construction practices, particularly in waste management. The seminar covered global and national sustainability policies, cutting-edge technologies and real-world case studies.

"The exchange of ideas and best practices is expected to enhance the resilience, efficiency, and environmental sustainability of military installations. A key highlight of the event was a technology and product exhibition featuring 19 companies," the release added.

Social security schemes not free gifts: Jharkhand Speaker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

"EVEN AFTER independence, many citizens in our country still do not have access to the basic comforts and necessities required for a decent life. The social security benefits provided at the government level cannot be called 'Rewadi' (a free gift),"

Thomas Sangma, Speaker of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Pawan Khara, president of Congress' media and publicity department, Dr Rahul Karad, executive president, MITWPU, founder of the Bharatiya Chhatra Sanas, Dr R M Chitnis, the vice-chancellor, and several student representatives.

Mehato continued, "The term 'Rewadi' is used for people who never actually have any in their plates. In reality, these people struggle for two square meals a day, and this struggle continues into old age, having lacked their childhood. They lack access to clean drinking water, good health facilities, and employment opportunities. I represent Jharkhand, where the situation, especially for the youth, is heart-wrenching. If you visit Jharkhand, you will not forget what you see. Malnutrition is a severe issue."

Walk to promote women's education held at Sambhaji Garden

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, FEBRUARY, 9

A 'WALK to EmpowHER' march was organised at the Chhatrapati Sambhaji Garden in Pune on Sunday to promote women education by Child Rights and You (CRY) foundation.

action. Over 300 people joined for the early morning event along with eminent education officers. Regional Director CRY West Kreeanna Rabadi highlighted the fact that in India only three out of five girls reach Grades 11 and 12. "Many girls are at the risk of being pushed into child labour, or into early marriages and even early pregnancies. It is time we need to identify this issue and see that our girls get all the support they need to complete their education which is a basic fundamental right of every girl today," she said.

Manisha V. Biraris, Child Development Project Officer for Urban Pune, said, "If we don't join hands then who will fight for the basic right of education for these girls? Educating a girl child is the foundation of a strong nation. When we invest in a girls' education, we invest in a brighter tomorrow for all."

Pune Child Welfare Committee said that it was the start to a very good morning and to see such a huge crowd turn up to support this cause. "For girls to be a part of the decision-making process, they need to be educated first and access to education is one way for getting there," she said.

voiced her thoughts saying, "I feel this is a celebration of sorts and more people should join instead of focussing only on religious celebration as if more people participate on such occasions they can be made more aware of educational issues faced by girls."

Voiced her thoughts saying, "I feel this is a celebration of sorts and more people should join instead of focussing only on religious celebration as if more people participate on such occasions they can be made more aware of educational issues faced by girls."

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NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Under Rule 8(6) read with Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002) E-Auction Notice of 15 days for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Ac. No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession, O/s as on 30-01-2025

Description of the Immovable Property: That the property situated at within the local limits of Akola Municipal Corporation and within the jurisdiction of Sub Registrar Akola bearing Nazul Sheet No. 39 - A, Nazul Plot No. 274, total admeasuring 194.35 Sq. Ft. thereon residential building having two floors, thereon on Second Floor constructed flat, having Built-up area of 63.91 Sq. Mtrs. Along with proportionate Share in land, at Mouje Kasbe Akola, Pragma, Tah. And Dist. Akola. Bounded - East : Service Lane, West : Property of Naim Khan Niyaj Khan North : Kothari Bazaar Road, South : Property of Fatimi Shakurkha Trust.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Ac. No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession, O/s as on 30-01-2025

Description of the Immovable Property: House No. 772-A New 172-A old, admeasuring 73.5 Sq. Mtr. Bearing Sheet No. 22 (157), Chalta No. 561, Cs. No. 390, Ward No. 38, Circle No. 11/16, Corporation Tax No. 772-A, Mouza - Nagpur Tah. & Dist. Nagpur. Bounded - East : Shop Jagtapal Shau West : House of Shrawan Maundekar North : Road South : House of Ganpat Paunikar.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Ac. No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession, O/s as on 30-01-2025

Description of the Immovable Property: All that property i.e. NIT's Tenement No. L/1-6 of the LIG/Mankapur on First Floor having built up area of 34.77 Sq. Mtr. (374.37 Sq. Ft.) bearing NMC House No. 3443/NL-1/6, Ward No. 57, City Survey No. 681, Sheet No. 20, Mouza Mankapur, Tehsil and District Nagpur Bounded - East : Tenements No. L/1-5, West : Open to Sky North : Open to Sky, South : Stair case & Open to SKY.

Description of the Immovable Property: Schedule - A : The variable undivided 16.666% Share and interest in All that piece and parcel of land bearing Plot No. 133, 134, total admeasuring 264.680 Sq. Mtrs. (measurement as per Regularization Letter and clubbing demand), situated in layout Craved by the Sai Nagar Co-Op. Housing Society Ltd. Nagpur, Kh. No. 31 of Mouza Pardi, P. H. No. 34, Municipal House No. 610/A/133 & 134, Ward No. 21, Sheet No. 8, City Survey No. 29, situated within the limits of Nagpur Municipal Corporation and Nagpur Improvement Trust, Nagpur, Tehsil and Dist. Nagpur and the said land is bounded as under: On North : Road, On South : Plot No. 141 & 142, On East : Plot No. 135, On West : Plot No. 132. Schedule - B : Together with the entire R.C.C. structure comprising Residential Apartment No. 102 on the First Floor of the building standing thereon known and style as "Subdarga Apartment" covering a built-up area of 700 Sq. Ft. (i.e. 65.032 Sq. Mtrs.) and a Carpet area of 522 Sq. Ft. (i.e. 48.49 Sq. Mtrs.) and the said residential apartment is bounded as under: On North : Open to SKY, On South : Open to SKY, On East : Stairway + Apartment No. 101, On West : Open to SKY.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Ac. No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession, O/s as on 30-01-2025

Description of the Immovable Property: The Residential Flat No. 104 on First Floor of the Building No. 10, 11, 'E' Type and Project known as "Venkatesh Nagar" Standing on Plot No. 10, 11, Survey No. 73, Mouje - Nagthana (Rotha) admeasuring about 8877 Sq. Ft. (825.00 Sq. Mtr.). Residential Flat No. 104 (First Floor, Building No. 10, 11, 'E' Type), Super built up area is 82.90 Sq. Mtr. (Common utility area is 11.34 Sq. Mtr. And common covered parking is 418.33 Sq. Mtr.) Undivided land share is 2.67% i.e. 36.62 Sq. Mtr. Having undivided share and interest in the plot of land, within the limits of Grampanchayat Nagthana (Rotha) Tah - Wardha Bounded - East : Flat No. 103, West : Margin space of Building, North : Margin space of Building, South : Flat No. 105.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Ac. No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession, O/s as on 30-01-2025

Description of the Immovable Property: All that Residential Apartment No. 302 on the Third Floor of the building known and styled as "Aryashta Residency" and standing on the Municipal House / Plot No. 302 & 302/A, having net Built up area 45.146 Sq. Mtrs. & Super Built Up area 78.752 Sq. Mtrs. Together with variable 16.66% undivided share and interest in the total area of the Plot admeasuring about 193.43 Sq. Mtrs. (2081.31 Sq. Ft.) Mouza - Nagpur, Sheet No. 221, City Survey No. 397/2/A & 397/1, ward No. 26, within the limits of Nagpur Municipal Corporation, Nagpur and Nagpur Improvement Trust, Nagpur, Tehsil and District Nagpur and same is bounded as under - To Wards East : House of Nathuji Sawarkar, To Wards West : House of Manikrao Thakre, To Wards North : Road, To Wards South : Adjoining Flat No. 301.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Ac. No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession, O/s as on 30-01-2025

Description of the Immovable Property: PROPERTY No. 1 : House No. J-1028, admeasuring area 87.3 Sq. Mtrs., Ward No. 17, block No. 49, Sheet No. 6, Mouza - Kamptee, Bounded as : On East : Ramanarayan's House On West : Jaiswal's House, On North : Nali, On South : Raod. PROPERTY No. 2 : Western Portion admeasuring area 56.45 Sq. mts., House No. J- 1029, 1030, and 1031 admeasuring area 112.9 Sq. Mtrs., ward No. 17, block No. 29, Sheet No. 6, mouza - Kamptee, bounded as : On East : Ramanarayan's House On West : Jaiswal's House, On North : Nali, On South : Raod.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Ac. No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession, O/s as on 30-01-2025

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the The undivided 0.880794 percent (46.71 Sq. Mtrs.) share and interest in all that piece and parcel bearing Plot No. 1 containing by admeasuring 5304.08 Sq. Mtrs. Being a portion of the entire land bearing Kh. No. 380/2 of Mouza - Salod (Hirapur) together with the entire R.C.C. superstructure comprising Apartment No. 404 in Wing - B covering a Super Built-up area of 82.218 Sq. Mtrs. And Carpet Area of 46.167 Sq. Mtrs. on the Fourth Floor of a Building constructed thereon and to be known and style as "Takshak City" situated at village - Salod (Hirapur), within the limits of Gram Panchayat Salod (Hirapur) in Tahsil and District - Wardha and bounded as under : On the East : 9.00 Mtrs. Wide Road, On the West : 9.00 Mtrs. Wide Road & Kh. No. 379. On the North : 9.00 Mtrs. Wide Road, On the South : Kh. No. 379. And the said Apartment No. 404 Wing - A is Bounded as under : On the East : Apartment No. 401, On the West : Kh. No. 379. On the North : Apartment No. 403, No the South : C Wing Building.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Ac. No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession, O/s as on 30-01-2025

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of land bearing Plot No. 36 admeasuring 123.5810 Square Meter out of Khadra No. 76/2, Sheet No. 73, City Survey No. 4750, situated at Ward No. 14, Falmalabai Layout, NMC House No. 5736/C/34*35*36*37, Mouza Babulheda, Tahsil and District Nagpur, bounded as under as per sale deed having dimensions as per laout plan attached herewith as part and parcel of this deed Bounded - East : Plot No. 11 West : Road North : Plot No. 35, South : Plot No. 37.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Ac. No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession, O/s as on 30-01-2025

Description of the Immovable Property: House No. 772-A New 172-A old, admeasuring 73.5 Sq. Mtr. Bearing Sheet No. 22 (157), Chalta No. 561, Cs. No. 390, Ward No. 38, Circle No. 11/16, Corporation Tax No. 772-A, Mouza - Nagpur Tah. & Dist. Nagpur. Bounded - East : Shop Jagtapal Shau West : House of Shrawan Maundekar North : Road South : House of Ganpat Paunikar.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Ac. No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession, O/s as on 30-01-2025

Description of the Immovable Property: All that entire R.C.C. Superstructure more than seven years old comprising of Apartment bearing No. 203 on the Second Floor of the building known as "Om Maa Bameshwari Devi Apartments" covering a built up area of 41.648 Sq. Mtrs. Together with the 2.10% variable undivided proportionate share and interest in all that piece and parcel of land bearing Nagpur Improvement Trust Plot No. 30 admeasuring No. 1001.494 Sq. Mtrs. i.e. 10780 Sq. Ft. in Central Road Section III Scheme of Nagpur Improvement Trust of Mauza : Nagpur, City Survey No. 244, Sheet No. 156, Chalta No. 413, Circle No. 11/16, Division 3, Municipal House No. 2/203, Ward No. 23, situated at Lakadganj, Bhandara Road, Nagpur Bounded - East : Plot No. 31 West : Plot No. 28 and 29, North : Road South : Road

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Ac. No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession, O/s as on 30-01-2025

Description of the Immovable Property: The Residential Flat No. 104 on First Floor of the Building No. 10, 11, 'E' Type and Project known as "Venkatesh Nagar" Standing on Plot No. 10, 11, Survey No. 73, Mouje - Nagthana (Rotha) admeasuring about 8877 Sq. Ft. (825.00 Sq. Mtr.). Residential Flat No. 104 (First Floor, Building No. 10, 11, 'E' Type), Super built up area is 82.90 Sq. Mtr. (Common utility area is 11.34 Sq. Mtr. And common covered parking is 418.33 Sq. Mtr.) Undivided land share is 2.67% i.e. 36.62 Sq. Mtr. Having undivided share and interest in the plot of land, within the limits of Grampanchayat Nagthana (Rotha) Tah - Wardha Bounded - East : Flat No. 103, West : Margin space of Building, North : Margin space of Building, South : Flat No. 105.

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Ac. No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession, O/s as on 30-01-2025

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of land situated being and lying at Mauza Savangi Meghe Comes under Gram Panchayat Savangi Meghe, Mauza No. 138, PH No. 19 Field Survey No. 233 out of Plot No. 29 having area 165 Sq. Mtr Tah & Dist Wardha Maharashtra Bounded - East : 9 Meter Layout Road West : Layout of Petkar, North - Plot No. 28, South - Plot No. 30

At the Auction, the public generally is invited to submit their bid(s) personally. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the Immovable Property sold. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and to the following further conditions: NOTE: The E-auction will take place through portal https://www.bankerauctions.com on 27-02-2025 between 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM with limited extension of 5 minutes each.

Terms and Condition: 1. The particulars specified in the Schedule herein below have been stated to be the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount bid, or as to the bidder, the Immovable Property shall at once again be put up to auction subject to the discretion of the Authorised Officer. 2. The Immovable Property shall not be sold below the Reserve Price. 3. Bid Increment/Amount will be: Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) 4. All the Bids submitted for the purchase of the property shall be accompanied by Earnest Money as mentioned above by way of a Demand Draft favoring the "TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD." Payable at Branch address. The Demand Drafts will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders after auction. For payment of EMD through NEFT/RTGS/IMPS, kindly contact Authorised Officer. 5. The highest bidder shall be declared as successful bidder provided always that he/she is legally qualified to bid and provided further that the bid amount is not less than the reserve price. It shall be in the discretion of the Authorised Officer to decline acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so. 6. For reasons recorded, it shall be in the discretion of the Authorised Officer to adjourn/discontinue the sale. 7. Inspection of the Immovable Property can be done on 18-02-2025 between 11 AM to 5.00 PM, with prior appointment. 8. The person declared as a successful bidder shall, immediately after such declaration, deposit twenty-five per cent of the amount of purchase money/bid which would include EMD amount to the Authorised Officer within 24Hours and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. 9. In case the initial deposit is made as above, the balance amount of the purchase money payable shall be paid by the purchaser to the Authorised Officer on or before the 15th day from the date of confirmation of the sale of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day is a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day. 10. In the event of default of any payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. The deposit including EMD shall stand forfeited by TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD and the defaulting purchaser shall lose all claims to the property. 11. Details of any encumbrances, known to the TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD, to which the property is liable: as per table above. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities areas of property tax, electricity etc. 12. For any other details or for procedure online training on e-auction the prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider, C1 INDIA PVT.LTD, Address: C1 INDIA PVT.LTD, 3rd Floor, Plot No. 68 sector-44, Gurgaon, Haryana-122003 Mob.: 8866682937 & Phone : 7291981124/1125/1126 Email ID: gindia@ctindia.com / support@bankerauctions.com or Manish Bansal, Email id: Manish.Bansal@tatacapital.com Authorised Officer Mobile No 8588983696. Please send your query on WhatsApp Number - 9990786913. TDS of 1% will be applicable and payable by the highest bidder over the highest declared bid amount. The payment needs to be deposited by highest bidder in the PAN of the owner/ borrower(s) and the copy of the challan shall be submitted to our company. 14. Please refer to the below link provided in secured creditor's website www. https://surl.li/atxnj for the above details. 15. Kindly also visit the link: https://www.tatacapital.com/property-disposal.html

Please Note - TCHFL has not engaged any broker/agent apart from the mentioned auctioning partner for sale/auction of this property. Interested parties should only contact the undersigned or the Authorised officer for all enquiries and enquiry in this matter. Date : Nagpur & Akola & Wardha Date : 10-02-2025

LLOYDS METALS Expression of Interest Lloyds Metals & Energy Ltd is one of the leading iron ore producers and Steel manufacturers in India located in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. We are looking for a turnkey solution provider for a project involving high capacity pumping and lifting of runoff water mixed with slurry at the rate of 250 cubic meters per hour with average lift of 150 meters at a distance of 1.5 Km in 3 to 4 locations. Parties who are interested may contact us.

आदर्श कला व वाणिज्य महाविद्यालय देसाईगंज (वडसा) जिल्हा गडचिरोली pmusha.adarshacc@gmail.com दिनांक 08/02/2025

ONGC ऑयल एण्ड नेचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. INDEG Section 4th Floor, Tower-A, Deendayal Urja Bhawan, 5, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi -110 070 Tel - (011)-26754012

Mohpa Education Society's BAR. SHESHRAO WANKHEDE MAHAVIDYALAYA, MOHPA Tah. Kalmeshwar, Distt. Nagpur-441502

From TVs to smartphones: Pune sees a change in consumer behaviour

ALISTER AUGUSTINE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

GOING BY the latest trends, Pune households are witnessing a shift from traditional television sets to smartphones with a significant number of the population discontinuing their cable connections.

"A decade or two ago, the only source of entertainment, news, and information for most households was the television. Back then, we had simple Nokia phones that were only meant for calling and SMS. But with the rise of smartphones, everything has shifted to the palm of our hands. Unlike old phones, which had limited functionality, today's smartphones allow us to stream movies, watch live news, access social media, and even play high-quality games," says Aniruddh Anand, a 49-year-old animation creator who believes that televisions have become almost redundant in the modern age.

A large number of consumers believe that the shift in

television sets from their homes was not just a financial decision but also a way to create a healthier environment for children.

"When my elder son developed a strong addiction to screens, I realised how excessive TV watching could affect a child's development. By the time my younger child was born, I made a conscious decision to cut our cable connection," says Nupur Lokhande, a 31-year-old private school teacher from Wagholi and mother of two boys.

"OTT platforms, YouTube, and interactive learning apps provide the same entertainment but with better control. My younger child can watch an educational video for 30 minutes, and then I can ensure the phone is kept away. But with a TV, there is no pause—it keeps running, and children get glued to the screen," she explains.

For Deepika Lokhande, a 36-year-old housewife, not keeping a television at home wasn't just a decision but a shift in lifestyle. "My husband, being a fitness trainer, barely has time to watch

TV. Instead, he uses his phone to follow new workout trends, guide his clients, and even conduct virtual training sessions. Our nine-year-old child doesn't even ask for a television. Kids today don't wait for cartoons to air at a fixed time like we did in our childhood. They just pick up a phone, open YouTube or an app, and watch whatever they want, whenever they want," Deepika says, adding that the concept of sitting in front of a TV for entertainment is outdated as everything is accessible on mobile phones or laptops.

Electronics shops in the city also underscore the shift in consumer behaviour. Shubham Patil, owner of an electronics shop on JM Road in Shivaji Nagar with over 20 years of experience in the market, asserts that there has been a major decline in TV sales over the past few years.

"I've seen a massive shift in consumer behaviour. Before Covid, my store saw a balanced demand for both TVs and smartphones. Around 60 per cent of sales were TVs and 40 per cent were smartphones. But during and after the lockdown, everything flipped—now 75-80% of my sales are smartphones, while TVs contribute only 20-25 per cent," Patil points out.

He says that people realised during the lockdown that they could access everything on their phones. "Another big trend I see is people selling their TV sets. On average, for every 10 new smartphone purchases, at least 2-3 customers try to exchange or sell their old TVs," Patil says.

Actor Rahul Solapurkar faces flak over remarks on Ambedkar; apologises

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Shri. Shivaji Education Society Amravati DHANWATE NATIONAL COLLEGE NAGPUR (M.S.)

TENDER NOTICE No.2/25

Sealed B-1 (Percentage rate) tenders are invited from the experienced contractors registered in appropriate class for civil works under PMUSHA 3.0 at Dhanwate National College, Nagpur.

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender	Earnest Money Deposit 1%	Initial Security Deposit 2%	Total Security Deposit	Time limit for Completion	Cost of blank tender copy
1	Proposed Acoustic treatment and Interior Design Renovation of Audio-Visual Center at Dhanwate National College, Congress Nagar, Nagpur.	Rs.16,18,306/-	Rs. 16,183/-	Rs. 32,366/-	5%	3 months	Rs. 2000/-
2	Proposed Construction, renovation and repairing works of various buildings at Dhanwate National College, Congress Nagar, Nagpur. [1] Proposed Renovation work of Canteen [2] Proposed Construction of Boys Toilet. [3] Proposed repairing work of Rain Water Harvesting Filter	Rs.4,13,130/-	Rs. 4,133/-	Rs. 8,267/-	5%	2 month	Rs. 1000/-

- Last date of submission of tender is 15th February 2025 Upto 5:00 p.m.
- E.M.D. Should be paid online in favour of Shri. Shivaji Education Society Dhanwate National College A/c. No. 1201700042, IFSC- CBIN0283465, Dhanwate National College Nagpur Branch, Nagpur.
- All works required registered contractor with PWD Maharashtra state or other state govt.
- Additional security deposit for more than 10% below the tender rates successfully, contractor should submit 1% for every percentage after 10% below percentage in addition of 2% initial security deposit within stipulated time.
- G.S.T. shall be applicable as per prevailing Government rules and regulations.
- Competent authority reserves the right to reject any or tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- Information of e-tendering is available on the following website / Notice board. <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

(Harshvardhan Deshmukh) President
Shri. Shivaji Education Society Amravati

(Dilip B. Ingole) Chairman
Construction Committee Dhanwate National College Nagpur

(Dr. Prashant Kothe) Principal
Dhanwate National College Nagpur

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

CIN: U67100MH2007PLC174759
Retail Central & Regd. Office: Edelweiss House, Off CST Road, Kalina, Mumbai 400098

E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE SECURED ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 8 (6) & 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("RULES")

The financial facilities of the Secured Creditor have been assigned to Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited acting in its capacity as trustee of various Trusts mentioned clearly in column provided. Pursuant to the said assignment, EARC stepped into the shoes of the Assignor and exercises its rights as the secured creditor. That EARC, in its capacity as secured creditor, had taken possession of the below mentioned immovable secured assets under 13(4) of SARFAESI Act and Rules there under.

Notice of 15 days is hereby given to the Borrowers and to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable secured assets mortgaged in favor of the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer (AO) of Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis, for recovery of the amounts mentioned herein below due to EARC together with further interest and other expenses/costs thereon deducted for any money received by EARC from Borrower and Guarantor. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are mentioned below for each property.

Sl. No.	Loan Account No/Name of the Selling Institution	Name of Borrower/Co Borrower	Trust Name	Total Outstanding Dues INR as on 07-02-2025	Reserve Price (INR)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) INR	Date & Time of Auction	Type of Possession
1.	1307108(170-0005965) DHFL	1. Gopal Madhukar Jadhao ("Borrower") 2. Vaishali Gopal Jadhao (Co-Borrower)	EARC-TRUST-SC-371	₹ 16,22,343.98	₹ 9,30,000/-	₹ 93,000/-	27.02.2025 11.30 A.M	Physical

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: All The Part And Parcel Of A Flat No. S/3/202 On Second Floor Of An Apartment By Name "Surya Heights No. 3", To Be Constructed Over Layout Plot No. 14, 15 & 16, Out Of Field Survey No. 26/2, Situated At Mauje Khadi Bk. Tq. & Dist. Akola. Flat Having Super Built Up Area Of 46.86 Sq. Mtrs., Along With Proportionate Undivided Share Of Land Of 14.179 Sq. Mtrs. Bounded As: East: Another Layout; West: Open Lobby; North: Flat No. S/3/201 South: Lift And Staircase. More Particulars Described In Doc No. 12732016, Dated: 30.04.2016 Registered At Sro Akola-3, Maharashtra.

Note: An earlier auction was held on December 2024 but failed due to want of bidders

Sl. No.	Loan Account No/Name of the Selling Institution	Name of Borrower/Co Borrower	Trust Name	Total Outstanding Dues INR as on 07-02-2025	Reserve Price (INR)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) INR	Date & Time of Auction	Type of Possession
2.	LNAGLAP000034183	1. Ashok R Mehare (Borrower) 2. Vaishali Ashok Mehare (Co-Borrower)	EARC TRUST-SC-371	₹ 24,13,302.54	₹ 13,00,000/-	₹ 1,30,000/-	27.02.2025 12.30 P.M	Physical

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: All That Peace And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Corporation House No.504-Ka-2, Unit No-B-7, Lower Ground Floor "Sagata Complex" Admeasuring 17.948 Sq.Ft.(Super Build Up 21.537 Sq. Mtr. / 231.824sq.Ft.) City Survey No21/1, Kh No.15/1, Sheet No-187/A/14, Near Lumbani Nagar, Ward No- 74, Mouza Jaitala Hingana Road, Tahsil & District Nagpur-440016 Bounded As: On The East: Plot Of Godeshwar On The West: Shivalki Complex On The North: Hingana Road On The South: Unit No-B-8.

Note: Earlier auctions were held on February October 2024 & December 2024 but failed want of bidders

Important Information regarding Auction Process:

- All Demand Drafts (DD) shall be drawn in favor of "Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited-EMD Account" and payable at Mumbai.
- EMD Payments made through RTGS shall be to: Name of the Account No.: EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED - EMD ACCOUNT Account No: 000405158602 Name of the Bank: ICICI BANK IFSC Code: IFSC ICIC0000004
- Last Date of Submission of EMD: Received 1 day prior to the date of auction
- Place for Submission of Bids: 1st Floor, Edelweiss House, off CST Road, Kalina, Mumbai-400098
- Place of Auction (Web Site for Auction): E-Auction (<https://auction.edelweissarc.in>)
- Contact details: Toll free no - 18002666540 Website - <https://auction.edelweissarc.in/>
- Date & Time of Inspection of the Property: As per prior appointment

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in EARC's website i.e. <https://auction.edelweissarc.in>

Place: Mumbai Date: 07.02.2025 For Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited



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TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Regd. Off.: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400013.
Branch Off.: 82, 2nd Floor, Kanale Plaza Building, Railway line, Daffarin Chouk, Solapur - 413001

NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8(6) read with Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Notice of 15 days for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below mentioned Borrower and Co- Borrower, or their legal heirs/representatives (Borrowers) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to TATA Capital Housing Finance Ltd. (TCHFL), the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of TCHFL, will be sold on 27-02-2025 on "As is where is" & "As is what is" & "Whatever there is" & "without any recourse basis" for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrower and Co-Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below. Notice is hereby given that, in the absence of any postponement/discontinuance of the sale, the said secured asset / property shall be sold by E-Auction at 02:00 PM on the said 27-02-2025. The sealed envelope containing Demand Draft of EMD for participating in E-Auction shall be submitted to the Authorised Officer of the TCHFL on or before 25-02-2025 till 05:00 PM at Branch address TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED, 82, 2nd Floor, Kanale Plaza Building, Railway line, Daffarin Chouk, Solapur - 413001

The sale of the Secured Asset / Immovable Property will be on "as is where condition is" as per brief particulars described herein below:

Sr. No.	Loan Account No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s), Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative / Guarantor(s)	Amount as per Demand Notice	Reserve Price	Earnest Money	Type of Possession	Outstanding Amount as on 30-01-2025
1)	TCHHL068200100073135 & TCHHF068200100073589	Mr. Dnyaneshwar Dattatray Dhawade, Mrs. Pallavi Dnyaneshwar Dhawade	Rs. 15,61,185/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Sixty One Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Five Only) is due and payable by you under Agreement no. TCHHL068200100073135, and an amount of Rs. 3,87,782/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Two Only) is due and payable by you under Agreement no. TCHHF068200100073589, totalling to Rs. 19,48,967/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Seven Only) 06-05-2023	Rs. 11,75,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,17,500/- (Rupees One Lakh Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Only)	Physical	Rs. 20,83,693/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Three Only) is due and payable by you under Agreement no. TCHHL068200100073135 and an amount of Rs. 4,92,452/- (Rupees Four Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two Only) is due and payable by you under Agreement no. TCHHF068200100073589 totalling to Rs. 25,76,145/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Seventy Six Thousand One Hundred Forty Five Only)
2)	10324728 & 10325620	Mr. Rupesh Kamalkishor Upadhye, Mrs. Preethi Rupesh Upadhye	Rs. 13,94,982/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Two Only) is due and payable by you under Agreement no. 10324728 and an amount of Rs. 28,57,151/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand One Hundred Fifty One Only) is due and payable by you under Agreement no. 10325620 totalling to Rs. 42,52,133/- (Rupees Forty Two Lakh Fifty Two Thousand One Hundred Thirty Three Only) 14-02-2019	Rs. 33,25,000/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 3,32,500/- (Rupees Three Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred Only)	Physical	Rs. 30,93,459/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Nine Only) is due and payable by you under Agreement no. 10324728 and an amount of Rs. 67,03,824/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakh Three Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Four Only) is due and payable by you under Agreement no. 10325620 totalling to Rs. 97,97,283/- (Rupees Ninety Seven Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Three Only)
3)	10353964 & 10690127	Mr. Pravin Fakirappa Kumbhar, Mr. Pradip Fakirappa Kumbhar, Mr. Fakirappa Chandrasa Kumbhar	Rs. 36,91,421/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Ninety One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty One Only) is due and payable by you under Agreement no. 10353964 and an amount of Rs. 4,34,489/- (Rupees Four Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Nine Only) is due and payable by you under Agreement no. 10690127 totalling to Rs. 41,25,910/- (Rupees Forty One Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Only) 16-12-2022	Rs. 32,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Only)	Rs. 3,20,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	Physical	Rs. 51,22,721/- (Rupees Fifty One Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty One Only) is due and payable by you under Agreement no. 10353964 and an amount of Rs. 6,68,041/- (Rupees Six Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Forty One Only) is due and payable by you under Agreement no. 10690127 totalling to Rs. 57,90,762/- (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakh Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Two Only)
4)	TCHHL068200100075635	Mr. Eliazar Elisha Medeti, Mrs. Krishnaveni Eliazar Medeti	Rs. 36,09,869/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Nine Only) 31-05-2022	Rs. 31,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Only)	Rs. 3,10,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Ten Thousand Only)	Physical	Rs. 52,58,795/- (Rupees Fifty Two Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five Only)
5)	10470258	Mr. Gopal Abhiman Harne, Mrs. Ashvini Gopal Harane	Rs. 14,30,264/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Thirty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Four Only) 12-08-2019	Rs. 13,80,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Eighty Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,38,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Only)	Physical	Rs. 30,63,685/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Five Only)
6)	10426527	Mr. Rafique Nabisab Nallamandu, Mrs. Saidabi Nabisab Nallamandu, Mrs. Jahanara Mohammedishaque Shaikh	Rs. 19,32,512/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred Twelve Only) 22-10-2019	Rs. 15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Only)	Rs. 1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)	Physical	Rs. 37,73,659/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Nine Only)
7)	10489588	Mrs. Shabnambegam Abdul Latif Kaladgi, Mrs. Rehanabegam Abdulsattar Kaladgi	Rs. 19,50,829/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Nine Only) 11-12-2021	Rs. 19,00,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Only)	Rs. 1,90,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Thousand Only)	Physical	Rs. 31,24,235/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Five Only)

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property situated at Seth L.J. Chandak path, Budhwar Peth within the registration district of Solapur and within the limits of Solapur Municipal Corporation, bearing S. No. 28/1B/1/1(1+3+4+6) admeasuring 5139.62 Sq. Mts. Which is bounded as under: On or towards the East: By Internal Road / F. P. No. 28/1B/1/7, On or towards the West: By F. P. No. 26, On or towards the North: By F. P. No. 28/1B/1/1A/5, On or towards the South: By Solapur Municipal Corporation Road, The Kamalshree Apartment is bounded as under: On or towards the East: By Internal Road, On or towards the West: By Shree & Suyash Apartment of Chandak Garden, On or towards the North: By Internal Road, On or towards the South: By Old T.P. II, F. P. No. 28/1B/1/4, Schedule-B: The Unit / Flat No. 203 of Kamalshree Apartment is bounded as under: On or towards the East: Internal Road, On or towards the West: Flat No. 204 & 205, On or towards the North: Flat No. 202, On or towards the South: Internal Road, Carpet area statement of the said Unit / Flat : Flat No. 203, it is rectangular shaped Apartment built up area measuring 930.00 Sq. Ft. 86.40 Sq. Mtr. As specifically shown in Exhibit A of this deed. Its main door has access to the corridor of the respective floor. The total area of the Flat No. 203 is 66.03 Sq. Mtr. i.e. 711.00 Sq. Ft.

Description of the Immovable Property: All the pieces & parcel of that Immovable Property is one free hold residential Plot No. 21 admeasuring plot area 134.75 Sq. Mtr. out of survey no. 18/2B/2A situated at Shelgi Tal: North Solapur Dist. Solapur Maharashtra. Bounded: East- Road West- Road North- Plot No. 20, South- Plot No. 22

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the Row House No. 04 admeasuring 72.462 Sq. Mtrs. In Sai Residency out of Plot No. 03 out of New Survey No. 247/2 (Old Survey No. 356), Situated at Nehru Nagar, Taluka - North Solapur, Dist. Solapur Bounded: East- Row House No. 03, West- Row House No. 05, North- 3 Mtr. Margin and 7.50 Mtr. Road. South- 3 Mtr. Margin and 7.50 Mtr. Road.

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the District Solapur, Sub - District Solapur, Tal. North Solapur within the limits of Solapur Municipal Corporation bearing Gat No. 13/1 Pratap Nagar admeasuring 8155.11 Sq. Mtr. out of that this deed pertains to (B Building) Smiti Building of IMP Greens Phase I admeasuring 2038.18 Sq. Mtr. Schedule-B: Flat No.: 807, Floor: Eight, In "Smiti (B) Building" of IMP Greens, Phase I, Carpet Area about 33.46 Sq. Mtrs. i.e. 360 Sq. Ft. which is corresponding to built-up area about 37.17 Sq. Mtrs. i.e. 400 Sq. Ft. alongwith 3.71 Sq. Mtrs. as area of the balconies. Bounded By: Towards East: Staircase / Common Passage, Towards South: Building Rear Margin, Towards West: Flat No. 808, Towards North: Common Duct / Lift.

Description of the Immovable Property: Flat No. 05 admeasuring 47.36 Sq. Mtrs. on Third Floor, in "Shri Kashi - Ram Apartment" out of T.P. Scheme No. 1, City Survey No./ Final Plot No. 9/203, Situated at Ravivar Peth, Taluka - North Solapur, Dist. Solapur Bounded: East- Passage and Flat No. 6, West- Road North- Road South- Final Plot No. 9/203.

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the land situated within the District Solapur, Sub-District Solapur, Tal. North Solapur within the limits of Solapur Municipal Corporation, at Pratap Nagar, Bijapur Road, bearing Gat No. 13/1 out of that layout adm. 8155.11 Sq. Mtrs. Is under development out of that portion adm. 2265.00 Sq. Mtr. Is subject matter of this deed and it is shown in the map attached to this deed. These plots are bounded by: Towards East: Gat No. 13/2, Towards South: Gat No. 13/3, Towards West: Gat No. 10, Towards North: 30 M. W. D.P. Road. Schedule-B: Flat No. 202 having Carpet Area of 46.240 Sq. Mtrs. On Second Floor in "IMP Greens Phase - 2" out of Survey No. 13/1, Situated at Pratap Nagar, Taluka North Solapur, Dist. Solapur.

At the Auction, the public generally is invited to submit their bid(s) personally. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the Immovable Property sold.

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

The E-auction will take place through portal <https://www.bankeauctions.com> on 27-02-2025 between 02:00 PM to 03:00 PM with limited extension of 5 minutes each.

Terms & Conditions: (1) The particulars specified in the Schedule herein below have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount bid, or as to the bidder, the Immovable Property shall at once again be put up to auction subject to the discretion of the Authorised Officer. (2) The Immovable Property shall not be sold below the Reserve Price. (3) Bid Increment Amount will be: Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) (4) All the Bids submitted for the purchase of the property shall be accompanied by Earnest Money as mentioned above by way of a Demand Draft favoring the "TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD". Payable at Branch address. The Demand Drafts will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders after auction. For payment of EMD through NEFT/RTGS/IMPS, kindly contact Authorised Officer. (5) The highest bidder shall be declared as successful bidder provided always that he/she is legally qualified to bid and provided further that the bid amount is not less than the reserve price. It shall be in the discretion of the Authorised Officer to decline acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so. (6) For reasons recorded, it shall be in the discretion of the Authorised Officer to adjourn/discontinue the sale. (7) Inspection of the Immovable Property can be done on 18-02-2025 between 11:00 AM to 05:00 PM with prior appointment. (8) The person declared as a successful bidder shall, immediately after such declaration, deposit twenty-five per cent of the amount of purchase money/bid which would include EMD amount to the Authorised Officer within 24Hrs and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put to fresh auction/ Sale by private treaty. (9) In case the initial deposit is made as above, the balance amount of the purchase money payable shall be paid by the purchaser to the Authorised Officer on or before the 15th day from the date of confirmation of the sale of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day. (10) In the event of default of any payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. The deposit including EMD shall stand forfeited by TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD and the defaulting purchaser shall lose all claims to the property. (11) Details of any encumbrances, known to the TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD, to which the property is liable: as per table above. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities arrears of property tax, electricity etc. (12) For any other details or for procedure online training on e-auction the prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider, C1 INDIA PVT.LTD., Address: C1 INDIA PVT.LTD. 3rd Floor, Plot No. 68 sector-44, Gurgaon, Haryana-122003 Mob. : 8866682937 & Phone : 7291981124 /1125 /1126 Email ID: gujarat@c1india.com / support@bankeauctions.com or Manish Bansal, Email Id Manish.Bansal@tatacapital.com Authorised Officer Mobile No 8588983696. Please send your query on WhatsApp Number - 9999078669 (13) TDS of 1% will be applicable and payable by the highest bidder over the highest declared bid amount. The payment needs to be deposited by highest bidder in the PAN of the owner/ borrower(s) and the copy of the challan shall be submitted to our company. (14) Please refer to the below link provided in secured creditor's website <https://sur.li/hlqsgd> for the above details. (15) Kindly also visit the link: <https://www.tatacapital.com/property-disposal.html>. PLEASE NOTE: TCHFL has not engaged any broker/agent apart from the mentioned auctioning partner for sale/auction of this property. Interested parties should only contact the undersigned or the Authorised officer for all queries and enquiry in this matter.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd.

7 EXPRESS NETWORK

N BIREN SINGH RESIGNS AS MANIPUR CHIEF MINISTER

President's Rule may be next for Manipur

LIZ MATHEW & SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 9

WITH MANIPUR Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigning on Sunday, finalising his replacement is the next big task for the BJP. The party's central leadership may buy time for evolving a consensus for it, sources said.

According to a statement from the Raj Bhavan in Imphal, Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla has asked N Biren Singh to continue in office till "alternative arrangements" are made. According to sources, a meeting is on in Delhi and the next steps would be communicated to the Governor by late night.

Sources said that while putting in his papers, Singh recommended that the Assembly be kept in suspended animation making it possible for the MLAs to reach a consensus on his replacement. However, since there is no leader yet who enjoys the

support of a majority of party MLAs, the Centre may have to impose President's Rule. Hours after Biren resigned, Governor Bhalla issued a notification declaring the previous order summoning the Assembly, which was set to convene on Monday, "null and void".

"The CM has recommended the suspended animation of the Assembly. Biren Singh is likely to continue as the caretaker till the Centre takes a call on it," said a BJP leader in the state. Governor Bhalla is expected to submit his report to the Centre within a few days following which President's Rule may be imposed.

According to Article 356 of the Constitution, the proclamation of President's Rule shall be laid before each house of Parliament within two months. If not, then President's Rule shall cease to expire.

The Centre, sources said, was looking to buy more time before going to Parliament, which is currently in session. The first part of the Budget session, although



Biren at a polo tournament on Sunday. PTI

scheduled till February 13, is likely to be adjourned for recess two days in advance as Wednesday is

a holiday because of Ravidas Jayanti. The Budget session is scheduled to resume on March 10 and conclude on April 4. If the imposition of President's Rule takes place after Parliament breaks for recess, the matter can come up only when it meets next.

Differing views on road ahead

Although there was speculation that Manipur Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata Singh and Urban Development Minister Yumnam Khemchand could emerge as potential candidates for the CM's post, sources in the BJP said the decision would be taken after thorough discussions.

Sources indicated that President's Rule could be initially imposed for four to five months and extended till a consensus candidate for CM was found. President's Rule can be extended by up to six months each time.

"We all are disciplined karyakartas (workers) of the party. We have not taken any

steps that would embarrass the party or the leadership. I am sure the leadership will hold discussions and find a replacement for Biren Singh," said a BJP MLA.

Another legislator suggested that opting for an extended President's Rule would show the BJP in a poor light. "We have 37 out of 60 MLAs in the Assembly. Our allies NPF and NPP have a total of 11 MLAs. We have a complete majority. The government has to be run by the state BJP. Neither is there a political crisis in that sense nor is the law and order situation worse than what it has been for so many months," said the MLA.

Among groups on either side of the ethnic divide in the state, there are starkly differing views on what the road forward should look like. Among Kuki-Zo groups, the push is for the Centre to completely take over the governance of the state. Kuki Zo Council chairperson Henlianthang Thangliet referred to the possibility of another BJP leader from the Meitei-majority

Imphal Valley taking up the reins as "old wine in a new bottle". The council is a civil society organisation based in Churachandpur.

"Biren Singh's resignation has come very late but it will be very good for us if there is President's Rule in the state. If they choose another leader from the Valley, it will just be old wine in a new bottle. If the Centre is in charge, we can talk directly to the Governor. If that happens, I will be more optimistic," he said.

Meitei civil society leader Jeetendra Ningomba who was formerly the coordinator of prominent Meitei civil society organisation COCOMI expressed opposite views, saying that President's Rule would be "unacceptable".

"The people of Manipur have suffered for a long time under President's Rule and have struggled against it. It is not acceptable to civilians. But if there is a new chief minister, there will be more divisions in our community which is very unfortunate. We need unity and integrity," he said.

Bengaluru police pull plug on Ed Sheeran's show at Church Street



Ed Sheeran is in Bengaluru for concerts scheduled on Saturday and Sunday.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 9

AN IMPROMPTU street performance by Ed Sheeran was halted by the Bengaluru police around noon on Sunday, when the British singer-songwriter, accompanied by bodyguards, arrived opposite the M G Road Metro station on Church Street, where two microphones and a guitar had been set up for the performance.

"So, we were gonna play more than one song. But, right now let's play one song, alright," the Grammy Award winner said before beginning to strum his hit track Shape of You. However, his performance lasted barely a minute before a police officer disconnected the speakers to stop his performance.

According to the police, the

event was stopped midway because no prior permission had been sought for the performance. Sheeran, a four-time Grammy Award winner who has sold millions of albums worldwide, is in Bengaluru for two concerts scheduled at NICE Grounds in Madavara. He performed on Saturday evening and has another show planned for Sunday.

The incident quickly went viral on social media, with some users criticising the police for interrupting the performance. "A police officer pulled the plug when Ed Sheeran surprised everyone on Church Street," wrote one user, sharing a video of the incident. Known for hit songs such as Shape of You, Thinking Out Loud, Perfect, and Castle on the Hill, the pop and soft-rock icon is touring India from January 30 to February 15

As Biren leaves, a look at his rise and fall in politics

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 9

ON JUNE 30, 2023, N Biren Singh and a group of MLAs headed towards Manipur Raj Bhawan, armed with a letter of resignation. The conflict in Manipur had been raging for 59 days then and the previous night, hundreds of people had gathered in Imphal after two Meitei men had been killed in firing. People close to Singh said he felt he had "lost the trust of the people".

Singh never reached Raj Bhawan that day. With his delegation being met by crowds of supporters, Singh's trusted minister, L Susindro Meitei, handed the letter to some of the women in the crowd who proceeded to tear it for the cameras. Singh announced he would not resign.

About a year-and-a-half later, Singh on Sunday submitted his resignation, days ahead of the Budget session of the Assembly.

Nineteen months since that episode and countless violent conflagrations later, 63-year-old N Biren Singh continued as the embattled Chief Minister of Manipur — through crises of confidence from the Kuki-Zomi community, from allied parties, from a section of his own party and his ministers, and even from among the electorate.

Footballer, journalist, politician

In the 1980s, Singh, a footballer, was a wingback in the BSF team that defeated JCT to lift the Durand Cup in December 1981. He has also represented Manipur in the Santosh Trophy. In 1991, he started a vernacular daily called *Naharolgi Thoudang* and worked as its editor.

It was in April 2000 that he shot into public attention when he was arrested for sedition along with Thounaojam Iboiyaima, a revered figure in Manipuri society. Singh had been charged because the newspaper had reported a speech delivered by



Biren Singh being introduced to President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy in 1981 before the Durand Cup final. X/Kiren Rijiju

Thounaojam at an event which, reports of that time say, had cited a United Nations declaration that "armed rebellion may be a last resort against colonial oppression".

In 2001, the state was under President's Rule. The Meitei-majority Valley erupted over the Centre's extension of its 1997 ceasefire with the Naga insurgent group NSCN (IM) which had included a new clause: that this ceasefire would be "without any territorial limits."

In the midst of all this, Biren entered politics with his Democratic Revolutionary People's Party, which supported the government formed with the Congress's Okram Iboi Singh as chief minister. In 2003, its two MLAs 'merged' with the Congress. Singh was now in the Congress, a party he would be with for the next 13 years. He rose rapidly. However, the relationship with Iboi began souring in his third term and Singh was dropped from the Cabinet despite being reelected in 2017.

A disgruntled Singh left the Congress in 2016 and joined the BJP, ahead of the 2017 Manipur Assembly elections. In 2017, he won on a BJP ticket.

Singh was not the obvious choice for the Chief Minister's position. The Congress was still the single largest party in the Assembly with 28 seats but the BJP, with 21 seats, ended up form-

ing the government with the support of the National People's Party and the Naga People's Front.

Through his campaign and after taking charge, he said he would "right the wrongs" under the Iboi regime, from 'encounter killings' to bandhs and blockades, and frayed ties between Meiteis and the hill tribes.

However, people who have worked with him say the tensions and discord that have bubbled over in the last couple of years were brewing in his first term too. Another blow came in 2020 when a senior police officer accused him pressuring the department to drop a case against a Kuki-Zomi BJP leader who was accused in a drugs case.

When the BJP came back to power with an absolute majority in 2022, it led a more aggressive government: from crack-downs on poppy plantations in the Kuki-Zomi hills allegedly run by "drug lords" to a hardened stance against the alleged influx of Chin people from Myanmar (who share ethnic ties with Manipur's Kuki-Zomis).

Kuki-Zomi groups and the MLAs from the community have held Singh responsible for the conflict since its beginning. The rumblings within his own ranks also became louder than ever. The most serious allegation was aiding and abetting armed groups such as the Aarambai Tenggol.

'Sensible voices on both sides suppressed; I hope better sense prevails'

CONGRESS INNER Manipur MP and JNU professor **ANGOMCHA BIMOL AKOIJAM** has been critical of the N Biren Singh government and the Centre over their failure to contain the 21-month conflict in the state, raising the matter more than once in Parliament. Hours after Biren Singh stepped down as CM, Akoijam spoke to **SAPTARSHI BASAK AND ASAD REHMAN** on what this means. Excerpts:

How do you see Biren Singh's resignation now, almost two years after violence began?

Initially, when I heard the news, I took it with a pinch of salt. We have seen this drama of resignation for so long... After all this, I feel that the people of Manipur deserve a stable and responsible government that should be able to protect the interests of the state and the Indian Constitution — which has been subverted... Because of the chaos, the Cabinet was split in between — there was one side (the Kukis) saying we needed a UT (Union Territory), meaning the division of Manipur. They are openly making this demand in Delhi. There are some Cabinet (members) who said we will protect the integrity (of the state). There has been confusion and people have suffered.

In his resignation letter, Biren Singh emphasised five points as a request to the Centre, including maintaining the state's territorial integrity?

See, territorial integrity has been the position of most of the national parties. The Congress has been firm on this, that territorial integrity will be protected. Others like former (BJP) Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said it. I don't know about Modi — whether he has committed to that... Nobody can take a contrary position to this. He (Biren Singh) is doing emotional drama on this.



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW WITH **BIMOL AKOIJAM** CONG MP, INNER MANIPUR

If he thinks his party is going to (violate Manipur's) territorial integrity, he should say so openly.

What do you think is going to happen now in the state?

I am trying to assess. The government of India has gone beyond all propriety, so I don't know what they are going to do... It is a shameless and rule-less situation. We suffered for two years. The Union government says something and the state government says something else... I don't know what to expect, but I expect the rest of the country knows what has happened here... All constitutional propriety (was ignored)... If better sense prevails, if Raj Dhama is there... the government of India (should) follow it now and treat the people of Manipur as part of India, try to take firm, resolute and judicious steps to restore the dignity and well-being of the people of the state.

Do you think President's Rule will be imposed in the state?

They have two options — install a new government and have

the Assembly, or put the Assembly under animated suspension or dissolve it. If you dissolve, then fresh elections. If it is animated suspension, they can revive the Assembly after some time. (The Raj Bhavan has asked Biren Singh to continue in office till 'alternative arrangements are made', and issued a notification nixing for the time being the Assembly session that was to start Monday.)

Will Kuki leaders be more open to a resolution now, given Singh's resignation?

Correct me if I am wrong, but I have never heard Kuki political leaders appealing for calm and peace. They have only been demanding a separate administration, or justifying acts of violence. In Imphal, I was addressing a gathering and I said that in Jiribam, a Hmar woman was killed, and then a Meitei woman. I maintained that women always suffer first, and I requested a moment of silence to remember both those killed. I don't think a Kuki leader can do that in the Hills (where they dominate). There are a lot of sensible voices on both sides that have been suppressed. I hope better sense prevails. Peaceful co-existence is what Manipur and this country need.

What about radical groups in the Valley alleged to be close to the Biren Singh administration?

There are many interest groups, both within the Kukis and Meiteis. The political patronage behind these armed groups is important. How they respond matters less. What is critical is how the Government of India deals with these elements. The State, so far, has abdicated its responsibility. In Manipur, we see people playing football with assault rifles. Can you imagine such a scene in Delhi, Mumbai, Kerala or wherever?

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

Kejriwal challenge dealt with, Mamata next BJP target

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

FOR THE BJP, the victory in the Delhi Assembly polls has come as a sweet revenge as the party has not only defeated the AAP in its bastion but also its founder leader and ex-Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in his New Delhi constituency.

In the BJP's sights now is Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, another key Opposition face considered capable of giving a challenge to the Narendra Modi-led BJP dispensation, say BJP leaders. They assert that the Bengal Assembly polls slated for early 2026 would be a "battle of ideology".

"If the Delhi elections were a

Waterloo for Kejriwal, our next target is Mamata Banerjee," said a senior BJP leader.

Echoing this claim, Union Minister and Bengal BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar said: "Bengal is undoubtedly our next target. Without defeating Mamata Banerjee, BJP's success would not be complete. The dream success for Modi ji would come when we defeat Mamata Banerjee in the Bengal elections next year."

Majumdar said the BJP has already started its work in this regard at the local level in Bengal. "In a few weeks our national leadership will also embark on the mission," he said.

BJP leaders say the Delhi verdict was an "endorsement of the BJP's welfare politics and its promise of good governance" which, they add, would give fillip



BJP leaders say Mamata is capable of challenging the BJP dispensation. Express

to the party's campaign in Bengal.

While the Opposition sees the AAP debacle as a major setback to the anti-Modi front, the BJP camps say it would re-establish Modi's "invincibility" in national politics. There are how-

ever some apprehensions in a BJP section that the Opposition parties' repeated defeats could force them to reinforce their anti-BJP platform.

Since the beginning of such Opposition attempts for an anti-BJP grouping following Modi's rise on the national scene, Kejriwal and Mamata had sought to mount a challenge to the Prime Minister. Routing the BJP in the Delhi Assembly elections twice — in 2015 and 2020 — Kejriwal also fashioned himself as an "alternative to Modi".

After its debut in the 2013 Delhi polls and the fall of its 49-day government, Kejriwal had even entered the 2014 Lok Sabha poll fray from Varanasi to take on Modi, albeit unsuccessfully.

Both Kejriwal and Mamata had also been projected by a sec-

tion of the Opposition as leaders who could take on Modi.

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) chief and ex-Telangana CM K Chandrababhan Rao also tried to position himself as a face of the anti-BJP forces, but the BRS was defeated by the Congress in the 2023 Assembly polls, which led to his party losing its relevance at the national level.

Although Bihar CM Nitish Kumar was once seen as a possible PM candidate of the INDIA alliance, he again switched his loyalties and crossed over to the BJP-led NDA in January 2024, accepting Modi's leadership.

BJD chief and ex-Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik was also seen as a major regional player, who steered his party to victory five

consecutive times since 2000, although his party was seen as "friendly to the Modi dispensation". In the 2024 Odisha polls, however, the BJP trounced the BJD, storming to power in the state for the first time.

Among the regional players, Mamata now remains the only key anti-BJP face, who has ensured the TMC's dominance in Bengal for the last three terms. The BJP had gained significant ground in Bengal in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, winning 18 of 42 seats as against the TMC's 22. In the 2021 Assembly polls, the BJP won 77 seats out of 294 against the TMC's 215 seats. However, its tally in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls dipped to 12 against the TMC's 29 seats.

Dhaka: India remarks on razing of Mujibur house 'unwarranted'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, FEBRUARY 9

ASSERTING THAT the demolition of the residence of Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the country's internal matter, the interim government on Sunday said India's remarks on the incident was "unexpected and unwarranted".

Thousands of protesters on Wednesday last set fire to the 32 Dhanmondi residence of Rahman in Dhaka. Rahman had spearheaded the country's autonomy movement and independence struggle from this residence, which was later transformed into a memorial. This historic residence was where Rahman proclaimed Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan in 1971.

India on Thursday voiced anguish over the destruction of the historic residence and said the "act of vandalism" should be strongly condemned.

External Affairs Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal had said: "It is regrettable that the historic residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a symbol of the heroic resistance of the people of Bangladesh against the forces of occupation and oppression, was destroyed on February 5. All those who value the freedom struggle that nurtured Bangla identity and pride are aware of the importance of this residence for the national consciousness of Bangladesh."

Reacting to India's remarks, the Bangladesh foreign ministry Sunday said the incident at Dhanmondi 32 pertains to the country's internal affairs, state-run BSS news agency reported. "A statement from India's Ministry of External Affairs on this matter, issued on February 6, 2025, has come to the attention of the interim government. Such remarks from India's foreign



The residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Friday, after it was demolished. AP

ministry on Bangladesh's internal affairs are unexpected and unwarranted," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mohammad Rafiqul Alam was quoted as saying by BSS. "Bangladesh does not officially comment on the internal affairs of any state, and it expects the same level of conduct from others," he said.

The interim government led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has blamed deposed premier Sheikh Hasina's "provocative" speech for sparking "unintended and unexpected" violence in Bangladesh.

In a statement on Thursday, the Chief Adviser's office said the demolition of Rahman's residence was "unintended and unexpected", but added that the vandalism was the "outburst of public anger created due to Hasina's provocative statements" against the July uprising from India.

"The government hopes that India will not allow its territory to be used for destabilising purposes in Bangladesh and will not allow Sheikh Hasina to speak. The interim government does not want such incidents to happen again in the future," it read.



DECODE POLITICS: LOKNITI-CSDS SURVEY

How Delhi voted: The pivotal issues, leaders

'Sheesh Mahal' shows mirror to AAP; on 'liquor scam', opinion more split



For almost half of Delhi's voters, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the national leader who most influenced their voting decision. Praveen Khanna

TABLE 1: DIVIDED PERCEPTIONS ON ARREST OF AAP LEADERS

Opinion	Share of respondents
AAP leaders are corrupt and arresting them was a right decision	37
Central government has trapped AAP leaders in false cases	36
Not aware of the cases	12

Note: Figures in percent. Rest did not respond

TABLE 2: DID KEJRIWAL SQUANDER MONEY ON RESTORATION OF CM'S RESIDENCE?

Opinion	Share of respondents
Kejriwal has unnecessarily spent money on restoration	40
Needed restoration, BJP is making a mountain out of a molehill	36

Note: Figures in percent. Rest did not respond

TABLE 3: VOTERS' PERCEPTION OF AAP GOVT AND IMPACT ON VOTE CHOICE

How corrupt is AAP government?	Overall	Voted for BJP, allies	Voted for AAP	Voted for Congress
A lot	28	85	7	5
Somewhat	37	46	43	9
Not much	12	19	75	4
Not at all	15	9	85	5

Note: Figures in percent. Rest did not respond

Source: Lokniti-CSDS

In AAP-BJP capital face-off, what mattered more to voters: party or CM candidate?

Findings of the Lokniti-CSDS Survey show that the party, as represented by its leadership, was a key factor for BJP and AAP voters. Only a handful of respondents referred to the CM candidate as a key factor influencing their choice

SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS

SANDEEP SHASTRI

IN THE run-up to the Delhi Assembly elections, the BJP did not declare a chief ministerial candidate. It kept the focus on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the "face" of its campaign, seeking votes on the promise of the "Modi guarantees". For the AAP, the electoral campaign and strategy revolved around the persona of Arvind Kejriwal.

The Lokniti-CSDS Survey conducted around the time of the elections indicates that for a majority of the respondents (57%), the party was the most critical consideration when deciding whom to vote for. Close to one-third of the respondents (32%) mentioned the candidate as being the key factor behind their voting decision. A handful

TABLE 1: MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION WHILE VOTING

Party	57
Candidates	32
CM candidate	4

Note: Figures in percent.

TABLE 2: VOTERS' TOP PICKS FOR CHIEF MINISTER

CM face	Share of respondents
Arvind Kejriwal	39
Any other leader from AAP	4
Leaders from BJP	37
Leaders from Congress	5
Others	3

Note: Figures in percent. Rest did not respond

TABLE 3: WHICH NATIONAL LEADER MOST INFLUENCED YOUR VOTE?

Respondents	Narendra Modi	Arvind Kejriwal	Rahul Gandhi
Overall	44	33	5
Among voters of BJP, allies	85	3	1
Among AAP voters	8	72	2
Among Congress voters	10	6	61

Note: Figures in percent. Rest did not respond or said none of them

Source: Lokniti-CSDS

of the respondents referred to the CM candidate as a key factor influencing their voting choice (Table 1).

Asked about their preferred CM choice (without any names being suggested) close to four of

every ten (39%) mentioned Kejriwal. In contrast, 31% of respondents indicated they would support anyone from the BJP, while 6% named specific BJP leaders (see Table 2). It is clear that Kejriwal found favour with

his party supporters while those backing the BJP opted for any leader from the party.

More than eight of every 10 respondents who voted for the BJP (85%) stated the influence of PM Modi on their choice.

Similarly, three-fourths of those who voted for the AAP (72%) stated that Kejriwal influenced their voting choice (Table 3). Thus, the impact of both Modi and Kejriwal is evident in influencing the voting decisions of BJP and AAP supporters, respectively.

At the end of the day, for BJP voters, Modi's leadership and the party holding out guarantees in his name appeared to be key factors that swung the vote in the party's favour. In the case of the AAP, the presence of Kejriwal appeared to be a key factor in encouraging voters to choose it.

In important ways, Modi represented the party for BJP voters as did Kejriwal for AAP voters.

This is in consonance with the opening argument that the party, as represented by its leadership, was a key factor for both BJP and AAP voters.

Shastri is Director-Academics, NITTE Education Trust, and the National Coordinator of the Lokniti Network

DEVESH KUMAR & KISHAN GOPAL SHARMA

IF THE BJP secured an emphatic victory in Delhi riding on a strong anti-incumbency sentiment and promising better governance, the AAP, which emerged from the throes of an anti-corruption movement, appears to have suffered to a great extent on account of allegations of corruption.

The Lokniti-CSDS Survey, measuring the public perception of corruption and its influence on voting decisions, found that about a quarter of the voters opposed giving the AAP government another chance as they felt corruption had worsened in the state.

Two specific controversies seem to have contributed in fuelling this perception: the alleged liquor policy case and the controversial spending on the CM's residence (dubbed by the BJP as 'Sheesh Mahal'). Both were key aspects of the corruption campaign against the AAP by the BJP.

At the same time, while the liquor scam may have dented the AAP's credibility, the public opinion on the arrest of its top leaders was divided. Over one-third (37%) of the surveyed vot-



A model of 'Sheesh Mahal', the CM's residence, used in BJP's campaign. Praveen Khanna

Most importantly, these narratives were not only powerful in painting a grim picture of corruption but also contributed to the BJP's emphatic victory. When asked, two-thirds of the surveyed voters said the AAP government was corrupt, with a quarter strongly believing it. Among those who believed the AAP was highly corrupt, an overwhelming majority (85%) said they voted for the BJP.

However, one-fourth of the surveyed voters maintained that the AAP was not corrupt, and they overwhelmingly supported the incumbent party (Table 3).

Overall, the BJP's persistent allegations of corruption linked to the liquor policy and charges of extravagant spending on the CM's residence seem to have evoked a strong response, enough to shake people's faith and trust in the AAP government.

The sentiment that the AAP's leadership had deviated from its original ethos of simplicity, accountability and clean governance resulted, as a natural corollary, in voters seeking to place trust in the available alternative - the BJP.

Kumar and Sharma are researchers at Lokniti-CSDS

The methodology behind the Lokniti-CSDS Survey

A representative section of 3,137 voters in the Capital was interviewed across 28 constituencies and 140 polling stations

SANDEEP SHASTRI, SANJAY KUMAR & SUHAS PALSHIKAR

THE FINDINGS presented here are from the Delhi Assembly Election Study 2025, conducted by the Lokniti programme of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi. The survey was conducted between January 29, 2025 to February 6, 2025. A total of 3,137 respondents were interviewed across 28 Assembly constituencies (ACs) and 140 polling stations (PSs) across Delhi's 70 constituencies.

A multi-stage random sampling was used for sample selection. This procedure ensures that the selected sample is fully representative of the cross-section of voters in the state. The ACs where the survey was conducted were randomly selected using the probability proportional to size method (adjusting the probability of choosing a particular constituency according to the size of its electorate).

Thereafter, five polling stations were selected from within each of the sampled

SOCIAL PROFILE OF SAMPLE ACHIEVED

Group	Census 2011	Survey Estimates
Female	46.5	41.8
Hindu	81.7	79.4
Muslim	12.9	16.2
Sikh	3.4	2.5
Others	2	1.9
SC	16.6	18.3

Note: Figures in percent; Source: Lokniti-CSDS

ACs using the systematic random sampling method. Finally, 22 respondents were interviewed from each polling station using a random walk procedure. To ensure equal representation of gender and age groups, a pre-decided quota was set, and field investigators were instructed to follow the assigned quota while conducting interviews.

Once we identified our sample, trained field investigators were sent to the field to conduct face-to-face interviews using a pre-designed mobile app. The questionnaire for the survey was translated into Hindi.

Though the sample is relatively small, the total number

of voters interviewed is representative of the social composition of Delhi (see table). In order to make corrections for the under-representation of any social groups, weights have been applied. Weights were also applied based on the actual results.

Sandeep Shastri is Director-Academics, NITTE Education Trust, and National Coordinator of the Lokniti Network; Sanjay Kumar is Professor and Co-director Lokniti-CSDS; and Suhas Palshikar teaches political science, is chief editor of the journal Studies in Indian Politics, and is a columnist for The Indian Express

What moved voters: Welfare schemes low on priority list; inflation, jobs main concerns

The BJP and its allies got the vote of those concerned about corruption (76%), lack of development (59%) and cleanliness (46%)

JYOTI MISHRA

THE DELHI Assembly polls underscored the centrality of governance and development-related issues in shaping voter preferences and the electoral outcome.

While a range of concerns - from price rise and unemployment to cleanliness and corruption - was evident, governance and development were the predominant factors influencing voting. The result reflected a preference for the party that effectively addressed these issues in their campaign. Despite the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) emphasis on development and its promise of good governance, voter dissatisfaction was evident, with a significant proportion of the electorate perceiving shortcomings in the party's governance record.

Voter concerns in Delhi extended beyond economic distress to encompass broader issues of governance and civic amenities. According to a Lokniti-CSDS Survey, while unemployment was a key concern for one-fifth of the voters, issues such as cleanliness (15%) and lack of development (11%) also featured promi-

nently, along with price rise (10%).

Corruption, a major focus of the BJP's campaign against AAP leaders, was cited by 7% of voters. The non-availability of drinking water has consistently remained one of the critical concerns for Delhi voters. Although the incumbent party frequently highlighted its success in providing safe drinking water, 7% of respondents identified this issue in an open-ended question. A small but notable segment (4%) expressed a desire for change in government. The AAP government's education and welfare initiatives received comparatively limited attention, with only 3% of voters citing each of them as decisive factors (Table 1).

When voters were directly asked about the impact of different issues on their vote choices, a substantial majority viewed governance and quality of life issues as critical. Almost nine out of 10 voters identified cleanliness as a major concern, highlighting a gap between the promises and perceived performance of the AAP. Concerns such as women's safety (87%), education (86%), drinking water (86%), and air pollution (85%) were also regarded as highly important. In contrast, religion

TABLE 1: KEY ISSUES FOR DELHI VOTERS

Issue	Share of respondents
Unemployment	20
Cleanliness	15
Lack of development	11
Price rise	10
Corruption	7
Drinking water problem	7
Safety of women	4
Changing the government	4
Reforms in education system	3
Welfare schemes of Delhi government	3
Water logging problem	3
Other issues	11

Note: Figures in percent

TABLE 2: HOW IMPORTANT WERE THESE ELECTORAL ISSUES?

Issue	A lot	Somewhat	Not much	Not at all
Cleanliness	92	6	1	<1
Safety of women	87	9	2	1
Drinking water problem	86	9	3	2
Education of children	86	8	3	1
Air pollution	85	10	3	1
Health services	85	11	3	1
Cleaning of Yamuna	81	13	4	2
Protection of my religion	61	15	10	12

Note: Figures in percent. Rest did not respond

TABLE 3: TOP 5 ISSUES BY VOTE CHOICE

Issue	Voted for BJP+	Voted for AAP	Voted for Congress
Unemployment	35	55	7
Cleanliness	46	43	8
Lack of development	59	33	7
Price rise	41	52	6
Corruption	76	18	4

Note: Figures in percent. Rest stated other issues Source: Lokniti-CSDS

ranked lower in priority, with three in five (61%) respondents considering it a significant factor in their voting decision (Table 2).

This prioritisation of issues translated into patterns of partisan support. The AAP retained an advantage among those prioritising unemployment (55%) and price rise (52%) whereas the BJP

garnered substantial backing from voters concerned with corruption (76%), lack of development (59%), and cleanliness (46%) (Table 3).

The results reinforced the significance of issue-based voting in Delhi's political landscape. While the AAP maintained support among those affected by economic challenges and inflation,

the BJP effectively mobilised voter sentiment by focusing its campaign on governance, corruption, and development. The Congress's inability to articulate a compelling policy agenda further contributed to its political marginalisation.

Mishra is a Research Associate at Lokniti-CSDS

Five booked for hate speeches, assaulting Dehradun shopkeepers

AISWARYARAJ
DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 9

AT LEAST five members of a little-known outfit have been booked for allegedly delivering provocative speeches urging locals to evict Muslim tenants, and assaulting shopkeepers in Dehradun, police said on Sunday.

As per the FIR filed against members of Kali Sena, the incident took place on February 4 when a group of 50-60 people held a public gathering in Nathuwala locality around 11 am to protest against the sexual abuse of a minor the previous day.

"During this gathering, they incited people, giving a communal angle to (the case) and delivering provocative speeches, urging locals to assault and evict tenants from other communities living or running businesses in the area," the FIR states. "They then marched from Nathuwala to Donali while vandalising signboards and banners of shops owned by individuals from other communities."

On February 5, around 4.30 pm, the outfit members used social media to organise another public gathering at Donali

Trijunction, where they gathered locals and provoked them. "They threatened landlords and shop owners to evict tenants from other communities immediately, stating that if not done within seven days, they would forcibly remove them," said the FIR filed on the complaint of sub-inspector Sanjay Rawat, in-charge of Balawala Outpost.

Later the same day, they forcibly evicted Muslim vendors from the weekly bazaar near the primary school in Lower Tunwala. They allegedly declared the market as "Sanatani". "They also verbally abused and assaulted vendors from other communities, warning them against setting up shops in the future and threatening to kill them if they returned... Additionally, several videos were made in which inflammatory speeches were recorded," the FIR stated.

It said that the provocative speeches created communal tension in the area. The FIR named Bhupesh Joshi and his associates Vaibhav Panwar, Ajay Captain, Acharya Vipul Bangwal and Rajendra Singh Negi, a retired Army man, and others as accused



CELEBRATORY GLOW

Savitribai Phule Pune University's main building is lit up on Sunday for the occasion of its 76th anniversary celebrated on February 10. *Express*

How security forces made big gains against Maoists

JAYPRAKASH NAIDU
RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 9

POLITICAL WILL and a vast net of forward base camps that act as launchpads for action deep inside the jungles of Chhattisgarh's Maoist-affected Bastar region are major reasons behind the large number of anti-Maoist operations and rising Maoist casualties in the state since late 2023, senior officials told *The Indian Express*.

After the killing of 31 Maoists in an encounter at Indravati National Park in Bijapur district on Sunday took the total number of them killed in Chhattisgarh to 81 already this year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated his promise of eradicating Left-wing extremism (LWE) in the country by March 2026. Two security forces personnel were also killed in Sunday's gunfight.

when the BJP government of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai came to power in Chhattisgarh, there has been a spurt in anti-Maoist operations and encounters. Last year, 207 Maoists were killed in encounters, making it the year with the highest Maoist casualties since the formation of the state.

Chhattisgarh's former Additional Director General of Police (Naxal operations), RK Vij told *The Indian Express*, "First, the political will of the central as well as the state government is on the same page, which has helped the forces move forward aggressively, making forward camps filling up the security vacuum in places like Abujmad (an unsurveyed area larger than the state of Goa) and south Bastar, which were considered to be safe havens for Maoists. These camps are not only restricting the movement of Maoists, but are also helping forces to conduct major operations."



Weapons seized from the Maoists following the encounter at Indravati National Park in Bijapur, Sunday. *Express*

"Moreover, the Niyad Nellanar scheme, where basic amenities are being provided to villagers from these camps, is sending a positive message to local residents," Vij said.

There has been a major rise in the number of forward base camps in recent months. These

camps enable road construction work deep inside jungles and the installation of mobile tower networks. This has helped in ending the security vacuum and shrinking areas that were influenced by Maoists for over four decades, officials said.

Just this year, four police

camps have come up deep inside Narayanpur and Bijapur districts in Bastar division. As per government data, in the six years between 2019 and 2024, a total of 100 police camps have come up in Bastar region, out of which 30 were erected last year.

The number of Maoists arrested or surrendered have also seen a major rise in recent times - from 428 arrests in 2023 to 837 in 2024, and from 398 surrenders in 2023 to 802 in 2024.

"These surrendered and arrested Naxals provide forces with a lot of intelligence inputs on movement of Maoists and identification of active militia members in villages and the roles they play in the organisation," said an official.

Sundarraaj P, Inspector General of Police for Bastar Range, told *The Indian Express* that better coordination between the different anti-Maoist forces have made a big difference.

"Like last year, we are continuing our inter-district and multi-force operations. All our operations were multi-force operations involving the special forces like DRG, STF, Bastar Fighters, CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB, and CAF... The recent deployment were helpful in addressing the security vacuum and enhancing our operational reach in the erstwhile Maoist stronghold areas. But the difference maker has been our coordination, which has improved. We have learned a lot from our previous experiences," he said.

He also said there were improvements recently in the tactics used by the security forces. "For security reasons, we can't disclose much, but there is a remarkable improvement and improvisation in our field fighting tactics and strategy. We have tried to rectify the shortcomings from previous seasons and adopted quick-to-the-ground requirements," he said.

Victim's family alleges police inaction in Agra custodial death as no FIR yet

AMIT SHARMA
MEERUT, FEBRUARY 9

THE FAMILY of a 52-year-old man, who died in police custody at Garhi Hisia village of Agra district on February 7, has accused the police of inaction as no FIR has been registered in the matter yet.

This comes even as three sub-inspectors (SIs), including the in-charge of the local police outpost where the victim, Kedar Singh, 52, a small-time grain mill owner, was taken, were suspended and the station house officer (SHO) of the jurisdictional police station was transferred to the Police Lines following a protest by locals the same day.

A departmental inquiry was also initiated against them. The family in its complaint had demanded that the officials responsible for Singh's death be charged with murder. Singh was summoned to the Kabis police outpost in connection with a forged case in which he was a witness, according to the police.

The officer in-charge of the Dauki police station was sent to the Police Lines over alleged negligence in duty. The suspended SIs are Kabis police outpost in-charge Sidharth Chaudhary; Shivmanag Singh, the investigating officer (IO) in the forged case and Ram Sevak.

Devendra Singh, the eldest son of the deceased, said, "We were told by the police to file a complaint, which we have done twice. The officers are delaying the FIR, even though their primary responsibility should be to ensure justice for the family."

"Our father was merely a witness in the case. He was brutally beaten up. Once at the outpost, the police continued to assault him while stuffing his mouth with a cloth," said Gajendra Singh, the younger son of the deceased.

How a 26-year-old man conned thousands in Kerala with scheme involving NGOs and politicians

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 9

SCOOTERS, LAPTOPS and home appliances at half price - this was the offer from the National NGO Confederation, floated by 26-year-old Ananthu Krishna from Kerala.

Thousands signed up for the scheme and made payments, but with last week's arrest of Krishna, the "national coordinator" of the NGO confederation, it has unravelled as a multi-crore fraud, police sources said.

As per the sources, the confederation was floated in 2022 by bringing around 170 local NGOs together. The idea was that through these NGOs, the confederation would collect corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds from companies to cover half the cost of products that would be offered to those who avail the scheme.

Krishna was arrested by Emakulam Rural Police following complaints from multiple people who signed up for the scheme. After his arrest, police stations across Kerala, particularly in the north of the state, have been flooded with similar complaints, many of them from women.

Prominent figures, including a retired High Court judge and the executive director of a prominent NGO, who were part of the confederation, were among those named as accused in cases filed in connection with the scam.

On Sunday, while being taken for evidence collection, Krishna told reporters that he had "given money to political leaders".

As per police sources, Krishna had taken money from around 30,000 applicants and put it into around two dozen bank accounts.

"After verifying the details, we have so far registered around

100 cases with a reported loss of ₹60 crore. Prima facie, the money involved in the fraud is estimated to be ₹400-500 crore," an officer of Emakulam Rural Police said.

The scheme

The confederation offered scooters worth ₹1.20 lakh at ₹60,000, and laptops worth ₹60,000 at ₹30,000. There were also similar schemes for home appliances. The rest of the MRP was promised to be met from the CSR fund, which the NGO confederation would bring in. An applicant had to pay half the price of the products as well as a registration fee of ₹500.

Some of the early applicants were actually given two-wheelers and laptops at the promised prices. "This was to win over the confidence of the public and attract more applicants. There was no CSR fund from anywhere. The full market price of the offered products, which were delivered initially, were entirely met from the initial amounts pooled from various applicants. Besides, he (Krishna) also pocketed commission for bulk purchase of scooters and gadgets," the officer said.

The distribution of the gadgets were mega events attended by MLAs, other politicians, and senior police officers. Krishna brandished photos in which he was flanked by celebrities and prominent figures. When complaints started to trickle in after he failed to deliver the promised products, Krishna settled the issue by returning the money of several applicants. However, complaints continued to mount, leading to police action.

Modus operandi

The modus operandi of the NGO confederation was as follows: Krishna floated the confederation, in which around 170 NGOs from across Kerala were

enrolled, in 2022. He had a few NGOs in his name, registered in different parts of the state. The confederation deputed entities at block level to canvass people for the scheme and bring in local politicians and social workers.

IUML legislator Najeeb Kanthapuram had applied for laptops for distribution among the public through his NGO Mudra Charitable Foundation. However, after the promised laptops failed to reach the applicants, a few of them filed complaints against the MLA, who is also now facing a police case.

Kanthapuram said, "The NGO confederation had collected ₹1.80 crore through my foundation for the laptops. I am a victim of the racket. I trusted the confederation after seeing that state Education Minister V Sivankutty inaugurated a function of the confederation. If the amount cannot be retrieved from the confederation, I will find ways to pay back the money collected from the applicants."

Man behind the scheme

Krishna, a graduate, is a native of Kudayathoor in Idukki district. Kudayathoor panchayat member C S Sreejith said, "Ananthu (Krishna) has the gift of the gab... He uses all of his relationships to his advantage. He has launched two NGOs on paper - one named after Sardar Patel and another after Abdul Kalam. Both had their offices listed at Kudayathoor."

Krishna's father is a carpenter and mother a worker at the state civil supplies corporation. "After he floated the NGO, his growth was visible. He bought land and moved around in costly cars. He distributed scooters and laptops in our village also. At the same time, we have complainants who were cheated," said Sreejith.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT JANSHI RAM MEENA
01.04.1968 - 10.02.1995

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Zaina Kadal area, Srinagar (J&K)

CT CHANDAN SINGH
25.05.1969 - 10.02.2003

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Pallel area, Manipur.

CT MANZOOR AHMED
02.03.1972 - 10.02.1995

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Zaina Kadal area, Srinagar (J&K)

CT BHANGI LAXMAN BHAI
01.06.1977 - 10.02.2003

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Pallel area, Manipur.

HC DHARAM PAL
04.08.1947 - 10.02.2003

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Pallel area, Manipur.

SH RAJESH SHARAN, 2IC, PMG
19.11.1969 - 10.02.2012

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting naxals in Malkangiri area, Odisha.

SH JEEWAN RAM KHASWAN, COMDT, PMG
05.10.1966 - 10.02.2012

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting naxals in Malkangiri area, Odisha.

INSP ASHOK KUMAR YADAV
01.07.1978 - 10.02.2012

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting naxals in Malkangiri area, Odisha.

ASI/RM JITENDRA KUMAR
10.06.1978 - 10.02.2012

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting naxals in Malkangiri area, Odisha.

CT GAMIT SANJAY KUMAR
01.06.1978 - 10.02.2003

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Pallel area, Manipur.

CT ROBERT
09.03.1978 - 10.02.2003

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Pallel area, Manipur.

MP dam project could submerge critical tiger corridor, says NTCA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE NATIONAL Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has warned that the construction of the Morand-Ganjali Irrigation Project in Madhya Pradesh could submerge forested areas used by tigers to move between reserves and has strongly recommended exploring alternative sites, government records show.

The Environment Ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) discussed a proposal to divert 2,250.05 hectares of forest land for the project in a meeting on January 27.

The project involves building two dams on the Morand and Ganjali rivers to improve irrigation in Hoshangabad, Betul, Harda, and Khandwa districts of the state.

According to the project proposal, the construction of the dams and related infrastructure will displace 644 families, including 604 tribal families, who

rely on the forest for their livelihood. Over seven lakh trees will be affected at full reservoir level, with 5.75 lakh trees marked for felling.

The region is home to endangered species such as leopards, wolves, wild dogs, hyenas, and several herbivores. The habitat loss could have severe ecological consequences, the FAC noted.

It has recommended that a sub-committee conduct a site inspection before making a decision. The sub-committee will include representatives from the environment ministry, NTCA, and soil conservation experts.

According to the minutes of the meeting, the NTCA has warned that the project could destroy a crucial tiger corridor between the Satpura and Melghat Tiger Reserves and pose a threat to other wildlife and biodiversity.

The NTCA's analysis, based on the National Tiger Estimation 2022, shows that the project site is part of a critical tiger-occupied habitat.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

17 Sep 68 - 10 Feb 07
"To live in the hearts of those we love is never to die"
Eighteen years back you left us.
You were taken so early, it was far too soon to say Good Bye. Missing you today & always.
Deeply remembered by entire family of 14 MAHAR
The gallant and fearless officer led a two directional advance on 10 Feb 2007 & flushed out the dreaded militants hiding in a village in Manipur (OP HIFAZAT), where he laid down his life in true traditions of the Indian Army.

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)
10 February 2025
ITBP salutes its braveheart **Head Constable Ram Niwas Meena** of 7th Battalion, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Jammu & Kashmir in 2005.
Resident of : Vill.- Saroop Sarai, Distt.- Alwar (Rajasthan)

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

10 February 2003

Shaheed Constable Mohammad Azim 22 Bn 7-5-1966 To 10-2-2003	Shaheed Constable Malkiat Singh 22 Bn 15-10-1969 To 10-2-2003	Shaheed Constable Gurmeet Singh 22 Bn 30-4-1971 To 10-2-2003	Shaheed Constable S.K. Mishra 22 Bn 4-5-1969 To 10-2-2003

Deployed for anti-Maoist operations, 22 Battalion of CRPF launched an offensive on 10 February 2003, after Maoists ambushed a CRPF party, injuring several personnel. As the troops advanced, Maoists detonated IEDs and opened heavy fire, targeting a CRPF vehicle and injuring its occupants. Despite injuries, the troops retaliated fiercely, preventing Maoists from looting weapons. In the intense battle, five bravehearts attained martyrdom that day, while one succumbed the next, ensuring the enemy's retreat. Their valor and sacrifice remain etched in the nation's memory.

10 February 2020
In a bold move to encircle Maoist strongholds in the dense Pamed forests, a large-scale Operation "Lakshay" was launched on 9 February 2020, involving troops from 201, 204, 206, 208, and 151 Battalions of CRPF. As forces advanced in a coordinated assault, the Maoists, caught off guard, hastily set up an ambush. Near the target area, 204 CoBRA troops came under heavy fire from well-entrenched Maoists.

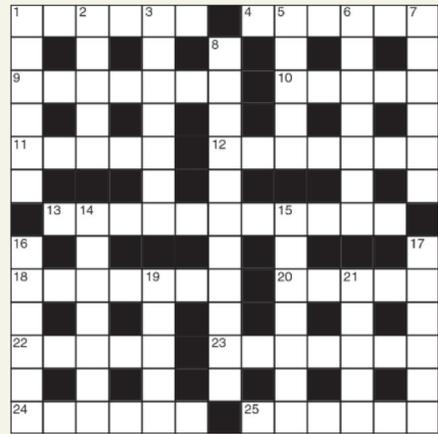
Unfazed, the troops countered with exceptional battle acumen, swiftly retaliating with a precise fusillade. Overwhelmed and suffering heavy casualties, the Maoists fled, abandoning the body of a fallen cadre. In this fierce encounter, HC/GD Ajeet Singh, Constable Vikas Kumar, and Constable Purnanand sustained grievous injuries and were evacuated for treatment. Constable Vikas Kumar and Constable Purnanand attained martyrdom on 10 February 2020, while HC Ajeet Singh made the supreme sacrifice on 18 February 2020. For their extraordinary bravery and devotion to duty, all three bravehearts were posthumously awarded the Shaurya Chakra. The nation will forever remain indebted to them and their families.

10 February 2006
During a mass protest in Lazum Pathar, Tinsukia, 39 Battalion of CRPF was deployed alongside state police to maintain order. Amidst the chaos, militants hiding in paddy fields opened fire, prompting a swift retaliation from CRPF. In the exchange, HC Krishna Pal sustained fatal injuries but continued fighting valiantly. The braveheart later succumbed to his injuries, upholding the highest traditions of courage and sacrifice.

10 February 1996
Deployed in Manipur for law and order duties, 36 Battalion of CRPF conducted area domination in Imphal when insurgents launched an ambush. Ct. Balender Kumar Singh, leading his section, sustained grievous injuries in the initial attack but continued to fight alongside his men, forcing the militants to retreat. He later succumbed to his injuries, making the supreme sacrifice. His unwavering courage and dedication remain an enduring inspiration.

10 February 1991
On this day, 77 Battalion of CRPF launched an operation in Nagarmal Bagh, Srinagar, following specific intelligence on terrorist presence. As the troops advanced, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire. Ct. Shri Krishan, undeterred by the enemy's advantage, bravely retaliated and pressed forward with unwavering determination. Despite sustaining bullet injuries, he fought valiantly before making the supreme sacrifice. His indomitable courage and selfless devotion remain etched in CRPF's legacy of valor.

CROSSWORD 5596



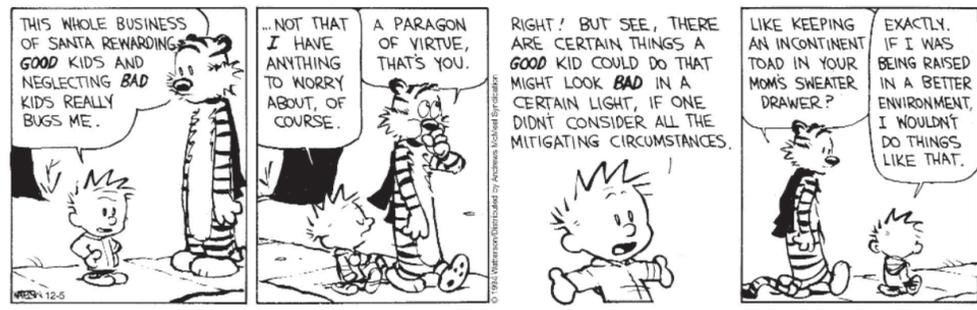
- ACROSS**
- Flowers commemorating damage in the war (6)
 - A pinned-on decoration (6)
 - He's not paid to take a companion to the old city (7)
 - Crunchy crackers (5)
 - Start to penetrate (5)
 - A helpful shipping line? (7)
 - Dead tired? (3,2,6)
 - Feel better and get dressed? (7)
 - Research put into model vehicle design (5)
 - Figures it's only one among hundreds (5)
 - No women around - it's heavenly (3,4)
 - Ambush a layabout in the street (6)
 - Name of inventor noised abroad (6)
- DOWN**
- Endangered species in the country we hear (6)
 - Compel payment to be precise (5)
 - Old instrument needed as her boot is awkward (7)
 - Were distracted about noon only to begin again (5)
 - Where incoming mail too is no doubt welcome (7)
 - Lighter study for the tomboy (6)
 - Sticking up for a potato insect? (11)
 - Not shrewd? That's strange? (7)
 - Given an income, but at the finish was in debt (7)
 - A current boast about Polish city (6)
 - Continue to lament the dead being devoted (4,2)
 - Goddess of light? (5)
 - Observes appearances (5)

Solutions Crossword 5596 Across: 1 Led back, 5 Micro, 8 Fruitless task, 9 Rolls, 10 Epergne, 11 Redden, 12 Asides, 15 Leaflet, 17 Tally, 19 Philosophical, 20 Eagle, 21 Enlists Down: 1 Lifer, 2 Double-dealing, 3 Artiste, 4 Keeper, 5 Masse, 6 Changed places, 7 Orkneys, 11 Relapse, 13 Satchel, 14 Strove, 16 Loose, 18 Yells

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue. To _____ is the fate of all great souls. - Arthur Schopenhauer (4,5)

CPAAEE
[Shaded squares] [] [] [] [] []

FIUWLL
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

ENPIO
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

AADLNV
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

Solution: CPAAEE: PEACE, OFFICE, OPINE, WIFUL, VANDAL. FIUWLL: LIVE ALONE. ENPIO: TO LIVE ALONE. AADLNV: VANADIL.

SUDOKU 5862

Difficulty Level 1s
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.

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

SUDOKU 5862

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5861

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

Classifieds

BUSINESS

POULTRY

Vencobb today's ex-farm gate big birds price at Pune Rs.86/- per kg. Contact (9522)22872417, Pune (9520) 24269414. 0909361951-1

Pune Broilers Traders' Association Rate On 10.02.2025 For Live Big Birds Rs.110/- Live Tandoori Birds Rs.128/- Momin Poultry (Asif Momin) 26336349/ 7798626754. 0909366292-1

Pimpri Chinchwad Broiler Traders Association Rate On 10.02.2025 For Live Big Birds Rs.111/- Live Small Birds Rs.128/- AL-Taqdeer Food's (Siraj Shaikh) 9860025625. 0909364404-1

NECC suggested farm-gate price for 100 eggs on 10.02.2025 in Pune without tray is Rs.495/- (four hundred ninety five only) and Phone: NECC: 24270724, 9970662588, Dealer: 9130089779, 24455130, 0909361955-1

MATRIMONIAL

MARRIAGE BUREAU

Kulkarni Matrimonial Services For CA, MBA, Doctors, Engineers, Businessmen, Govt Servants, Bankers, NRI, Divorcee, Elite Profiles Available. 'Pavitravivah' 9892625606/8450914835. 0070934850-7

OTHER CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONAL

I have changed my name from NAGARAI ZAMAN HANIF to NAGARIYA ZAMAN HANIF by Affidavit no. 176/2025 0909369977-2

I, Sujata, spouse of No. 2787229L Rank: EX HAV, Jagdale Dhanaji Shankar, V/PO- Shiravade, TAL. Karad, DIST. Satara- 415115 have changed my name from Sujata to Sujata Dhanaji Jagdale affidavit no- 769 dt.- 07/02/2025 0909369976-2

I, Sneha Mahajan spouse of IC-22458K Lt Col (Retd) TN Mahajan have changed my name from Sneha Mahajan to Snehlata Tarlok Mahajan & DOB is 20/04/1950 vide affidavit No 284/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369983-4

I, Shobha spouse of No 2784298W Ex Hav Shelar Anil Rajaram have changed my name from Shobha to Shobha Anil Shelar vide affidavit No 277/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369984-2

I, Shital spouse of No 2802089K Ex Sep Barge Sachin Uttamrao have changed my name from Shital to Shital Sachin Barge vide affidavit No 298/2025 dated 07/02/2025 0909369980-1

I, Vidya Sudhir Karale spouse of No 1586073M Ex Hav Karale Sudhir Murlidhar have changed my name from Vidya Sudhir Karale to Vidhya Sudhir Karale & DOB from 10/02/1982 to 21/05/1982 vide affidavit No 279/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369984-4

I, VAISHALI, spouse of JC-460701N SUB LAWAND RAMESH VASANT (RETD) R/O VPO-KHATAV, TEHD KHATAV, DIST-SATARA (MH), 415505 have changed my name from VAISHALI to VAISHALI RAMESH LAWAND vide Affidavit dated 03/02/2025 before Notary Adv JN SAWANT at Phaltan 0040773238-1

I, Surekha spouse of JC-327404L Ex Sub Pendharkar Nandlal Hiralal have changed my name from Surekha to Surekha Nandlal Pendharkar vide affidavit No 296/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369981-4

I, Sujata, spouse of No. 2787229L Rank: EX HAV, Jagdale Dhanaji Shankar, V/PO- Shiravade, TAL. Karad, DIST. Satara- 415115 have changed my name from Sujata to Sujata Dhanaji Jagdale affidavit no- 769 dt.- 07/02/2025 0909369976-2

I, Pushpa widow of No 4543738M Ex Hav Rokade Babasaheb Tukaram have changed my name from Pushpa to Pushpa Babasaheb Rokade & DOB is 05/04/1962 vide affidavit No 283/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369983-3

I, Shalan widow of No 1523834X Ex Sep (Late) Shankar Bhintade have changed my name from Shalan to Shalan Shankar Bhintade vide affidavit No 301/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369980-4

I, SMT PUSHPALATHA Spouse of No10118426W SEPOY Balkrishna Koli Solapur, Have change my name from SMT PUSHPALATHA to PUSHPLATA BALKRUSHNA KOLI my DOB is 24/12/1954 not a 01/02/1956 Notary 941/ 25 Dt. 22/01/2025 0050260339-1

I, SMT CHANDER KALA Spouse of Late No 6616408SEP Mahadeo Rokade Solapur, Have change my name from SMT CHANDER KALA to CHANDRAKALA MAHADEV ROKADE my DOB is 01/06/1951 not a 15/05/1949 Notary 70 Dt. 24/01/2025. 0050260338-1

I, SHASHIKALA, spouse of No. 1258381X Rank: EX HAV, RAMESH RAMRAO DESHMUKH, V/PO-NANDGAON, TAL. & DIST. Satara- 415107 have changed my name from SHASHIKALA to SHASHIKALA RAMESH DESHMUKH affidavit no- 979 dt.- 07/01/2025 0909369976-3

I, Rekha spouse of No 1389942W Ex Nk Bhagwan Dattu Mohite have changed my name from Rekha to Rekha Bhagwan Mohite vide affidavit No 294/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369980-5

I, MUMTAZABI Spouse of Late No6274232 Havildar Allauddin Tadmod Solapur, Have change my name from MUMTAZABI to MUMTAZABI ALLAUDDIN TADMOD my DOB is 19/02/1942 not a 23/05/1942 Notary 1084 Dt. 25/01/2025. 0050259730-1

I, Rani spouse of No 2792412X Ex Nk Kadam Krishna Ratilal have changed my name from Rani to Rani Krishna Kadam vide affidavit No 280/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369984-5

I, PRAMILA Spouse of No14905214M Rank Havildar Tanaji Arjun Jadhav Resident Solapur, Have Change My Name from PRAMILA to PRAMILA TANAJI JADHAV my DOB is 10/08/1969 not a 12/02/1970 Notary No. 301 Dt. 20/01/2025 0050259726-1

I, PARWATI Spouse of No 13610191L Rank Havildar Name Bagal Shankar Ganpat Resident Solapur, Have Change My Name from PARWATI to PARVATI SHANKAR BAGAL vide Notary No. 976/25 Dt. 23/01/2025. 0050259728-1

I, PADMAWATI Spouse of Late No14234145X NK(TS) Nule Channveer Shankar Solapur, Have change my name from PADMAWATI to PADMAWATI CHANNVEER NULE my DOB is 01/06/ 1964 not a 05/04/1964 Notary 1073 Dt. 24/01/2025. 0050260337-1

I, No 2802089K Ex Sep Barge Sachin Uttamrao have changed my son name from Utkarsh to Utkarsh Sachin Barge vide affidavit No 300/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369980-3

I, No 2802089K Ex Sep Barge Sachin Uttamrao have changed my daughter name from Sarthaki to Sarthaki Sachin Barge vide affidavit No 295/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369980-2

I, Nanda Devi Shingate spouse of No 6463480H Ex Nk Udhav Tukaram Shingate have changed my name from Nanda Devi Shingate to Nanda Udhav Shingate & DOB from 01/06/1960 to 02/06/1962 vide affidavit No 281/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369983-1

I, No 14815592K Ex Sep Bhongale Mahendra Namdeo have changed my son name from Pranav to Pranav Mahendra Bhongale vide affidavit No 288/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369982-3

I, No 14815592K Ex Sep Bhongale Mahendra Namdeo have changed my daughter name from Pragati to Pragati Mahendra Bhongale vide affidavit No 289/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369982-4

I, No 14435471W Ex Hav Jadhav Hanumant Tukaram have changed my son name from Viraj to Viraj Hanumant Jadhav vide affidavit No 285/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369983-5

I, No 14435471W Ex Hav Jadhav Hanumant Tukaram have changed my daughter name from Vaishnavi to Vaishnavi Hanumant Jadhav vide affidavit No 286/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369982-1

I, Nanda Devi Shingate spouse of No 6463480H Ex Nk Udhav Tukaram Shingate have changed my name from Nanda Devi Shingate to Nanda Udhav Shingate & DOB from 01/06/1960 to 02/06/1962 vide affidavit No 281/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369983-1

I, Meera Bai spouse of No 4546531X Ex Nk Jadhav Chhabu Narasu have changed my name from Meera Bai to Mirabai Chhabu Jadhav vide affidavit No 295/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369981-3

I, Madhuri Devi spouse of No 14435471W Ex Hav Jadhav Hanumant Tukaram have changed my name from Madhuri Devi to Madhuri Hanumant Jadhav vide affidavit No 287/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369982-2

I, MANGAL Spouse of Late No2766746 NAIK Audumbar M Dngare Solapur, Have change my name from MANGAL to MANGAL AUDUMBAR DONGARE my DOB is 01/01/1960 not a 24/06/1960 Notary 1190 Dt. 28/01/2025. 0050259731-1

I, Krishanat Lahu Jadhav s/o Lahu Jadhav, Residing At Qtr No 16/05, D Type, Rangehills Khadki, Pune - 411020. Have Changed My Name To Krushna Lahu Jadhav Vide Affi. No. 113/2025 Dt. 01/02/2025. 0050260334-1

I, Kamal spouse of JC-105319Y Ex Sub Bhanudas Jadhav have changed my name from Kamal to Kamal Bhanudas Jadhav vide affidavit No 303/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369980-6

I, Kamal Spouse of 14201097H, Ex Nk, Shivaji Nikam, V/PO- Apshinge, Tal & Dist. Satara- 415518 have changed my name from Kamal to Kamal Shivaji Nikam vide affidavit no: 768 Date: 07/02/2025. 0909369976-4

I, JC-327404L Ex Sub Pendharkar Nandlal Hiralal have changed my son name from Shubham to Shubham Nandlal Pendharkar vide affidavit No 297/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369981-6

I, My Old Name Miss Anita Charudatta Joshi changed To New Name Mrs. Shriya Santosh Taware. Affidavit No. 10650 Dated 05/02/2025 0909369978-1

I, INDU Spouse of No JC459198P Rank Subedar Name Sidram Tukaram Thopte Resident Solapur, Have Change My Name from INDU to INDU SIDRAM THOPE vide Notary No. 865 Dt. 21/01/2025 0050259725-1

I, Chandra Bhaga spouse of No 1510134L Ex Honey Nb Sub Popat Walke have changed my name from Chandra Bhaga to Chandrbhaga Popat Walke & DOB is 01/01/1945 vide affidavit No 293/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369981-1

I, CHITRA KALA Spouse of Late No1144114 Rank SEPOY Gena Godase Resident Solapur, Have Change My Name from CHITRA KALA to CHITRAKALA GENA GODASE my correct DOB is 01/06/1951 Notary No. 936/25 Dt. 22/01/2025. 0050259724-1

I, Army No.14229941W NAIK(TS) G R K DATTATRAY (Retd) R/O PARIT GALLI, KASBA PETH, Phaltan, TEH-PHALTAN, DISTT-SATARA (MH), 415523 have changed my name from G R K DATTATRAY to RAJENDRAKUMAR DATTATRAY GATE video Affidavit dated 13/01/2025 before Executive Magistrate at Phaltan and Gazette dated 6-12 Feb 2025 0040773238-2

I, Anita spouse of No 1583115H Ex Sep Ghodake Ashok Balasaheb have changed my name from Anita to Anita Ashok Ghodake vide affidavit No 291/2025 dated 07/02/2025. 0909369982-6

I have changed my name Mangal Govind Chavan to Madhuri Santram Kamble as per document for passport issuance. 0909369973-1

I have changed my Old name- Prataprao Dnyanoba Hande to new name- Pratap Dnyanoba Hande. Aff no- 130/24 0909369979-1

I Lata Wife of No- 1573755Y Ex-Nk Pawar Hanumant Baburao have changed my name from Lata to Lata Hanumant Pawar and wrong DOB 12/05/1972 to correct DOB 14/07/1971 vide Affidavit 301247 of 07/02/2025 0040773230-1

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING
Novena Prayer to St. Jude May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adorned Glorified loved and preserved throughout the world. Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Kingdom Come Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude the worker of Miracles pray for us. Jude the helper of hopeless pray for us. Say this prayer nine time for nine days your prayers will be answers by the eight day. Publication must be promised.

I Vidya Wife of No- 1584460H Ex-Sep Patil Sudhakar Krishana residing at Bhosari, Pune have changed my name from Vidya to Vidya Sudhakar Patil and wrong DOB 01/02/1981 to correct 03/06/1982 vide Affidavit 300926 of 06/02/2025 0040773231-1

I Madhuri Wife of No- 1543704W Ex-NK/TS Madhukar Dadajirao Kadam residing at Yerwada, Pune have changed my name from Madhuri to Madhuri Madhukar Kadam and wrong DOB 08/05/1959 to correct 08/05/1960 vide Affidavit 300923 of 06/02/2025 0040773234-1

I Savita wife of No- 2779121Y Ex-Hav Pawar Jagdeo Soman residing at Lohegaon, Pune have changed my name from Savita to Savita Jagdeo Pawar vide Affidavit 301248 of 07/02/2025 0040773232-1

I Rukhmini Bai wife of JC-260131Y Ex-Nb Sub Rampure Udhav Khanderao residing at Mundhwa, Pune have changed my name from Rukhmini Bai to Rukhmini Bai Udhav Rampure vide Affidavit 300925 of 06/02/2025 0050259727-1

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF BIRTH DATE

I, Anita Kaloniya Spouse of Yogesh Kumar Kaloniya R/at Vimannagar Pune-14 Have Changed my name from Anita Kaloniya to Anita Devi Vide Affidavit No.32AB-879366 Dt.07/02/2025 at Pune 0909369974-1

I, Kamala Siddappa Patil widow of No 110174Y Ex CPO Siddappa Devappa Patil have changed my DOB from 16/09/1965 to 01/06/1964 vide affidavit No 282/2025 dated 07/02/2025 0909369983-2

IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

ON BMC ELECTIONS

Two SLPs have been filed in the Supreme Court, one is on OBCs, the second is about delimitation. Until there is clarity on them, nothing can be said. It depends on the Supreme Court's final verdict



WHY BHUSHAN GAGRANI

Dr Bhushan Gagrani, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner, has a rare record of keeping big-ticket projects of all six chief ministers he has worked with on track without ruffling feathers in political circles. With a vast experience in urban development, he is

known for his low-profile style of functioning. As a hands-on administrator, he has given direction to redevelopment efforts in the city and is committed to completing connectivity corridors, water projects and green spaces, all of which are expected to transform the metropolis.



ON THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE BEFORE BMC

BMC should not become an inward-looking organisation. It should work as per global standards and try to adapt to global best practices

Pratip Acharya: For the past few years, the city has witnessed a new but serious problem of air pollution. How are you handling it?

It starts post-monsoon, immediately after the October heat is over. Experts say it is a weather-related phenomenon and localised in nature. During this time, the density of air is inversely related to the temperature. Once temperature goes down, density increases and air particles remain in the air. This is a global phenomenon. Locally, dust from private and public works and vehicular fuel worsen conditions. So how do we control these?

You cannot stop vehicles. You can check their PUCs (pollution under control certificates), try to have an efficient traffic flow system and develop public transport. As far as construction is concerned, we tried to stop activities in a few pockets, but pollution is not pocket-wise. Then there is the impact of geography in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. For instance, if there is crushing in Navi Mumbai, it will affect Mumbai. If there is something here, its impact will be felt in Vasai. We now have 32 AQI (air quality index) monitoring stations of which 28 are functioning, run by BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation), IIT Bombay and MPCB (Maharashtra Pollution Control Board) which give hourly updates. But again, the readings are done in a 500-metre area. Right now we are devising policies based on those readings. We carry out local level interventions, like watering roads, clearing debris, mist fogging and stopping trenches. For construction work, there are regulations like creating green barriers. But rules aren't followed.

Pratip Acharya: Half of Mumbai is dug up. Do you think pollution is a temporary or permanent problem?

No problem is permanent, there has to be a solution. Once most of the ongoing concretisation for public works is done, pollution will go down on its own. However, even if the public works are over in two years, private redevelopment work will continue. For the next 20 years, I do not see a slowdown of private redevelopment work. That's the future of Mumbai.

Sandeep Singh: Violations of the rulebook are frequent, so how can BMC ensure strict adherence of norms. Can stringent penalties help?

Whenever we give out contracts, there has to be a provision of a certain penalty for certain defaults. Some of the old contracts don't have strict penalty clauses. For example, we have imposed heavy duty per day for concretisation. Second, how do you impose a penalty and collect it? For that we have to activate our machinery, issue stop work notices. We stopped work in Borivali and Byculla area for more than three weeks. The air quality improved there. Now Byculla has three wards. Redevelopment buildings are on 200-300 sq m wards and don't have space for proper barricading. We are seriously thinking about not allowing such development on small plots. There is no margin around buildings, no parking.

Nayonika Bose: The upgradation of Mumbai has come at a cost as its tree cover has depleted significantly. Does BMC have any afforestation plan?

Whenever we get space, we either use it for plantations or playgrounds. We don't get many big spaces but we do get enough for gardens. A big garden will soon be opened to the public in Andheri. Another challenge is the type of trees to be planted.

Shubhangi Khapre: Without an elected body, don't you feel that you can focus 100 per cent on administration without much interference? Is this a blessing in disguise?

Yes, you are not preoccupied with smaller issues. You are not exposed to 250 corporators 24x7. But everything has a flip side too. While on a day-to-day basis, you get a breather and are able to concentrate on your priorities, at the same time, not getting proper feedback is an issue. Whatever we are getting at our level is from the Municipal Commissioner, Additional Municipal Commissioner or the Deputy Municipal Commissioner, which is like pre-cooked food. Everything seems okay. Real feedback is missing. We are working on a democratic system of a three-tier government which has been "unused" over the last three years. While getting used to things is hard, getting "unused" is very fast. So bringing that back will take time.

Sandeep Singh: Isn't that unfortunate?

I don't see it as fortunate or unfortunate. I am only discussing my impressions on having them or not having them. I always ask my officials that even though they may not be corporators, we must be receptive to their issues. There may be nagging and

'Pollution in Mumbai can't be a permanent problem. There has to be a solution despite the construction'

BMC Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani on tackling pollution, meeting Mumbai's infrastructural challenges, redevelopment and BMC elections. The session was moderated by senior correspondent Pratip Acharya and correspondent Nayonika Bose



Bhushan Gagrani, BMC Commissioner (right) with moderators Pratip Acharya and Nayonika Bose during Idea Exchange at The Indian Express, Mumbai. Ganesh Shirseka

cross-political matters but still, you are getting some feedback from them.

Mohamed Thaver: Why does Mumbai have to battle the same problems for years? What are the persistent issues?

One, our roads are nowhere close to international standards. And nowadays, not even to national standards. If we are to address this issue, there has to be a long-term solution. Earlier, there was a multiplicity of agencies like MSRDC (Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation), MMRDA (Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority) and PWD (Public Works Department). But now, all roads within municipal boundaries have been handed over to the BMC, be it the Eastern or Western Express highways or flyovers. So it is the administrative responsibility of the BMC to keep them in good condition. There is no option but to concretise the roads and not create trenches again. If this is done in the next three years, we will have relief. We have collected data of concretised roads in the last three years. There are no potholes or water logging. We are planning to cover 800 km in the next two years. Except Eastern and Western Express highways, we will see nine-metre wide roads.

The other issue is about utilities underneath the road. Due to redevelopment, the same plot is going to carry around 2.5 to 3 times more people. So it leads to trenching to increase the capacity of utilities and you cannot do trenching on a concrete road as the entire slab has to be changed. We are consulting IIT experts and ensuring arrangement of ducts. I am talking to all utility providers to increase their strength now as after concretisation, we are not going to give permission for trenching for the next 20 years. It is easier said than done.

Omkar Gokhale: There was a similar assurance given to the Bombay High Court but it has now been delayed. How will you tackle it?

We have already started work. I know it is not completed. We did not get good contractors in the island city but we are doing good work in the suburbs. It has now started in the island city, which has its own challenges like continuous VIP traffic movement. So getting a window from traffic police is very difficult.

Pratip Acharya: The coastal road is now fully operational. What are some of the key infrastructure projects that are

going to transform the city?

Normally, when we talk about infrastructure, we only talk about visible surface infrastructure, but a lot of infrastructure is not visible. For example, we are working on seven STP plants (Sewage Treatment Plants). Work was started in 2022 and seven STP plants — of almost about 3,000 MLD (mega litres per day) — will be completed by 2028. This will improve water quality in the sea around Mumbai. Our problem is that Mumbai used to throw its entire sewage into the sea, for about eight to 10 km. And we are lucky to have got that gradient in the sea, so it is not visible. But it is still going into the sea. The volumetric cannot be compared with Delhi but roughly we are unloading a volume of the Powai lake after secondary treatment into the sea everyday. We are thinking of recycling wastewater, not necessarily for drinking, but for other uses.

Besides these, projects like the Gargai Dam and the desalination plan are also in the pipeline. We are augmenting Mumbai's water supply network by augmenting its water supply tunnels. The population of Mumbai is growing and we have to be future-ready at a time when it is witnessing several redevelopment projects across the city and suburbs. As for connectivity, work has started on the coastal road, going all the way up to Versova, Dahisar and Bhayandar. There's the Goregaon-Mulund New Link Road. The East-West connectivity is very poor but the Thane-Borivali stretch by MMRDA will address that. Then there is the 9-km Sanjay Gandhi National Park tunnel.

Nayonika Bose: How well is the BMC



equipped financially to execute infrastructure projects? There was talk about using Fixed Deposits (FDs)?

While there is no considerable augmentation of resources on a real-time basis, what we are earning has not gone down either. It might have gone up by five to seven per cent but there is no significant addition to resources. We have not hiked taxes in the last four years. However, what has helped BMC in augmenting resources is real estate. Because of our high premiums and the redevelopment boom, we are still not feeling the pinch as far as our plans are concerned. All the infrastructure projects have been properly planned and funded for this financial year and the next.

Frankly, I don't know why we are talking so much about FDs because the inflation rate is five-and-a-half per cent and I am getting seven-and-a-half per cent from the bank. So I am earning just two per cent. Instead, investing that money in public assets or productive assets makes more sense. The FD issue can become serious or debatable only if we are unable to pay the salaries, pension, debts (which we do not have anyway) or return the security deposits of contractors. As long as we are not defaulting, there's nothing to worry about. We will have to take care of the liquidity issue, maybe after two financial years.

Sandeep Singh: Do you think you will have to revise some taxes, maybe after local body polls?

We may have to revise some rates because for four years, we have not revised taxes on property and water. We have to invest hugely in water projects. Water cuts

are not helping us save water as they create problems in the distribution system. If you supply 10-15 per cent less water, restoring the system is a hydraulic engineering challenge. It doesn't come back to its own, the master reservoir doesn't get to its optimum level, enough pressure is not created in the distribution system.

Alok Deshpande: BMC has been criticised for its construction cartels, which affect the quality of roads. Can this be broken?

Cartelisation is mostly in road works, not in other projects. Over the last decade, the best contractors from all across India are working on BMC projects, be it SCC, L&T, APCO, Welspun or Shapoorji. Even when it comes to roads, monopoly exists in the small ward-level roads. For coastal road projects, being undertaken by L&T and HCC, there's no cartelisation. There's nothing called big and small contractors, there has to be good contractors.

Sadaf Modak: Do you think the city falls short in terms of infrastructure for pedestrians?

Mumbai is not a very walker-friendly city. South Mumbai has a lot of footpaths and good tree cover but elsewhere you find them in patches. With a dearth of land, a footpath gets the last priority. Having said that, we are trying to develop small clusters for walking. We will pedestrianise Kalaghoda, parts of Bandra and Andheri. The coastal road, when it is completed, will have walkways. The new Marine Drive (unnamed yet but we call it so for convenience) near Worli will be a 7.5 km stretch of walking, jogging and cycling.

Pratip Acharya: The BMC is also mooted a proposal to set up hoardings and billboards on the coastal road. Does it not contradict environment norms?

Not at all. The proposal to erect hoardings is towards the mainland and not in the reclaimed part of the sea. We have received Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearances. Also, while giving us permission, the Supreme Court had ordered us not to carry out any developmental work in the eco-sensitive zone. Why would we jeopardise ourselves by violating the court's orders?

Shubhangi Khapre: While BMC provides basic infrastructure, it also has to work with the Slum Redevelopment Authority (SRA). Do

you think this complicates matters?

The slum issue in Mumbai is so big and chronic that BMC single-handedly cannot deal with it. You require a separate Act and a separate institutional mechanism. People say the slum population has remained as it is but an NGO report shows it has reduced to 29 per cent. Some say while slums have gone, vertical slums have taken their place. The argument is endless. SRA has not been a great success but it's not a complete failure either. Now it is gaining momentum again, because of changes in rules and regulations. Post-RERA, the developer community has become more compliant. There is a strong political will to complete these projects as soon as possible. I don't know when Mumbai will be slum-free but there will be a significant difference in five years.

Shubhangi Khapre: The vertical growth is increasing but it puts additional burden on resources.

But they were already there. Now the saleable component is incentivising the SRA. Density of population on that particular land in any case is going up because of normal redevelopment.

Shubhangi Khapre: When do you think the BMC elections will happen?

Two Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) have been filed in the Supreme Court, one is on OBCs (Other Backward Classes), the second is about delimitation. Until there is clarity on them, nothing can be said. It depends on the Supreme Court's final verdict.

Siddhant Konduskar: How is BMC working to revive BEST (Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport)?

BEST is a specialised transport agency, so I don't think BMC should get into operational issues. Now, as a parent organisation, it is BMC's moral and statutory responsibility to support BEST through its budget. We have given Rs 850 crore in the current financial year. Next year, that may go up. BMC has given an additional Rs 400 crore to purchase e-vehicles and wet lease BEST buses. More than funds, BEST will have to address its own problems.

Sandeep Singh: What is the BMC's biggest challenge?

BMC should not become an inward-looking organisation. It should work as per global standards and try to adapt to global best practices.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

The new aam aadmi

AAP defeat shows BJP has successfully managed to recast the middle class as the ordinary Delhi citizen



SANJAY SRIVASTAVA

THE DELHI QUAKE

A powerful Centre hobbled AAP but its decline has happened in circumstances of its own making. BJP needs to build on its win

THE COMPREHENSIVE ROUT of the AAP and the BJP's spectacular victory ripples well beyond the national capital. To begin with, it is the biggest setback for a party whose birth and unprecedented graph in a system that has a high threshold of entry and electoral viability could only have happened in the high-visibility setting of Delhi. Here, the AAP climbed out from the heart of the Anna Hazare movement against corruption that helped fell the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre and paved the way for the sweep to power of the Narendra Modi-led BJP. Here, too, over two terms, the AAP resisted the Modi wave, and put its imprimatur on a "Delhi Model" of governance — consisting primarily of its successes in renovating the government school and, less successfully, setting up mohalla clinics, alongside provision of subsidised water and electricity. It was a model it hoped to make its calling card in its bid to spread to other parts of the country — so far, it has been able to do so only in Punjab. Its dramatic defeat in Delhi now means that it has lost its footing on its home ground, and also a vital springboard. Because if success is writ large, so is failure amplified in Delhi.

The AAP will need to ask how it lost the plot after winning two large mandates, why it surrendered its magnificent opportunity. Of course, it was up against formidable odds because of outside pressures — it was worn down by its hostilities with a powerful Centre and its nominee, the L-G, and the imprisonment on corruption allegations of its top leadership. But Kejriwal's party needs to also look within, its political decline has happened in many circumstances of its own making. The early successes in the government school and mohalla clinic were routinised and, in its second term, they have been facing questions of patchy quality. Then there were the problems and issues of a rapidly growing metropolis on which the AAP government was seen to be neglectful, inattentive, or just throwing up its hands helplessly — water, most of all, and the worsening condition of roads, uncleared mounds of garbage, open drains, clogged sewer lines, and an AQI that is deteriorating. The AAP was simply not seen as a party that could address questions of the growing wear and tear of the infrastructure and services of a layered city, to which people flock in search of a better future from across the country.

The BJP's victory in Delhi comes on the heels of its success in Haryana and Maharashtra sweep. It brings to an end an exile of 27 years in the capital, and after the Lok Sabha setback last year, rehabilitates the party's winning streak nationally. On the other side, will be a subdued Opposition alliance, the disarray within framed even more sharply. But the winner's challenge is formidable too. It must build on the AAP's successes in basic education and health care while framing a plan for the city that is more encompassing. Given that its governments rule both at the Centre and in Delhi, it will have no excuses for not responding to the demands of a metropolis where aspiration is the great leveller, and which can make the difference between defeat and victory.

DHAKA MUST ACT

Vandalism targeting homes of Mujib and Awami League leaders is disquieting. Yunus government needs to restore calm

SIX MONTHS AFTER Sheikh Hasina's ouster from power in Bangladesh and arrival in India following student-led protests, protesters reportedly demolished the homes of Awami League leaders and defaced murals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 20-odd districts on February 5. The unrest began with a call for a "bulldozer procession" towards Mujib's residence, a symbol of the 1971 liberation, at Dhaka's 32 Dhanmondi Road. At least 50 murals of Mujib and his family were destroyed, and eight Awami League offices set on fire. As Bangladesh's founding leader and first president, Mujib remains a revered figure for many. If peace and reconciliation are the Muhammad Yunus-led government's objectives, the destruction of Mujib's home risks alienating segments of the population who might otherwise be sympathetic towards the current dispensation. The interim government's equivocation on the violence — it has all but blamed Sheikh Hasina for it — is disturbing. A change of regime cannot erase a country's history, or the figures that stand tall.

Sheikh Hasina has condemned the February 5 violence, saying that "history cannot be wiped out". New Delhi, too, has reacted strongly, with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) calling the incident "regrettable". Diplomatic tensions have escalated as Bangladesh summoned India's acting High Commissioner to formally protest Hasina's "fabricated and provocative" remarks. Dhaka's reaction is unwarranted. India and Bangladesh should aim to insulate the bilateral relationship from the ups and downs of short-term politics, not make it part of partisan agendas. Economic, strategic and cultural ties between the two countries need to be deepened for the benefit of people on both sides of the border. The interim government in Dhaka must also remember that the country's liberation in 1971 is deeply tied to both Mujib and India. After Mujib's assassination in a military coup, the only survivors — Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana — found refuge in India.

The political milieu in post-Hasina Bangladesh is yet to firm up. Free and fair elections in the near future are imperative. Mahfuz Alam, a key advisor to Yunus, recently said that the Awami League would not be allowed to contest elections. Such statements do not bode well. Will the interim government enable rogue elements to sow chaos under the guise of "dismantling symbols of fascism" — is the question. Two days after the attacks, Yunus urged calm and spoke of the need to prevent further attacks on properties linked to Hasina's family and Awami League leaders. His words must be accompanied by concrete action on the ground. The rule of law must be upheld. Yunus's stature as a Nobel Laureate and development pioneer allows him to rise above the political heat and work for the long-term interests of his country.

THE ORIGIN MYTH of the Aam Aadmi Party — its own imagination regarding its nature — is deeply entangled with four key ideas. First, that there is too much politics in the political life of the nation and that governance is best carried out by politicians who are against politics. Second, in order for this to happen, Indian politics requires outsiders — those who are not career politicians — to enter politics. They must also be outsiders in the sense of rejecting established ways of doing politics. Third, politicians must be modest in their lifestyle in order to prove that they have entered public life to serve the people rather than for self-enrichment. And, fourth, that the voting public subscribes to all of the above.

Over the past decade, a variety of neutral observers of Delhi's infrastructural life have pointed to marked improvements in the capacity of its most deprived residents to access resources for a better quality of life. Under AAP, government schools made impressive strides in providing measurably improved education and mohalla clinics appeared to make an admirable contribution towards the making of better healthcare facilities. Beyond the socio-economically marginalised, AAP also found some success in addressing a crucial — and chronic — Delhi complaint: The constantly erratic electricity situation. AAP did indeed seem to be moving beyond politics, doing the things that are expected of good administrators.

Over the past decade, AAP's leadership seemed to be fulfilling its self-ascribed role of political outsiders who, being disdainful of the corrupt and self-serving ways of professional politicians, re-engineered governance away from politics and towards the nuts and bolts of improving the lives of citizens. The original appeal of the party, linked to the heady days of the Anna Hazare linked anti-corruption movement that brought down Delhi's Congress government, became a shared belief system between it and political commentators. The electoral calamity encountered by the Aam Aadmi Party in the 2025 Delhi elections should tell us something about the myth-

making about voters and their beliefs regarding politics and politicians.

In his own seat of New Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal lost not just to a professional politician, but the son of an archetypal professional politician. The winner, Parvesh Verma, has been both a member of Delhi's legislative assembly and a two-time member of parliament. His father, Sahib Singh Verma was, of course, the chief minister of Delhi for two-and-a-half years in the mid-1990s. Do people dislike professional politicians and prefer their rulers to be, say, technocrats and those with management degrees? Mostly not.

Our relationship with public figures is far messier than that frequently assumed. It is not as open to ideas about rational behaviour — surely improved government schools and better health facilities should mean electoral success for AAP — as is frequently analysed. Our relationship to public figures is an affective one that consists of a variety of sensations that go beyond a simple cause-and-effect relationship. The fact that BJP's Mohan Singh Bisht should win from the Muslim-dominated Mustafabad constituency — affected by the riots of 2020 — should caution us against accepting simplistic ideas regarding the peoples' desire to elect "anti-politicians".

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The myth of the political outsider as a figure deeply wished for by the electorate has also not served the ends desired by Arvind Kejriwal and those around him. It has, just as significantly, also laid to waste certain strands of thinking about Indian politics. Apparent political outsiders, such as Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia, find themselves comprehensively outdone by the masters of the political inside: BJP's strategy thinktank. The idea of the outsider storming a long-established citadel called politics derives both from folk tales about mythical heroic figures as well as modern re-fashioning of folk tales where those with super-human attributes fly through sky and climb skyscrapers to rescue hapless citizens from dire situations. There is little or no proof whatsoever that it is the political outsider that is a preferred figure in Indian political life. For a society so

deeply enmeshed in kinship, caste, religious and family networks — networks of insiders — it would be very remarkable indeed if outsiders became admired figures in the realm of politics. For that would mean that Indian politics is completely unconnected to Indian society, a logical impossibility.

Do we really expect our politicians to have ascetic and modest lifestyles that also serve as a marker of their devotion to public life and disdain for the grasping ways of professional politicians? Both the BJP and neutral commentators might suggest that voters were turned off by the controversy over the luxurious refurbishment of the Chief Minister's residence and that this significantly affected Kejriwal's reputation; that is not what we expect of our politicians. However, over the past three decades, Indian society has been firmly in the grip of a culture of aspirations where conspicuous consumption is not considered a bad thing at all. Indeed, it is greatly admired and marks a significant turn away from both Gandhian asceticism and Nehruvian socialism as models of private and public life. The election result should force us to think about the nature of the Indian voter now, rather than seek to apply ideas of an entirely different age to a very different present.

Finally, what the BJP has managed to do is invent an entirely new "aam aadmi" through carefully putting forward the idea that the "ordinary person" is, in fact, not the one who may be socially and economically marginalised. Instead, the ordinary citizen is the one who has been marginalised by earlier political dispensations. This "ordinary" Delhi resident is a middle-class citizen. And that it is middle-classness that can serve as a criticism of earlier forms of politics. It is middle-classness that can recognise a purer form of politics. It is this newly-minted heroic figure that a large number of voters aspire to. They will happily support professional politicians and political insiders who promise to deliver on the new aspirations of middle classness.

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A DIFFERENT WAY FORWARD

In culture that equates productivity with purpose, what happens when jobs vanish?



OLIMITA ROY

IN THE EARLY months of 2025, the spectre of mass layoffs has returned with a vengeance, casting a long shadow over professionals who had begun to believe in a post-pandemic era of stability. Big Tech — Meta, Amazon, Microsoft, and even Google — has resumed cost-cutting measures, reversing the decline in layoffs seen in 2024. The message is clear: Corporate austerity is back, and with it, the erosion of work as a stable identity.

For decades, we were defined by our jobs. We introduced ourselves by our professions, structured our lives around promotions and milestones, and measured success through salaries and titles. The professional arc — entry-level grind, mid-career peak, retirement — provided not just financial security but existential certainty. Now, that story is fraying. The old narrative of linear progression has given way to an era of precarity, where layoffs can be abrupt and seemingly arbitrary, and even high-performers are not spared.

In the shifting sands of the global economy, multiple factors drive this instability. The return of Donald Trump in the White House is already reshaping Silicon Valley. Tech leaders, wary of regulatory scrutiny and eager to align with the new administration's priorities, are cutting jobs in pursuit of leanness and efficiency. Meta's recent layoffs — affecting five per cent of its workforce — have been justified under the guise of eliminating "low performers", a move that coincides with Mark Zuckerberg's broader ideological shift towards

workplace "masculine energy". Meanwhile, Alphabet has introduced voluntary exit programmes, reminiscent of Elon Musk's brutal restructuring of Twitter (now X). This signals that further rounds of layoffs may follow if cost-saving targets are not met.

At the same time, artificial intelligence (AI) looms as both a disruptor and a paradox. AI, particularly general-purpose systems like ChatGPT, threatens to displace millions of jobs, but also promises to create new roles. The International AI Safety Report suggests that in advanced economies, 60 per cent of jobs are vulnerable to automation. Meanwhile, companies like China's DeepSeek have demonstrated that billion-dollar R&D budgets are not prerequisites for AI breakthroughs, raising questions about the tech industry's hiring practices. If innovation can be achieved with a handful of fresh PhD graduates, what does that mean for the legions of experienced engineers once deemed indispensable?

The unravelling is economic but also psychological. Work was always more than a paycheck; it was a structure, a way to locate oneself in the world. Now, that structure is crumbling. The educated unemployed, the overqualified underemployed, the knowledge workers staring blankly at screens — these are not abstractions. They are people in apartments they can no longer afford, calculating how many more months the severance will last. They are scrolling job listings, toggling between resumes that feel less like records of

achievement and more like relics from a life that no longer exists.

In a culture that equates productivity with purpose, what happens when the jobs disappear? There are, of course, alternatives. Some leave cities, sublet their apartments, move back in with parents. Some take contract work with no benefits, no guarantees beyond the next month. Others monetise hobbies, set up digital storefronts, sell prints, ceramics, essays — anything that might resemble a livelihood. They start vlogs, build followings, sell courses on how to build followings. They unbox PR packages, test products they may or may not actually use. They become the product. The old frameworks are gone, but the new ones have yet to take shape. The question is no longer just how to make a living, but how to construct a life. What is ambition without an audience?

The months ahead will bring more layoffs, more instability, more careful budgeting, more people weighing necessities against indulgences. But also, perhaps, a reckoning. The understanding that work was never enough, not really, and that something else must take its place. What that is remains uncertain. Maybe it is creative, maybe it is communal, maybe it is nothing that fits neatly into a LinkedIn update. But in the space where careers once were, something quieter, more elemental, might emerge. A different kind of life. A different way forward.

The writer is a consultant at AON

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



FEBRUARY 10, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

AKALIS UNDER NSA

THERE IS NO move to release the top Akali leaders arrested under the National Security Act after the Army action in Punjab, according to informed sources. Any move to resolve the Punjab problem or release the Akali leaders is expected only after the Assembly elections next month. According to these sources, the government has, some time back, considered releasing the top Akali leaders.

SPECIAL POLICE

THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT proposed to

form "strike forces" in the state police of about one platoon each at every sub-division and of a company each at every district headquarter apart from a company in each battalion of the Punjab Armed Police to deal with the law and order situation in the state. The "strike forces" will form the district armed reserve and have been suggested to counter surprise attacks by the extremists.

PM'S POLL CAMPAIGN

PRIME MINISTER RAJIV Gandhi will launch the election campaign of Congress (I) in UP and address nine public meetings. He will also undertake an extensive five-day tour

of Maharashtra between February 14 and February 22 to campaign for the assembly elections.

TAXES INEVITABLE

DESPITE NOTICED buoyancy in central tax revenues and an overall favorable economic situation, a heavy dose of taxes may be inevitable in the forthcoming Union Budget to meet the expected escalation in both plan and non-plan expenditure. The Finance Ministry has completed its initial exercise on the budget and has given a firm indication of the central assistance to the states for their annual Plans.

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Donald Trump's attack on the International Criminal Court is a perverse recognition of its importance, and of international law more generally."
— THE GUARDIAN

What Kejriwal couldn't do

Delhi gives you power and expects you to deliver. That means making friends with adversaries. Sheila Dikshit was deft at that art, Arvind Kejriwal a failure



SHUBHAJIT ROY

KENNETH M DUBERSTEIN, Ronald Reagan's White House chief of staff, once said that election campaigning is trying to destroy your opponents, while governing is making friends with them. Arvind Kejriwal never got the difference. And the BJP made hay while the sun shone. The results are clear as daylight on Saturday afternoon, as the Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party was defeated decisively after 10 years of being in office.

In many ways, this is a quintessential Delhi election. Very Delhi behaviour.

Delhi — as many outsiders like me, who have made the city their home for the last three decades, can attest to — is a very transactional city. Here, there is always give-and-take. There is a certain brutal selfishness of the city that rubs off on its residents. Residents define and revel in the transactionalism that is the DNA of the city.

This transactional behaviour runs through its business, trade, government and even RWAs. Nobody gives you anything for free. In this city of power, you need to deliver the goods. Perform or perish is the mantra. In some ways, New Delhi is as transactional and brutal as New York.

The city rewards those who perform. In the two-and-a-half decades that I have lived in Delhi — covering it from 1999 to 2006 — this has defined the city's politics.

Back then, the Delhi government was under Sheila Dikshit, the numero uno in the Delhi Congress at the time. Other leaders would vie for attention but were kept in check by the "Congress high command". She performed and was rewarded.

Delhi is very clear-headed as well. Although she came to power in 1998, the first election she won on the record of her performance was in 2003. She got 47 seats at the time — this is almost close to the BJP's tally in 2025. That election was won solely on her performance of infrastructure building in the city.

And between 1998 and 2004, she managed the art of governance by making friends with opponents: The BJP-led NDA government under Atal Bihari Vajpayee was in power at the Centre. Despite strong ideological differences, she managed to negotiate with adversaries. She sat down with oil and gas minister Ram Naik to implement the transition of Delhi's entire public transport fleet from diesel to CNG. She did the same with power minister Suresh Prabhoo, and later Anant Geete, when it came to the privatisation of Delhi's power distribution system.

On Delhi's urban infrastructure — roads, flyovers, metro — she didn't hesitate to sit down with the NDA's four urban development ministers over five years: Jagmohan, Ananth Kumar, BC Khanduri and Bandaru Dattatreya.

And, of course, there were Lieutenant Governors — Vijai Kapoor, Tejendra Khanna and BL Joshi — who were no pushovers. She



CR Sasikumar

met with them at least once a week and negotiated. Delhi, having won the bid to host the Commonwealth Games, needed all the help to build the requisite civic infrastructure by 2010. And Dikshit — with help from the BJP first and the Congress-led UPA from 2004 — was able to deliver on most projects. To many of us who covered that period, the challenges came more from the Congress ministers and leaders at the Centre; she was skilful in persuading adversaries and getting things done for the city she ruled.

After 10 years in power, Delhi rewarded her in 2008 again — in the run-up to the Commonwealth Games — although Congress's tally was diminished at 43 (out of 70) seats as against 47 in 2003.

The BJP, in those years, was a pale shadow to the Delhi Congress. The BJP in Delhi was led by Harsh Vardhan (who later became health minister) and in the Vidhan Sabha, it was led by Jagdish Mukhi (who later became Governor of Assam, Nagaland and Mizoram). So timid was their opposition in the Delhi Assembly that they earned the epithet of a "loyal Opposition" in front of Dikshit.

Delhi's reason to keep Dikshit in power was also rooted in her responsiveness to the city's problems. Most of the time, whenever there were reports and stories in the media about potholed roads or overflowing garbage dumps, she or her Cabinet ministers were quick to resolve them — sometimes within hours, if not days. But, as the Commonwealth Games wrapped up and the stories of profligacy and corruption came out, the Anna Hazare movement shepherded by activist Arvind Kejriwal metamorphosed into an Opposition party, the AAP. After three terms, Dikshit was defeated, and the AAP — after a 49-day stint in 2013-14 — won the elections in 2015.

The city wanted more and better. Its transactionalism was again on full display, as Kejriwal's AAP got an unthinkable num-

ber and mandate: 67 seats out of 70. Congress was reduced to zero. Kejriwal was not just given a mandate; it was a trust that Delhi reposed in him. Because people here saw his potential to deliver.

In 10 years, he worked on education and did reach out to the city's poor and the middle class, but frittered away his chances slowly and steadily. The profligacy in renovating the Chief Minister's residence — a reasonably modest one occupied by Delhi Assembly Speaker Chaudhary Prem Singh back in the day — turned away many avowed supporters and sympathisers. Continuing his confrontational and agitational politics over the last decade, Delhi saw him in run-ins with the powerful BJP-led central government and its nominee, the Lieutenant Governor. He was unable to negotiate with adversaries for the betterment of the city.

Delhi HAS DELIVERED a decisive mandate, granting a two-thirds majority to the development-driven vision of the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The party has returned to power in Delhi after 27 years. The resounding verdict is a clear rejection of the politics of anarchy and deception that Arvind Kejriwal's AAP introduced and perfected over the past decade. The people of Delhi have finally seen through AAP's hollow promises and double-speak, as the city suffered a steep decline on all fronts under its misrule.

AAP rose to power by capitalising on the anti-corruption movement led by Ramdev, Anna Hazare and civil society groups, which exposed the deep-rooted corruption of the Congress regime. However, Kejriwal hijacked the movement for his political ambitions, forming a party that promised to end corruption and bring efficient governance. What did Delhi get instead? Scandals, mismanagement and the theatrics of a ghost government — where the chief minister held no ministry and took no real responsibility. This abdication of duty and betrayal of the people became the defining characteristic of AAP's rule. Delhi was left to deteriorate while Kejriwal focused on self-promotion, blame games and political expansion.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Delhi witnessed the true face of AAP — a government that abandoned its people in their darkest hour. As oxygen shortages claimed lives and hospitals ran out of beds, the AAP government failed to coordinate even basic emergency services. In a cruel betrayal, AAP pushed millions of migrant workers into despair, leaving them stranded without food or shelter. In both waves of the pandemic, Kejriwal's government simply vanished, forcing the central government to step in and take control to save lives. On the ground, the cadre of the RSS and BJP rose to the occasion, ensuring relief, medical aid, and logistical support for struggling families — while AAP's leaders hid behind press conferences and propaganda.

Remember the incessant advertisement of the "world-class" mohalla clinics? The reality on the ground is a complete collapse of healthcare services. These clinics became nothing more than photo-ops, while major government hospitals suffered underfunding and mismanagement. Patients struggled to get essential medicines, and life-saving surgeries were delayed due to the lack of staff and resources.

Despite being India's largest metropolitan powerhouse, Delhi witnessed a cataclysmic collapse of urban governance and infrastructure under AAP's rule. As monsoon waterlogging wreaked havoc and summer droughts left citizens parched, the city spiralled into a state of lawlessness and decay. It choked under smog in winter, while the

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End of anarchy

AAP's rule was dominated by PR stunts and excuses. BJP's promise of governance has won it the capital



ABHINAV PRAKASH

Yamuna turned toxic after entering Delhi even as water treatment plants malfunctioned due to negligence. Meanwhile, Kejriwal and his team were busy expanding into Punjab and Gujarat, treating Delhi like an afterthought in their political ambitions.

One of the biggest myths AAP sold to the people was the so-called education revolution. It was all a carefully orchestrated PR stunt. While Kejriwal and his ministers toured schools with cameras, basic facilities like clean toilets, libraries, and laboratories were missing. Instead of genuinely reforming education, AAP spent crores on advertising its non-existent success.

No government has displayed as much apathy towards Dalits and marginalised communities as AAP. It consistently neglected Delhi's rural areas and agricultural belts, treating them as if they were not even part of the capital. Unsurprisingly, these segments have delivered a sharp rebuke to AAP's elitist politics, which viewed the poor and marginalised merely as vote banks to be lured with freebies, devoid of any real dignity or empowerment.

The party that claimed to be an anti-corruption crusader proved to be the most corrupt political formation in recent memory. When people were fighting to survive during the pandemic, Kejriwal and AAP were orchestrating the liquor scam. When people were struggling with the collapsing infrastructure, Kejriwal was building his Sheesh Mahal. AAP betrayed Delhi. It misused public funds, lied about governance, and turned its back on the people who trusted it. Now, the people have held it accountable. The 2025 election results are not just a defeat for AAP but a resounding rejection of its lies, arrogance, and politics of anarchy.

The people have rewarded the hard work and resilience of the BJP. Despite not having been in power for almost three decades, the BJP retained and expanded its voter base, demonstrating the importance of ideology and organisation, unlike the politics of convenience of AAP. Unlike the theatrics of AAP and noise by the Congress, the BJP focused on the on-ground campaign and election management, with its senior leaders hitting the ground with small drawing-room meetings. A carefully crafted campaign and comprehensive manifesto left no social, economic, professional or regional category behind. The BJP's youth wing ensured special outreach to rural Delhi under its 'Youth Connect with Delhi Dehat', under which more than 500 youth and student leaders from different political parties and social organisations joined the BJP.

This election witnessed a spontaneous and autonomous mobilisation of the people, who convened meetings and actively reinforced the call for change. It clearly demonstrates that people are seeking a government capable of delivering serious, stable governance to address the complex challenges of urban administration. It is no surprise that when the question is of governance and development, the people's unequivocal choice remains the BJP.

The writer is national vice-president of the BJP youth wing and member of the election management committee of the Delhi BJP for youth and special outreach

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Budget's political priorities

What was needed was more public expenditure, not tax cuts for middle class



HIMANSHU

THE UNION BUDGET 2025-26 comes at a time when there are clear signs of the economy slowing down. Unlike earlier, this slowdown is finally being acknowledged by the government. The Economic Survey, presented a day earlier, was clear in its assessment of the challenges facing the Indian economy. The most important being the slowdown driven by stagnant or declining incomes. The survey also presented evidence that confirmed the decline in the incomes of the self-employed, while for wage workers, it is now almost a decade of stagnant real wages. What was expected from the budget was some ideas to revive the economy based on this reality. While the budget did not have any new ideas to do so, its prescriptions are based on political pragmatism rather than economic reality. The elections in Delhi and Bihar, along with the need to satisfy the core voters of the ruling dispensation — the middle class — have taken precedence over the economic reality of an economy in distress, primarily in rural areas and in agriculture.

Given the seriousness of the economic slowdown, what was needed was an increase in public expenditure to boost aggregate demand. The nominal GDP growth is likely to be 10.1 per cent with inflation staying in the four-five per cent range. The growth of budgeted expenditure at 7.3 per cent is lower than the expected nominal GDP growth. Excluding interest payments, which are committed expenditure, growth in government spending is only 5.9 per cent, the

same as last year. On the other hand, the Centre's gross as well as net tax revenue is projected to increase at 10.9 per cent in nominal terms. This is despite the massive Rs 1 lakh crore tax giveaway to the middle class. Clearly, far from being an expansionary budget, this is a conservative budget at a time when the government was expected to step up and expand fiscal spending to increase incomes across the board.

While this has allowed the Centre to reduce its fiscal deficit for next year to 4.4 per cent, it has been achieved by expenditure cuts in real terms for programmes and ministries that needed the fiscal expenditure. The budget estimates also suggest that in many of the important ministries, revised expenditure has been lower than what was budgeted last year. This has been a general trend for some time now with larger allocations during the budget announcements, but lower actual expenditure.

Take the case of expenditure on rural development. The revised estimates for the Ministry of Rural Development are lower by Rs 3,654 crore compared to the budgeted estimates. In the case of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the revised estimates are lower by Rs 4,224 crore. Given the fact that rural areas have been in distress for almost a decade and unemployment has emerged as the most pressing problem, underspending on crucial programmes and ministries is a cause for worry. The case of MGNREGA, which has been a lifeline for many struggling with stagnant wages and lack of productive

employment, is similar. The budgeted expenditure for MGNREGA remains Rs 86,000 crore, the same as last year despite inflation and wages under the scheme having gone up. This expenditure is in fact lower than the actual spending on MGNREGA in 2023-24 (Rs 89,368 crore).

The other crisis-ridden sector that was talked about at great length and as the first priority is agriculture. Even in agriculture, there is now enough evidence to suggest that incomes have been stagnant or in decline. For agriculture, the nominal expenditure is in fact lower than the revised estimates of last year. The budgeted expenditure is Rs 1,27,290 crore as against the revised estimate of Rs 1,31,195 crore of last year.

While a significant majority of workers who are facing stagnant or declining incomes have seen expenditure cuts, the government has rejigged the tax rates to reduce the burden on the middle class, along with tax exemptions for all those with incomes up to Rs 12.75 lakh. For the government, this appears to be the only idea for reviving demand. While it will certainly increase the disposable income of the well-off middle classes, its impact on reviving the weakening consumption demand in the economy is a matter of speculation.

This move by the government was not surprising given the media noise on the middle class being the biggest victim despite the fact that the distress was more severe in rural areas, in agriculture and among informal enterprises and workers. This is nothing but

a cash transfer to the relatively rich when the need was to increase fiscal spending, which could benefit a large majority by increasing their incomes. But this is not the first time that the government has placed its bet on the middle class and the rich. In some ways, it is similar to the government's largesse to the corporate sector during the first episode of the slowdown. A tax subsidy of more than Rs 2 lakh crore to the corporates was utilised to clean their balance sheet rather than increase investment in the economy. Since then, the government, and in particular the Chief Economic Adviser, has expressed disillusionment with the corporate sector, which has used the subsidy to increase profits and reduce the wage bill, but failed to increase investment or create jobs.

With a significant majority of the middle class increasing its exposure to loans of all kinds — personal, with or without collateral — during the last four years, it is likely they may also take the opportunity to clear their existing debts and mortgages rather than spend on goods and services. Whether the middle class will join the ranks of the corporates and fail to deliver on the promise or will bail out the government will only be known in due course. But for the majority who have to pay the price through expenditure cuts and worsening distress, this budget is clear evidence of the political economy priorities of the government.

The writer is associate professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONSUMPTION BOOM

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'For growth's sake' (IE, February 8). With this rate cut, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sent a clear signal: It wants to boost lending, stimulate consumer demand and nurture investment. By lowering the borrowing cost, the RBI wants businesses to expand. It is trying to boost consumption to help economic growth. Now, banks will be happy to extend credit more freely but they need to be wary of what they have witnessed with their microfinance and unsecured loan portfolios in recent months. The real estate sector and SMEs will breathe a sigh of relief and individual borrowers should see a reduction in their EMIs. With more money in their pockets, coupled with the recent income tax cuts, this is a positive environment for a consumption boom. The RBI will pray that while it did its best to spur economic growth, inflation should not play spoilsport.

Bal Govind, Noida

WAKE-UP CALL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Journey's end' (IE, February 8). A US military C-17 Globemaster aircraft landed in Punjab's Amritsar with 104 deported Indians. This is the first instance of the US using a military aircraft for such deportations, reflecting the new administration's efforts to expedite the removal of illegal migrants. This is not the first time: Between 2009 and January 2025, the US sent back nearly 15,700 Indian na-

tionals. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told the Rajya Sabha that the deportation of illegal immigrants from the US to India is not a new phenomenon and that there has been a standard operating procedure in place. On humanitarian grounds, the chaining and handcuffing of helpless captives aboard, completely restricting the deportees' movement and even their access to the washroom, must put to shame all those responsible for the infraction of our citizens' right to dignity. Their crime? They went looking for a better life. They did it illegally but that does not make them criminals who need to be treated worse than animals. There are no jobs at home. People are spending lakhs of rupees for overseas employment. What is happening in the amrit kaal?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Journey's end' (IE, February 8). Everyone in the country should feel humiliated by the treatment meted out to the Indian nationals who were deported from the United States. However, no discussion seems to be taking place about how to dispel the circumstances that force these people to take such a huge risk and invest large chunks of money to leave their motherland with uncertain prospects. These pictures should serve as a wake-up call for those in the government to act in the right direction by providing ample employment opportunities at home. The state should also initiate a total crackdown on the travel agent mafia.

Deepak Sharma, Panchkula



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

EXPLAINED SCIENCE**HOW MICE LEARN TO SUPPRESS FEAR, IMPLICATIONS OF THIS FINDING**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

A TEAM of scientists has determined how the brain of a mouse overcomes instinctive fear, according to the findings of a new study.

The findings can have implications for developing treatments to benefit people who struggle with fear-related disorders, including phobias, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

There are two regions in the brain that work together to learn to suppress responses to perceived threats that prove harmless over time, the analysis has revealed. The study, 'Overwriting an instinct: Visual cortex instructs learning to suppress fear responses', was published in the journal *Science* on February 6. It was carried out by researchers based at the University College London (the United Kingdom).Sara Mederos, a neuroscientist at University College London who led the study, told *The Washington Post*, "We have uncovered the mechanism by which the brain — through experience — can understand which potential instinctive dangers are actually not a danger."**How was the study carried out?**

In a laboratory experiment, the researchers exposed 100 mice to a repeated visual threat that proved harmless over time — in this case, an expanding dark circle that imitated a swooping bird.

To teach the mice that the dark circle was not dangerous, the researchers introduced a barrier to prevent the mice from hiding.

"Initially, the mice ran for shelter when the ominous shadow [of the bird] appeared, as their classic instinctive fear response kicked in. But after 30 to 50 simulated swoops, the scientists observed something: The mice came to realise the threat was harmless and learned to suppress their instinct," the *Washington Post* report said.

Once that happened, the mice stopped paying attention to the dark circle and continued to forage and explore as usual.

Researchers had also inserted silicon probes into the brains of mice, and used

**Over the years, scientists, while studying learning and memory in mice, have focused on examining the visual cortex.** Wikimedia Commons

them to track the mammal's neural mechanisms as they learn to suppress their instinctive fear.

What did it observe about mice behaviour?

According to the study, two brain areas were involved in helping the mice learn to distinguish the lack of threat.

One was the visual cortex, which processes visual information. This region played a role in learning to suppress the fear reaction. The other region was the ventrolateral geniculate nucleus (vLGN), where the brain stores memories to disregard instinctive fears.

Over the years, scientists, while studying learning and memory in mice, have focused on examining the visual cortex. However, they did not quite explore the vLGN.

This area is located "between the neocortex, which detects a threat, and the brain stem, which activates the body's instinctive response," the *Washington Post* report said.

This is the first time that scientists have realised that the vLGN plays a role in recalling a learnt behaviour.

The researchers hope that one day, they will be able to develop drugs targeted specifically to the vLGN, helping humans deal with anxiety or PTSD.

"Targeting brain areas like the ventrolateral geniculate nucleus could open up new avenues to treat these disorders," Mederos told *Washington Post*.

UDIT MISRA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

DELHI HAS voted emphatically for the so-called "double engine" government, handing the BJP power in the state as well. To extend the metaphor, they have alighted from the Aam Aadmi Party's "single engine" that has pulled Delhi for almost the entire period of the NDA's rule at the Centre.

How did the AAP's single engine perform during the past decade, especially compared with states that were powered by the BJP's double engine — as also other states in the country with single-engine governments?

The table makes the comparison using selected variables ranging from economic performance to the fiscal health of the government and welfare of the state's residents. States have been chosen in a way that the table covers, to the extent possible, both the political spectrum and the geographical span of the country.

■ Gujarat and Haryana have had BJP double-engine governments from 2014 through 2025. Haryana provides an interesting contrast with single-engine Delhi because it is contiguous to the national capital, and many voters divide their lives and work between the two states.

■ West Bengal under Mamata Banerjee has remained solidly single engine throughout this period, resisting the powerful political push from the BJP.

■ Bihar has been a state with a uniquely mixed record in this period. While Nitish Kumar has been in charge as Chief Minister throughout (barring the nine-month period in 2014-15 when Jitan Ram Manjhi was the Chief Minister), the BJP has been in and out of government — out from 2014-17, in from 2017-22, out again from 2022-24, and back in government this year.

■ Tamil Nadu provides an altogether different type of contrast — it is a state where the BJP has not been in direct contention for power in any way during the past decade.

What the data show**REAL PER CAPITA ECONOMIC OUTPUT:** Among these states, Delhi performed the worst — per capita state output (size of the economy after taking population into account) grew at just 3.2% annually between 2014 and 2024.

By contrast, with an annual CAGR (compounded annual growth rate) of 6.6%, double-engine Gujarat grew more than twice as fast. West Bengal, the other single-engine state, also lagged behind on growth rate.

INCREASE IN GENERAL PRICE LEVEL DUE TO INFLATION: The rate of inflation essentially shows how much the general price**EXPLAINED ECONOMICS****Single engine, double engine**

Delhi voters seem to have bought the BJP's pitch that only its 'double engine sarkar' can deliver progress. Here's a status check using data: states, both BJP- and non-BJP-ruled, compared on 11 broad parameters

How Selected States Performed

2014-15 to 2023-24	All states, UTs	Delhi	Gujarat	Haryana	Bihar	WB	TN
CAGR (in %) of Real per capita NSDP	-	3.2	6.6	4.5	3.5	4	5.8
Rise in general price level*	64.00%	51.00%	59.00%	64.00%	57.00%	67.00%	69.00%
Urban Unemployment Rate (per 1000)	51	20	23	40	73	33	41
Worker Population Ratio (urban)	37.00%	32.80%	40.50%	35.20%	26.70%	41.30%	39.50%
Exp on roads, bridges (% of state budget)	4.6	4.6	6.3	2.7	4	2	5.4
Expenditure on Education#	13.2	21	13.6	10.3	18.5	14.2	11.8
Exp on Health & Family Welfare#	5.6	12	5.9	4.5	6.1	6	4.6
Gross Fiscal Deficit (% of GSDP)	-	0.7	1.7	2.8	8.9	3.5	3.5
Outstanding Liabilities (% of GSDP)	-	2	18	30	37	38	31
CAGR (in %) of Per capita electricity availability	5.40%	2.90%	5.10%	4.00%	10.70%	4.70%	3.70%
Poverty Ratio	15.00%	3.40%	11.70%	7.10%	33.80%	11.90%	2.20%

NSDP: Net State Domestic Product, *between FY15 and FY24 (effect of inflation), EXP: Expenditure, # (as a % of total expenditure)
Source: RBI, MoSPI, PRS Legislative Research, Niti Aayog, Indian Express research

level (based on a representative basket of consumer goods) went up in a particular year. The general price level keeps rising over time, even when the inflation rate has moderated. The net increase in the price level shows the affordability of goods and services.

On this metric, the AAP's record was the best. In Delhi, the general price level went up by 51% over the past decade — that is, a basket of goods that cost Rs 100 in 2014 cost Rs 151 in 2024. This rate is much lower than the national average of 64%. Tamil Nadu experienced the highest cumulative inflation.

URBAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: This is the percentage of people who are actively seeking a job and not getting one. The national average was 51 unemployed per 1,000. Delhi stood at 20, much lower than the national average and the lowest in this group of states. Bengal was at 33, and Gujarat did almost as well as Delhi. Bihar had the highest urban unemployment.**URBAN EMPLOYMENT RATE:** Often in India, the number of people looking for a job falls — such as during the Covid-19 lockdown, or simply because people are exhausted with repeated failures and just stop looking. As such, more than the unemployment rate, it is the employment rate that captures the labour stress.

Employment rate is also called the Worker Population Ratio — or the percentage of workers in the population. The higher the rate the better.

Delhi's employment rate was lower than the national average and better than only Bihar's among these states. But West Bengal, a single-engine state, was ahead of everyone, including double-engine Gujarat.

BUDGET EXPENDITURE ON ROADS &**BRIDGES:** Since 2014, and more since 2019, the Centre has focused on ramping up physical infrastructure in the form of roads and bridges, hoping that these investments will improve the productive capacity of the country.

While Delhi matched the national average (of all states and UTs), Gujarat led the expenditure on this count as a percentage of the state budget. Haryana and West Bengal lagged far behind.

BUDGET EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION: Governments in India generally do not spend enough on education and health. Delhi under AAP has been an outlier — spending on education (as a percentage of total) was 21% in 2023 (Revised Estimates), much more than the national average of 13% and double that of double-engine Haryana (10%).**BUDGET EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE:** AAP's Delhi led on Health too, with 12% of its total expenditure, compared with the national average of just 5.6%.**GOVT'S BORROWINGS** (gross fiscal deficit): Fiscal deficit refers to the amount of money a state government has to borrow to meet the gap between its expenses and its income in a particular year. Prudential norms require fiscal deficit to be within 3% of the state's GDP. Delhi's fiscal deficit in FY23 was just 0.7%, and Gujarat and Haryana too were within the prudential norms.**GOVT'S OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES:** While fiscal deficits show the borrowing for one particular year, the outstanding liabilities refer to the debt accumulated by states from borrowings in the past. On this count, AAP's Delhi did way better than therest of this pack.
PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF ELECTRICITY: This is a good way to capture the improvement in a state's economy. Like the per capita real GDP, AAP-ruled Delhi saw fairly feeble year-on-year growth (CAGR) of 2.9% over the past decade.

Bihar grew at almost four times that pace. Gujarat started the decade behind Delhi — 1,465 kWh to Delhi's 1,599 — but finished far ahead — 2,414 kWh to Delhi's 2,118 kWh.

POVERTY RATIO: The RBI used NITI Aayog's 2023 update on the Multidimensional Poverty Index along with National Family Health Survey data to provide the headcount ratio of poverty in each state. Poverty ratios had declined across the board; Delhi, which had just 4.4% poverty in 2015-16 had brought it down to 3.4% — behind only Tamil Nadu (2.2% poverty) in this list. Bihar had 55% poverty ratio in 2015, and still has more than 33%.**Upshot of data****WHERE AAP'S SINGLE ENGINE RACED AHEAD:** The outgoing government in Delhi established a new benchmark in terms of budgetary spending on education (including sports and arts) and health, while still being the most fiscally responsible government.

It was also the most effective in containing inflation, which hits the common man the hardest.

WHERE AAP LAGGED BEHIND: On the overall pace of economic output, spending on physical infrastructure, and improving the availability of electricity, the AAP's single engine appears to have run out of steam, according to the data.

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What is South Africa's new land law that Trump finds 'immoral'?ANAGHA JAYAKUMAR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

UNITED STATES President Donald Trump has signed an Executive Order ending financial assistance to South Africa for its alleged "unjust and immoral practices" that include the enactment of a new domestic land law, and taking "aggressive positions" against the US and Israel at the International Court of Justice and "reinvigorating its relations with Iran".

On February 5, two days before Trump signed the Order titled "Addressing Egregious Actions of the Republic of South Africa", US Secretary of State Marco Rubio had declared he would not attend the G20 foreign ministers' meeting in Johannesburg on February 20-21 because South Africa was "doing very bad things".

The President's close aide, "Special Government Employee" Elon Musk has attacked South Africa for its allegedly "openly racist ownership laws", and had earlier accused the government of President Cyril Ramaphosa of inaction in the killings of white farmers.

New Expropriation Act

On January 24, South Africa implemented the new Expropriation Act, which allows the state to seize land without compensation for public purposes or in public interest in certain circumstances.

The law, which was discussed for five years, including public consultations, provides a legal framework for expropriation by the state in accordance with Section 25(2) of the South African constitution.

In most cases, the expropriating authority is required to negotiate with the property owner for an agreement before resorting to expropriation. A day after Trump's social media post, Ramaphosa clarified on X that the "Expropriation Act is not a confiscation instrument, but a constitutionally mandated legal process that ensures public access to land in an equitable and just manner as guided by the constitution".

Wrongs of apartheid era

The need for the new law, which repealed and replaced the apartheid-era Expropriation Act of 1975, arose from the highly skewed pattern of land ownership in South Africa.

According to research by Edward Lahiff, an expert on southern Africa at the University of Cork in Ireland, when racist minority rule over South Africa ended in 1994, about 86% of agricultural land was controlled by white people, who constituted 10.9% of the population. ("Willing Buyer, Willing Seller": South Africa's failed experiment in market-led agrarian reform, *Third World Quarterly*, 2007)

The needle has not moved much in the three decades since — a land audit from 2017, the most recent available, showed that white people still owned 72% of agricultural landholdings. Today, whites are only about 7% of South Africa's 62 million population.

Under the 1975 Act, the state was obligated to pay owners to seize their lands under the principle of "willing seller, willing buyer" (WSWB), which delayed the process of land redistribution. The WSWB principle allowed owners to sell to the highest bidder on the open market, effectively protecting their racial preferences, Lahiff wrote in a 2005 policy brief.

Also, the "willingness" of the buyer alone was not enough, and while the state was free to intervene, it did not offer to act as an agent for the buyer, Lahiff noted. ("From 'willing seller, willing buyer' to people-driven land reform", *Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies*, 2005)

Land reforms to address this situation, including the new Expropriation Act, is part of the South Africa National Development Plan 2030, which aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality.

The new law has faced resistance from the white-dominated Democratic Alliance (DA) party, the second largest in the ruling coalition. The DA has accused Ramaphosa's African National Congress of not consulting its coalition partners on the law, and has criticised it as being unconstitutional.

Trump, the US, and SATrump had taken up the alleged violence against white South Africans during his previous term (2017-21) as well. In August 2018, after *Fox News* ran a segment on the South African government's plan to redistribute land to black people who had been dispossessed during apartheid, Trump tweeted about "farm seizures and expropriations and the large scale killing of farmers" in that country.

In his Executive Order issued on February 7, Trump mentioned the "ethnic minority Afrikaner" people, the descendants of Dutch settlers who first arrived in the mid 17th century, and who speak a language called Afrikaans and have significant rural landholding.

However, the relationship between South Africa and the US had been developing strains even before Trump returned to the Oval Office. Pretoria has been cultivating ties with Russia and Iran in recent years, and in December 2023, it instituted a case against Israel, the closest ally of the US, in the International Court of Justice, claiming genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

Over the past week, the Trump administration has all but shut down the US Agency for International Development (USAID), which coordinates the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the world's largest effort to combat HIV/AIDS. PEPFAR has been critical to South Africa's fight against the disease — of the \$320 million aid committed to the country by the US in 2024, more than \$220 million went to support its HIV/AIDS program.

In his February 3 post on X, Ramaphosa wrote, "With the exception of PEPFAR Aid, which constitutes 17% of South Africa's HIV/AIDS programme, there is no other funding that is received by South Africa from the United States". South Africa is estimated to have more than 9 million HIV-positive people, more than any other country. The future of PEPFAR is uncertain.

Private property and the state's right to acquire according to lawAJAY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

IN HIS response to President Donald Trump's Truth Social post accusing South Africa of confiscating private land, President Cyril Ramaphosa posted on X, "South Africa, like the United States of America and other countries, has always had expropriation laws that balance the need for public usage of land and the protection of rights of property owners". How did these laws evolve?

Eminent Domain

Laws in South Africa, the United States, and India all have certain common roots in Europe. Laws in all these countries allowing compulsory land acquisition and expropriation by the state are also known as "eminent domain".

The expression can be traced to the legal treatise *De jure belli ac pacis* (On the Law of War and Peace) written by the Dutch scholar Hugo Grotius in

1625. Grotius explained the term "dominium eminens" ("supreme lordship" in Latin) thus: "The property of subjects is under the eminent domain of the state, so that the state or he who acts for it may use and even alienate and destroy such property, not only in the case of extreme necessity...but for ends of public utility."

This concept travelled with the European colonists, and was eventually codified into written laws such as the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, in India and the Expropriation Act, 1975, in South Africa.

Right to private property

The Magna Carta (1215 CE) of King John of England recognised for the first time that the King was not above the law, granted civil rights to the English people, and decreed that the citizens' right to hold property could not be taken away "except by the lawful judgment of his (the King's) peers or by the law of the land". The requirement that

LAND ACQUISITION IN US & INDIA

- In the US, land acquisition has gradually moved towards encouraging private investment, with the intent to boost economic growth.
- In *Kelo v. City of New London* (2005), the US Supreme Court ruled that efforts to acquire property to

facilitate private economic development would fulfil the "public use" requirement.

- In response, several states, such as Alabama, Delaware, and Texas passed laws restricting the use of eminent domain to acquire private property.

- In India, several laws detail land acquisition provisions in specific cases, including the construction of highways, atomic energy plants, and the preservation of national monuments.

- For more than a century, however, the subject was governed by the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, which allowed the government to acquire land for "a public purpose" in exchange for compensation to the landowner. However, this did not address the concerns of affected families other than the landowner.

- In 2013, the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act came into force to establish a "humane, participative, informed and transparent process for land acquisition".

- Besides compensating landowners, the Act requires authorities to conduct a Social Impact Assessment to determine who will be affected by the acquisition, with provisions on compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement.

land be acquired only through a "due process of law" influenced property rights in the former colonies.

UNITED STATES: In the US, the Fifth Amendment (1791) stated that no person shall be deprived of their property "without due process of law", and that no private property shall be "taken for public use, without just compensation".**SOUTH AFRICA:** Section 25 of the South African Constitution says: "No one may be deprived of property except in terms of law of general application, and no law may permit arbitrary deprivation of property". It clarifies that property can only be legally acquired if it is "for a public purpose or in the public interest", and the landowner is compensated.**INDIA:** The Constitution of India initially

recognised the right to own property as a fundamental right under Article 19, which guaranteed all citizens the right "to acquire, hold and dispose of property". In addition, under Article 31, property could not be taken possession of or acquired for public purposes unless "the law provides for compensation for the property taken possession of or acquired".

In 1978, these rights were removed from the Fundamental Rights chapter. Article 300A was subsequently introduced, which said that, "No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law."

The Constitutions of all three countries recognise/ previously recognised that governments must only acquire private property when it serves a public use or purpose, and landowners must be compensated.

15 ECONOMY

MARKET WATCH

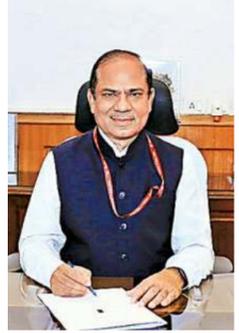
MCAP OF 6 OF TOP-10 VALUED COS JUMPS

The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 most valued firms surged Rs 1,18,151.75 crore last week, with HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel emerging as the biggest gainers. Last week, Sensex climbed 354.23 points, or 0.45%, and the Nifty went up 77.8 points, or 0.33%. **PTI**

'OUR GOAL IS TO INTEGRATE INTO THE GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN'

'Tariff on top 30 items imported from the US between 0-7.5% only'

THE MAJORITY of items imported from the US are not subject to high tariffs, since the duty on the top 30 imported items — including crude oil, LNG, coal, diamonds, and aeroplanes — ranges from 0 to 7.5 per cent, **SANJAY KUMAR AGARWAL**, Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in an interview with **SOUAMYARENDRA BARIK** and **RAVI DUTTA MISHRA**. Agarwal said that India is aiming to integrate into the global value chain and that the reduction in the average Customs duty from 11.65 per cent to 10.66 per cent is the "beginning" and that several industries had sought high tariff protection, but agreeing to them would lead to inefficiencies in the manufacturing sector. This comes as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to discuss trade ties with US President Donald Trump during his visit to America on February 12-13. Edited Excerpts:



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW
WITH **SANJAY KUMAR AGARWAL**
CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL BOARD OF INDIRECT TAXES & CUSTOMS

ther exempt or very low, at 2.5 per cent, 5 per cent, and 7.5 per cent, so we cannot say that the major imports from the US are subject to high tariffs.

Yes, there are items like motor cars and motorcycles which were earlier subjected to tariff rates of 125 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively. The effective rate was lower; for cars, it was 70 per cent or 110 per cent, depending on engine capacity. For motorcycles, it was 50 per cent. In the case of motorcycles, it was decided that we could bring down the rate for those not produced in India. Motorcycles above 1,600cc are not produced in India, so the rate has been reduced from 50 per cent to 30 per cent. For motorcycles produced in India, below 1,600cc, the rate has been reduced to a lesser extent, from 50 per cent to 40 per cent. Motor cars have not been touched.

There has been consistent demand for protection from the industry. Is the government convinced that these protections have to go away for India to become part of the global value chain?

In the rate rationalisation exercise, duty rates of 0 per cent, 2.5 per cent, 5 per cent, 7.5 per cent, and 10 per cent have not been changed. In the case of industrial goods, out of 8,500 tariff lines, 6,500 fall within this narrow band. These rates have remained unchanged for nearly two decades, so we did not alter them. We receive representations from different segments of the manufacturing sector requesting higher import duties on items that they produce. At the same time, we receive requests from their suppliers to raise duties on competing products. If we keep increasing duty rates, we will become a very high-tariff nation, which will

create inefficiencies in the manufacturing sector. Our goal is to integrate into the global value chain. If we maintain high tariffs, it will lead to inefficiencies and we may struggle to compete in the global market and in terms of export. Exporting is essential to earning foreign exchange and maintaining the balance of trade.

Value addition in electronic items remains low. How do you see it changing?

Exemptions in this Budget have been granted for certain sub-parts based on recommendations from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). They examined whether these components would be manufactured domestically in the near future and made recommendations accordingly. However, for higher-value components such as printed circuit board (PCB) assemblies, camera modules, and connectors, which are not yet fully manufactured in India, we need to reduce duties on parts to encourage manufacturers to produce these intermediate components. Some manufacturing is already happening, but if we want more value addition in the country, we must take a staggered approach.

A number of states have raised the issue of lower revenue. The Basic Customs Duty collected, shared by the

Centre and states, is decreasing while cess collected by the Centre is increasing in a number of items in this Budget. How do you see it?

Yes, you are right that when the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) rates have been lowered in the rate rationalisation exercise to avoid any major immediate shock to industry, it was decided to impose an equivalent AIDC (Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess), which is a cess. The Centre does not share cesses with the states, whereas BCD is. So, to that extent, the revenue flow to the states will be lower. However, if we look at the total impact, there will be a revenue loss of Rs 1,900 crore due to shifting some of what was earlier collected as BCD to AIDC. Yes, definitely, there is some shifting, but for individual states, the impact will not be significant, as it is not a massive amount. Since we had to begin somewhere, it was decided to rationalise the BCD rates and eliminate certain high rates. When high rates are eliminated, we cannot immediately reduce the effective duty incidence, as that would remove the tariff protection available to a particular sector. So, accordingly, AIDC has been levied. This is a rate rationalisation exercise, and there was never any intention to deprive states of revenue.

Bifurcating one of the highest revenue-generating zones of Railways: What will change?

The Union Cabinet last Friday gave ex-post facto approval

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

NEARLY A month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the headquarters of South Coast Railway in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, the Union Cabinet on Friday gave the ex-post facto approval for the plan to create South Coast Railway Zone. The new railway zone has been created as per Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. It will be the 18th zone of the Indian Railways, whose jurisdiction has been carved out of the East Coast Railway and South Central Railway zones. The Cabinet also divided Waltair Railway Division, until now part of the East Coast Railway (ECoR), into two parts. One part has been renamed Visakhapatnam Railway Division under the South Coast Railway (SCoR), since Waltair "is a colonial legacy that needs to be changed," according to an official statement. The other part of the Waltair Division will be converted into a new division with headquarters at Rayagada under ECoR. The Waltair Division is among the highest revenue-generating areas of the Indian Railways. While there was a long-standing demand for a separate railway zone after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, it has been fulfilled only after a consonance of power between the state and Centre was achieved. Andhra Pradesh's ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is part of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre. Leaders from the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress in Odisha expressed dissatisfaction over the move and said that the state will face economic repercussions since the revenue-generating part of ECoR, which is headquartered in Bhubaneswar, is being given to the South Coast Railway.

TO BE THE 18TH ZONE OF THE INDIAN RAILWAYS



THE UNION Cabinet Friday gave the ex-post facto approval for the plan to create South Coast Railway Zone. The new railway zone has been created as per Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. It will be the 18th zone of the Indian Railways, whose jurisdiction has been carved out from the East Coast Railway and South Central Railway zones

Six year old announcement

As per item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, Indian Railways was required to examine establishing a new railway zone in the successor state of Andhra Pradesh. It was announced on February 27, 2019 that the Centre has decided to create a new railway division, which will be one of the strategic hubs for operations in Andhra Pradesh. The decision was taken to improve operational efficiency and provide focused service to the growing passenger and freight demands in the region.

After nearly six years, it is being implemented with some modifications to a Cabinet decision dated February 28, 2019. The jurisdiction of SCoR will cover a significant portion of Andhra Pradesh, including parts of Telangana and Tamil Nadu. Its key divisions include Vijayawada Division (from South Central Railway), Guntur Division (from South Central Railway) and parts of Waltair Division (from East Coast Railway) i.e., Visakhapatnam. A part of the Waltair Division will be retained under SCoR. It will approximately comprise the sections between stations Palasa-Visakhapatnam-Duvvada, Kureru-Vizianagaram, Naupada

Jn.-Paralakhemundi, Bobbili Jn.-Salur, Simhachalam North-Duvvada bypass, Vadralapudi-Duvvada and Visakhapatnam Steel Plant-Jaggayapalem, equalling around 410 km. The other part of the Waltair Division, comprising sections between Kottavalasa-Bacheli, Kureru-Theruvu Jn., Singapur Rd.-Koraput Jn. and Paralakhemundi-Gunpur stations, nearly 680 km, will be placed into a new division headquartered at Rayagada under ECoR.

Among highest revenue generating division

Waltair Division is among the highest revenue-generating areas of the Indian Railways, primarily owing to its freight traffic linked to the mining and steel industries. These lines run through the mineral-rich regions of Odisha and Chhattisgarh. According to the data released by the Ministry of Railways, ECoR surpassed all records of the Indian Railways in freight loading during FY24. From April 1, 2023 to March 25, 2024, ECoR loaded 250 million tonnes (mt) of freight, surpassing the previous record established in FY23. Out of this, Khurda Road Division of ECoR contributed 156.17 mt followed by Waltair Division (74.66 mt) and Sambalpur Division (19.20 mt). ECoR is the first zone to cross the 200 mt freight loading milestone for the fifth time in a row.

BRIEFLY

Sebi for changes in auditor appointing norms for Cos

New Delhi: To strengthen corporate governance at listed firms, Sebi has proposed a revised format for annual secretarial compliance report, eligibility criteria for the appointment of auditors and inclusion of monetary thresholds for Related Party Transactions (RPTs) approvals. These proposals are aimed at ensuring that listed entities maintain high standards of compliance and transparency in their dealings. In its consultation paper, Sebi has proposed changes to improve the format and content of the Annual Secretarial Compliance Report (ASCR), aiming for more explicit confirmation of compliance with securities law. **PTI**

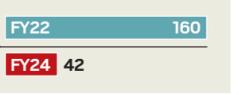
2,664 borrowers marked as wilful defaulters at end-March 2024

There were 2,664 unique borrowers, excluding individuals and overseas borrowers, classified as wilful defaulters as on March 2024 as per the RBI, the Rajya Sabha was informed



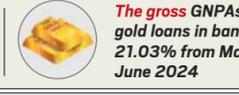
However, the increase in the number of such wilful defaulters has declined

In a written reply, Minister of State in Ministry of Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said that comprehensive measures have been taken by the government and RBI to deter wilful default and to reduce and recover NPAs, including those pertaining to wilful defaulters, leading to improved financial stability and financial health of banks. Wilful defaulters are not sanctioned any additional facilities by banks or financial institutions, and their unit is debarred from



floating new ventures for five years. Further, wilful defaulters and companies with wilful defaulters as promoters/directors have been debarred from accessing capital markets to raise funds, the minister said. As a result of the government's overarching policy response to recognition of stress, resolution of stressed accounts, recapitalisation and reforms in banks, the financial health and robustness of banking sector has improved significantly, he added

Replying to another question, the minister said the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) pertaining to gold loans in commercial banks and upper and middle-layer NBFCs have increased by 18.14% from March 2024 to June 2024



Source: PTI/Parliament questions

Maruti Suzuki plans to boost charging infra

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India aims to bolster charging infrastructure in the country before it drives in e-VITARA with plans to establish the model as a primary vehicle in a household, according to a senior company executive. The auto major also plans to boost after-sales support, bringing in a leasing model and more finance options to encourage customers to buy the model. "One of the major concerns for the customer is the adequacy of the public infrastructure in terms of the chargers. So we are planning to have a fast charger at a frequency of 10 kilometers in the top 100 cities," Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) senior executive officer (Marketing & Sales) Partho Banerjee said. **PTI**

Small players making a big comeback in FMCG

VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

SMALL FAST-MOVING consumer goods (FMCG) companies, whose growth had slowed in the past few quarters as giants sought to counter them with regional product variants, are now beginning to reassert their presence in the market. Data from research agency NielsenIQ shows the December quarter was marked by a sharp uptick in sales for small players. These firms saw 14.2 per cent growth in terms of value, the highest in five quarters. Their volume growth was also the highest in five quarters at 9.7 per cent. In contrast, FMCG leaders — those with an annual top line exceeding Rs 5,000 crore — grew 4.4 per cent in terms of volume during the period. In terms of value, the giants saw a growth rate of 6.9 per cent in the December quarter, nearly double of what they had achieved in the September quarter (3.5 per cent) but way below that of small players. Experts point to persistent inflation and urban slowdown for FMCG giants lagging behind small and regional brands in terms of growth rates in the December quarter.



NielsenIQ data shows the December quarter was marked by a sharp uptick in sales for small players

September quarter, small players saw a value growth of 4.5 per cent while their volume growth was flat. Giants constitute 46 per cent of India's Rs 5-lakh crore FMCG market. Small brands — those with annual sales of under Rs 100 crore — make up 17 per cent of the market, according to NielsenIQ. In post-results investor calls last week, both Nestle India and Britannia Industries, among the top food companies in the country, alluded to the growing pressure from regional brands. They said they were unable to pass on the full impact of inflation to consumers on account of the competitive intensity in categories such as

noodles and biscuits. Meanwhile, companies such as Hindustan Unilever (HUL) and Godrej Consumer Products said they were launching small packs of premium labels across their home and personal care (HPC) portfolios to ensure these products remained accessible to consumers. "We are mindful of regional brands. Maggi, for instance, could take a hit on account of regional competition. We are cognizant of that. While the space will get increasingly chaotic, we are turning back to growth," Suresh Narayanan, chairman and MD, Nestle India, said. In the December 2024 quarter, prepared dishes and cooking aids, which contribute 30 per cent to Nestle India's top line, saw high single-digit sales growth, led by Maggi noodles. But analysts warn that consistent price hikes, thanks to food inflation, is forcing consumers to try out cheaper alternatives in popular categories such as noodles. Varun Berry, executive vice-chairman and MD, Britannia Industries, said the company would be dynamic in its pricing and would continue to have a regional bias for its innovations and new launches. "Our innovation pipeline will have a regional preference. We will continue to counter competition by keeping our attention on our core brands (in biscuits). We will also keep a firm eye on pricing by competitors," Berry said. **FE**

'Govt looking at procedural easing to further promote FDI'

New Delhi: The government is looking at further easing of procedures in certain sectors to attract more foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country, a government official said.

The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has held stakeholder consultations with different government departments, regulators, industry associations, advisory and law firms, pension funds, private equity and venture capitals. The department sought their views on ways to further attract foreign direct investments into the country. "We have completed the consultations. The department has received suggestions on different issues. Things have not yet been finalised... Looking at easing of norms at the procedural front," the official said. However, the official did not disclose the sectors where the government is considering the procedural easing. In the consultations, issues which were raised included permitting e-commerce players to receive FDI in inventory-based models of online trade for export purposes only; easing press note 3 by defining beneficial ownership; and some tweaking of the policy for single-brand retail trading. **PTI**

Not interested in acquiring TikTok, says Elon Musk

REUTERS
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 9

BILLIONAIRE ELON Musk said that he was not interested in purchasing TikTok, the popular short-video app that the United States has been trying to ban over national security concerns with its Chinese owner ByteDance. Musk's comments, made in late January, were released online Saturday by The WELT Group, a part of the German media company Axel Springer SE, which hosted a summit, where the Tesla chief joined the conference via video. "I have not put in a bid for TikTok," Musk said a week after US President Donald Trump said he was open to Musk buying the ByteDance-owned app if he wanted to do so. "I don't have any plans for what I would do if I had TikTok," Musk said, adding that he does not use the short video app personally, and was not familiar with the app's format. "I'm not chomping at the bit to acquire TikTok, I do not acquire companies in general, it's quite rare," Musk said, adding that his billion-dollar acquisition of social media platform Twitter, now called X, was unusual. "I usually build companies from scratch," Musk said. The US President signed an executive order seeking to delay the enforcement of a ban on the popular short-video app that was slated to be shuttered on January 19. ByteDance was given the January deadline to sell the US assets of TikTok or face a US ban, following lawmakers' concerns that the app poses national security risks because China could compel the company to share the data of its US users. TikTok has denied



'I'm not chomping at the bit to acquire TikTok, I do not acquire companies in general, it's quite rare'
— ELON MUSK

that it has or ever would share US user data. Apple and Google have not reinstated TikTok to their app stores since a US law took effect. TikTok said on Friday that it was allowing US Android users to download and connect to the app through package kits on its website, in an effort to circumvent restrictions on the popular platform in the country. Trump has said that he was in talks with multiple people over the purchase and would likely have a decision on the app's future this month. It has about 170 million American users. This week, the president signed an executive order to create a sovereign wealth fund within the year, saying it could potentially buy TikTok. ByteDance has previously denied any plans to sell TikTok. Trump saving TikTok represents a reversal in stance from his first term in office when he unsuccessfully sought to ban the app over concerns the company was sharing Americans' personal information with the Chinese government. **PTI**

Saudi's \$63-bn mega project sees interest from Indian investors

New Delhi/Davos: Several Indian firms have shown a keen interest in investing in Driyah, a \$63 billion Saudi Arabian mega project, while some big names like Tatas and Oberoi have already signed up, its CEO Jerry Inzerillo said. Driyah, being billed as the City of Earth, is being built on the outskirts of Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh and it will have homes for 100,000 people and office space for a further 100,000 plus. This new city will include over 40 luxury hotels, more than 1,000 shops, over 150 restaurants and cafes, a university, arts and cultural assets, museums, an opera house, a 20,000-seater multipurpose event arena, a golf course and an international equestrian and polo centre, among other facilities. The real estate development and tourism project aims to restore the historic birthplace of the modern Saudi kingdom and the site includes the UNESCO World Heritage Site of At-Turaif. "At Driyah we are keen to enhance the impact of India as one of Saudi Arabia's biggest trading partners, ranking among the top in bilateral trade, with a trade volume of approximately \$52.8 billion in 2022-23," Inzerillo said. He was in Davos for the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2025. Inzerillo said over 3,000 Indian companies are already operating in the Kingdom, contributing to sectors such as construction, IT, energy, and telecommunications, strengthening the economic partnership between the two nations. "Driyah is very keen to work with firms here already and those based in India itself," he said. **PTI**

TOP OF THE WORLD



Pope Francis in Vatican City. File

VATICAN CITY
Pope tells armed forces to respect international law

Vatican City: Pope Francis Sunday told soldiers, police and other law enforcement officials that armed force can only be used for legitimate defence and must always respect international law. The pontiff reappeared in public to celebrate an outdoor Jubilee Mass for the armed forces, police and security personnel. However, after a few words, he handed off his homily to an aide to read, saying he was having difficulty with his breath. "I would like to recall the teaching of the Church in this regard: The Second Vatican Council says that those who exercise their profession in the ranks of the army in the service of their homeland should consider themselves as servants of the security and freedom of their people," Francis said. AP

LIBYA
2 mass graves of nearly 50 migrants found

Cairo: Libya authorities uncovered nearly 50 bodies from two mass graves in the country's south-eastern desert, officials said Sunday. The first mass grave with 19 bodies was found Friday in a farm in the southeastern city of Kufra, the security directorate said in a statement, adding that authorities took them for autopsy. Authorities posted images on its Facebook page showing police officers and medics digging in the sand and recovering dead bodies that were wrapped in blankets. AP

CHINA
Landslide: One body recovered by rescuers

Beijing: Emergency teams in China's Sichuan province raced against time Sunday to locate 28 people after a landslide triggered by rains killed one person and buried homes. Nearly 1,000 personnel were deployed following the landslide in the village of Jinping in Junlian county on Saturday. Some officers navigated through the collapsed buildings, using drones to locate any signs of life with the help of locals who were familiar with the area, state broadcaster CCTV said. AP

KREMLIN SPOKESMAN NEITHER CONFIRMS NOR DENIES REPORT

Trump says he has spoken to Putin about ending Ukraine war

GUY FAULCONBRIDGE & LIDIA KELLY
MOSCOW, FEBRUARY 9

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said he has spoken to Russian President Vladimir Putin by phone about ending the war in Ukraine, the New York Post reported, the first known direct conversation between Putin and a US president since early 2022.

Trump, who has promised to end the war in Ukraine but not yet set out in public how he would do so, said last week that the war was a bloodbath and that his team had had "some very good talks".

In an interview aboard Air Force One on Friday Trump told the New York Post that he had "better not say," when asked how many times he and Putin had spoken.

"He (Putin) wants to see people stop dying," Trump told the New York Post. The White House did not respond to a request for comment outside normal business hours.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the TASS state news agency that "many different communications are emerging". "These communications are conducted through different channels," Peskov said when asked by TASS to comment directly on the New York Post report.

"I personally may not know something, be unaware of something. Therefore, in this case, I can neither confirm nor deny it."

The conflict in eastern Ukraine began in 2014 after a pro-Russian president was toppled in Ukraine's Maidan Revolution and Russia annexed Crimea, with Russian-backed separatist forces fighting Ukraine's armed forces.

Putin sent thousands of



A member of military historical club dressed in Red Army uniform for a World War II battle reconstruction, in Volgograd, Russia, on Sunday. AP

troops into Ukraine in 2022, calling it a "special military operation" to protect Russian speakers in Ukraine and counter what he said was a grave threat to Russia from potential Ukrainian membership of NATO.

Ukraine and its Western backers, led by the United States, said the invasion was an imperialist style land grab and vowed to defeat Russian forces.

Moscow controls a chunk of Ukraine about the size of the American state of Virginia and is advancing at the fastest pace since the early days of the 2022 invasion.

Trump-Putin summit?

Trump, author of the 1987 book "Trump: the Art of the Deal", has repeatedly said he wants to end the war and that he will meet Putin to discuss it, though the date or venue for a summit is still

EXPLAINED
What led to conflict in east Ukraine

THE CONFLICT in eastern Ukraine began in 2014 after a pro-Russian president was toppled in Ukraine's Maidan Revolution and Russia annexed Crimea, with Russian-backed separatist forces fighting Ukraine's armed forces.

not publicly known.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are seen by Russia as possible venues for a summit, Reuters reported earlier this month.

On June 14, Putin set out his opening terms for an immediate

end to the war: Ukraine must drop its NATO ambitions and withdraw its troops from the entirety of the territory of four Ukrainian regions claimed and mostly controlled by Russia.

Reuters reported in November that Putin is open to discussing a Ukraine peace deal with Trump but rules out making any major territorial concessions and insists Kyiv abandon ambitions to join NATO.

The Kremlin has repeatedly urged caution over speculation about contacts with the Trump team over a possible peace deal.

Leonid Slutsky, head of the Russian parliament's international affairs committee, was cited by the state RIA news agency on Thursday as saying that preparations for such a meeting were at "an advanced stage" and that it could take place in February or March.

Army should return to its constitutional limits: Khan



Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan

Islamabad: Jailed former Pakistan premier Imran Khan on Sunday penned an open letter to Army chief Gen Asim Munir in which he criticised the military's unlawful actions and its engagement in politics and urged it "to return to its constitutional limits".

In the letter posted on X, the Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) founder alleged mistreatment in prison, including placing him in solitary confinement in a death-row cell for 20 days with no access to sunlight or electricity.

Khan has been incarcerated in Adiala Jail Rawalpindi for over a year. This follows his first letter on February 3, which urged the military to review its approach towards national security and governance.

After the first letter, security sources said it had not been received by the military and dismissed reports in the media about its existence. PTI

'NO THANKS'

WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS REJECT TRUMP'S OFFER

US President Donald Trump's offer to rehouse white South Africans as refugees fleeing persecution may not spur quite the rush he anticipates, as even right-wing white lobby groups want to "tackle the injustices" of Black majority rule on home soil. REUTERS



Israeli army vehicles inside the northern Gaza Strip on Sunday. AP

Saudi, Qatar reject Israel PM Netanyahu's remarks on displacing Palestinians

REUTERS
CAIRO, FEBRUARY 9

SAUDI ARABIA and Qatar have categorically rejected remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about displacing Palestinians from their land, the foreign ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

Israeli officials have suggested the establishment of a Palestinian state on Saudi territory. Netanyahu appeared to be joking on Thursday when he responded to an interviewer on pro-Netanyahu Channel 14 who mistakenly said "Saudi state" instead of "Palestinian state", before correcting himself.

While the Saudi statement mentioned Netanyahu's name, it did not directly refer to the comments about establishing a Palestinian state in Saudi territory.

Qatar, a key mediator in Gaza ceasefire negotiations between Hamas and Israel, described Netanyahu's statement as "provocative". Egypt and Jordan also condemned the Israeli suggestions, with Cairo deeming the idea as a "direct infringement of Saudi sovereignty".

The kingdom said it valued "brotherly" states' rejection of Netanyahu's remarks.

"This occupying extremist mindset does not comprehend

Ceasefire deal: Israeli forces begin to withdraw from key corridor in Gaza

Mughraqi: Israeli forces began withdrawing from a key Gaza corridor on Sunday, Israeli officials said, part of Israel's commitments under a tenuous ceasefire deal with Hamas that is moving ahead but faces a major test over whether the sides can negotiate its planned extension.

Israel agreed as part of the truce to remove its forces from the 6 km Netzarim corridor, a strip of land that bisects northern Gaza from the south that

Israel used as a military zone during the war.

At the start of the ceasefire last month, Israel began allowing Palestinians to cross Netzarim to head to their homes in the war-battered north, sending hundreds of thousands streaming across Gaza on foot and by car.

The withdrawal of forces from the area will fulfil another commitment to the deal, which paused the 15-month war. AP

what the Palestinian territory means for the brotherly people of Palestine and its conscientious, historical and legal association with that land," it said.

Discussions of the fate of Palestinians in Gaza has been upended by Tuesday's shock proposal from President Donald Trump that the U.S. would "take over the Gaza Strip" from Israel and create a "Riviera of the Middle East" after resettling Palestinians elsewhere.

Arab states have roundly condemned Trump's comments, which came during a fragile ceasefire in the Gaza war that Israel has been waging against

the militant group Hamas, which controls the narrow strip.

Trump has said Saudi Arabia was not demanding a Palestinian state as a condition for normalising ties with Israel. But Riyadh rebuffed his statements, saying it would not establish ties with Israel without the creation of a Palestinian state.

Gaza authorities say the war has killed more than 47,000 of the nearly 2 million Palestinians who live there. Israel launched its offensive after Hamas-led gunmen killed some 1,200 people and seized more than 250 as hostages in an October 7, 2023, attack, according to Israeli tallies.

Baltic states switch to European power grid, ending Russia ties

REUTERS
VILNIUS, FEBRUARY 9

THE BALTIC states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania completed a switch from Russia's electricity grid to the EU's system on Sunday, severing Soviet-era ties amid heightened security after the suspected sabotage of several subsea cables and pipelines.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen hailed the move, years in the planning, as marking a new era of freedom for the region, in a speech at a ceremony in Vilnius alongside the leaders of the three countries and the Polish president.

"These chains of power lines linking you to hostile neighbours will be a thing of the past," von der Leyen said. Debated for many



From left: Estonian President Alar Karis, Polish President Andrzej Duda, Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Latvian President Edgars Rinkevics in Vilnius on Sunday. PTI

years, the complex switch away from the grid of their former Soviet imperial overlord gained

momentum following Moscow's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

25 civilians killed by gunmen in Mali

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BAMAKO, FEBRUARY 9

GUNMEN HAVE attacked a convoy of vehicles escorted by Mali's army, killing 25 civilians mostly gold miners, a military

spokesman said Sunday.

The attack took place Friday about 30 km from Gao, the largest city in the country's northeast where armed groups hostile to the ruling junta operate.

It was the deadliest attack on civilians this year. The assailants

targeted a convoy of some 60 vehicles escorted by the army, military spokesman Col Maj Souleymane Dembélé told The Associated Press. He said soldiers assisted the victims and transferred 13 wounded to the Gao hospital.

HE WAS THE LAST OF A GENERATION OF AFRICAN LEADERS WHO BROUGHT THEIR COUNTRIES OUT OF COLONIAL RULE

Sam Nujoma, Namibia's fiery freedom fighter and first President, dies at 95

ASSOCIATED PRESS
OSHKATI, FEBRUARY 9

Sam Nujoma, the fiery, white-bearded freedom fighter who led Namibia to independence from apartheid South Africa in 1990 and served as its first president for 15 years, coming to be known as the father of his nation, has died. He was 95.

Nujoma's death was announced Sunday by current Namibian President Nangolo Mbumba, who said Nujoma died on Saturday night after being hospitalized in the capital, Windhoek.

"The foundations of the Republic of Namibia have been shaken," Mbumba said in a statement. "Over the past three weeks, the Founding President of the Republic of Namibia and Founding Father of the Namibian Nation was hospitalized for medical treatment and medical observation due to ill health."

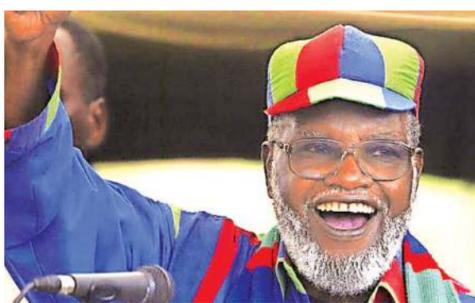
"Unfortunately, this time, the most gallant son of our land could not recover from his illness," Mbumba added. He said Nujoma "marshalled the Namibian people during the darkest hours of our liberation struggle."

Nujoma grew up in a rural,

impoverished family, the eldest of 11 children.

Nujoma was the last of a generation of African leaders who brought their countries out of colonial or white minority rule that included South Africa's Nelson Mandela, Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, Zambia's Kenneth Kaunda, Tanzania's Julius Nyerere and Mozambique's Samora Machel.

He was revered in his arid, sparsely populated homeland in southwest Africa as a charismatic father figure who steered it to democracy and stability after long colonial rule by Germany and a bitter war of in-



Nujoma also advocated for the advancement of women in a largely patriarchal region. AP

dependence from South Africa.

He spent nearly 30 years in exile as the leader of Namibia's independence movement before returning for Parliamentary elections in late 1989, the first democratic vote in the country. He was elected president by lawmakers months later in 1990 as Namibia's independence was confirmed.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said Nujoma led Namibia's independence movement "against the seemingly unshakable might of colonial and apartheid authorities and forces" and spurred the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa on its own final steps to freedom.

"Sam Nujoma inspired the Namibian people to pride and resistance that belied the size of the population," Ramaphosa said. "Namibia's attainment of independence from South Africa in 1990 ignited in us the inevitability of our own liberation."

Nujoma also advocated for the advancement of women in a largely patriarchal region, saying "there is no shortage of competent and experienced African women to lead the way forward." Namibia elected its first female president last year and President-elect Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's term is due to start next month. AP

praised Nujoma — who was branded a Marxist and accused of ruthless suppression of dissent while in exile — for establishing a democratic Constitution and involving white businessmen and politicians in government after independence.

Even political opponents



New Delhi: PV Sindhu has pulled out of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships in China due to a hamstring issue, dealing a huge blow to the country's chances. Sindhu was part of the team that had won bronze in the previous edition. **PTI**

Australia win 1st Test series in Sri Lanka in 14 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS
FEBRUARY 9

AUSTRALIA WRAPPED up a comprehensive 2-0 series victory over Sri Lanka, sealing the second test with a commanding nine-wicket win in Galle on Sunday.

Top order batter Marnus Labuschagne flicked a delivery from retiring Sri Lankan player Dimuth Karunaratne to mid-wicket to complete the triumph, just 15 minutes before lunch on the fourth day.

It's Australia's first test series win on Sri Lankan soil since 2011.

Their last success here came under Ricky Ponting's captaincy, a 1-0 victory in 2011. However, they suffered a 3-0 whitewash in 2016 under Steve Smith's leadership, and the 2022 series ended in a 1-1 draw. This time, with Smith standing in as captain for Pat Cummins, the victory was a welcome redemption.

"I thought it was a real good series and we played well from the outset," said Australia captain Steve Smith, who was named Player of the Series after his consecutive hundreds. "Everyone had their methods and stuck to it over a long period of time and to score that many runs was great. All our spinners and lone quick Mitchell Starc did quite well. Been a great series win." Australia approached the series with meticulous planning—including a training camp in Dubai—and executed their strategies with precision.

Their batters laid the foundation with big hundreds, allowing the bowlers to dictate terms with attacking fields. Meanwhile, the spinners displayed remarkable discipline and variety, putting relentless pressure on Sri Lanka and paved the way for a resounding 2-0 series win.

The tourists had set the tone early, winning the first test by an innings and 242 runs—Sri Lanka's heaviest ever test defeat. They remained clinical in the second match, ensuring there was no way back for the hosts.

Sri Lanka resumed Sunday on 211-8, holding a slender lead of just 54 runs, with much riding on vice-captain Kusal Mendis, who had remained unbeaten overnight.

Mendis brought up his second half-century in the game by guiding Nathan Lyon to deep cover but perished in the same over, caught at short square leg by Steve Smith.

The dismissal was a milestone moment—Smith's 200th Test catch, a feat previously achieved by only four players: Jacques Kallis, Mahela Jayawardene, Rahul Dravid, and Joe Root. Beau Webster wrapped up the innings soon after, leaving Australia with a modest target of 75 runs.

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 257 & (o/n 211-8) 231 all out in 68.1 overs (Mendis 50; Kuhnemann 4-63, Lyon 4-84) lost to Australia 414 & 75-1 in 17.4 overs (Khawaja 27*) by 9 wickets



Australia's Marnus Labuschagne (R) and Usman Khawaja celebrate their win over Sri Lanka. **AP**

Rohit's Cuttack attack

Skipper returns to century-hitting ways, mutes critics and helps win 2nd ODI, wrap up series triumph over England

LALITH KALIDAS
CUTTACK, FEBRUARY 9

ROHIT SHARMA had forewarned of writing him off in this version just yet. A seven-ball outing in Nagpur may have held the question over his head intact. But in a 142-minute masterclass at the Barabati Stadium on Sunday, the Indian captain wiped out detractors and England's 304-run defence with his 32nd ODI century.

First-game heroes Shubman Gill (60) and Shreyas Iyer (44) chipped in before India claimed a four-wicket victory and the series win with 33 balls to spare. On a day where the pacers were blunted by the England top-order, Ravindra Jadeja's metronomic 3/35 had earlier denied the visitors a higher finish.

When the local media reacted with rapturous applause to an early Rohit maximum, a couple of their English counterparts were left wondering if they were teleported to the Western Terrace back home at Headingley for a moment. For the Indian captain though, Sunday was all about reconnecting with happier times from not so long ago.

The distance seemed to grow larger with every passing innings since last October, but in an eye-popping reboot of the senses, Rohit ticked back to the 2023 home World Cup mode, butchering pace and the new ball to shreds in the V.

Balletic belligerence

Perhaps his balletic belligerence was a touch overwhelming for the cricket-deprived Cuttack scribes or it was the simple joy of collectively forming an atmosphere that provided a lifeline to another waning international career, as they did in 2017 when Yuvraj Singh cracked 150 in his comeback ODI series after four years.

Rohit's first six had teased glimpses of a better zone. The flick had betrayed him in the first game, in the Ranji Trophy and in Australia too. But when Gus Atkinson came firing on length in the second over, Rohit unfurled the chip over the 30-yard circle with precision.

With the shuffle inside the crease from outside leg to the off-stump on point and the right amount of muscle finally meeting the Kookaburra, Rohit eventually dispatched an international six after four months. The synapses fell back magically when Rohit flayed Saqib Mahmood over extra cover for another maximum in the next over and followed with another smite down the ground soon after.

Even a half-an-hour floodlight fiasco could not disrupt Rohit's tempo thereafter as India climbed to fifty within seven overs. Bossing his equation with Gill once again, Rohit craved more aerial spaces to unsettle Jos Buttler's English attack.

The template was an all too familiar sight in the World Cup year in 2023 where Gill blossomed as a patient accumulator and Rohit stupefied oppositions with his spell-binding six-hitting range. With his manic short balls lacking the usual venom on a slightly soft Cuttack strip, Mark Wood explored the fuller lengths as Rohit pummelled a yorker-length delivery over long-on for another six with economic movement. Rohit and Gill raised their sixth hundred-run stand in only 27 games together within 14 overs. While Gill and a returning Virat Kohli's dismissals in succession had temporarily muted him, Rohit sped to his century by biffing Wood and leggie Adil Rashid into the crowd, the 76-ball century marking the second quickest of his career.

Jadeja spin

While he saw off a brief middle-order wobble and sealed the chase alongside Axar Patel (41 not out) with a rasping drive through cover, it was Jadeja's inimitable middle-overs presence with the ball that helped the hosts make up for the poor lengths over which the pacers

SCOREBOARD

INDIA vs ENGLAND

BARABATI STADIUM, CUTTACK
Toss: England won, chose to bat

ENGLAND

P Salt c Jadeja b Varun	26 (29b, 2x4, 1x6)
B Duckett c Pandya b Jadeja	65 (56b, 10x4)
J Root c Kohli b Jadeja	69 (72b, 6x4)
H Brook c Gill b Rana	31 (52b, 3x1, 1x6)
J Buttler c Gill b Pandya	34 (35b, 2x4)
L Livingstone run out	41 (32b, 2x4, 2x6)
J Overton c Gill b Jadeja	6 (10b)
G Atkinson c Kohli b Shami	3 (7b)
A Rashid run out	14 (5b, 3x4)
M Wood run out	0 (1b)
S Mahmood not out	0 (1b)
■ Extras (lb 2, nb 1, w 12)	15
■ Total (all out: 49.5 overs)	304
■ FoW: 1-81, 2-102, 3-168, 4-219, 5-248, 6-258, 7-272, 8-297, 9-304, 10-304	
■ Bowling: Mohammed Shami 7.5-0-66-1, Harshit Rana 9-0-62-1, Hardik Pandya 7-0-53-1, Varun Chakravarthi 10-0-54-1, Ravindra Jadeja 10-1-35-3, Axar Patel 6-0-32-0	

INDIA (TARGET: 305 RUNS)

R Sharma c Rashid b Livingstone	119 (90b, 12x4, 7x6)
S Gill b Overton	60 (52b, 9x4, 1x6)
V Kohli c Salt b Rashid	5 (8b, 1x4)
S Iyer run out	44 (47b, 3x4, 1x6)
A Patel not out	41 (43b, 4x4)
KL Rahul c Salt b Overton	10 (14b, 1x4)
H Pandya c Overton b Atkinson	10 (6b, 2x4)
R Jadeja not out	11 (7b, 2x4)
■ Extras (lb 1, w 7)	8
■ Total (6 wicket: 44.3 overs)	308
■ FoW: 1-136, 2-150, 3-220, 4-258, 5-275, 6-286	
■ Bowling: Saqib Mahmood 6-0-36-0, Gus Atkinson 7-0-65-1, Mark Wood 8-0-57-0, Adil Rashid 10-0-78-1, Jamie Overton 5-0-27-2, Liam Livingstone 7-0-29-1, Joe Root 1.3-0-15-0	

Floodlight failure causes 35-min halt

Cuttack: In the seventh over of India's chase, a floodlight tower began to flicker before shutting down completely. According to an official, the generator connected to one of the six floodlight structures had conked off, forcing a nearly 35-minute stoppage. "There was a short-circuit issue with the generator and we had to get it replaced," the official told *The Indian Express*. **LALITH KALIDAS**

operated. As Mohammad Shami, Harshit Rana and Hardik Pandya's waning lengths outside the stumps played to the strengths of England openers Ben Duckett and Phil Salt, India had to fall back on Jadeja's simplicity to fight back. Heading into the Champions Trophy, the left-arm spinner has reimposed himself as India's lead white-ball spinner.

Fifty per cent of his 10 overs jotted with dot balls, Jadeja outgunned half-centurions Duckett (65) and Joe Root at crucial junctures to keep England at least 30 short on a wicket that held shape reasonably well throughout.

While their cross-batted range had worked spectacularly against the pacers after winning the toss, Buttler's men could not sustain the momentum at the death where Rohit banked on more overs of spin to close out the innings.

Even as a 300-plus finish would have held competitive on a track that was slightly sluggish and offered turn in the absence of dew after sunset, the English plans were expertly warped by Rohit's magical reminder. This was indeed a "different format, a different time".



India skipper Rohit Sharma roared back into form with a 90-ball 119 which included 12 fours and seven sixes. **BCCI**

CT: With suspense around Bumrah, India bring in Varun's mystery

LALITH KALIDAS
CUTTACK, FEBRUARY 9

IS INDIA'S answer to the Jasprit Bumrah puzzle for the Champions Trophy a slow bowler? Someone with similarly unusual quirks at the crease and not born out of the typical bowling manual.

Varun Chakravarthi's ODI debut at 33 in the second ODI against England at the Barabati Stadium was not entirely about the wickets column but more of the white-ball secret sauce that is yet to be completely demystified and diluted by oppositions. In Bumrah's absence, it seems to be an enticing prospect for the team management, who drafted the Tamil Nadu tweeker into the 50-over side after his brilliant T20I series against the visitors last month, where he snapped 14 wickets in 5 outings.

A debut seemed far-fetched for Chakravarthi with India's likely first-choice combination yet to hit the field, 11 days out from their Champions Trophy opener in Dubai. But with three days still in the bank to announce any last-minute tweaks to the provisionally announced 15-member squad, Chakravarthi's inclusion on Sunday meant that there could still be room for a late twist to the Indian roster, more so if Bumrah's recovery takes time.

It could be compelling for India to ponder a move for Chakravarthi as the seam attack continues to wear an inconsistent look, and the imminently better bet would be to shore up the spin stocks behind Ravindra Jadeja. Chakravarthi's addition came at the expense of the team's lead wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who is working his own way back into the squad after a brief injury lay-off.

The one-dimensional seam attack's profi-



India brought in Varun Chakravarthi in place of Kuldeep Yadav. **BCCI**

gacy was laid bare when Mohammad Shami, Harshit Rana and Hardik Pandya fed England openers Ben Duckett and Phil Salt boundless room to cut and pull in the first powerplay. Much of the first 10 overs' action occurred square of the wicket as Shami struggled to temper his angles to the left-handed Duckett. A regulation catching opportunity that Axar Patel let slip off at deep backward point in the sixth over off Pandya's bowling, forced the seamer down to his haunches after a frustrating start.

With Rana playing two games ahead of the Dubai-bound Arshdeep Singh, one can assume that head coach Gautam Gambhir and Co have taken the series to prepare for all scenarios they currently visualise without Bumrah. However, Rana's natural affinity for shorter lengths has forced India to summon the first-change

bowler quite early within the first powerplay in both games.

As the seam trio failed to attack the stumps or attempt fuller deliveries to the England openers automatically aligned to wield their cross-batted strokes, Chakravarthi's injection in the ninth over briefly helped India plug the haemorrhage.

That England have been iffy in their plans against him throughout this tour was best summed up by Chakravarthi's 11th delivery. The mystery man stuck to conventions this time with a flighted leg break that offered Salt a minimal margin for error with the heave across the line miscued to Jadeja at mid-on. A cracking follow-up to Joe Root nearly packed the England No. 3 first ball, but the sharp-spinning googly had turned way down the leg-side after rapping the pads.

Save for a slot delivery outside the off-stump that Harry Brook magnificently carted over extra-cover for a maximum, Chakravarthi's first spell of six overs conceding 26 had the Bazballers wound to the crease, suppressing their waltz before 17 dots and a solitary release shot.

While his eventual figures (1/54) did not vouch for a wholesome read, India captain Rohit Sharma entrusted him with two overs at the death alongside Jadeja, the two being the only bowlers to complete their quota of 10 overs between the reckless spells of the pace contingent.

With veteran Shami yet to regain full steam, Rana blowing hot and cold, Kuldeep yet to add enough overs under his belt and India tight-lipped on the Bumrah situation, Chakravarthi's six-over spell teased a little spark before the Champions Trophy's final squad deadline day falling in three days on February 12.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

How does one train for Freestyle Chess? Sometimes, you just don't!

AMIT KAMATH
FEBRUARY 9

THE KNOCKOUT stage of the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour in Weissenhaus started off with a bang: with four out of the five games ending in decisive results.

World champion Gukesh, playing with white pieces, lost to Fabiano Caruana in 40 moves while there were also wins for Magnus Carlsen (who beat Nodirbek Abdusattarov with white) and Vincent Keymer (who beat Alireza Firouzja with black). Only the Hikaru Nakamura versus Javokhir Sindarov game ended in a draw. All the players will be back on the board with colours reversed on Monday to play in the second game of the match.

There is an unpredictability that comes with playing freestyle chess because there can be 960 possible opening positions. The complexity of playing the variant then gets raised even higher since the players are told their opening position just 15 minutes before the game starts. To top it all off, there is no second time control like there is in events like the Candidates and the World Championship.

This means that players are forced to think long and hard from the first move itself and with the knowledge that they only get 30-second increments for each move they make after the initial 90 minutes.

"It's still chess. Pieces still move the same. But openings are gone. No preparation opening-wise before the games. That's the part of classical chess that most people agree is not the most fun or creative part of classical chess these days. Even five years ago, opening prep was a very creative process, because you could overrule the engines and find things that would surprise the opponent," said Caruana in an interview with ChessBase India. "With Fischer Random (Freestyle Chess), you just have a few minutes before the game to orient yourself, and then you're on your own. So is your opponent."

A day before Caruana and Gukesh faced off in the first game of the two-leg quarter-final, the American was discussing with Nakamura and Firouzja how you could train for a tricky challenge like freestyle chess. In that conversation, Caruana put forth a theory: if you played four rapid games daily in the freestyle format for two years, you could memorise all the 960 starting positions. His



The opening position for the match between Fabiano Caruana (black) and D Gukesh. **Screengrab**

theory, unfortunately, found no takers in the audience of two as Nakamura and Firouzja brushed it off.

For many of the players, as Nakamura revealed in an interview with Take Take Take, training for freestyle chess has been a process of unlearning because plenty of theory in

With over 960 possible opening positions and no second time control, Nakamura and Carlsen reckon the best preparation is no preparation.

chess focuses on opening theory. And in freestyle chess, the opening theory itself would fill out a library.

Nakamura explained how, a few years back he and Carlsen had played a Fischer Random (another name for freestyle chess) game during the Norway Chess tournament where they had been told the opening position they would play 30 minutes before the start of the game. Then, they were told they could talk to their seconds and take help from engines. Despite that, by the third move, Nakamura was already out of the book.

Come to games fresh

Most elite players rely on training games to sharpen their minds for an upcoming com-

petition. Players usually spent the night before games playing games or looking up lines for hours, and then doing the same in the hours leading up to a match.

Of course for players like Caruana, Gukesh, Vladimir Fedoseev, Abdusattarov and Keymer playing training games to prepare for the Weissenhaus event was not possible, because until five days before the start of the freestyle event, they were competing for a three-week stretch at Wijk aan Zee in a classical tournament.

But even some players like Nakamura or Carlsen, who came to Weissenhaus fresher and well-rested compared to others like Gukesh and Caruana, there were not too many training games.

Carlsen, for example, said that last year he had trained extensively to compete at the freestyle event (which he had won) by playing training games against British GM David Howell besides working on openings with long-time second Peter Heine Nielsen. But this year he had done a little training compared to last year.

"I felt like last year I was really overthinking in the first few games. I had too much random knowledge and didn't know how to ap-

ply it. This year, I played Freestyle Fridays on Chess.com for training. Otherwise I had looked at a few charts about where pieces go," Carlsen told Chessbase India.

Nakamura agreed. "Playing too much before is not good. You have to come in fresh. It's really not worth it to spend much time preparing," he said.

Gukesh loses

Gukesh will have to find a win on Monday against Caruana with black pieces after his loss in the first game. It was a game where Gukesh's all-powerful queen sat on a corner of the board on h1 square twiddling its thumbs for 17 moves.

In fact, his queen moved just thrice before being picked off. His rook on the other corner also moved once before it was eliminated.

Gukesh had just about snuck into the quarter-finals of the Weissenhaus event after not winning any of his nine rapid games to decide the eight players to go into the knockouts. He was expected to do better in the classical game on Sunday, considering he thrives in the longest time control event. But Sunday's defeat means he has just one game to save his campaign.

BRIEFLY

FA Cup: Liverpool crash out against second-tier Plymouth

Plymouth: A much-changed Liverpool were dumped out of the FA Cup by struggling second-tier side Plymouth Argyle, who pulled off a stunning 1-0 fourth round win at Home Park on Sunday. The hosts took the lead in the 53rd minute after they were awarded a penalty for a handball by midfielder Harvey Elliott and Ryan Hardie stepped up to send Liverpool goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher the wrong way. Premier League leaders Liverpool were bereft of ideas and had just one shot on target in the opening half, with Plymouth keeper Conor Hazard making a diving save in the 36th minute to keep out James McConnell's long-range shot. **REUTERS**

Alcaraz wins maiden indoor title

Rotterdam: World number three Carlos Alcaraz claimed his first indoor title when he beat Australian third seed Alex de Minaur 6-4 3-6 6-2 in the Rotterdam Open final on Sunday. The four-times Grand Slam winner, who began the 2025 season with a quarter-final defeat by Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open, won his 17th ATP Tour career title, his first indoor. It was the Spaniard's first title since winning in Beijing in October as he again wore a nasal strip having suffered with a cold all week. He also became the youngest man in history to win a title on clay, grass, hard court, and indoor hard court. **REUTERS**

UP Warriorz name Deepti as captain

New Delhi: UP Warriorz on Sunday named seasoned all-rounder Deepti Sharma as their captain for WPL 2025 after regular skipper Alyssa Healy was ruled out of the League because of a foot injury. Warriorz will hope that Deepti will repeat her fine WPL 2024 outing, scoring 295 runs in eight innings at a strike rate of 136.57 and at an average of 98.33. She had also grabbed 10 wickets with her off-spin at an economy rate of 7.23. **PTI**

Jacquet beats Ymer to win Chennai Open

Chennai: Frenchman Kyrian Jacquet fought past Sweden's Elias Ymer in straight sets to clinch the Chennai Open ATP Challenger singles title here on Sunday. Jacquet registered a 7-6 (1), 6-4 victory in an hour and 37 minutes. Jacquet, ranked No. 273 in the world, got off to a fast start breaking Ymer in the very first game of the match and then consolidated it with a hold. However, Ymer, ranked 332 in the world, broke his opponent in the eighth game to level the first set at 4-4. **PTI**

Diksha makes final charge, loses play-off

Rabat: India's Diksha Dagar came within striking distance of winning her third Ladies European Tour title, before losing a play-off at the Lalla Meryem Cup golf tournament here. The 24-year-old, starting the day at 3-under total and in tied-14th place, made a great charge in the final round with a superb 6-under 67 card that helped her set the clubhouse target of 9-under. Cara Gaubert of England joined her there later as Nuria Iguacoz, who at one stage reached 10-under, and Shannon Nan fell back. **PTI**

Auqib lets the ball do the talking

With 5 for 36 against Kerala in quarterfinals, quiet medium pacer's best season only gets better

SHIVANI NAIK
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

AUQIB NABI DAR grew up playing tennis ball cricket in Baramulla, Kashmir, on grounds where speedsters just couldn't use spikes. Elite cricket is high-maintenance and hallowed that way. When his feet couldn't turn into hot wheels, the J&K pacer set off honing his wrist-work and ended up with one of the smoothest and deceptively jumbling mix of inswingers and outswingers, working his way out to snare wickets with the new ball and old.

All through this self-motivated upskilling, he kept in mind what his seniors at the humble Baramulla Cricket Club told him when the cricket dream looked distant: "Work in silence. Never talk back. Show them what you are when playing, because nobody can stop you on the run-up."

With 42 wickets this season alone - almost half his career-tally of 85 - the 28-year-old has become J&K's highest wicket taker, surpassing Parvez Rasool, since debuting in 2016 with impressive consistency of 6 five-fors in this campaign.

He has endured early injuries, limited facilities in development years, indifference from 'India A' consideration and complete silence from IPL teams in auctions, with franchises unwilling to even look at him. But when he lined up for J&K's quarterfinal against Kerala at Pune, he decided to focus on the task ahead and set aside all past struggles.

"There are struggles, but I won't talk about them. Playing red ball cricket was a dream. Right now, Ranji is my biggest stage," he would say after taking 5-36 in a straggling tandem alongside Umar Nazir (they bowled 6 maidens each) as Kerala were restricted to 200/9 responding to J&K's 280. Auqib can take some solid credit for taking J&K's middling 210/8 and elevating it to a chunkier 280 because he turned up at No.10 and gave a dull Sunday morning its crisp espresso fix with a 30-ball 32 with 2 boundaries and 1 chunky six. Like Mark Knopfler would've crooned, "Oh yeah, the boy can play." Kerala were mildly bewildered, as he routinely charged the bowlers, coolly taking three unrushed strides down the pitch and tonking gloriously away. Against Kerala's competent quicks, it was frankly audacious. But they had ceded 60-odd before they realised what to do with this Mad Max, strutting into the storm.

What his team know Auqib for though, is his serene silence. He simply doesn't like talking much. Even during his aggressive bowling spell and batting counters, there's none of the lippy talk going on. He's taken after his idol Dale Steyn and Jasprit Bumrah, in that sense. But he doesn't even smile, so the business-like silence where batsmen being evicted is incidental, is even more menacing.

Kerala opener Rohan Kunnummal prodded at an out-swinging delivery, and was gone by the second ball. Shoun Roger lasted just 5 deliveries without scoring, and was gone to an incoming one while stuck in the crease caught by the keeper. Auqib would return for a late afternoon spell to send back the dangerous and well-set Jalaj Saxena (67 off 78), and complete the five, clean bowling Nedumankuzhy Basil. But it was Sachin Baby's wicket on 2 (15) that

will stay imprinted on minds. It was a peach of a yorker nailing Kerala's best batter and captain, as they were left tottering at 11/3. "We are in quarters after a long time. Performing here is a big thing," he said, when asked if he fretted over non inclusion in India A's.

Saxena had sent two sixes surfing to the same fine leg spot earlier on, where he was eventually trapped, as the rising ball rushed on him two clicks faster. Auqib's set-ups tend to focus on silently nuancing pace to lull and lure into lethality. He celebrates wickets alright, but the confidence comes from how coach Pudiyanqum Krishnakumar keeps saying positive things to him, despite errors. Like, knowing, he's never going to give up on Auqib. "Rest is just bowling in the right places," he says.

His batting aggression also came from the coaches telling him to go berserk - knowing a statement of intent needed to be made in the first hour when bowlers had suffocated J&K top order yesterday. "Coach said, Go attack." Auqib merely freed his long levers.

Early promise

Baramulla hadn't seen anyone like him in U19s, and his trials were actually used to spread the word around of a prodigious bowler, who didn't need speed (though he could crank it up), to clatter stumps. The cutters were exquisite.

A good crowd came, just to be awed. "He's natural. His skills are god-gifted."

He learnt early from Baramulla club mates to take everything from criticism to praise with silence. He's shy basically, but he listens and learns," informs manager Hilal Ahmed.

In his U19s debut, he quietened some loud Punjab opponents with 5 wickets and a 50. Against Saurashtra colts, he was sent at the fall of two quick wickets, and he slammed a 100.

"We had been fielding for a day and a half. So when I got to batting, I scored a 100," he recalls simply.

He started cricket following friends, but never knowing the real magic of leather ball. "We never played with the hard ball. The ground wasn't good enough to wear spikes. Just tennis ball. Red ball mindset took time. Now we've played lots of red ball cricket. That's the change," he says of 40 wickets in 6 seasons, and 44 in this one alone.

He quietly plays in the Karnataka local league, and when back home, gathers around youngsters to bat and bowl against.

He won't sit at home idle, nor waste time ruing," Ahmed says.

His father, a government teacher, wanted him to study. "Initially they were opposed to cricket and would yell because I was good at studies." There was talk of studying medicine. The day he scored 100 vs Saurashtra and the press landed at his home, his father was a convert. "He told the media - Mera nechu (son) India khelke aaga. Aap likho."

It hasn't quite happened yet. But you never know what that famous silence is quietly brewing. Five Kerala wickets bubbled over, at any rate.

BRIEF SCORES: Jammu and Kashmir 280 all out (Kanhैया Wadhawan 48; Nidheesh MD 6/75) **lead Kerala** 200/9 in 63 overs (Saxena 67, Nizar 49; Auqib 5/36) by 80 runs.



Auqib Nabi took five wickets. Shivani Naik

RANJI TROPHY: QUARTERFINALS



SKIPPER LEADS RESISTANCE

Haryana captain Ankit Kumar's ton on Sunday cut their deficit against Mumbai to just 52 runs in their quarterfinal. **PTI**

Jalaj, Kerala's man for all seasons and situations

SHIVANI NAIK
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

JALAJ SAXENA is 38 and he chuckles that he "doesn't really expect the phone to ring tomorrow." That is cricket-speak for getting picked to play for India, and the selectors calling up with the news. It's just that instead of staring at the phone waiting eternally for it to ring, he decided to go hammer and tongs against the run of play, and keep reminding the young 'uns that a Ranji Trophy quarterfinal is five days long.

He is not filmy enough to say, "Picture abhi baaki hai mere dost." But for 78 balls, he kept punching holes in a pretty sturdy J&K bowling unit, almost teasing them for not managing to tame an old 'un like him. His 67 had six fours and three sixes, looking utterly unbothered by cloying pace or taunting spin.

"It's an unrealistic dream (being picked for India)," but what's left if you stop dreaming, he says. So, might as well keep putting himself out there, and reminding selectors of what they are overlooking.

Saxena's type-face of spin bowling-all-rounder was taken. Ravichandran Ashwin, Washington Sundar, Jayant Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav. There was always someone. So, he just went about accumulating runs and wickets, not bothering to get tagged the dreaded word: 'domestic giant'. But because he was so good at what he did, it put Kerala in the quarters.

"I don't get sleepless nights about why selectors are not picking me. It's just that the India dream keeps me motivated. I still have that dream to play for India, but no expectations," he says. It's a strangely content mind-space. Luckily for his home state Madhya Pradesh and now Kerala, where he's a much-loved guest player, his constant efforts to stay relevant has done them a lot of good.

Man for a crisis

Against J&K, Saxena single-handedly stemmed a dam-burst as Auqib Nabi wreaked havoc. "He's very nippy and was bowling in the right areas," Saxena explained. It was his cue to enter battle.

"Three wickets down (for a measly 11), I had to back my instincts. It was tricky because another couple of wickets would've



Jalaj Saxena scored 67 on Sunday. File

done us in. I took calculated risks. Told myself I've done this in the past."

It was plainly an assault, when he started with a pair of sixes, making it look like he and the rest were batting on two different pitches. Umar Nazir had a stranglehold on opener Akshay Chandran which never loosened. Saxena though, with his wide-spaced golf-club like grip, flicked the massive Nazir to fine leg for a six. He struck an encore, just for kicks. Nasir Lone, marginally slower, was maced over point.

Saxena, single-handedly, might've pushed this contest into the fourth day. "It was not the correct time to be disappointed," he would later say about the match situation and his career. "It's called a Test match (5-day game) for a reason. We can still get back into this game," he promised as Kerala reached 200/9 and MD Nidheesh and Salman Nizar took their cues to retaliate in aggressive fashion.

"When I get into my zone, I back myself to play shots," Saxena said. "In the off-season, I do my hard work," he would say, looking as fit as any of the other tough ones.

Not being off-spinner No.1 might've scuttled his India goals, but the veteran's all-round shows with T20-style batting are helping the state team. "I even opened for my state. I can always bat," he would remind with a smile. Bat rather well, actually."

QUARTERS ROUNDUP

Spinners give Mumbai an opening

Kolkata: After two frustrating sessions, Mumbai's spinners Tanush Kotian and Shams Mulani brought them back into the contest against Haryana at the Eden Gardens. The two spinners who scored 97 and 91 respectively to rescue Mumbai with the bat, played their part with the ball as well at a critical juncture when Haryana seemed to be running away with the game. After shutting out Mumbai for 315 in the first session, skipper Ankit Kumar led from the front once again with the bat, scoring 136. **BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai** 315 (Kotian 97, Mulani 91; Kamboj 3/71) vs **Haryana** 263/5 (Ankit 136).

Tamil Nadu top order fails once again

Nagpur: It feels like déjà vu all over again for Tamil Nadu. Green top, ball seaming around and their top-order showing once again they aren't equipped to survive in those conditions. And as a result, Tamil Nadu are slowly losing their grip over their fixture against Vidarbha at Nagpur. Despite coming to bat only in the second session of Day 2, TN batsmen were exposed by Vidarbha seamers with Aditya Thakare walking away at the end of the day with four scalps in his pocket. **BRIEF SCORES: Vidarbha** 353 (Nair 122; Shankar 3/75) vs **Tamil Nadu** 159/6 (Siddharth 65; Thakare 4/18).

Gujarat in driver's seat

Rajkot: In their derby clash against Saurashtra, it is Gujarat which is beginning to take control of the quarterfinal. After shutting the hosts to 216, their decision to bowl first was vindicated as Gujarat batsmen put up a fighting display to end Day 2 with a lead of 44 runs and 6 wickets in hand. **BRIEF SCORES: Saurashtra** 216 vs **Gujarat** 260/4 (Jaymeet Patel 88 batting, Manan Hingraji 83).

THREE RECORDS BROKEN IN A YEAR

With blazing start, Tejas rewrites National Games mark in 110m hurdles

PRITISH RAJ
DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 9

HURDLER TEJAS Shire started brilliantly in the men's 110m hurdles final at the National Games on Sunday. At the Maharana Pratap Sports College, Dehradun, he broke the decade-old meet record of compatriot Siddharth Thingalaya after clocking 13.65s. But the hurdler looked a little stretched in the final phase.

This is the third time this year that Shire has broken a record. Last month the 22-year-old had twice rewritten the national record in the 60m hurdles.

Talking about the last phase of the race, Tejas told *The Indian Express*, "I haven't practised at all for the outdoor hurdles as I was focusing on the indoor hurdles to improve my start. That is why my body was a little stretched in the end as I was practising with only five hurdles as compared to ten outdoors."

The current national record holder in the 110m hurdles, Shire spent three weeks training in Europe with the elite indoor hurdlers in January. Tejas trained in France and ran a total of eight indoor races (60 metres),



Tejas Shire clocked 13.65s to break the decade-old National Games record. Pritish Raj

including the qualification rounds and finals. He set the current national record of 7.64s in the 60m hurdles during the European stint.

When asked what's the biggest difference in the training for outdoor and indoor hurdles, Tejas said, "The biggest difference dur-

ing the training for indoor hurdles and outdoor hurdles is endurance. In the 60m hurdles, one has to just start and finish quickly but in the 110m hurdles, one has to put in more repetitions to sustain that speed."

Coached by James Hillier, Tejas and

women's 100m national record holder Jyothi Yarraji have focussed on getting off the blocks well during their indoor races.

"The decision to train indoors was a collective decision of me and my coach (James Hillier) as we wanted to improve on the start. Indoor hurdles have helped me make a faster start in the outdoor hurdles," Tejas said.

While the year started with indoor training, Tejas has his eyes fixed on the major outdoor competitions starting with the Asian Athletics Championships scheduled in May 2025.

"My focus for the season is on outdoor competitions. The indoor season and training were just for improvement as it was a quick (indoor) season," Tejas said.

The hurdler narrowly missed out on the qualification for the Asian Championships (13.56s qualifying standard) on Sunday but is confident of achieving the same once he starts full-fledged outdoor training.

"I know I was close to qualifying today but I don't mind as I wasn't completely ready for this event given I am half way to my full preparation. I will qualify in the next event I compete in," Tejas said.

The hurdler will travel to Australia later this month and is expected to compete in

competitions there after his training.

"I will start training for outdoor hurdles now. I am going to Australia later this month and start doing more and more outdoor hurdle training with the athletes here. My plan is to focus on the rhythm using the ten and twelve hurdles as compared to the five hurdles in the indoor event," Tejas said.

Tejas has been one of the fastest hurdlers in the country in the past two years and the lack of competition at the national level hampered his chances for the Olympics last year.

But the move to train with elite athletes across the world means that he will have a chance to improve with an aim to qualify for events like World Championships and Asian Athletics Championships.

KEY RESULTS: Men: 400m: 1. Bapi Hansda (ODI) 46.82s, 2. Vikrant Panchal (Har) 46.92, 3. T.S. Manu (Ker) 47.08; **110m hurdles:** 1. Tejas Shire (Mah) 13.65s, 2. Manav Rajanarayanan (TN) 14.03s, 3. Muhammed Lazan (Ker) 14.23s. **High jump:** 1. Aadarsh Ram (TN) 2.14m, 2. Swadhin Kumar (Odi) 2.11m, 3. Sudeep (Kar) 2.08m; **4x100m relay:** 1. Odisha (39.47s) 2. Tamil Nadu (40.08s), 3. Kerala (40.73s); **Decathlon:** 1. N. Taufeeq (Ker) 6,915 pts, 2. Yamandeep Sharma (Raj) 6,831 pts, 3. Rohit Roman (AP) 6,753 pts..

3 teams disqualified in women's relay

Dehradun: There was much drama after a thrilling photo-finish in the women's 4x100m relay as Unnathi Aiyappa of Karnataka and Giridharani R of Tamil Nadu battled for the gold medal in the final leg.

Karnataka won the gold with a timing of 46.99s ahead of Tamil Nadu (47.01s). However, minutes later, Tamil Nadu, along with Odisha and Uttarakhand, were disqualified for wrong baton exchange. The technical committee deemed that athletes of these three teams started incorrectly while exchanging the baton in the second exchange. But the Tamil Nadu team claimed that the line official had asked them to step back resulting in a false start. They lodged an official protest, resulting in a delay in the presentation ceremony, but the Athletics Federation of India jury rejected the appeal. **ENS**