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Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L	Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L	Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L	Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L	Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L	Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L
Lah Ladakh/Kargil Pangong (7D/9D)	69K-89K	44K-64K	Australia (7D/9D/15D)	225K-515K	150K-440K	Singapore Thailand Malaysia	252K-262K	--	USA East & West Coast+Orlando & Bahamas Cruise (9D)	747K-767K	622K-642K	Multi-Country Europe (6D-15D)	175K-430K	110K-350K	Multi-Country Europe (7D-27D)	465K-695K	385K-615K
Sham Valley Ladakh Trek (7D)	77K-87K	50K-60K	New Zealand (10D/15D)	375K-495K	285K-405K	Singapore Thailand Malaysia (10D)	172K-180K	132K-140K	USA+Death Valley & Yosemite (16D/18D)	675K-725K	550K-600K	Swiss Paris Amsterdam Brussels (11D)	335K-345K	265K-275K	Swiss Paris/ Switzerland (11D)	325K-335K	255K-265K
Kashmir (6D)	54K-99K	35K-79K	Australia New Zealand (11D/17D)	385K-575K	270K-495K	Singapore Malaysia Bali (10D)	197K-207K	--	USA East & West Coast with Chicago & National Park (22D)	800K-825K	675K-700K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K
Shimla Manali (Mum-Del-Mum) (6D)	44K-50K	31K-41K	South Africa Kenya Victoria Falls (15D)	455K-480K	--	Thailand (4D/6D/8D/15D)	50K-175K	30K-65K	USA California Carnival with Death Valley & Yosemite (10D)	432K-452K	300K-325K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Shimla Manali (Mum-Cgarh-Mum) (8D)	56K-60K	41K-45K	South Africa (9D/13D)	240K-360K	190K-310K	Singapore Thailand (8D)	147K-157K	--	USA East Coast/Chicago (7D/9D)	280K-330K	175K-230K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Dharamshala Dalhousie Amritsar(8D)	62K-70K	41K-50K	Kenya (5D/8D/12D)	175K-440K	140K-360K	Hong Kong Macao Shenzhen (7D)	85K-95K	190K-200K	USA East & West Coast with Orlando Disneyland & NASA (15D)	582K-602K	452K-472K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Amritsar (4D)	36K-40K	24K-30K	Best of Mauritius (6D)	125K-135K	85K-95K	Singapore with Bintan (5D)	135K-145K	137K-147K	USA West Coast (7D)	800K-825K	675K-700K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Haridwar Rishikesh (5D)	39K-45K	30K-35K	Mauritius Seychelles (8D)	250K-275K	216K-240K	Best of Singapore (5D)	127K-137K	109K-119K	Canada Alaska (18D)	855K-875K	655K-675K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Nainital Mussoorie/Corbett (6D/8D)	53K-70K	42K-60K	Mauritius Madagascar (8D)	279K-295K	--	Kuala Lumpur Malaysia (4D)	60K-65K	104K-114K	Best of Alaska (9D)	--	225K-250K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Best of Kumaon and Garhwal (10D)	72K-80K	53K-60K	Uganda Rwanda (8D)	525000	--	Best of Bali (7D)	125K-135K	29K-39K	Best of Canada (11D)	--	425K-450K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Chardham (7D/9D/11D/13D)	60K-93K	52K-85K	Kenya Tanzania Zanzibar (12D)	575000	--	Thailand (4D/6D/8D/15D)	50K-175K	90K-100K	Hawaii Mexico (11D)	950000	675000	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Sikkim Darjeeling/Pangong (7D/9D)	73K-90K	51K-70K	Japan (5D to 17D)	175K-650K	120K-595K	Phuket Krabi (4D)	57K-62K	40K-45K	USA West Coast with Boston & Vermont (Autumn Colors) (11D)	435000	315000	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Assam Meghalaya/Arunachal (7D/12D)	89K-115K	65K-90K	Japan Alpine Route (10D)	400K-425K	390K-415K	Bangkok Pattaya Phuket Krabi (8D)	125K-135K	91K-100K	Chicago with National Parks(10D)	--	310K-335K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
All of Meghalaya (8D)	93K-100K	74K-80K	Japan Explorer (10D) June 4	350K-288K	--	Chiang Mai Chiang Rai Phuket Krabi (9D)	152K-162K	87K-97K	USA West Coast (7D)	--	225K-250K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Uttar Pradesh (4D/5D/8D)	30K-70K	21K-58K	Japan Korea (10D)	300K-325K	245K-270K	Hong Kong Macao (5D)	129K-139K	129K-145K	Canada Alaska (18D)	855K-875K	655K-675K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Madhya Pradesh Ayodhya/Mathura/Varanasi (5D/6D/8D)	39K-65K	30K-53K	Korea Taiwan (8D)	285K-310K	230K-255K	Hong Kong Macao Shenzhen (7D)	170K-180K	--	Best of Alaska (9D)	--	295K-310K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Jaipur Udaipur Kumbhalgarh (7D)	49K-55K	36K-41K	China Korea Taiwan (14D)	380K-390K	320K-345K	Vietnam (5D/8D/13D)	105-204K	--	Best of Canada (11D)	--	425K-450K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Gujarat (4D/5D/7D)	35K-50K	27K-42K	Best of China (9D)	175K-185K	125K-135K	Vietnam Sapa Phu Quoc (7D)	125K-135K	--	Hawaii Mexico (11D)	950000	675000	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Karnataka Coorg/Dandeli Belur (6D/8D)	39K-75K	30K-63K	Highlights of China (7D)	150K-160K	95K-105K	Vietnam Cambodia (11D)	200K-205K	--	Antarctica (13D) Nov 28	1335000	1135000	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Ooty Kodai Coimbatore (7D)	65K-70K	54K-59K	Nepal (8D)	83K-931K	61K-71K	Vietnam Bali (12D)	200K-210K	--	South America (21D) Sept 26	1350000	1075000	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Kerala (6D/8D)	39K-65K	32K-52K	Sri Lanka (7D)	98K-108K	72K-82K	Philippines Manila Cebu (8D)	197000	--	Best of Brazil (8D)	--	425000	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K
Andaman (7D)	75K-82K	55K-60K	Bhutan (7D/9D)	83K-100K	63K-80K				Brazil Peru (13D)	--	825K-850K	Swiss Paris Austria (8D)	285K-310K	210K-240K	Swiss Paris French Riviera (10D)	305K-315K	235K-245K

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OVER 10,000 POLICE AND SECURITY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED TO ENSURE MULTI-LAYERED SECURITY

Islamabad turns into fortress for peace talks between Iran and US

Sajjad Hussain
Islamabad, April 10

PAKISTAN'S INTERIOR minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday reviewed the security arrangements in Islamabad ahead of the arrival of the Iranian and US delegations for peace talks aimed to end the conflict in West Asia.

The US and Iran agreed to a two-week conditional ceasefire on Wednesday, followed by a face-to-face meeting in Islamabad to settle the differences and convert the ongoing truce into a lasting peace.

According to official sources, delegates from the United States and Iran are expected to arrive by tonight to participate in the talks over the weekend, for which more than 10,000 security personnel have been deployed in Islamabad. However, no official statement has been issued by the Pakistan authorities on the arrival of the delegates yet.

Naqvi said that "hosting the US-Iran talks in Islamabad after the ceasefire is an honour for Pakistan" and directed that all possible measures be taken for hospitality and security of the incoming delegations.

He was informed that the Red Zone had been sealed and a



A police officer stands guard while others attend a briefing prior to their deployment to ensure security ahead of the US-Iran ceasefire negotiations, in Islamabad on Friday. AP

control room established in the Ministry of Interior to monitor the situation.

As part of security measures, a large-scale grand combing search operation was carried out in different areas of Islamabad at the direction of the Inspector General of Islamabad.

Police also set up special checkpoints at the entrances and exits of the city, while all pa-

trol units and special squads are patrolling throughout the city, and police are taking all possible measures to protect the lives and property of citizens.

Despite uncertainty, Pakistan geared up to host the two sides. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday announced "Visa on Arrival" for delegates and journalists travelling to

Pakistan for talks.

"Pakistan welcomes all delegates, including journalists from participating nations, travelling in relation to the Islamabad Talks 2026. To this end, all airlines are requested to permit boarding to all such individuals without a visa. Immigration authorities in Pakistan will issue them Visa on Arrival." Dar posted on social media Friday

morning.

A thick security blanket covered the capital, Islamabad, which was on 'red alert' ahead of talks.

More than 10,000 police and security personnel have been deployed to ensure multi-layered security for the visiting delegates, officials said.

The Red Zone, housing key buildings, is being protected by the army and the Rangers, and only authorised officials and residents are allowed to go through it.

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Artemis II returns today: Pacific splashdown to cap NASA's lunar comeback

Marcia Dunn
Houston, April 10

THEIR DRAMATIC grand finale fast approaching, Artemis II's astronauts aimed for a splashdown in the Pacific on Friday to close out humanity's first voyage to the moon in more than half a century.

The tension in Mission Control mounted as the miles melted away between the four returning astronauts and Earth.

All eyes were on the capsule's life-protecting heat shield that has to withstand thousands of degrees during reentry. On the only other test flight of the spacecraft — in 2022, with no one on board — the shield's charred exterior came back looking as pockmarked as the moon. Commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canada's Jeremy Hansen were on track to hit the atmosphere traveling Mach 32 — or 32 times the speed of sound — a blistering blur not seen since NASA's Apollo moonshots of the 1960s and 1970s.

They didn't plan on taking manual control except in an emergency. Their Orion capsule, dubbed Integrity, is completely self-flying.

Like so many others, lead flight director Jeff Radigan anticipated feeling some of that "irrational fear that is human nature," especially during the six minutes of communication blackout preceding the opening of the parachutes. The recovery ship USS John P. Murtha



The Artemis II mission crew held a news conference from the Orion spacecraft as Canadian Space Agency (CSA) astronaut Jeremy Hansen said he saw things he "had never even imagined". AP

awaited the crew's arrival, along with a squadron of military planes and helicopters.

The last time NASA and the Defense Department teamed up for a lunar crew's reentry was Apollo 17 in 1972. Artemis II was projected to come screaming back at 34,965 feet (10,657 meters) per second — or 23,840 mph (38,367 kph) — not a record but still mind-bogglingly fast before slowing to a 19 mph (30 kph) splashdown.

Launched from Florida on April 1, the astronauts racked up one win after another as they deftly navigated NASA's long-awaited lunar comeback, the first major step in establishing a sustainable moon base.

Artemis II didn't land on the moon or even orbit it. But it broke Apollo 13's distance record, making Wiseman and his crew the farthest that humans have ever journeyed from Earth

when they reached 252,756 miles (406,771 kilometers). Then in the mission's most heart-tugging scene, the teary astronauts asked permission to name a pair of craters after their moonship and Wiseman's late wife, Carol.

During the record-breaking flyby, they documented scenes of the lunar far side never seen before by the naked eye and savored a total solar eclipse courtesy of the cosmos thanks to their launch date. The eclipse, in particular, "just blew all of us away," Glover said.

Their sense of wonder and love awed everyone, as did their breathtaking pictures of the moon and Earth. The Artemis II crew channeled Apollo 8's first lunar explorers with Earthset, showing our blue marble setting behind the gray moon. It was reminiscent of Apollo 8's famous Earthrise shot from 1968. AP

Trump's Gaza board faces cash crunch

Reuters
Jerusalem, Cairo, April 10

DONALD TRUMP'S Board of Peace has received only a tiny fraction of the \$17 billion pledged for Gaza, preventing the US president from pushing ahead with his plan for the shattered Palestinian enclave's future, sources told Reuters.

Ten days before US-Israeli attacks on Iran plunged the region into war, Trump hosted a conference in Washington that saw Gulf Arab states pledge billions for the governance and reconstruction of Gaza after a two-year pulverisation by Israel.

The plan envisages large-scale rebuilding of the coastal enclave after the disarmament of Palestinian militant group Hamas — whose attacks on Israel triggered the assault on Gaza — and the withdrawal of Israeli troops. The funding pledges were also meant to pay for the activities of a nascent National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG), a U.S.-backed group of Palestinian technocrats intended to assume control of Gaza from Hamas.

One of the sources, a person with direct knowledge of the peace board's operations, said that out of ten countries who pledged funds, only three — the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and the US itself — had contributed funding.

The source said funding so far was under \$1 billion, but did not give more details. The Iran war "has affected everything," exacerbating previous funding difficulties, the source said.

NCAG could not enter Gaza due to both funding and security issues, the source added.

Melania Trump denies any connection to 'disgraceful' Epstein, seeks end to 'lies'

Bo Erickson
Washington, April 10



First lady Melania Trump speaks to reporters at the White House. PTI

FIRST LADY Melania Trump denied on Thursday that she had any relationship with Jeffrey Epstein and said she was not one of his victims, thrusting the Epstein matter back into the spotlight after her husband had sought to put it behind him.

She denied online speculation that the disgraced financier and sex offender had introduced her to Donald Trump, saying she had met her husband at a New York City party in 1998, two years before crossing paths with Epstein at another event she attended with Trump.

She also urged Congress to hold public hearings for Epstein victims to tell their stories under oath, raising the prospect of further public attention on an issue the president wants to go away. "The lies linking me with the disgraceful Jeffrey Epstein need to end today," Melania Trump said, reading a statement and declining to take questions from reporters.

"I am not Epstein's victim," she said, responding to what

she said were false smears against her.

Her extraordinary address, delivered under the presidential seal in the White House foyer, renews scrutiny of the Epstein case that has roiled Donald Trump's presidency as even some supporters say his administration mishandled disclosures from government files.

Last week, the president fired Attorney General Pam Bondi, who had drawn the ire of Trump loyalists over the Justice Department's slow release of millions of Epstein-related files.

Trump, a onetime friend of

Epstein who said he cut ties with the financier in the early 2000s, is among many famous people — celebrities, politicians and intellectuals — named in the government files.

Melania Trump did not say why she chose to speak out on Thursday, resurrecting an issue that had largely slipped from the headlines amid the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran.

But Marc Beckman, her senior adviser said in a statement: "First Lady Melania Trump spoke out now because enough is enough. The lies must stop."

A spokesperson for the first

lady said Trump's aides were made aware of her plans for Thursday's statement.

While first ladies have occasionally addressed the nation on political issues, Melania Trump's statement was exceptional.

"A first lady in contemporary times has not publicly addressed controversy in this way, and certainly never from the state floor of the White House, so this took guts," said Michael LaRosa, former press secretary to first lady Jill Biden.

"Melania is very intentional and deliberative on the frequency of her appearances, and I think this event is going to speak so loudly that I don't think she will need to address this again," LaRosa added.

Melania Trump said she first "crossed paths" with Epstein in 2000 at an event she attended with Donald Trump, five years before their marriage.

"At the time, I had never met Epstein and had no knowledge of his criminal undertakings," she said. Epstein was facing federal charges of sex-trafficking minors in 2019, when he died in jail in what was ruled a suicide. REUTERS

Putin declares ceasefire in Ukraine for Orthodox Easter

Associated Press
Moscow, April 10

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin on Thursday declared a 32-hour ceasefire in Ukraine over the Orthodox Easter weekend, following an earlier call from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for a pause in some of the hostilities to observe the holiday.

Putin's decree, released by the Kremlin, orders Russian forces to observe a ceasefire starting on 4 p.m. Saturday and lasting until the end of Sunday.

Zelenskyy proposed earlier in the week that each side stop targeting each other's energy infrastructure over the holiday, saying he made the offer through the United States, which has been mediating talks between delegations from Moscow and Kyiv as Russia's invasion stretches into a fifth year.

There was no immediate reaction from Kyiv to Putin's announcement.

Previous attempts to secure ceasefires have had little or no impact. Putin unilaterally declared a 30-hour ceasefire last Easter, but each side accused the other of breaking it.

The Kremlin statement announcing the ceasefire said that "orders have been issued for this period to cease hostilities in all directions," adding that "troops are to be prepared to counter any possible provocations by the enemy, as well as any aggressive actions."

BRIEFLY

UNITED KINGDOM

Prince Harry sued by charity he set up to honour Princess Diana



Prince Harry

A CHARITY co-founded by Prince Harry in Africa to honor his late mother, Princess Diana, has sued him for defamation. Sentebale, which supports young people living with HIV in Botswana and Lesotho, filed suit last month in London's High Court, according to court records reviewed Friday. Online filings show Harry and his friend, Mark Dyer, a trustee at the charity, are being sued for either libel or slander. No documents were available. Disagreements at the charity surfaced in 2023 over a new fundraising strategy. Harry and Prince Seeso of Lesotho, co-founders of the charity, stepped down as patrons in March 2025. AP

NEPAL

Ruby Kumari of SSP elected deputy speaker

RUBY KUMARI Thakur of the Shram Sanskriti Party was on Friday elected the deputy speaker to Nepal's House of Representatives with the backing of the ruling Rastrriya Swatantra Party (RSP). The majority of the lawmakers endorsed a proposal to elect Thakur, 25, as deputy speaker. Speaker Prasad Aryal, who was elected to the post last week representing the RSP, announced her victory. Earlier, a proposal to elect Saraswati Lama of the RPP as deputy speaker was rejected by a majority of the lawmakers. PTI

CHINA

Will not tolerate independence for Taiwan: Xi

CHINA WILL "absolutely not tolerate" independence for Taiwan, which is the chief culprit in undermining peace in the Taiwan Strait, President Xi Jinping told the island's opposition leader on Friday, calling for efforts to advance "reunification". Cheng Li-wun, chairwoman of Taiwan's largest opposition party, the Kuomintang (KMT), is in China on what she has called a peace mission to reduce tensions at a time when Beijing has stepped up military pressure against the island it claims as its territory. REUTERS

• KABUKI SHOWCASES GUT-WRENCHING STORIES ABOUT BRAVE SAMURAI WHO ASSUME A HIDDEN IDENTITY TO AVENGE AN INJUSTICE

What's in a name? It's succession, legacy and celebration in Japan's Kabuki theatre

Yuri Kageyama
Tokyo, April 10

HANDING DOWN a name over generations is a central part of the Japanese traditional theater art of Kabuki, and that ceremony gets celebrated at theaters and special events every few years.

Now, the ritual is taking place with the eighth Kikugoro, who is having that honor passed down from his 83-year-old father, the seventh Kikugoro, who in turn got that name from his father.

"Taking on the name is about taking on the spirit and responsibility that's created and getting passed down over

generations by those who came before us," the younger Kikugoro, Kazuyasu Terajima, told reporters recently.

"The job of the Kabuki actor is to carry on and develop in the present what we have inherited from our predecessors and make sure it gets passed on to those who come after us."

Another famous family name in Kabuki is Danjuro, whose name succession for the 13th Danjuro happened in 2022.

Kabuki, dating to the 1600s, is still very much alive in modern-day Japan. The hit film "Kokuho," nominated for this year's Oscars in makeup and hairstyling, is one proof of Kabuki's continuing popular-

ity, becoming the biggest grossing live-action movie for the home market in Japanese film-making history.

Kabuki showcases gut-wrenching stories about brave samurai who assume a hidden identity to avenge an injustice, or a beautiful maiden who turns into a serpent, combining live music, dance and song with stylized acting — with all the roles played by men, wearing colorful costumes and plastered makeup.

he Kabuki actors specializing in women roles are called "onnagata," while others like Kikugoro play both men and women.

What often strikes West-



Kabuki actor Kikunosuke Onoe, centre, performs during the opening ceremony of Osaka Expo. AP

erners about Kabuki is the utter abandonment of any attempt to portray reality, as things might appear on the surface, or

how people might behave naturally. The actors strike dramatic poses called "mie" in the middle of their lines to drive

home the idea of courage or flight from pursuit. Experts refer that moment to conveying a picture, a moment often accentuated by the rhythmic clatter of two pieces of wood, which are like claves.

The actors' lines are often delivered in singsong poetry. The live music is an integral part of the play in setting the scene, with thunderous giant drums evoking thunder or, when played more softly, gently falling snow. Tinkling bells might portray floating butterflies.

The backdrop is a revolving spectacular set, such as cherry trees showering pink paper petals. Pieces may have elements of acrobatics, such as

an actor playing a fox, dancing with joy, suspended by wires from the ceiling.

One of the fun aspects of Kabuki is the costume and character changes that happen right on stage before the audience, transforming a human character into a demon, for instance, sometimes with the help of stagehands cloaked in anonymous black costuming called "kurogo."

Yet the parallels with Shakespearean theater are stark. One popular play, "The Love Suicides at Sonezaki," is about young lovers who choose to die together, a Romeo and Juliet of Kabuki. The parallels are coincidental. Chikamatsu

Monzaemon, who wrote the piece for Japan's Bunraku puppet theater, lived during Japan's 18th century isolationist Tokugawa period and is believed to have never read Shakespeare, who had penned the similar love story decades before Chikamatsu. For the new Kikugoro, the 48-year-old Terajima, it's a role he was born into like his predecessors. He has trained from childhood, but stressed he has no qualms or hesitation about having been destined from birth to be Kikugoro.

"I totally adored and admired my predecessors," he said at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Tokyo last month. AP

The Indian EXPRESS

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IRANIAN, AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS TO MEET FOR FIRST ROUND OF FORMAL TALKS

All eyes on Islamabad today: Will extend open hand, but don't play us, says Vance

Ahead of talks, Trump complains about Tehran's handling of key shipping channel

Michelle L Price & Aamer Madhani
Washington, April 10

VICE PRESIDENT J D Vance Friday warned Iran not to "play" the US as he headed overseas for negotiations aimed at ending their war.

President Donald Trump has tasked the member of his inner circle, who has seemed to be the most reluctant defender of the conflict with Iran, to now find a resolution to the war that began six weeks ago and stave off the US President's astonishing threat to wipe out its "whole civilization."

Vance, who has long been skeptical of foreign military interventions and outspoken about the prospect of sending troops into open-ended conflicts, set off Friday to lead mediated talks with Iran in Islamabad.

Boarding Air Force Two on his way to Pakistan, the Vice President said, "We're looking forward to the negotiation. I think it's gonna be positive. We'll of course see."

He cited Trump in saying, "If the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand." But he added, "If they're gonna try and play us,"

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



US Vice President JD Vance boards Air Force Two for talks with Iran in Pakistan, Friday. REUTERS

Deep concern over civilian casualties: India on Lebanon under Israeli fire

Shubhrajit Roy
New Delhi, April 10

IN A move aimed at restoring the diplomatic balance between Israel and Iran, India Friday expressed "deep concern" over the large number of civilian casualties in Lebanon and underlined that "observing international law, and respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of states is essential".

This is a significant statement from Delhi given that its position has been seen favouring Israel ever since the Israeli offensive in Gaza in 2023 which later expanded to Lebanon, targeting Hezbollah.

It is aimed at restoring the balance with Iran, the benefac-

tor of the Lebanese government and Hezbollah over the last several decades. The latest Israeli strikes on Lebanon, considered to be the most intense targeting of civilians in years, is threatening the US-Iran ceasefire announcement.

India has high stakes in the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz which is being tightly controlled by Iran — eight Indian vessels have transited the strait in the last six weeks. The Embassy of India in Tehran has so far facilitated movement of 2,180 Indian nationals from Iran to Armenia and Azerbaijan for onward travel to India, including 981 Indian students and 657 Indian fishermen.

On Friday, Randhir Jaiswal,

Business as Usual
By EP UNNY



spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said, "We are deeply concerned by reports of a large number of civilian" »CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Who is Bagher Ghalibaf, soldier-technocrat, can he deliver a deal in Pak?



A billboard comes up in Islamabad ahead of the US-Iran talks on Saturday; (below) Iran Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. REUTERS

C. Raja Mohan
New Delhi, April 10

MOHAMMAD BAGHER Ghalibaf, Speaker of Iran's parliament and widely viewed as a "pragmatic hardliner" has emerged as a consequential political figure with the risky mandate to negotiate peace with the United States. For any Iranian leader,

engaging an adversary denounced for decades as the "Great Satan" and one that has inflicted significant military damage on Iran until early this week, is no easy task.

The fragile political context of the US-Iran talks in Islamabad is evident in the last 48 hours with continuing tensions



over Israeli attacks on Lebanon, mixed messages on the negotiating framework, and last-minute uncertainty over Tehran's participation.

US Vice President JD Vance is on his way and if the talks take place, that very fact will mark an important step forward. Strategic ambiguity, counter-intuitively, is useful in finding creative openings in complex negotiations. That Donald Trump has dispatched

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Singed by cash at home scandal, Justice Varma quits, ending impeachment process

Apurva Vishwanath & Ananthkrishnan G
New Delhi, April 10

JUSTICE YASHWANT Varma, judge of the Allahabad High Court, who is facing impeachment proceedings over the alleged discovery of burnt cash from his Delhi residence last year, has resigned from office.

With Justice Varma's resignation — via a letter addressed to President Droupadi Murmu — the investigation by a Lok Sabha committee under the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968 also comes to an end, preventing what could have been the first impeachment of a judge of a constitutional court.

"While I do not propose to burden your august office with the reasons which have constrained me to submit this mis-ive, it is with deep anguish that I hereby tender my resignation..." he wrote to the President. "It has been an honour to serve in this office," he said.



Burnt cash was allegedly found following a fire at Justice Yashwant Varma's residence in New Delhi last year

He also sent a copy of the letter to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

Upon resignation, a judge is entitled to the same pensionary benefits as a judge who superannuates from service. Justice Varma was due to retire in 2031.

With his resignation, the future course of action over allegations levelled against him enters uncharted territory. Legal experts said that resignation is a step towards foreclosing a possible impeachment motion.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Happening today

●THE ARTEMIS II crew, which broke the record for the farthest human spaceflight at 252,756 miles (406,771 km), is on their journey back to Earth and is preparing for a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego. All eyes were on capsule's life-protecting heat shield.

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INSIDE PAGE 8



AIMIM SEVERS TIES WITH KABIR AFTER 'RS 1,000 CRORE DEAL' CLIP

In 44 West Bengal seats, voter deletions in SIR adjudication exceed margins in 2021 polls

DECISION 2026
WEST BENGAL

Damini Nath & Jatin Anand
New Delhi, April 10

WITH electoral rolls for West Bengal's two-phased Assembly elections finalised, Election Commission (EC) data shows more electors have been deleted during the Supreme Court-monitored adjudication process in 15% of 293 constituencies than the winning margin in those seats in the 2021 polls.

While the state has 294 constituencies, in one, Dinhata, the BJP secured its win with postal ballots as it was behind the TMC in the EVM count. For the purpose of this analysis, that one seat has been left out as the SIR covered the electors who will

While TMC won 24 of these constituencies, BJP bagged 20



People whose names have been deleted fill up forms outside Rabindra Bhawan in Nadia's Krishnanagar, Friday. PARTHA PAUL

vote on EVMs, not service electors who vote via postal ballot.

Of the 44 Assembly constituencies that have seen a higher deletion of electors at the adjudication phase compared to the winning margins last time,

the TMC won 24 and the BJP 20.

Most of these seats are in Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, and Nadia districts at five each, followed by four each in North 24 Parganas

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

After Amma died, my smile faded, it is now beginning to return (with Stalin): OPS

DECISION 2026
TAMIL NADU

Arun Janardhanan
Bodinayakkanur (Theni), April 10

ON AN interior lane in the town of Bodinayakkanur in Theni district, in a newly built three-storey house, a stream of visitors — local DMK leaders, former AIADMK loyalists, and clusters of young strategists with laptops and booth maps — move in and out of rooms that hum with quiet urgency. At the centre sits three-time Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, or OPS as he is popularly known.

OPS is attempting something that would once have seemed improbable: seeking

EXPRESS interview



OPANNEERSELVAM FORMER CM OF TAMIL NADU

another term from his stronghold, this time under the banner of the DMK, a rival for decades. He appears slightly uneasy at first. Having woken from a brief, post-lunch nap, he adjusts his seat, smiles faintly, the familiar red-and-white streaks of sacred ash and kum-kum marking his forehead, and gets ready to take the questions.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Rubio set to visit India next month as Washington, Delhi reset ties

Will take part in Quad foreign ministers meeting

Shubhrajit Roy & Divya A
New Delhi, April 10

SIGNALLING INCREMENTAL progress in bilateral ties between India and the US, Secretary of State Marco Rubio is likely to visit India for the meeting of Quad Foreign Ministers in the latter half of May, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Preparations are underway to schedule the visits of Australian and Japanese Foreign Ministers around the same time, sources said. This will be a step towards holding the summit of Quad leaders later this year, sources said.

If the summit takes place, it will work towards eliminating the shadow cast on Indo-US ties as well as the future of the Quad grouping ever since US President Donald Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India and prohibitive costs on new H-1B



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and US envoy to India Sergio Gor, in Washington DC. PTI

visa applications.

The tariffs were removed after the two sides agreed on a trade deal early February this year. Now, the two sides are also looking at an Indian delegation going to the US to finalise the trade agreement.

Rubio's visit to India, the first by the US Secretary of State and NSA from the Trump administration, was disclosed by Sergio Gor, the US Ambassador to India, who was in the meet-

ing between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Rubio in Washington DC.

After the meeting, Gor, in a post on X, said, "Welcome to the White House @VikramMisri! Productive meeting with @SecRubio that focused on our bilateral relationship, especially trade, critical minerals, defense and the Quad. Secretary Rubio looks forward to visiting India next month!"

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

● FROM KHURJA, AROUND 15% OF POTTERY PRODUCTS ARE EXPORTED, PARTICULARLY TO COUNTRIES IN WEST ASIA

Ceramic City kilns go cold over fuel crisis: 'hippo' cylinders run out, workers leave

WAR IN GULF
toll AT HOME
AN EXPRESS SERIES

Soumyarendra Barik & Dheeraj Mishra
Khurja (Bulandshahr), Apr 10

"THE FACTORY feels so cold. You must think that's because of the clay, but it's actually because the furnace isn't running."

Standing inside his plant in Khurja's industrial area, a factory owner gestures at the rows of clay moulds and half-finished plates stacked across the factory floor. The kilns have been cold for nearly a month, he says.

Khurja, a town about 90 km from Delhi in UP's Bulandshahr, has for decades been synonymous with Indian ceramics. More than 350 units operate here, producing everything from plates and cups to decorative trays and crockery that finds its way to hotel chains, canteens and homes across the country. The industry employs

more than 25,000 people, directly and in ancillary trades, giving Khurja the title of "Ceramic City".

But since the outbreak of the Iran war disrupted energy supply chains, most pottery manufacturers in Khurja have been unable to run their plants due to an impact on gas supply, and mounting fuel costs. Some workers have also started to leave.

India's pottery ceramics market was valued at over \$420 million in 2024, and is projected to grow to about \$658 million by 2033, with Khurja at its core, according to a report by



The pottery manufacturing units in Uttar Pradesh's Khurja employs more than 25,000 people. DHEERAJ MISHRA

market intelligence firm Grand View Research. In Khurja, around 15% of the pottery production is exported, particularly to West Asian countries. Another ceramic heartland, in Gujarat's Morbi, known for tile manufacturing, is also reeling under the same pressures. India is the world's second-largest ceramic tile producer and consumer, holding more than 15% of global production.

Today, the main problem is fuel. Khurja's ceramic kilns run on either piped natural gas, supplied here by Adani Gas, or on industrial LPG cylinders — the 422 kg behemoths locally known as "hippo cylinders".

"Piped gas prices that hovered around Rs 49 per kg before the conflict began shot up to Rs 120 per kg at their peak, and remain elevated at around Rs 90 per kg right now," said Alok Garg of Alok Industries, a small pottery making firm, that did about Rs 30-40 lakh worth of business in a month before the war broke out. That price is nearly double what manufacturers were paying before the West Asia conflict broke out.

At the height of the disruption, supplies of the 422-kg cylinders largely dried up as the Government prioritised LPG availability for household cooking needs. Without access to

these cylinders, many ceramic units lost their only fallback option. As a result, furnaces across Khurja's industrial area have remained idle for weeks, bringing production to a near standstill.

"We have been impacted since the beginning of the war, because of these soaring gas prices and the unavailability of hippo cylinders. Since the last few days, there has been some supply of the cylinders, but it is not enough to keep up production at the same level as it was before the war," said Virendra Bansal, owner of Bansal Pottery at the Khurja Industrial complex.

The Adani Group did not

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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



Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, his son and Reliance Industries Executive Director Anant Ambani, and his daughter-in-law Radhika in Gujarat's Jamnagar on Friday. EXPRESS

Vantara announces university of wildlife and veterinary sciences in Jamnagar

Express News Service
Ahmedabad, April 10

VANTARA, THE wildlife conservation initiative founded by Reliance Industries Executive Director Anant Ambani, on Friday announced the setting up of a university, which will be dedicated to wildlife and veterinary sciences, in Jamnagar.

The foundation stone for the university was laid by Anant, his wife Radhika and his father and Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, coinciding with the former's 31st birthday.

A statement, quoting Anant Ambani, said, "The future of conservation will depend on how we prepare minds and institutions to serve life with compassion, knowledge, and skill. There is a need to build greater capability in animal care."

According to Vantara, the university will offer undergraduate, postgraduate, fellowship, and specialised programmes in disciplines such as wildlife medicine and surgery, behavioural sciences, genetics, epidemiology, conservation policy and One Health.

The university will seek to

integrate field-based conservation practices with academic training, drawing on Vantara's experience in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

Vantara said the university will offer scholarships for students from socially and economically marginalised backgrounds.

Representatives from academia, science, and conservation attended the foundation-laying ceremony.

The university will be supported by clinical and research infrastructure, international collaborations and a residential campus, with a focus on what the organisation described as "action-oriented research" in wildlife health and conservation. It announced the launch of 'Vantara University Founding Fellows' and 'Every Life Matters' scholarships.

Vantara said the university is envisioned as a long-term platform for education, research and innovation in wildlife conservation and ecosystem management.

The wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre, which recently completed its first year, spans 3,500 acres and houses about 150,000 animals.

Ceramic City kilns

respond to a request from *The Indian Express* for comment.

Varun Garg, the son of Alok Industries' Alok Garg, explains how intensive furnace operations are, and how even small fuel disruptions disrupt production. "Our kilns need to be heated for 12 hours at a stretch so that they reach the desired temperature for baking the pottery. Even if the connection is cut for a few minutes, the oven loses its temperature rapidly, and the entire process has to be restarted," he said.

Manufacturers say fresh domestic orders have largely dried up, while exports to the Gulf, until recently a key market, have slowed as shipping lines remain constrained. For now, many factories are completing orders placed months earlier, when fuel costs were far lower. That backlog may last another month. Beyond that, any new orders will almost certainly come at higher prices, manufacturers say.

Many manufacturers are moving to set up new pipelines and storage facilities to power their furnaces using industrial diesel — allowed on a temporary basis by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in view of the shortage. But, due to this diesel power, manufacturers say, Khurja's pottery would lose its shine, quite literally. "Pottery that is baked in

kilns powered by diesel has very little shine compared to the ones baked in furnaces that run on gas. So, the quality is going to take a big hit. The paintwork also suffers in diesel kilns, as there are a lot of web-like patterns on the paint, resulting in a lot more wastage," said Sabir Khan of SS Ceramic.

The uncertainty has begun to impact the workforce that powers Khurja's ceramic economy. In several factories across Khurja, owners say workers who had travelled home for festivals have not returned.

"The units have not been running since Holi," said Ram Kishore, a resident of Etawah and a worker at Alok Industries. "It has been only two days since we got back to work after the supply of some LPG. If this continues, why will the owner pay us?"

Some had left around Holi and Eid al-Fitr, but with kilns still cold and shifts irregular, many appear to be staying back. "We understand their situation," Bansal said. "At least in the village they can manage. They can cook on firewood, find some work locally. Here, if the furnace is not running, there is nothing for them to do. And the bigger worry for them is food at their homes, because many are afraid that they may not be able to get fuel to cook, and they can't afford to buy cylinders at double the rate in the black market."

3 dead as tractor-trolley falls into gorge in Kangra

Press Trust Of India
Dharamshala, April 10

A TRACTOR-trolley carrying devotees from Punjab overturned and plunged into a deep gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra on Friday, killing three and injuring 26 others, police said. The accident occurred in the vicinity of Radha Swami Satsang Ghar near Dhaliyara on the National Highway-503 (Dharamshala-Mubarakpur Kiratpur road) in Kangra on Friday afternoon, they said.

The vehicle, with 35 devotees from Punjab on board, was en route to Jwalamukhi Temple from Chintpurni Temple when the driver lost control over the

vehicle on a hilly stretch. Dehra Superintendent of Police Mayank Chaudhary said police teams rushed to the spot immediately after receiving information and launched rescue operations with the help of local residents. The injured were promptly shifted to Civil Hospital in Dehra, he said, adding that upon arrival at the hospital, three people were declared dead. The deceased are yet to be identified.

Of the 26 injured, six are in critical condition and have been referred to Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College in Tanda, while others are being treated in hospitals in Dehra. Six passengers were unhurt.

All eyes on Islamabad today

then they're gonna find that the negotiating team is not that receptive."

Vance also said that Trump "gave us some pretty clear guidelines" on how talks should go, but he didn't elaborate. The vice president did not take questions from reporters travelling with him.

(According to *Reuters*, Iran said blocked Iranian assets must be released and that a ceasefire must take hold in Lebanon before peace talks can proceed. It quoted Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Iran's parliament speaker, saying on X that the two measures had been previously agreed with the US and warned that negotiations would not start until they are fulfilled. There was no immediate comment from the White House.)

In Islamabad, security forces locked down key parts of the Pakistani capital, erecting barricades along routes from the airport to the city before the delega-

tions arrived.

Vance's trip comes as a tenuous, temporary ceasefire appears to be on the precipice of collapsing. The chasm between Iran's public demands and those from the US and its partner Israel seem irreconcilable. And in the US, where Vance might ask voters in two years' time to make him the next president, there is growing political and economic pressure to wrap it up.

Vance is joined by Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, who took part in three rounds of indirect talks with Iranian negotiators aimed at settling US concerns about Tehran's nuclear and ballistic weapons programs and its support for armed proxy groups in the Middle East before Trump and Israel launched the February 28 war against Iran.

The White House has provided scant detail about the format of the talks — whether

they will be direct or indirect — and has not provided specific expectations for the meeting.

But the arrival of Vance for negotiations marks a rare moment of high-level US government engagement with the Iranian government. Since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the most direct contact had been when President Barack Obama in September 2013 called newly elected Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to discuss Iran's nuclear program.

Almost immediately after the White House and Iran announced a temporary ceasefire Tuesday evening, the sides found themselves at odds over terms of the truce. Iran insisted that an end to the Israeli war in Lebanon was part of the ceasefire. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Trump said the truce did not cover Lebanon and the Israeli operations there continued.

The US, meanwhile, de-

mandated that Iran make good on reopening the Strait of Hormuz. The Islamic Republic had closed the critical shipping waterway in response to Israel's intensifying attacks against the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon.

Trump said Iran was "doing a very poor job" of allowing oil tankers to pass through, writing on social media, "That is not the agreement we have!"

Later, in a post on Truth Social, Trump said, "The Iranians don't seem to realize they have no cards, other than a short term extortion of the World by using International Waterways. The only reason they are alive today is to negotiate!"

White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly said Vance, Witkoff, Kushner and Secretary of State Marco Rubio "have always been collaborating on these discussions" and said Trump was optimistic that a lasting deal can be reached during the two-week ceasefire.

Singed by cash at home scandal, Justice Varma quits, ending impeachment process

This is not the first time that a judge facing allegations has opted to resign from office. In 2011, the Sikkim High Court Chief Justice PD Dinakaran resigned from office, expressing "lack of faith and confidence" in the three-member committee examining complaints against him.

However, while the threat of an impeachment motion ends, other legal methods could still be looked at by the government but that may require assent of the judiciary. For any court to take cognisance of an offence by a judge (for actions from the time that he held office), the Chief Justice of India would be required to grant sanction for prosecution.

"Suppose the impeachment motion succeeds, then that would have concluded the fate of a criminal proceedings as well, casting a shadow on his defence. However, now, even if there were to be a criminal case,

it raises the bar," said a senior lawyer familiar with the developments.

Separately, Justice Varma also wrote to the three-member inquiry committee, formally withdrawing from participation.

"While I do not even for a moment seek to question the expectation that the conduct of judges be examined against standards higher than those that may apply to others, even that would not justify the adoption of standards which result in a deprivation of a reasonable and fair opportunity to defend or a fair trial itself," he wrote.

"In these circumstances, I would be doing myself and the institution the greatest disservice by continuing to participate in the present proceedings, thereby legitimising a process that calls upon me to answer the unanswerable — where did the money come from," he said.

44 West Bengal seats

and Paschim Medinipur, three each in the districts of Cooch Behar, Dakshin Dinajpur, and Murshidabad, and two each in Purba Medinipur and Howrah.

Among these constituencies is Samsgeranj in Murshidabad district where 74,775 voters have been deleted, but which the TMC won last time by 26,111 votes. In contrast, in Purulia's Balarampur, where the BJP's victory margin was 273 in 2021, 1,037 voters have been deleted. Some of the other such constituencies are the Matua-dominated seats of Gaighata in North 24 Parganas that the BJP's Subrata Thakur won by 9,603 votes last time, but where 19,638 voters have been deleted, and Bagdaha. The BJP won that too in 2021 with 9,907 votes, but this time, 10,017 voters have been found not eligible after adjudication.

TMC insiders said the party had set an internal target of winning 250 seats, with "a special focus" on constituencies with low margins where dedicated war rooms for the elections have been operational since last November.

Purba Medinipur district saw a significant low-margin battle — including the one between Chief Minister and TMC chairperson Mamata Banerjee and state Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, her former aide, in Nandigram. Adhikari won the battle by 1,736 votes, excluding the postal ballots in their respective favour. Postal ballots are not subject to the SIR. After adjudication, 3,461 voters in the constituency were found not eligible.

Bengal stands out

The EC's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, in which a new set of rules and requirements were implemented for electors to fulfil to remain on the rolls, also saw the

appointment of 700 judicial officers on the order of the Supreme Court to decide on the eligibility of 60.06 lakh electors.

As per the list after adjudication shared by the Bengal Chief Electoral Officer's office on Thursday, a total of 27.16 lakh electors have been found "not eligible", meaning they won't be able to vote in the April 23 and April 29 polls.

While the EC has conducted the SIR in 13 states/UTs, including West Bengal, since June last year, it deployed micro-observers to assist and review the work of the statutory authority, the Electoral Registration Officers, only in Bengal.

The court, too, ordered judicial officers to decide on the eligibility of electors in Bengal alone.

The SIR, unlike the usual annual Special Summary Revision, involved the preparation of the electoral rolls afresh, with all registered electors required to submit enumeration forms to remain on the rolls and certain categories of electors required to submit documents to prove their eligibility, including citizenship.

The SIR was started in Bengal, along with 11 other states/UTs, in October 2025, leading to the overall deletion of 11.63% of electors, taking the total electorate from 766 crore pre-SIR to 6.77 crore after SIR and adjudication.

The EC's decision to conduct the SIR and the process followed have been challenged in the Supreme Court, which has reserved its judgment on the matter. Other petitions regarding the conduct of the SIR in Bengal are still being heard. On Friday, the court agreed to hear on April 13 a fresh plea along with pending ones, challenging the freezing of electoral rolls by the EC ahead of the polls in Bengal.

Deep concern over civilian casualties: India

casualties in Lebanon."

"As a troop contributing country to the UNIFIL that is invested in Lebanon's peace and security, the direction of events is very disturbing," he said. India has more than 600 troops as part of the UN contingent serving in Lebanon.

"India has always empha-

sised the protection of civilians as the foremost priority. Observing international law, and respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of states is essential," Jaiswal said.

"Our Embassy in Lebanon remains in close touch with the Indian community for its safety and security," he said.

There are around 2,000 Indian nationals in Lebanon.

Israeli forces launched the biggest attack of the war hours after the ceasefire was announced, killing more than 250 Lebanese.

Iran says the truce was meant to apply to Lebanon, a position initially supported by

Pakistan, which mediated it. Israel and the United States say Lebanon is not covered by the US-Iranian ceasefire. But in a shift Thursday, Israel said it would open separate talks with the Lebanese government aimed at ending the war there and disarming Hezbollah.

Who is Bagher Ghalibaf, soldier-technocrat?

Vance — apparently at Tehran's request — signals a seriousness of purpose in Washington.

There has been a tendency in India to read the recent conflict as a T20 match and quickly declare a winner — Iran. But Tehran's willingness to engage America after absorbing heavy punishment points to a more sobering reality: winning the peace is even more important for Iran in ending its prolonged international economic isolation and addressing the imperatives of post war reconstruction.

The US-Iran war is better understood as a Test series — a prolonged contest of political wills aimed at resolving a massive number of accumulated disputes. The negotiations at home in both countries will be as hard as the one Washington and Tehran hope to begin in Islamabad.

History offers a clear lesson: major wars reshape politics within and between states. They strain institutions, sharpen elite divisions, and create opportunities for new actors to emerge and redefine national trajectories.

This raises a central question: is Ghalibaf the man of the moment in Tehran?

The nature of the moment is unmistakable. Sustained military pressure and the decapitation of key leadership figures have weakened the clerical establishment's dominance while expanding the influence

of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which has led Iran's recent military resistance. Ghalibaf's challenge is to convert battlefield resilience into long-term strategic gains. Can he do it?

Ghalibaf's career embodies a central paradox. He is at once a product of the security apparatus who also speaks the language of technocratic governance, economic management, and international engagement in self-interest.

His trajectory is typical of the generation shaped by the Iranian Revolution and the Iran-Iraq War. Born near Mashhad in 1961, Ghalibaf joined the IRGC as a young man during the war and rose through its ranks. These wartime credentials and institutional networks remain the foundation of his political authority.

His 12 years as mayor of Tehran (2005–2017) added a second pillar to his profile. The expansion of the metro, the construction of expressways and tunnels, and visible improvements in urban infrastructure helped build his reputation as an effective administrator. He projected himself as a soldier who could also deliver concrete state capacity.

Yet this record is not without blemish — allegations of corruption and his role in the suppression of the 1999 student protests complicate the image of a purely technocratic moderniser. He did not have much luck in the repeated quest for

the presidency in Iran.

Ghalibaf's rise must also be seen in the context of the turbulence in Tehran since February 2026. As Speaker, he already commanded significant institutional leverage; in the current flux, he has emerged as an important centre of authority and a plausible interlocutor for Washington.

There is an enduring political irony here. Ghalibaf's persona has often been compared to that of Reza Khan, the soldier who seized power in the 1921 coup and declared himself the Shah in 1925. Reza Shah Pahlavi drove Iran's secularisation and modernisation with an iron hand. Admirers have cast Ghalibaf as a contemporary, Islamist version of a modernising strongman.

For the Trump administration, in search of a credible negotiating partner in Tehran, Ghalibaf may appear a sensible choice. That he was not among those targeted in the US-Israeli strikes against Iranian leadership has fuelled speculation, though it proves little. In any case, being seen as America's preferred interlocutor is not a happy badge to flaunt in Iran.

Engaging the United States is never easy — either for its partners or its rivals; doing so in the aftermath of a costly conflict makes the task far more demanding. Ghalibaf must balance competing imperatives: projecting tough negotiating posture against the US for domestic audiences while crafting a practical compromise

with Washington to advance Iran's long-term interests.

His detractors will be quick to denounce any perceived capitulation, while Washington will demand strong assurances that any commitments made under the deal are credible and durable.

If Ghalibaf succeeds in securing meaningful sanctions relief without surrendering Iran's national dignity and fracturing his domestic base, he will demonstrate that Tehran's security technocrats can manage both war and peace. If he fails, it will not only imperil his own career but also set back the case in Tehran for engagement with the United States.

Ghalibaf's presence in the delegation marks a potential inflection point. A badly wounded Islamic Republic has sent a soldier-administrator to negotiate with a long-standing adversary. He embodies the core contradictions of Iran's post-revolutionary order — between ideology and pragmatism, national interest and trans-national revolution, confrontation and accommodation, as well as resistance and reconstruction.

How Ghalibaf manages these contradictions will shape not only Iran's immediate trajectory, but also the geopolitical evolution of the Gulf and the Middle East.

(C. Raja Mohan is a contributing editor on international affairs for *The Indian Express*)

OPS

For a man whose political life has been shaped by towering figures — first Jayalalitha, then orbiting the influence of Sasikala and TTV Dhinakaran, and finally leading a failed revolt and attempt to align with the BJP — this is unfamiliar terrain. The ecosystem that once shielded him is gone. Now, in Bodinayakanur, he is rebuilding, cautiously.

"I am a basic loyalist of the party. We all came from DMK, didn't we? ... The ideology and core principles were always the same," he begins, his tone measured, when asked about the recent change in his political life. He speaks of loyalty often, to the party, to its past, to what he calls its "original design". For years, that loyalty was to Jayalalitha. "When Amma was leading, whatever Amma said, that alone was clear to us," he says. "Beyond that, we never really knew."

The words are less about her now than about him.

Election unlike any other

OPS is 75 and this election —

• Past results in Bodinayakanur

2016 Assembly polls	
O Panneerselvam (AIADMK)	49.38%
S Lakshmanan (DMK)	41.63%
2021 Assembly polls	
O Panneerselvam (AIADMK)	46.58%
Thangam Selvan (DMK)	41.45%

VOTE SHARE IN %, SOURCE: EC

his fourth consecutive contest from this region — is unlike any he has faced. Bodinayakanur has long been an AIADMK fortress. Jayalalitha herself contested and won here in 1989. OPS secured a hat-trick of victories in 2011, 2016, and 2021. But now, facing the formidable weight of the AIADMK's "two leaves," he is attempting to convert personal loyalty into political survival.

Outside, the town reflects that tension. Former supporters now line up on opposing sides. AIADMK functionaries insist that cadre loyalty will hold. DMK workers, some of whom had to give up their own electoral ambitions to accommodate OPS, say they are working "without dissatisfaction". The constituency's layered caste arithmetic — Mukkulathor, Nadar, Naidu, Chettiyar, along with Scheduled

Castes and tribes — adds another layer of unpredictability. But there is no panic in the OPS camp.

For the DMK, bringing in OPS is not only about symbolism but also arithmetic. In the southern belt, where the OBC-Thevar community remains a decisive bloc, OPS still carries influence built over decades of local presence and administrative access. His entry allows the DMK to breach a social base that has historically leaned toward the AIADMK, especially in districts such as Theni, Ramanaapuram, and further south. Party strategists see him as both a vote-mobiliser and a narrative tool, someone who can weaken AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami (known as EPS). OPS is being used to sharpen that "betrayal" pitch against EPS,

where old rivals are repurposed to fracture the AIADMK-NDA's core vote bank while consolidating it, unexpectedly, for the DMK.

Inside his camp office, OPS gestures toward a wall, then to his attire. He lifts the edge of his dhoti slightly, revealing its red-and-black border, the colours of the DMK. It is both subtle and dramatic. "From the day I joined, hundreds of people here in Theni and Bodhi have also changed," he says, suggesting that loyalty to symbols may not be as fixed as it once was. "People have changed." He repeats it, almost as reassurance: "People have changed."

At another moment, he reflects on loss, not electoral, but personal. "The moment Amma died, my smile disappeared," he says. Then, after a pause, he adds: "Only now it is coming back." Asked if that warmth — the political and emotional shelter he once had — is being restored under M K Stalin, he does not hesitate. "The level at which Amma kept it, at that same level, now it is coming." It is a striking statement, one that would have been inconceivable during the years when OPS fought the DMK "to the nail," as party veterans recall.

Rubio set to visit India

Misri, who is on a three-day visit to the US, met Rubio and they reviewed the bilateral relationship, especially trade, critical minerals, defence and the Quad. "We look forward to deepening our engagement in these important sectors and much more to strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership," the Indian embassy in the US said in a post on X.

Earlier, Misri held separate meetings with US Deputy Secretary Christopher Landau and US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker.

On the Landau-Misri meeting, Tommy Pigott, Principal Deputy Spokesman for the Department of State, said,

"The leaders reaffirmed the close partnership between the two countries and shared news about the situation in the Persian Gulf and other global and regional priorities." According to the Indian embassy, Misri and Landau discussed bilateral priorities and also exchanged assessments on regional and global developments of mutual concern.

Hooker said Misri and she discussed how India and the US can work closer together on security, defence and the economy. "We are finding practical ways to make both Americans and Indians safer and more prosperous, including through the Quad," she said.

The Indian embassy said Hooker and Misri took stock of the India-US bilateral agenda since the Foreign Office Consultations held last December. They also shared assessments on recent developments in West Asia, as well as regional issues of mutual interest.

The two sides are also looking to finalise the trade deal, which was agreed to in early February. Gor said, "Highly productive meeting with @USTradeRep Ambassador Greer to discuss advancing @POTUS trade priorities in South and Central Asia. The United States and India have previously agreed to a trade deal, and we look forward to welcoming an Indian delegation to Washington later this month."

Women's reservation law amendment: Cong may call Opp meet on April 15

Express News Service
New Delhi, April 10

AFTER A meeting of its working committee on Friday, the Congress reiterated its stand that it supports the women's reservation law but opposes delimitation without a fresh census. The party said it will call a meeting of top leaders of all INDIA bloc parties on April 15 to discuss the Opposition's strategy on the issue.

The Congress also said the government should call an all-party meeting after April 29, once polling for the West Bengal Assembly elections is over.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters in the Capital, Congress general secretary (communications) Jai Ram Ramesh said the issue is not women's reservation but delimitation and there is no information on its specifics.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will likely call a meeting of the Opposition leaders on April 15, ahead of the parliamentary sittings starting April 16, to formulate the way forward, Ramesh said.

He claimed the Centre's move to call the special session is intended to influence the election results in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

"Heavens are not going to fall if the all-party meeting is called after April 29. These things will have a longstanding impact as the issue is about delimitation," said Ramesh.

He said the special session was an attempt to divert attention from real issues like the "failure of the government's foreign policy".



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, LoP Rahul Gandhi and others during CWC meeting in New Delhi on Friday. ANIL SHARMA

The CWC meeting, chaired by Kharge, was attended by Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, party general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K C Venugopal, Ramesh and Sachin Pilot, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and former Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi.

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday cleared the proposed constitutional amendments to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam and a Delimitation Bill to fast-track 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas on the basis of the 2011 Census data.

In his opening remarks during the CWC meeting, Kharge said the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise related to the implementation of the women's reservation law would have "grave consequences".

Kharge said his party would formulate a collective strategy with others in the Opposition to move forward "unitedly" on this issue.

He said the Narendra Modi government is convening the sitting of Parliament from April 16 with the sole intention of securing political advantage, which is a "violation" of the Model Code of Conduct, and is keen to pass the Constitutional Amendment Bill in "utmost haste".

Kharge claimed that after a prolonged silence, the Modi government has suddenly become active on the issue of women's reservation.

"A session of Parliament is scheduled to be held between April 16 and 18 to address the matter of providing 33% reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state Legislative Assemblies. To date, we have not received any formal proposal from the government regarding this matter. We have got to know some points only after reading an article authored by the Prime Minister," Kharge said. "The Modi government is calling this parliamentary meeting with the intention of gaining political advantage. It wants to pass the Constitution Amendment Bill as quickly as possible," said Kharge.

Entry of 6 guides, drivers into tiger reserve banned after norm violation during safari

Press Trust of India
Jaipur, April 10

THE FOREST department has barred three guides and three vehicle drivers from entering the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve after tourists allegedly surrounded a tiger during a safari, officials said on Friday.

The action follows an incident reported on April 2 during the evening safari in Zone 3, when multiple tourist vehicles encircled a tiger, restricting its movement, they said.

Deputy Conservator of Forests Manas Singh said a video of the incident surfaced, based on which an inquiry was conducted. "During investigation, the drivers and guides were found guilty of violating norms. They have been barred from entering the reserve until further orders," he said.

The officials identified the drivers as Murari Lal Meena, Mahendra Mali and Tejraj Singh,



Members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) protested against a Russian artist's photoshoot with an elephant painted in pink, outside Albert Hall Museum in Jaipur on Friday. They appealed people to save elephants from cruelty. ROHIT JAIN PARAS

and the guides as Praful Parashar, Hansraj Gurjar and Syed Irshad. According to the forest department, guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority mandate maintaining

a minimum distance of 10 feet during tiger sightings, but the norms were violated in this case.

Further action may be taken based on the inquiry, officials added.

Assam: 3 members of Kunki Chowdhury team detained for 'violations'

Sukrita Baruah
Guwahati, April 10

THREE MEMBERS of Assam Assembly election candidate Kunki Chowdhury's team were detained by police after a case was registered against her and her campaign team for alleged violation of rules during the 48-hour "silent period" ahead of polling held on Thursday.

Chowdhury is Congress ally Assam Jatiya Parishad's candidate from Guwahati Central. She has denied the allegations.

Chowdhury grabbed headlines when she and her family became the subject of repeated attacks by CM Himanta Biswa Sarma. Sarma has claimed that her family "insulted Hindus" by purportedly eating beef and sharing photos on social media.

On Friday, Chowdhury issued a statement that three members of her team had been detained following an FIR against her and her social media team. "A complaint was filed alleging serious MCC (Model Code of Conduct) violations... 48 hours before polling, as per the rule, political workers brought from



Chowdhury is Congress ally BJP's candidate from Guwahati Central constituency. PTI

outside should leave the constituency. But her... team members, who are from Haryana, were still going around with her, so they have been brought in to the police station to ensure they can't leave before being questioned. They have not been arrested," DCP Shambhavi Mishra told The Indian Express.

Separately, police personnel on Friday conducted a search at the Dibrugarh residence of Assam Jatiya Parishad president Lurinjyoti Gogoi, who is the Opposition alliance's candidate from the Khowang constituency.

HC grants conditional, one-week relief to Pawan Khara

Rahul V Pisharody
Hyderabad, April 10

TELANGANA HIGH Court on Friday granted relief for one week, with conditions, to senior Congress leader Pawan Khara who had approached the court apprehending arrest by Guwahati Police crime branch in connection with an FIR based on a complaint by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife Riniki Bhuyan Sharma on April 5.

Justice K Sujana, dealing with the anticipatory bail plea filed by Khara, said, "The petitioner is granted one week time to file an application before the concerned court. The petitioner is granted relief for one week, with conditions."

The judge clarified that the order has been issued only for the purpose of enabling the petitioner to approach the competent court, which shall consider any application on its own merits. Khara has been asked to exercise restraint in making any further public statements in relation to the case.

BRIEFLY



The air drop test with Gaganyaan-1 crew module was conducted off the Andhra Pradesh coast on Friday. CREDIT: ISRO

ANDHRA PRADESH

Gaganyaan-1 crew module splashes down in air drop test successfully

IN YET another step towards the upcoming Gaganyaan mission, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Friday successfully conducted the air drop test involving the crew module, at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota. The crew module is the specially designed, pressurised capsule positioned at the uppermost area of the spacecraft which houses the astronauts. Air drop tests recreate the last leg of a spacecraft's return to the Earth. According to ISRO, the Indian Air Force's Chinook helicopter dropped the crew module from an altitude of about three kilometres off the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) in the Bay of Bengal and released it over a designated drop zone in the sea near the coast. ENS

3-year-old falls into borewell in MP, dies

A THREE-YEAR-OLD boy who fell into a borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district died after an intense, multi-agency rescue operation that stretched for hours and drew in specialised teams and heavy machinery, officials said Friday. The child, identified as Bhagirath Dewasi, had fallen into an open borewell in Jhalariya village under Badnagar tehsil Thursday evening. According to officials, he slipped into the narrow shaft after dislodging its cover while playing nearby. CM Mohan Yadav termed the incident "deeply distressing" and said all available resources had been deployed in the rescue attempt. He announced financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh for the family. ENS

A 60-YEAR-OLD man was crushed to death after a portion of the metal and plaster of Paris facade of the five-storied Vadodara Central Bus Depot collapsed on him on Friday. The deceased has been identified as Nagji Dave, a resident of Ahmedabad. The Vadodara city police lodged a case of accidental death and launched a probe. DCP Jagdish Chavda, Zone 1, Vadodara City, said: "We have received information that one person aged about 60 was killed... We have opened a separate route for buses and sanitised the area..." ENS

Bihar: Guard held for rape, murder of minor

A CANTEEN guard at a private hostel in Bihar's Jehanabad district has been arrested for the rape and murder of a minor student, police said Friday. Police said accused "indicated that the act was intended to defame the institution". SP Aparajit Lohan said the incident came to light on April 6. ENS

BSF constable on patrolling duty shot dead in Manipur's Ukhrul

Press Trust of India
Imphal, April 10

A BSF constable was shot dead on Friday while on patrolling duty in Manipur's Ukhrul district, officials said.

Constable Mithun Mandal was "struck by a bullet fired from an unknown direction around 4.30 pm", an official said. Mandal, who hailed from Bhagian Tola village of West Bengal, was taken to a hospital in Imphal, where he died around 6 pm.

Chief Minister N. Kheanchand Singh condemned the

killing, and offered condolences to his family members.

"Strongly condemn the tragic martyrdom of Constable Mithun Mandal (170 Bn, BSF), who was fatally injured by a bullet from an unknown direction while on patrol at Mongkot Chepu, Ukhrul today. He succumbed at RIMS, Imphal," he said. "A brave son of West Bengal, his sacrifice in the line of duty will never be forgotten. My deepest condolences to his bereaved family. Prayers for strength and peace in this hour of grief. Om shanti."

Kuki village Mongkot Chepu and neighbouring Tangkhul Naga has been witnessing gunfights, after ethnic clashes broke out between two communities in February.

Singh, in another post, said, "The state government stands in solidarity with the family, and we remain resolute in our commitment to uphold peace, security, and justice." Search operations and area domination by security forces are underway to nab the militants responsible for the attack, Manipur Police said in a statement.

Delhi-Dehradun Expressway: Critical underpass records its first wildlife movement

Dheeraj Mishra
New Delhi, April 10

AHEAD OF the inauguration of Delhi-Dehradun Expressway by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 14, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in collaboration with NHAI, has recorded the first evidence of movement of animals such as elephants, golden jackal and deer through an underpass built especially for the purpose in the project.

Considered one of the largest wildlife elevated corridors in Asia, the 12-km stretch in the 213-km expressway, situated near Dehradun and located seven meters below the road, cuts through Rajaji and Shivalik forest divisions — home to endangered species such as tigers, elephants, greater hornbills, and king cobras.

A senior NHAI official said that the study was conducted over 40 days by WII along an 18-km stretch between Ganeshpur and Asharodi in Haridwar to assess how the animals were using the underpass.

The study found that a total of 18 unique wild animals frequently used the underpass built under Delhi-Dehradun expressway.

The golden jackal was the most frequently captured animal, followed by nilgai, sambar, and spotted deer. Smaller mammals, including the Indian hare, also shown consistent movement through the structure. The study also recorded 60 instances of elephants safely utilising the corridors, displaying that even larger animals can navigate through the new infrastructure.



Elephants recorded passing through the underpass

EXPLAINED

Mitigating conflict

Large infrastructure projects like expressways that cut through reserved forests have sparked concerns over the potential threat to endangered animals. To address this issue, the NHAI has been constructing animal underpasses, where vehicles move on elevated roads while animals can pass safely below, to reduce instances of human-wildlife conflict.

"For this study, a total of 150 high-tech cameras and 29 Audiomoth acoustic recorders were deployed along the 18-km stretch of Delhi-Dehradun Economic corridor. The movement of animals were recorded for 40 days. The study documented a total of 1,11,234 images of humans, domestic animals, and wildlife. Among these, 40,444 photos were attributed to wild animals," said the NHAI official.

No SC relief for suspended Punjab DIG Bhullar held on graft charges

Express News Service
New Delhi, April 10

THE SUPREME Court Friday declined to grant bail to suspended Punjab DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar, who was arrested by CBI on corruption charges.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi, however, said he can approach the Punjab and Haryana High Court again for relief if the trial in the case does not begin in 2 months.

"We are not inclined to entertain the prayer for bail at this stage. However, we grant liberty to the petitioner that in case the trial does not commence within two months, he may again approach the High Court and such an application shall be considered on merits," the bench said.

The HC had dismissed Bhullar's bail plea on February 16.

Appearing for Bhullar, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi said, "We are seeking bail. This is a case where I have served for more than six months."

Chief Justice Kant said, "To that extent, the high court appears to be correct... HC says this is a matter where some material witnesses should be examined."

Bhullar, arrested on October 16, 2025, is accused of accepting bribes through intermediaries. Raids on his premises reportedly yielded over Rs 7 crore in cash.

A separate disproportionate assets case is also under investigation by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau.

ONGC ओएनजीसी

Regd. Office: Plot No. 5A-5B, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi- 110070
CIN No L74899DL1993GOI054155 | Website: www.ongcindia.com | Email: secretariat@ongc.co.in

Publication of EOI Notice

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), a Government of India "MAHARATNA" Category Enterprise, is India's premier energy enterprise with diversified interests across the energy sector. A large and diverse range of equipment is deployed in oil and gas exploration and production activities, requiring periodic maintenance and replacement of spare parts.

The purpose of this Expression of Interest (EOI) is to identify technically suitable equivalent parts and vendors capable of supplying such parts reliably.

Vendors whose products are successfully evaluated and proven through technical review and field trials may be considered for future procurement under applicable procurement policies. (Details available at ONGC tender portal: <https://tenders.ongc.co.in>).

A pre-submission meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2026, and the last date for submission of EOI is May 04, 2026. Interested parties are requested to submit their responses in electronic (PDF/PPT) format to ts_support@ongc.co.in. To participate in the pre-submission meeting or for any clarifications, kindly reach out to the above email ID or contact numbers: 011-2675 2369 / 9435716735.

Corrigenda, addenda, amendments, and time extensions to the EOI (if any) will be published only on the ONGC tender portal only. No separate notification shall be issued in the press. Prospective participants are advised to visit the portal regularly for updates.

RITES LIMITED
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Requires Engineering Professionals on contract basis on IDA pay scale in the following post(s)/ discipline through interview at RITES Offices

VC No(s).	Post(s)	No. of post(s)	Venue
CP/07-R/1/26	Deputy General Manager (Mech) - Bulk Material Handling Expert	01	RITES Shikhar, Plot No. 01, Sector-29, Gurugram-122001 Date: 5 th May, 2026
CP/08-R/1/26	AMP/PAPIS	02	RITES Shikhar, Plot No. 01, Sector-29, Gurugram-122001 Date: 12 th & 13 th May, 2026

For details regarding how to apply, remuneration, qualification, age, selection process etc., candidates may see the detailed advertisement posted on RITES website www.rites.com under Career Section.

PORBANDAR-ASANSOL-PORBANDAR SPECIAL TRAIN CORRIGENDUM

In reference to the above captioned advertisement published earlier regarding running of 09205/09206 Porbandar-Asansol-Porbandar Special Train, this is to be stated that the timings of 09206 Asansol-Porbandar Special train have been revised at below mentioned stations as under. Revised Timings of 09206 Asansol-Porbandar Special Train :

Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. - Arr. : 07.10, Dep. : 07.30, Bhabua Road - Arr. : 05.48, Dep. : 05.50, Sasaram Jn. - Arr. : 05.16, Dep. : 05.18, Dehri On Sone - Arr. : 05.00, Dep. : 05.02, Gaya Jn. - Arr. : 03.55, Dep. : 04.00, Koderma Jn. - Arr. : 02.22, Dep. : 02.24, Hazaribagh Road - Arr. : 01.52, Dep. : 01.54, Parasnath - Arr. : 01.27, Dep. : 01.29, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jn. Gomoh - Arr. : 01.10, Dep. : 01.12 and Dhanbad Jn. - Arr. : 00.40, Dep. : 00.45. All other instructions will remain same.

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager

EASTERN RAILWAY

MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)

Udyog Sarathi, MIDC, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400093.

E-Tender Notice No. IT Cell / E-Tender / P260222

Main Portal: <https://mahatender.gov.in>

Online electronic bids are invited by The GM (IT), IT Department, on behalf of the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, from bidders with proven experience in executing similar works as mentioned below. Tender documents are available for online bid preparation and submission on the above-mentioned website from 13.04.2026 to 05.05.2026.

Sr. No.	Description	E-Tender Price	EMD	Start date & Time for online Bid Downloading	End date & Time for online Bid Submission
1	Request for Proposal for Selection of System Integrator for Implementation, Maintenance and Support for ILL (Internet Leased Line) Connectivity Solution	Rs. 3,00,000/-	Rs. 30,00,000/-	13/04/2026 2:00 PM	05/05/2026 4:00 PM

a) Additional details regarding e-tendering process are available in tender document on above portal.
b) Bidder can seek clarification through email within 7 days from the date of bid publishing
c) For any bidding portal technical related query please E-Mail- support-gmit@midcindia.org

Sd/-
The General Manager,
IT Cell, MIDC, Udyog Sarathi,
Mahakali Caves Road, Mumbai-400093

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Indian Overseas Bank
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Central Office, 763, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002

KIND ATTENTION: SHAREHOLDERS OF INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK

SPECIAL WINDOW FOR TRANSFER AND DEMATERIALIZATION OF PHYSICAL SECURITIES

Pursuant to SEBI Circular No. HO/38/13/11(2) 2026- MIRS-D-POD/1/3750/2026 dated 30th January 2026, all shareholders are hereby informed that a Special Window has been opened for a period of one year from February 05, 2026 till February 04, 2027, for transfer and dematerialization of ("demat") of physical securities which were sold/purchased prior to April 01, 2019.

The special window shall also be available for such transfer requests which were submitted earlier and were rejected/returned/not attended due to deficiency in the documents/process/or otherwise. The securities so transferred shall be mandatorily credited to the transferees only in demat mode and shall be under lock-in for a period of one year from the date of registration of transfer. Such securities shall not be transferred /lien marked/pledged during the said lock-in period.

Kindly refer to the below matrix for with regard to applicability of lodgment:

Execution date of Transfer Deed	Lodged for transfer before April 01, 2019	Original Security Certificate available?	Eligible to lodge in the current window?
Before April 01, 2019	No (it is fresh lodgment)	Yes	✓
Before April 01, 2019	Yes (it was rejected / returned earlier)	Yes	✓
Before April 01, 2019	Yes	No	✗
Before April 01, 2019	No	No	✗

The shareholder may re-lodge the request with requisite documents to the Bank's Registrar and Transfer Agent, i.e. Cameo Corporate Services Ltd. at 5th Floor, Subramanian Building, No.1, Club House Road, Chennai- 600002, e-mail: investor@cameoindia.com, Phone No: 044-40020710 / 044-40020700.

We also request all the shareholders to update the KYC details including PAN, e-mail ID, address, mobile number and Bank details with the Depository Participant (DP), if shares are held in demat form or in physical form to ensure the ease of communication and seamless payment of dividend as and when it is declared.

Place : Chennai
Date : 10.04.2026

RAGHURAM MALLELA
DGM & COMPANY SECRETARY

NAGPUR METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

EOI NOTICE No. 01/2026-27

The Metropolitan Commissioner, N.M.R.D.A., Nagpur, Maharashtra invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Competent Entity / Agency for three works; The details of works will be uploaded on tender website i.e. www.mahatenders.gov.in

Schedule of Tender Process :-

Sale of Tender Form	Date 15.04.2026 from 02:00 P.M. to 02:00 P.M. on dated 24.04.2026
Receipt/ Submission of Bid	Date 15.04.2026 from 02:00 P.M. to 02:00 P.M. on dated 24.04.2026
Pre - Bid Meeting	On 4.00 P.M. on Dt. 20.04.2026 in the office of S. E. (NMRDA), Station Road, NMRDA, Head Office, Sadar, Nagpur.
Opening of Technical Bid	Date 27.04.2026 at 02:00 P.M. or as decided by NMRDA

Note :- The detailed tender notice will be available on tender website www.mahatenders.gov.in, NMRDA website www.nmrda.org, NIT website www.nitnagpur.org and also official social media pages of the NMRDA i.e. Instagram, Facebook & Twitter.

-sd-
Superintending Engineer (Koradi-Project),
Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority
Adv. No. : S.E.(NMRDA)/05/2026-27
Dated : 10.04.2026

"IMPORTANT"

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(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Zonal Office, Durgapur
Einstein Avenue, B-Zone, Durgapur,
Dist.- Paschim Bardhaman, PIN-713205

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Appendix -IV A [Rule-8(6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES Dated : 27.04.2026

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 27.04.2026 for recovery of outstanding balance along with interest and other charges due to UCO Bank, the Secured Creditor from the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) mentioned herein. The reserve price and the earnest money deposit are listed below against each property(ies).

Name of the Branch & Authorised Officer with Mobile No.	Name of the Account	Details of Immovable Properties	1. Date of Demand Notice 2. Amount due as per notice 3. Date of Possession 4. Type of Possession	Recoverable Amount	a) Reserve Price (In Rs.) b) Earnest Money Deposit c) Bid Increment Amount
1. Vivekananda Sarani, Asansol Dist.- Paschim Bardhaman A/c No. 33621032200001 IFS Code : UCBA0003362	Borrower : Ms Fashion Hut Partner(s) : 1. Nitesh Kumar Singh, S/o- Late Naresh Singh, Village- Madhavpur, P.S- Parbatta, Dist- Khagariya, Bihar, PIN- 851215 2. Nimita Dutta, D/o- Mr. Sambhu Ghosal, Prynarshu Pally, 1st Floor, Flat no- 4, Sardal Vidyasagar Sarani Asansol Municipal Corp, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman-713304, W.B	One Commercial Shop in the name of "Fashion Hut" situated on the first floor with Five storied commercial building (B+G+4) name "Vidyasagar Abasan" phase-I standing upon RS plot no- 6991, 28871 & 28872, Mouza- Asansol Municipality, J.L no-20, P.S- Asansol South, P.O-Asansol, S. B. Goral Road, Asansol Near Ambagan Durga Mandir, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman-713301. Land Bounded by:- North - S B Goral Road, South- 6ft wide passage, East- Room of Others, West- Room of Smt. Aarati Gupta	1. 12.11.2025 2. Rs. 17,91,422/- as on 03.11.2025 (unapplied interest upto 03.11.2025) 3. 19.01.2026 4. Symbolic Possession	Rs. 18,87,925/- as on 09.04.2026 (with interest applied up to 31.03.2026)	a) Rs. 47,15,000/- b) Rs. 4,71,500/- c) Rs. 25,000/-
Mr. Bipin Bihari Samal Mob- 707727488 & Mr. Pravin Kumar Mob- 8051362236 (Authorised Officer)	Mr. Haradhan Mondal Mrs. Gopa Mondal Choto Bankadhaha, P.O- Bankadhaha, P.S- Bishnupur, Mouza- Chotobankadhaha, PS- Bishnupur, Dist- Bankura, State- West Bengal, PIN- 722164 Guarantor(s) : 1. Mr. Avishes Ghosh S/o- Mr. Tapan Kumar Ghosh Thanagora, Mutukganj P.O & P.S- Bishnupur Dist- Bankura, WB- 722122 2. Mr. Haradhan Mondal S/o- Late Kinkar Mondal, Vill- & PO- Choto Bankadhaha, P.S- Bishnupur, Dist- Bankura W.B. 722164 3. Mrs. Gopa Mondal W/o- Ranjit Mondal, Methani, Kenchak, Jharka, Chandrakona, Paschim Medinipur, W.B- 721254	Property-1 (Commercial Land & Building) :- All that part and parcel of immovable Property (Commercial land & building) of rice mill unit admeasuring 756 decimal (329133.60 Sq. ft. or 457.38 Katha) Situated at Plot No. 255, 266, 267, 268 & 273, Khatian No. 1326, J.L. No. 148, Mouza-Chotobankadhaha, PS- Bishnupur, Dist- Bankura, State- West Bengal, PIN- 722164 in the name of Joy Baba Bholenath Agritech Pvt. Ltd. Represented by its director 1. Mr. Abhishek Ghosh 2. Mrs. Gopa Mondal 3. Mr. Haradhan Mondal, deed No. 71 Dated 09.01.2018, Regd at DSR, Bankura, Deed No. 120 and 121 both dated 18.01.2018 both Regd. At ADSR, Bishnupur.	1. 20.12.2019 2. Rs. 4,62,46,212.91/- as on 31.08.2019 (with interest charged upto 31.08.2019 with further interest and incidental expenses, costs as stated above in terms) 3. 11.03.2020 4. Physical Possession	Rs. 793.01 Lacs (as on 09.04.2026) inclusive of interest up to 31.03.2026)	Property-1 (Commercial Land & Building) a) Rs. 2,89,43,000/- b) Rs. 28,94,300 /- c) Rs. 50,000/-
Mr. Ajay Kumar (Authorised Officer) Mob. 7807602121	Mr. Haradhan Mondal Mrs. Gopa Mondal Choto Bankadhaha, P.O- Bankadhaha, P.S- Bishnupur, Mouza- Chotobankadhaha, PS- Bishnupur, Dist- Bankura, State- West Bengal, PIN- 722164 Guarantor(s) : 1. Mr. Avishes Ghosh S/o- Mr. Tapan Kumar Ghosh Thanagora, Mutukganj P.O & P.S- Bishnupur Dist- Bankura, WB- 722122 2. Mr. Haradhan Mondal S/o- Late Kinkar Mondal, Vill- & PO- Choto Bankadhaha, P.S- Bishnupur, Dist- Bankura W.B. 722164 3. Mrs. Gopa Mondal W/o- Ranjit Mondal, Methani, Kenchak, Jharka, Chandrakona, Paschim Medinipur, W.B- 721254	An area of land admeasuring 3 katha situated at R.S Plot No.860, L.R Plot No. 860, L.R. Khatian No. 558, J.L. No. 20, Mouza- Dendua, P.O- & P.S- Salanpur, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, State- West Bengal, PIN-713357 in the name of Saro Bhuiya W/o Late Suraj Bhuiya, represented by Deed Being No- I-022403287 for the year 2016 regd. At ADSR, Kulti, dtid- 28.09.2016. Boundaries of the Property:- North: House of Lalit Bhiya, South: Property of others, East: Land of Plot No. 860(P), West: 10ft Wide Road	1. 26.05.2025 2. Rs. 23,16,386 as on 31.03.2025 plus further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost.charges etc. 3. 04.08.2025 4. Symbolic Possession	Rs. 26,72,822.63/- as on 09.04.2026 (inclusive of interest applied up to 31.03.2026)	a) Rs. 20,86,000.00 b) Rs. 2,08,600.00 c) Rs. 25,000.00
3. Vivekananda Sarani, Asansol Dist.- Paschim Bardhaman A/c No. 33621032200001 IFS Code : UCBA0003362	Borrower : Murali Kumar Bhuiya S/o- Suraj Bhuiya Bonjerani Colliery D type Jemari, P.O- Salanpur Dist- Paschim Bardhaman PIN-713335, W.B Co-Appllcant(s) : 1. Mrs. Saro Bhuiya 2. Mrs. Gita Kumari S/o- Suraj Bhuiya Bonjerani Colliery D type Jemari, P.O- Salanpur Dist- Paschim Bardhaman PIN-713335, W.B	Shop-1: This is a Shop No.2 (SBA 100 Ft ²) located on ground floor (south facing; middle portion) of a five (G+4) storied residential cum commercial building viz. "SHIVAM APARTMENT" is constructed on 5 Katha land is situated at Kalyani B-2/338, Near B2 Playground, Block No. B, Sub-Block No. 2, Plot No. 388, Under Kalyani Municipality Ward No. 8, P.O. & P.S. Kalyani, PIN-741235, Dist. Nadia, West Bengal. The site is just 0.5 Km from Bazar No.3 & about 1 Km Away from Kalyani Central Park. All civic amenities are in closing approximate.	1. 28.07.2025 2. Rs. 7,23,375.45 as on 28.05.2025 (exclusive of unapplied interest and reversal of interest.) 3. 17.12.2025 4. Symbolic Possession	Rs. 7,99,321.45 as on 09.04.2026 (inclusive of unapplied interest up to 31.03.2026)	SHOP-1 a) Rs. 5,04,000.00 b) Rs. 50,400.00 c) Rs. 10,000.00 SHOP-2 a) Rs. 5,04,000.00 b) Rs. 50,400.00 c) Rs. 10,000.00
Mr. Bipin Bihari Samal (Authorised Officer) Mob no- 7077277488	Borrower : Sarathi Kirtunia W/o Ashim Kirtunia B-2/338, Ground Floor, Shivam Apartment, P.O- Kalyani, Dist- Nadia, WB-741235 Guarantor(s) : Mr. Ashim Kirtunia S/o Dharendra Nath Kirtunia B-2/338, Ground Floor, Shivam Apartment, P.O- Kalyani, Dist- Nadia, WB-741235	Shop-2 : This is a Shop No. 3 (SBA 100 Ft ²) located on ground floor (south-west facing) of a five (G+4) storied residential cum commercial building viz "SHIVAM APARTMENT" is constructed on 5 Katha land is situated at Kalyani B-2/338, Near B2 Playground, Block No. B, Sub-Block No. 2, Plot No. 388, Under Kalyani Municipality Ward No. 8, P.O. & P.S. Kalyani, PIN 741235, Dist. Nadia, West Bengal. The site is just 0.5 Km from Bazar No.3 & about 1 Km Away from Kalyani Central Park. All civic amenities are in closing approximate.	1. 03.07.2024 2. Rs. 41,10,358/- and interest thereon together with incidental expenses, cost charges etc. 3. 26.09.2024 4. Symbolic Possession	Rs. 49,63,496.69/- as on 09.04.2026 (with interest applied up to 31.03.2026)	a) Rs. 35,21,000/- b) Rs. 3,52,100/- c) Rs. 25,000/-
4. Kalyani Branch Dist.- Nadia A/c No. 21971032200001 IFS Code : UCBA0002197	Borrower : Suresh Yadav S/o Chabbu Yadav Street No-24M, Qir No- 166, Area-4 Chittaranjan PIN-713331, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal. Co-appllcant(s): Anindita Seth W/o- Suresh yadav Street No-24M, Qir No- 166, Area-4 Chittaranjan PIN-713331, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal.	All the piece and parcel of land and building measuring 4 decimals (wherein Built up area 1033 sq.ft.) nature Bastu in LR Plot No 128, 130, LR Khatian No.1584 & 1585, JL No 42 at Srikrishna Pally, Mouza Ghyiyadoba, PO- Achra, PS - Salanpur within ADSR Office of Kulti (ADRSO) Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, Mortgage Deed No I/0122/2023, Registered Book No- 1, Volume no. 2324-2023, page from 244 to 263, Date of Registration 03.01.2023 property in the name of Mr. Suresh Yadav, S/o Chabbu Yadav, VIII Ambedkar Nagar, P.O & PS- Mihjanj, Dist- Jamtara, Jharkhand and Mrs. Anindita Seth, W/o Suresh Yadav at Kalyangram 5, PC- Achra, Dist- Paschim Burdwan WB-713335.	1. 28.07.2025 2. Rs. 7,23,375.45 as on 28.05.2025 (exclusive of unapplied interest and reversal of interest.) 3. 17.12.2025 4. Symbolic Possession	Rs. 7,99,321.45 as on 09.04.2026 (inclusive of unapplied interest up to 31.03.2026)	SHOP-1 a) Rs. 5,04,000.00 b) Rs. 50,400.00 c) Rs. 10,000.00 SHOP-2 a) Rs. 5,04,000.00 b) Rs. 50,400.00 c) Rs. 10,000.00
Mr. Praveen Kumar (Authorised Officer) Mob no- 9102461341	Borrower : Suresh Yadav S/o Chabbu Yadav Street No-24M, Qir No- 166, Area-4 Chittaranjan PIN-713331, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal.	All the piece and parcel of land and building measuring 4 decimals (wherein Built up area 1033 sq.ft.) nature Bastu in LR Plot No 128, 130, LR Khatian No.1584 & 1585, JL No 42 at Srikrishna Pally, Mouza Ghyiyadoba, PO- Achra, PS - Salanpur within ADSR Office of Kulti (ADRSO) Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, Mortgage Deed No I/0122/2023, Registered Book No- 1, Volume no. 2324-2023, page from 244 to 263, Date of Registration 03.01.2023 property in the name of Mr. Suresh Yadav, S/o Chabbu Yadav, VIII Ambedkar Nagar, P.O & PS- Mihjanj, Dist- Jamtara, Jharkhand and Mrs. Anindita Seth, W/o Suresh Yadav at Kalyangram 5, PC- Achra, Dist- Paschim Burdwan WB-713335.	1. 03.07.2024 2. Rs. 41,10,358/- and interest thereon together with incidental expenses, cost charges etc. 3. 26.09.2024 4. Symbolic Possession	Rs. 49,63,496.69/- as on 09.04.2026 (with interest applied up to 31.03.2026)	a) Rs. 35,21,000/- b) Rs. 3,52,100/- c) Rs. 25,000/-
5. Vivekananda Sarani, Asansol Dist.- Paschim Bardhaman A/c No. 33621032200001 IFS Code : UCBA0003362	Borrower : Suresh Yadav S/o Chabbu Yadav Street No-24M, Qir No- 166, Area-4 Chittaranjan PIN-713331, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal. Co-appllcant(s): Anindita Seth W/o- Suresh yadav Street No-24M, Qir No- 166, Area-4 Chittaranjan PIN-713331, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal.	All the piece and parcel of land and building measuring 4 decimals (wherein Built up area 1033 sq.ft.) nature Bastu in LR Plot No 128, 130, LR Khatian No.1584 & 1585, JL No 42 at Srikrishna Pally, Mouza Ghyiyadoba, PO- Achra, PS - Salanpur within ADSR Office of Kulti (ADRSO) Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, Mortgage Deed No I/0122/2023, Registered Book No- 1, Volume no. 2324-2023, page from 244 to 263, Date of Registration 03.01.2023 property in the name of Mr. Suresh Yadav, S/o Chabbu Yadav, VIII Ambedkar Nagar, P.O & PS- Mihjanj, Dist- Jamtara, Jharkhand and Mrs. Anindita Seth, W/o Suresh Yadav at Kalyangram 5, PC- Achra, Dist- Paschim Burdwan WB-713335.	1. 03.07.2024 2. Rs. 41,10,358/- and interest thereon together with incidental expenses, cost charges etc. 3. 26.09.2024 4. Symbolic Possession	Rs. 49,63,496.69/- as on 09.04.2026 (with interest applied up to 31.03.2026)	a) Rs. 35,21,000/- b) Rs. 3,52,100/- c) Rs. 25,000/-
Mr. Bipin Bihari Samal (Authorised Officer) Mob no- 7077277488	Borrower : Suresh Yadav S/o Chabbu Yadav Street No-24M, Qir No- 166, Area-4 Chittaranjan PIN-713331, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal.	All the piece and parcel of land and building measuring 4 decimals (wherein Built up area 1033 sq.ft.) nature Bastu in LR Plot No 128, 130, LR Khatian No.1584 & 1585, JL No 42 at Srikrishna Pally, Mouza Ghyiyadoba, PO- Achra, PS - Salanpur within ADSR Office of Kulti (ADRSO) Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, Mortgage Deed No I/0122/2023, Registered Book No- 1, Volume no. 2324-2023, page from 244 to 263, Date of Registration 03.01.2023 property in the name of Mr. Suresh Yadav, S/o Chabbu Yadav, VIII Ambedkar Nagar, P.O & PS- Mihjanj, Dist- Jamtara, Jharkhand and Mrs. Anindita Seth, W/o Suresh Yadav at Kalyangram 5, PC- Achra, Dist- Paschim Burdwan WB-713335.	1. 03.07.2024 2. Rs. 41,10,358/- and interest thereon together with incidental expenses, cost charges etc. 3. 26.09.2024 4. Symbolic Possession	Rs. 49,63,496.69/- as on 09.04.2026 (with interest applied up to 31.03.2026)	a) Rs. 35,21,000/- b) Rs. 3,52,100/- c) Rs. 25,000/-
4. Kalyani Branch Dist.- Nadia A/c No. 21971032200001 IFS Code : UCBA0002197	Borrower : Suresh Yadav S/o Chabbu Yadav Street No-24M, Qir No- 166, Area-4 Chittaranjan PIN-713331, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal.	All the piece and parcel of land and building measuring 4 decimals (wherein Built up area 1033 sq.ft.) nature Bastu in LR Plot No 128, 130, LR Khatian No.1584 & 1585, JL No 42 at Srikrishna Pally, Mouza Ghyiyadoba, PO- Achra, PS - Salanpur within ADSR Office of Kulti (ADRSO) Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, Mortgage Deed No I/0122/2023, Registered Book No- 1, Volume no. 2324-2023, page from 244 to 263, Date of Registration 03.01.2023 property in the name of Mr. Suresh Yadav, S/o Chabbu Yadav, VIII Ambedkar Nagar, P.O & PS- Mihjanj, Dist- Jamtara, Jharkhand and Mrs. Anindita Seth, W/o Suresh Yadav at Kalyangram 5, PC- Achra, Dist- Paschim Burdwan WB-713335.	1. 03.07.2024 2. Rs. 41,10,358/- and interest thereon together with incidental expenses, cost charges etc. 3. 26.09.2024 4. Symbolic Possession	Rs. 49,63,496.69/- as on 09.04.2026 (with interest applied up to 31.03.2026)	a) Rs. 35,21,000/- b) Rs. 3,52,100/- c) Rs. 25,000/-
Mr. Bipin Bihari Samal (Authorised Officer) Mob no- 7077277488	Borrower : Suresh Yadav S/o Chabbu Yadav Street No-24M, Qir No- 166, Area-4 Chittaranjan PIN-713331, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal.	All the piece and parcel of land and building measuring 4 decimals (wherein Built up area 1033 sq.ft.) nature Bastu in LR Plot No 128, 130, LR Khatian No.1584 & 1585, JL No 42 at Srikrishna Pally, Mouza Ghyiyadoba, PO- Achra, PS - Salanpur within ADSR Office of Kulti (ADRSO) Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, Mortgage Deed No I/0122/2023, Registered Book No- 1, Volume no. 2324-2023, page from 244 to 263, Date of Registration 03.01.2023 property in the name of Mr. Suresh Yadav, S/o Chabbu Yadav, VIII Ambedkar Nagar, P.O & PS- Mihjanj, Dist- Jamtara, Jharkhand and Mrs. Anindita Seth, W/o Suresh Yadav at Kalyangram 5, PC- Achra, Dist- Paschim Burdwan WB-713335.	1. 03.07.2024 2. Rs. 41,10,358/- and interest thereon together with incidental expenses, cost charges etc. 3. 26.09.2024 4. Symbolic Possession	Rs. 49,63,496.69/- as on 09.04.2026 (with interest applied up to 31.03.2026)	a) Rs. 35,21,000/- b) Rs. 3,52,100/- c) Rs. 25,000/-

Details of known encumbrances : Not Known

Terms and Condition :

- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Detailed terms and conditions of the sale is available/published in the following websites/web portal: (i) <https://www.baanknet.com>.
- The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS".
- The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
- The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.baanknet.com>
- For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://www.baanknet.com> & <https://www.pnbndia.in>
- Bank shall not be liable for any kind of statutory dues against the property. Buyers shall be solely responsible for payment of any kind of taxes.

Date : 11.04.2026
Place : Barasat

Authorised Officer
Punjab National Bank

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank

(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)

CIRCLE OFFICE : NORTH 24 PARGANAS
48-A, Jessore Road, Barasat (Near Seth Pukur), West Bengal, Pin - 700 124, Ph. : 033 2584 4169, E-mail : cs8291@pnb.bank.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE / MOVABLE PROPERTIES

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties Mortgaged / Charged to the Punjab National Bank (Secured Creditor), the possession (Physical / Constructive mentioned against each property) of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Punjab National Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on below mentioned dates, for recovery of under mentioned dues & further interest, charges and costs etc. due to Punjab National Bank from the Borrowers and Guarantors as detailed below. The Reserve Price and Earnest money Deposit (EMD) amount for each property has been furnished below.

The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Web Portal (<https://baanknet.com>). The General Public is invited to bid either personally or by duly authorised agent.

Last Date of Submission of EMD and Documents : 28.04.2026 upto 4.00 P.M.

EMD to be deposited BAANKNET Portal : <https://baanknet.com>

Contact Details of Authorised Officer / Other Officer :
Sri Manish Chattopadhyay, Mobile : 85828 64788 , e-mail : cs8291@pnb.bank.in

Sl. No.	a) Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantors b) Name of the Branch c) Property ID	Location and Details of the Property	Outstanding Dues as per 13(2) Notice for which Property is being sold	a) Reserve Price (in Lakh) b) EMD (in Lakh) c) Bid Multiplier (in Lakh)	a) Date & Time of E-auction b) Detail of Encumbrances
1.	a) 1. M/s. Barnali Bhadra 2. Mr. Uttam Bhadra (Guarantor). S/o. Mahendra Kumar Bhadra b) Barrackpore Branch c) PUNB4FD28828435	Equitable Mortgage of Shop Room No. 3 measuring about 120 Sq. Feet covered area and 144 Sq. Feet Super Built up area in ground floor of G+3 storied building lying and situated at Mouza - Nona, under Ward No. 5 of Barrackpore Municipality, Holding No. 3(3), J.L. No. 3, Re. Sa. No. 16, Touzi No. 107, 108, 182, 340 and 3083, RS Dag No. 479 and 481, LR Dag No. 1470, RS Khatian No. 818 and 459, LR Khatian (Own) No. 1470 under jurisdiction of Titagarh Police Station. The Shop is demarcated as Shop No. 3 in Deed No. I-150500945 of the year 2017 registered in Book No. 1, Volume No. 1505-2017, Page from 19268 to 19287. As per valuation of empanelled valuer the property is butted and bounded by : North- Open of Sky & Passage, South - Open to Sky, East - Another Shop, West- Gofor 854. The Shop is in the name of Uttam Bhadra. (Under Symbolic Possession)	Rs. 14,31,704.32 plus further interest and expenses w.e.f. 01.10.2025	a) Rs. 13.70 Lakh b) Rs. 1.37 Lakh c) Rs. 0.15 Lakh	a) 28.04.2026 From 11:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M. b) Not Known to Bank
2.	a) 1. Nasiruddin Gazi. S/o. Mr. Anisur Rahaman 2. Farida Yasmin, W/o. Nasiruddin Gazi b) Dandirhathkhola Branch c) PUNB59W25083465	All that piece and parcel of Bastu Land with partly 3 (G+2) & 2 (G+1) storied Residential Building & Structures measuring about 1 Katha 13 Chittak 25 Sq.ft. or 3.050 Satak, lying and situated at Mouza - Jirakpur, J.L. No. 94, Old LR Khatian 322, New LR Khatian 9037 (As per Banglarbhumii, in the name of Nasiruddin Gazi) and 9038 (As per Banglarbhumii, in the name of Farida Yasmin), LR Dag No. 203, marked as Plot No. A in sketch map, under the local jurisdiction of Ward No. 18, of Basirhat Municipality, P.S. & ADSRO - Basirhat, District - North 24 Parganas, vide Sale Deed No. 01346 for the year 2013, registered in Book No. 1, Volume No. 4, Page from 5040 to 5054. The Property is butted and bounded by : By North - Property of Golam Rahaman Khan; By South - Mahamaya Colony Lane; By East - Mahamaya Colony Lane; By West - Property of Firoj Mondal. The Property is in the name of (1) Nasiruddin Gazi (2) Farida Yasmin. (Under Symbolic Possession)	Rs. 9,55,959.00 with further interest and expenses w.e.f. 30.06.2025	a) Rs. 30.20 Lakh b) Rs. 3.02 Lakh c) Rs. 0.35 Lakh	a) 28.04.2026 From 11:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M. b) SA/195/2026 DRT - II, Kolkata
3.	a) 1. M/s. Protap Enterprise, Prop. : Protap Adhikary S/o. Shankar Adhikary 2. Abhijit Adhikary, S/o. Shankar Adhikary b) Petrapol Branch c) PUNBABA40378143	All that piece and parcel of land with building thereon measuring about 10.50 Satak, lying and situated at Mouza - Pirojpur, J.L. No. 113, LR Khatian No. 35/1, New own Khatian Nos. 248, 249 (as per Mutation Certificate, in the name of Protap Adhikary, Abhijit Adhikary respectively), Sabek Dag No. 40, New LR Dag No. 79, under the local jurisdiction of Chogharia Gram Panchayet, ADSR - Bongaon, Dist - North 24 Parganas, vide Gift Deed No. I-07940 for the year 2010, recorded in Book No. 1, CD Volume No. 25, Pages from 3962 to 3973, at ADSRO - Bongaon. The Property is in the name of (1) Abhijit Adhikary (2) Protap Adhikary. The Property is butted and bounded by : By North - Government Land, By South - Government Land, By East - Government Land, By West - Property of Basudeb Adhikary. (Under Symbolic Possession)	Rs. 10,30,057.98 plus further interest and expenses w.e.f. 01.01.2022	a) Rs. 15.00 Lakh b) Rs. 1.50 Lakh c) Rs. 0.15 Lakh	a) 28.04.2026 From 11:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M. b) Not Known to Bank
4.	a) M/s. Rakib Enterprise Prop. : Sahjahan Islam, S/o. Mohammad Ali Guarantor : Tahmina Begam, W/o. Mr. Sahjahan Islam b) Bagjola Branch c) PUNBABA40426566	All that piece and parcel of Bastu Land with building thereon lying and situated at Pargana - Kathulia, Mouza - Hydarpur, J.L. No. 38, Re. Sa. No. 177, Touzi No. 3040, RS Khatian No. 449, 1016, LR Khatian No. 202, 585, 854, 984, 526, New own LR Khatian No. 1844 (As per Banglar Bhumii), RS & LR Dag No. 1824, area of land as per Gift Deed 10.39 Satak and by means of inheritance and as per mutation and banglarbhumii. Total Area of Land in the same Dag and Khatian 15 Satak, under local jurisdiction of Bagjola Gram Panchayet, P.S. & ADSR - Baduria, Dist - North 24 Parganas, vide Gift Deed No. 00251 for the year 2014, registered in Book No. 1, CD Volume No. 1, Pages from 3821 to 3835, at DSR-II, North 24 Parganas. The Property is in the name of Sahjahan Islam. (Under Symbolic Possession)	Rs. 10,75,227.58 with further interest and expenses w.e.f. 01.02.2023	a) Rs. 20.50 Lakh b) Rs. 2.05 Lakh c) Rs. 0.25 Lakh	a) 28.04.2026 From 11:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M. b) Not known to Bank
5.	a) 1. Satyajit Kumar Mondal, 2. Mrs. Arati Mondal, W/o. Satyajit Kumar Mondal b) Gopalnagar Branch c) PUNBABA40425675	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building measuring 02 Decimal situated at Mouza - Islampur under Police Station - Gopalnagar, Dist : North 24 Parganas of Khatian No. 835, Dag No. 83/2217, ADSR - Bongaon, The Title Deed No. being 1704 for the year 2000. Property owned by Mr. Satyajit Kumar Mondal. (Under Symbolic Possession)	Rs. 3,29,994.85 plus further interest and expenses w.e.f. 01.01.2017	a) Rs. 7.00 Lakh b) Rs. 0.70 Lakh c) Rs. 0.10 Lakh	a) 28.04.2026 From 11:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M. b) Not known to Bank

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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

- The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
- The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
- The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.baanknet.com>
- For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://www.baanknet.com> & <https://www.pnbndia.in>
- Bank shall not be liable for any kind of statutory dues against the property. Buyers shall be solely responsible for payment of any kind of taxes.

Date : 11.04.2026
Place : Barasat

Authorised Officer
Punjab National Bank

Chola CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Corporate Office :
"CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru V Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, India
Regional Office : 55 & 55/1, Chowringhee Road, 4th Floor, Chowringhee Court
Opp. Nehru Children's Museum in Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata - 700 071, W.B.

The Times Group Brings Together Industry Leaders at Bhubaneswar Summit



Excellence in Education
— East -2026 —

Steel Ltd.), C. Chandru (CEO, Vedanta Limited – Jharsuguda, Aluminium Business), Bibhu Prasad Mishra (Advisor, Hindalco Industries Limited), Palanisamy Velusamy (Vice President & Unit Head, Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.), and Gopal Krishna Mohapatra (Group Editor, Prameya Group), all of whom contributed to enriching discussions and sectoral insights.

The summit was structured around three flagship platforms that define The Times Group's commitment to thought leadership and nation-building:
• ET Now Business Summit & Awards
• ET Now Health Ranking & Conclave
• Times Now Excellence in Education
These platforms collectively reflect a strong



The Times Group, one of India's largest and most influential media conglomerates, successfully hosted a prestigious multi-sector summit on 24th February 2026 at Vivanta Bhubaneswar, DN Square. The day-long event brought together prominent leaders, policymakers, and industry experts from key sectors including Healthcare, Education, Aluminium, Steel, and Mining, reinforcing Odisha's growing prominence as a hub of industrial, infrastructural, and socio-economic development.



Shri Prithiviraj Harichandan, Honourable Minister of Law, Works & Excise, Government of Odisha, graced the occasion with his esteemed presence



Dino Morea, Indian actor and former supermodel, graced the occasion with his presence, adding glamour and star appeal to the event

belief that Business, Health, and Education are the three fundamental pillars driving sustainable development, inclusive growth, and long-term national progress. Through engaging panel discussions, insightful keynote sessions, and interactive exchanges, the summit facilitated meaningful dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaborative thinking among stakeholders.

The evening culminated in a grand awards ceremony, where The Times Group honoured distinguished organizations and institutions that have demonstrated excellence, innovation, leadership, and measurable impact across their respective domains. These recognitions were not merely symbolic but were backed by a rigorous, transparent, and research-driven evaluation process, ensuring authenticity and credibility.

conducted by Research And Insights, New Delhi following a robust and credible research methodology. This ensured that honours were based on merit, performance, industry benchmarks, and measurable outcomes, thereby reinforcing the prestige and trust associated with The Times Group's platforms.

The event was seamlessly anchored by MC Anuj Char, whose dynamic stage presence, articulation, and professionalism elevated the overall experience. His engaging style ensured smooth transitions across sessions, making the summit both impactful and memorable for all attendees.

Overall, the summit stood as a powerful testament to Odisha's rising growth momentum, while reaffirming The Times Group's role as a catalyst for meaningful conversations, industry recognition, and nation-building initiatives.

Ranking	Top Private Engineering Colleges Across East India
1	Institute of Technical Education and Research (SOA), Bhubaneswar, Odisha
2	Institute of Engineering and Management(IEM), Kolkata
3	University of Engineering & Management (UEM), Kolkata , West Bengal
4	C.V. Raman Global University, Bhubaneswar , Odisha
5	JIS College Of Engineering, Kalyani, West Bengal
6	Swami Vivekananda Institute of Science & Technology, Sonarpur, West Bengal
7	Supreme Knowledge Foundation, Mankundu, West Bengal
Ranking	Top Private Engineering Colleges Across West Bengal
1	Institute of Engineering and Management(IEM), Kolkata
2	University of Engineering & Management (UEM), Kolkata , West Bengal
3	JIS College Of Engineering, Kalyani, West Bengal
4	Swami Vivekananda Institute of Science & Technology, Sonarpur, West Bengal
5	Supreme Knowledge Foundation, Mankundu, West Bengal
Ranking	Top Private MBA Colleges Across East India
1	Institute of Business and Computer Studies (IBCS), Bhubaneswar, Odisha
2	Institute of Engineering and Management(IEM), Kolkata
3	International Management Institute (IMI), Bhubaneswar
4	JIS College Of Engineering, Kalyani, West Bengal
5	Bengal Institute of Business Studies (BIBS), Kolkata
6	Globsyn Business School, Kolkata
7	International Management Institute (IMI), Kolkata
8	EIILM , Kolkata
9	Calcutta Business School Kolkata
10	Praxis Business School, Kolkata
Ranking	Top Private MBA Colleges Across West Bengal
1	Institute of Engineering and Management(IEM), Kolkata
2	JIS College Of Engineering, Kalyani, West Bengal
3	Bengal Institute of Business Studies (BIBS), Kolkata
4	Globsyn Business School, Kolkata
5	International Management Institute (IMI), Kolkata
6	EIILM , Kolkata
7	Calcutta Business School Kolkata
8	Praxis Business School, Kolkata
Ranking	Top Private Medical Colleges Across East India
1	Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital (SOA), Bhubaneswar
2	Gouri Devi Institute of Medical Sciences and Hospital, Durgapur
3	IQ City Medical College Hospital
4	KPC Medical College and Hospital
5	ICARE Institute of Medical Science and Research
Ranking	Top Private Medical Colleges Across West Bengal
1	Gouri Devi Institute of Medical Sciences and Hospital
2	IQ City Medical College Hospital
3	KPC Medical College and Hospital
4	ICARE Institute of Medical Science and Research

Ranking	Top Private BBA Colleges Across East India
1	The Bhawanipur Education Society College (BESC), Kolkata
2	Institute of Engineering and Management(IEM), Kolkata
3	JD Birla Institute
4	Brainware University
5	NSHM Business School, Durgapur
5	Adamas University
Ranking	Top Private LAW Colleges Across East India
1	SOA National Institute of Law (SNIL), Bhubaneswar
2	University of Engineering & Management,(UEM) Kolkata
3	JIS University, Kolkata (School of Juridical Science)
4	Adamas University, Kolkata
5	Brainware University, Kolkata
6	Kingston Law College
Ranking	Top Private LAW Colleges Across West Bengal
1	University of Engineering & Management,(UEM) Kolkata
2	JIS University, Kolkata (School of Juridical Science)
3	Adamas University, Kolkata
4	Brainware University, Kolkata
5	Kingston Law College
Ranking	Top Private Hotel Management Colleges Across East India
1	School of Hotel Management (SHM), Bhubaneswar
2	University of Engineering & Management,(UEM) Kolkata
3	IIHM Kolkata - International Institute of Hotel Management, Kolkata
4	Subhas Bose Institute of Hotel Management [SBIHM]
5	BNG Hotel Management Institute, Kolkata
Ranking	Top Private Hotel Management Colleges Across West Bengal
1	University of Engineering & Management (UEM) Kolkata
2	IIHM Kolkata - International Institute of Hotel Management, Kolkata
3	Subhas Bose Institute of Hotel Management (SBIHM)
4	BNG Hotel Management Institute, Kolkata
5	Guru Nanak Institute of Hotel Management, Kolkata
Ranking	Top Private MCA Colleges Across West Bengal
1	University of Engineering & Management (UEM) Kolkata
2	Amity University Kolkata
3	Adamas University, Kolkata
4	Brainware University, Kolkata
5	Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata
Ranking	Top Private BCA Colleges Across West Bengal
1	Institute of Engineering and Management (IEM), Kolkata
2	NSHM Knowledge Campus, Durgapur
3	JIS College of Engineering, Kolkata
4	Guru Nanak Institute of Technology , Kolkata
5	Techno Main Salt Lake, Kolkata

CATEGORY	WINNER
Excellence in Integrated Steel Production & Value-Added Steel Products Manufacturing	JSW Bhushan Power & Steel Limited
Excellence in Aluminium Manufacturing & Innovation	Vedanta Limited
Senior Industry Mentor	Bibhu Prasad Mishra,Advisor, Hindalco Industries Limited
Most Enterprising Industry Leader, Eastern India	Anil Kumar Singh, President, JSW Steel Ltd.
Most Enterprising Young CEO, Eastern India	C. Chandru, CEO, Vedanta Limited – Jharsuguda (Aluminium Business)
Veteran Journalist & Editor	Gopal Krishna Mohapatra,Group Editor Prameya & News7
No. 1 Odia Daily Newspaper	PRAMEYA
Renowned Social Entrepreneur, Global Diplomat & Peace Ambassador	Sourav Mukherjee, Founder and Director of the Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage (KSCH)
Best Phosphatic Fertilizer Manufacturer	Paradeep Phosphates Limited
State's most trusted OOH Media Owners	Ajanta Advertisers
Leading Female Social Entrepreneur	Zubina Ali
Best Hospital in Cardiology	SUM Ultimate Medicare
Best Hospital in Oncology	IMS & Sum Hospital, Bhubaneswar
Senior Consultant, Critical Care Medicine	Dr Alok kumar Panigrahi, Sum Ultimate Medicare
Senior Consultant, General Medicine,	Dr. Srikanth Dhar, Sum Ultimate Medicare
Leading Hospital of East in Patient Care	IMS and SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar
Best Dental College in the East	Institute of Dental Sciences
Emerging Hospital of East	IMS and SUM Hospital Campus 2, Phulnakhara
Best Multi Superspeciality Quarternary Care Hospital in the East	SUM Ultimate Medicare
Emerging Veterinary Hospital in the East	Institute of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Sciences
Emerging Hospital in Southern Odisha	SUM Hospital sitalpali,
Leading University in the East	Siksha 'O' Anusandhan

CATEGORY	WINNER
Ranked No. 1 BBA College in the East	The Bhawanipur Education Society College (BESC), Kolkata
Ranked No. 1 Private Medical College in West Bengal	Gouri Devi Institute of Medical Sciences and Hospital (GIMSH)
Best Engineering College in the East	Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), Bhubaneswar
Ranked No. 1 B-Tech College of West Bengal	Institute of Engineering and Management, (IEM), Kolkata
Ranked No. 2 B-Tech College of West Bengal	University of Engineering & Management,(UEM), Kolkata
Best B-Tech College of Jaipur	University of Engineering & Management,(UEM), Jaipur
Best Management College in the East	Institute of Business and Computer Studies (IBCS)
Ranked No. 1 MBA College of West Bengal	Institute of Engineering and Management, (IEM), Kolkata
Ranked No. 1 CBSE School, North 24 Parganas, Kolkata, West Bengal	Morning Bells Academy (High School)
Best in Overseas Education Consultancy	Bluesky Educational Services Pvt Ltd
Ranked No. 2 BBA College of West Bengal	Institute of Engineering and Management, (IEM), Kolkata
Ranked No. 1 BCA College of West Bengal	Institute of Engineering and Management, (IEM), Kolkata
Best BCA College of Jaipur	University of Engineering & Management, (UEM), Jaipur
Best Law College in the East	SOA National Institute of Law (SNIL)
Ranked No. 1 Law College of West Bengal	University of Engineering & Management,(UEM) Kolkata
Best School of Hotel Management, East	School of Hotel Management (SHM)
Ranked No. 1 Hotel Management College of West Bengal	University of Engineering & Management,(UEM) Kolkata
Best Pharmacy Institution in the East	School of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Centre for Bio Technology
Best Agricultural College in the East	Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS)
Ranked No. 1 MCA College of West Bengal	University of Engineering & Management,(UEM) Kolkata
Best MBA College of Jaipur	University of Engineering & Management,(UEM) Jaipur
Best BBA College of Jaipur	University of Engineering & Management,(UEM) Jaipur
Leading Nursing College in the East	Sum Nursing College, Bhubaneswar

Disclaimer: The listings and rankings have been determined by an exclusive survey conducted by Research and Insights, using a robust methodology. The publication/media house and its affiliates, employees, authorized representatives, and group companies are not responsible or liable for these rankings. Readers are advised to make informed decisions before acting upon the survey listings and rankings.



SIR IN 10 STATES, THREE UNION TERRITORIES SO FAR Electoral rolls trimmed by 5.58 cr, most in Gujarat, UP

Damini Nath
New Delhi, April 10

THE ELECTION Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, held in 10 states and three Union Territories so far, has led to the electorate being cut by 5.58 crore or 9.55%.

The second round of the SIR of electoral rolls, which was carried out in nine states and three Union Territories starting October last year, concluded on Friday, with the electorate in these states/UTs being trimmed by 5.37 crore or 10.55%. Including Bihar, where the SIR was held in the first phase, the number of electors has gone down from 58.87 crore to 53.28 crore.

The SIR phase two ended on Friday with the publication of the final electoral roll in Uttar Pradesh, where the number of electors went from 15.44 crore to 13.39 crore, showing a decrease of 13.23%. While the electoral rolls of the other states/UTs were published in February, the EC had given Uttar Pradesh an extension till April 10.

Overall, the electorate in the 12 states/UTs (Rajasthan, Goa, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and UP), went from 50.97 crore on October 27, 2025,

• SIR deletions in second phase

State/UT	change in %
Andaman & Nicobar	-16.87
Uttar Pradesh	-13.23
Gujarat	-13.4
Chhattisgarh	-11.77
Tamil Nadu	-11.55
Goa	-10.75
West Bengal	-8.06
Puducherry	-7.57
Bihar	-6.04
Madhya Pradesh	-5.97
Rajasthan	-5.74
Kerala	-3.22
Lakshadweep	-0.36
TOTAL	-10.55

when the EC announced the SIR, to 45.59 crore post-SIR.

Among the nine states, Gujarat saw the highest cut in electors (13.39%), followed by UP (13.23%), Chhattisgarh (11.77%), West Bengal (11.63%) and Tamil Nadu (11.55%). Overall, Andaman and Nicobar Islands had the highest decrease (16.86%). In Bihar, where the EC had adopted a different methodology, the number of electors had decreased by 6%.

In a break from the annual and pre-poll Special Summary Revisions (SSR), the EC had on June 24, 2025 decided to con-

duct the SIR for the whole country, starting with Bihar where Assembly elections were due in November.

The EC had said in its order that the last intensive revision was carried out about 20 years ago and the rapid urbanisation and migration since then had necessitated a clean-up of the rolls.

As opposed to the SSR, where additions and deletions are made to the existing roll, in an intensive revision, the rolls are prepared afresh. In previous intensive revisions, the EC officials, usually Booth Level Officers (BLOs), went house to house with an enumeration register to check the number and details of electors. However, the EC adopted an unprecedented method for the SIR exercise, requiring all electors to submit an enumeration form within a one-month deadline, or face deletion in the draft roll.

The EC also required certain categories of electors to submit documents to establish their eligibility, including citizenship, which was also an unprecedented method.

The EC's June 24, 2025 order has been challenged in the Supreme Court, with critics terming the SIR a check of citizenship through the backdoor. The EC has announced that it will start the SIR in the remaining states/UTs soon.

2.05 cr names deleted in UP as final list released

Lalmani Verma
Lucknow, April 10

THE FINAL list of voters in Uttar Pradesh was released on Friday, with the deletion of 2.05 crore names from the electoral roll following the 166-day Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in the state.

The deletions account for 13.27 per cent of the voters who were on the roll before the SIR began in October last year.

While the state had a total of 15.44 crore electors before the SIR began, the number

stands at 13.39 crore (13,39,84,792) in the final roll. Of these, 7.3 crore (54.54 per cent) are male, and 6.09 crore (45.46 per cent) are female.

There are 4,206 third gender electors.

At a press conference in Lucknow, state CEO Navdeep Rinwa said 17.63 lakh voters in the final list are in the age group of 18-19.

The gender ratio in the final roll, 834, is better than the previous ratio of 824 recorded in the draft electoral roll on January 6, he added.

Lucknow and Ghaziabad

topped the list with 22.89 per cent (9.14 lakh) and 20.24 per cent (5.75 lakh) deletions, respectively, when compared to the electoral roll as of October 27, 2025, when the Special Intensive Revision process began in the state.

They are followed by Kanpur Nagar at 19.42 per cent (6.87 lakh) and Gautam Buddha Nagar at 19.33 per cent.

The districts with the lowest fall in voter deletions are Lalitpur (6.66 per cent), Hamirpur (6.88 per cent) and Pilibhit (7.97 per cent).

When BJP loses on real issues, it hides behind institutions to attack: Akhilesh

Press Trust of India
Jaipur, April 10

SAMAJWADI PARTY supremo Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said when BJP starts to lose on real issues, it hides behind institutions to carry out its attacks.

During his visit to Jaipur, Yadav alleged that the Election Commission (EC) was working "at the behest of the BJP", particularly during bypolls in Uttar Pradesh.

"Election commissions are working at the behest of the BJP. Of all the bypolls in Uttar Pradesh, the Election Commission has worked on the directions of the BJP," Yadav added.

"When BJP starts to lose on real issues, it hides behind institutions to carry out its attacks," he said.

He also accused the BJP of failing to ensure the dignity and security of religious leaders, alleging that "Shankaracharyas are being insulted", and said that governments run by the BJP must take responsibility for their protection.

He also invoked the Samajwadi Party's PDA (Pichhda,



Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav enjoys snacks at a cafe in Jaipur on Friday. EXPRESS

Dalit, Alpsankhyak) plank, asserting that the alliance represents those facing hardship. "Where there is pain, there is PDA; where there is BJP, there is pain," he said, adding that he had come to Rajasthan to strengthen the party's social coalition.

PDA, an acronym coined

by the SP, stands for Pichhda (backward classes), Dalit and Alpsankhyak (minorities).

The SP chief also took a swipe at former Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, saying leaders within the INDIA bloc had once hoped he would retire after becoming prime minister, but now it appeared he

might instead retire as a Rajya Sabha member.

In a remark on Rajasthan politics, Yadav said the state would have seen more development had former chief minister Vasundhara Raje been in power, adding that "a 'parchi' (slip)-appointed chief minister cannot deliver progress."

High court ends 36-yr wait, orders seller to honour 1990 property deal at original rate

Manraj Grewal Sharma
Chandigarh, April 10

BRINGING AN end to a legal battle spanning more than three decades, the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Friday upheld orders directing the completion of a 1990 land deal, granting relief to the buyer after 36 years.

A bench of Justice Virinder Aggarwal ordered "specific performance" of the agreement, a legal remedy that means the seller must go ahead and complete the deal as originally promised, instead of merely paying compensation.

The bench dismissed the appeal filed by Desai Singh against Rawail Singh (since deceased, now represented through legal heirs). The court

directed the appellant to execute the sale deed within one month of the buyer depositing the remaining payment in the trial court. If he fails to do so, the court can step in and get the sale deed executed.

The dispute dates back to May 28, 1990, when Desai Singh agreed to sell 8 kanals of land out of his holding of 10 kanals 12 marlas in Mukerian, Hoshiarpur district, to Rawail Singh for Rs 40,000. An amount of Rs 25,000 was paid upfront, with the sale deed to be executed by May 28, 1991.

According to the buyer, he appeared before the Sub-Registrar, Mukerian, on the agreed date with the balance amount, but the seller did not turn up. He later issued a legal notice fixing another date, but the

seller again failed to appear, leading to a suit being filed in September 1991.

Desa Singh contested the claim, alleging the agreement was fraudulent and that the money was actually a loan with 12 per cent interest. He claimed the agreement to sell was fabricated and offered to return the money with interest instead of selling the land.

Both the trial court and the first appellate court ruled in favour of the buyer. In the high court, the seller tried to introduce fresh documents to argue that such agreements were often used as loan security.

Rejecting this attempt, the high court said a party cannot introduce a completely new argument at such a late stage, especially when it was not part of

the original defence.

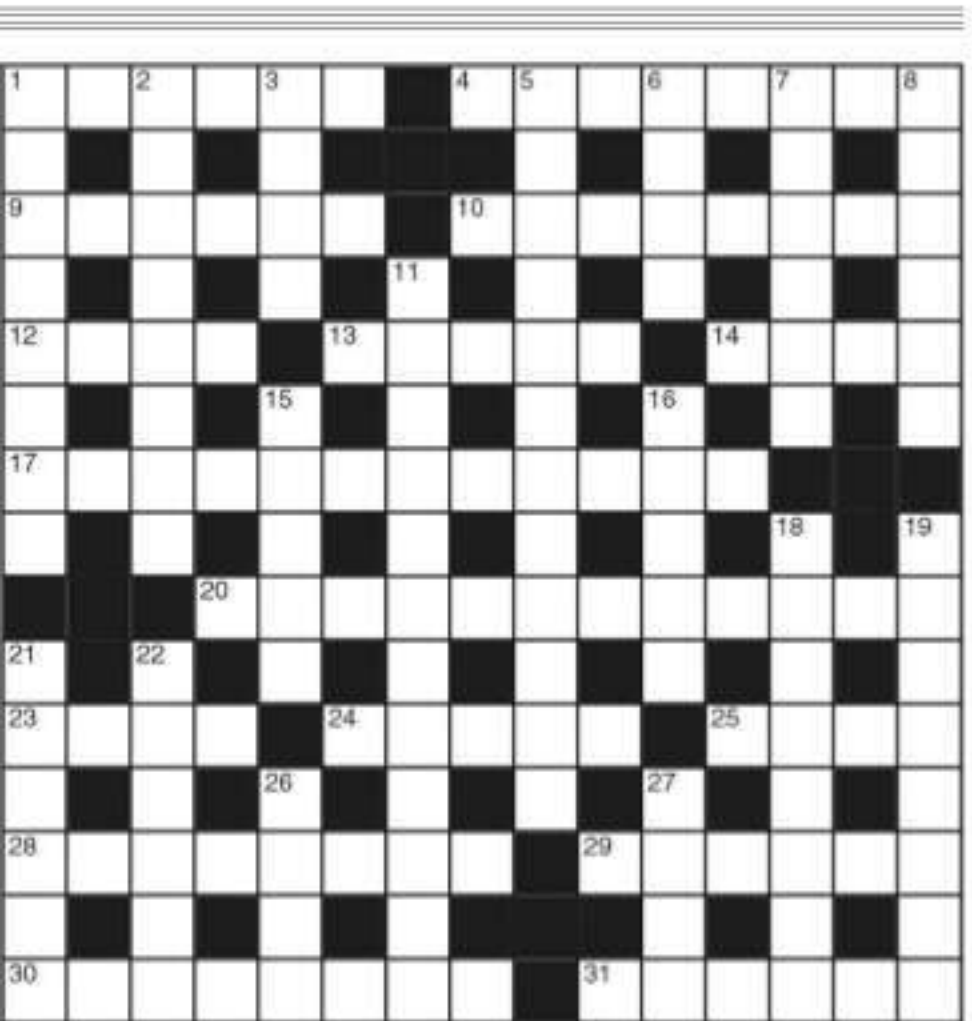
On the key issue of whether the buyer had done his part, the court found his conduct consistent and credible. It relied on affidavits showing he was present at the Sub-Registrar's office on both occasions, along with legal notices and postal records. The court also clarified that a buyer does not need to physically carry cash at all times; showing up with the ability and intention to pay is enough.

The case, filed in 1991 and reaching the high court in 1996, remained pending for decades. During this period, Rawail Singh passed away and his legal heirs continued the case.

The court has now directed the buyer's side to deposit the remaining Rs 15,000 within two months.

• CROSSWORD

5960



- ACROSS**
1 Intellectual man let loose (6)
4 Carelessly hands out a large amount (8)
9 A pure beginner? (6)
10 Debit one transferred following orders (8)
12 Little colour in soft drink (4)
13 Colour that's a success in two different ways (5)
14 Girl beginning serious criminal record (4)
17 Unable to say why you can't solve this puzzle? (4,3,5)
20 Last thing an American can bet with? (6,6)
23 Woeful cry from a girl we hear (4)
24 In time chaps improve (5)
25 The French way to get fat (4)
28 To each in turn it appears to be just beginning (8)
29 Picture producer (6)
30 Left in error? (3,5)
31 Look for a feature about double parking (6)
- DOWN**
1 Exclusive command of the game (8)
2 He writes television play that is put out (8)
3 Chief part of the foot (4)
5 Are tailors so addictive? (5-7)
6 Let loose a gundog in the centre (4)
7 A meal I cooked for a girl (6)
8 The cad is out to break the engagement (6)
11 It's played for someone's benefit (7,5)
15 Going on twelve inches (5)
16 I do it when playing the fool (5)
18 Feel a bit upset by a trifling annoyance (8)
19 The new director has yet to be paid (8)
21 Share it with Nora perhaps (6)
22 It's lucky mother's gone to bed (6)
26 Upwards of 101 meeting points (4)
27 It's a bit wet — and so is he (4)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 5959 ACROSS: 1 Alive, 4 Chipper, 8 Rap, 9 By no means, 10 Sounder, 11 Reply, 13 Scenes, 15 Editor, 18 Bitts, 19 Turnoil, 21 Redundant, 23 Rex, 24 Numbers, 25 Spied DOWN: 1 Arrests, 2 Imprudent, 3 Ebbed, 4 Canary, 5 Immured, 6 Pea, 7 Risky, 12 Pot-pourri, 14 Essence, 16 Relaxed, 17 Strays, 18 Baron, 20 Rites, 22 Dim

JUMBLED WORDS

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

A ___ plan violently executed now is better than a ___ plan executed next week. - George S. Patton (4,..7)

FREED (shaded letters: F, R, E, E, D)
AEKCDP (shaded letters: A, E, K, C, D, P)

LTOOT (shaded letters: L, T, O, O, T)
FINGER (shaded letters: F, I, N, G, E, R)

NMSWER (shaded letters: N, M, S, W, E, R)
SOLUTIONS: -Defier, Loto, Packed, Fringe

• OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS



• CALVIN & HOBBS

BY BILL WATTERSON



• MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



DIFFICULTY LEVEL 4s INSTRUCTIONS
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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



National Pet Day



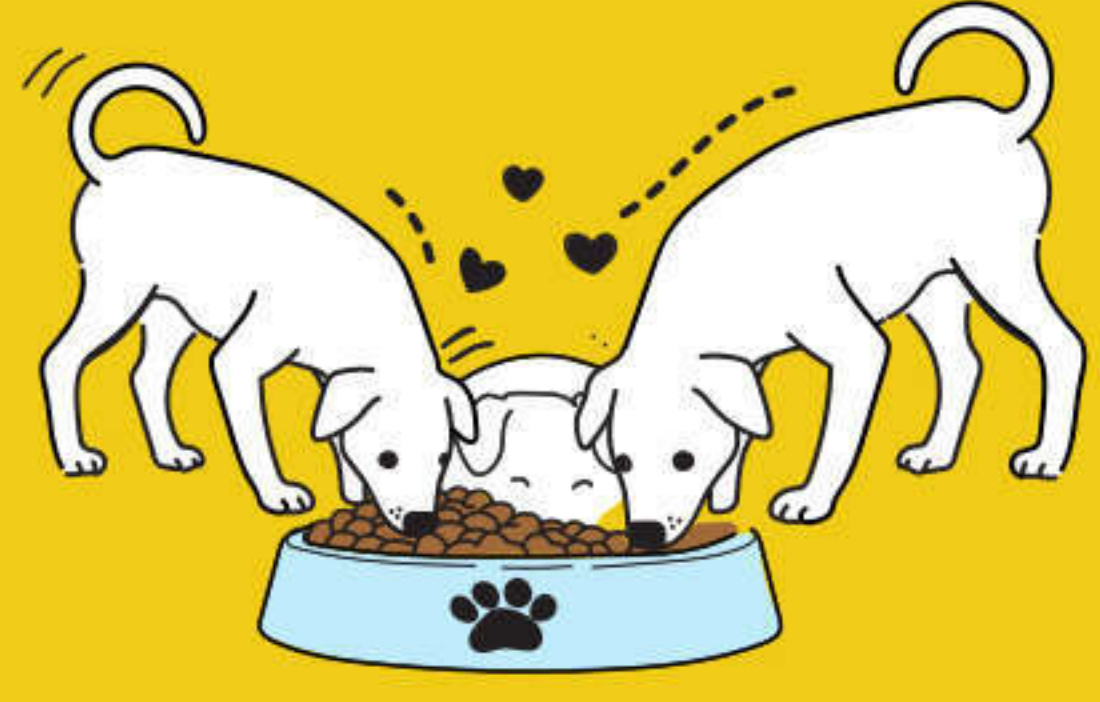
What about the ones who don't belong to anyone, yet belong to all of us?



They don't ask for much. A moment of recognition. A few seconds of kindness. Sometimes, just the quiet comfort of knowing someone sees them. Yet across our streets, thousands of dogs live with one persistent uncertainty—where their next meal will come from.

They curl up near familiar gates and doorways, becoming faces we learn to recognise, even if we never learn their names. They are ours not by ownership, but by shared existence. And still, for so many of them, food is never guaranteed.

This matters more than it might seem. A dog that is regularly and properly fed is healthier, more resilient, and better able to resist disease. Nutrition is not a kindness reserved for pets with homes. It is a basic requirement for any animal's wellbeing.



At Zigly Pet Care, extending care beyond our Centres has never been a talking point; it has been work we've actually shown up to do.

In December 2025, we ran a ground-level intervention in Shalimar Bagh that reached over 3,500 street dogs. Every dog in the programme was vaccinated and microchipped. In a single neighbourhood, thousands of animals moved from invisible to protected. The effort required significant coordination, community involvement, and on-ground execution, and it demonstrated what structured, committed care for community animals can actually look like at scale.

That initiative also clarified something important. A vaccination drive, however impactful, is one event. These dogs need care every single day and the most immediate, daily need is reliable food.

Introducing **zigly** CARES Dry Food for Community Dogs

Building on that foundation, Zigly Pet Care is launching Zigly Cares. A dry food range developed specifically for community dogs.

The formulation addresses the realities of outdoor life, supporting energy, immunity, and overall health in dogs that face daily physical demands without the safety of a home. It is designed for sufficient distribution, whether you're feeding one dog near your building or running a larger neighbourhood effort.

The goal is to make consistent feeding uncomplicated. No preparation required. No expertise needed. Just a reliable, nutritious meal that anyone can provide.

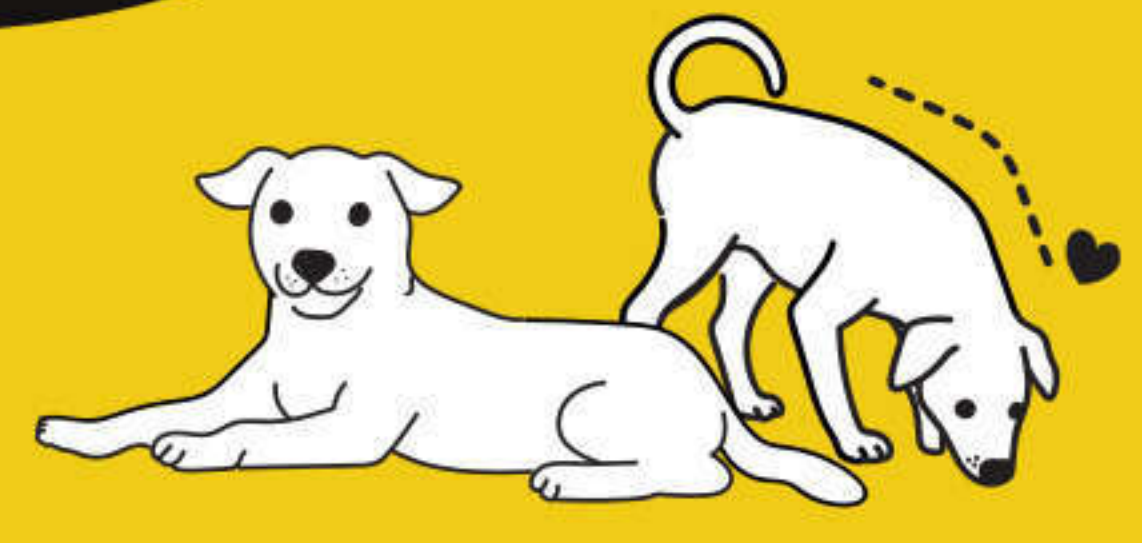
Meaningful, lasting care for community dogs doesn't come from a single act. It comes from daily habit from enough people making a small, regular effort that adds up to something real.

This National Pet Day, Zigly invites you to be a part of this initiative. Pick up a pack. Feed a friend.

Available at your nearest **zigly** Pet Care centre or at zigly.com.



****All proceeds will go towards welfare of street animals.**



Zigly Pet Care is India's fastest growing pet care ecosystem, built around the belief that pets deserve consistent, expert-backed care at every stage of their lives.

We have expert veterinary care, professional grooming, and a curated range of pet nutrition and products, all available together, at our physical pet care centres.



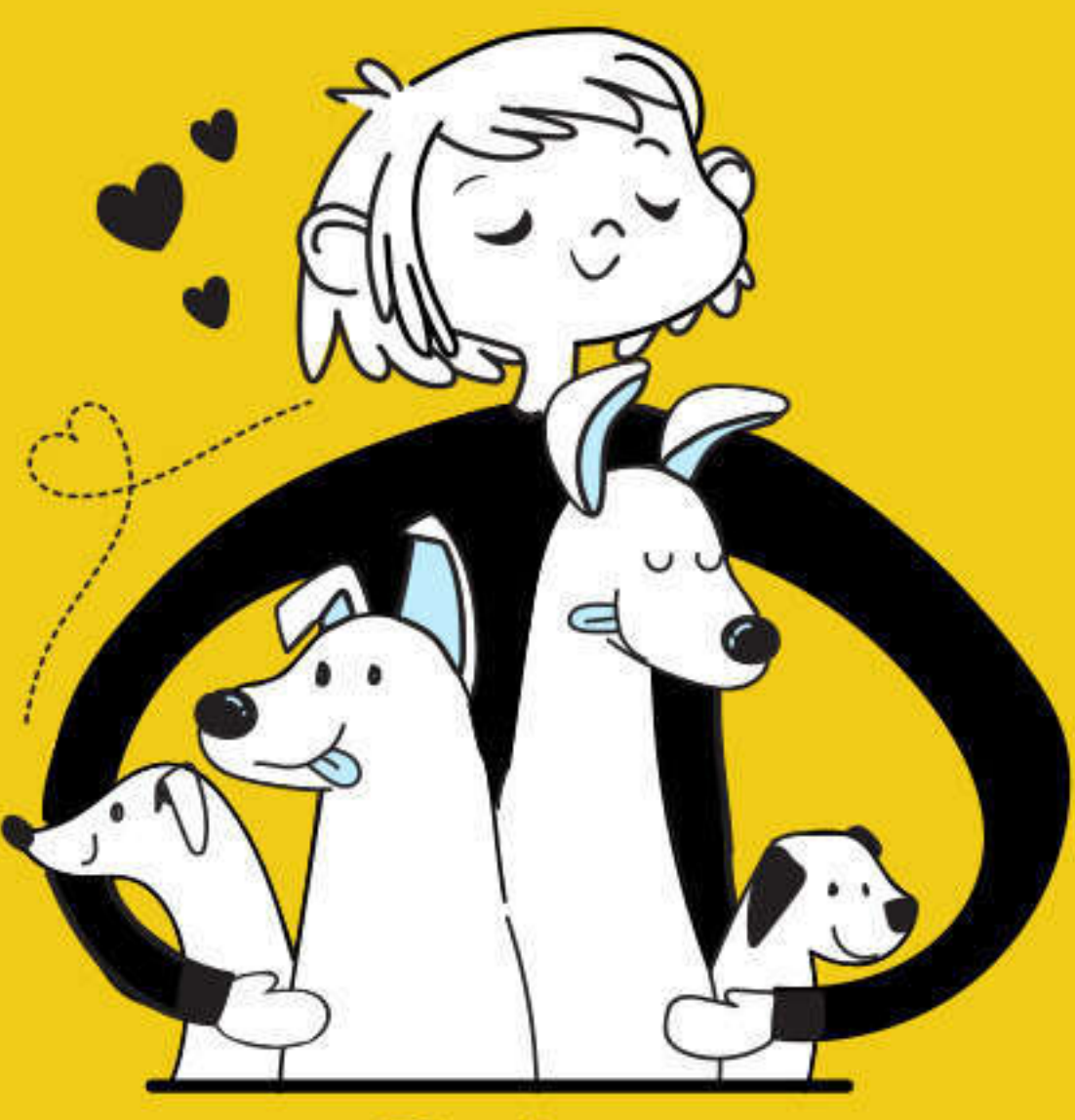
43+ Centres in 18 cities

We are not a store that happens to offer services, or a clinic that stocks a few products. We are a complete, end-to-end environment where every aspect of a pet's wellbeing is addressed by people who know what they're doing.

That model was built for pet parents and it continues to grow. Whether you're a first-time pet parent or someone who has always believed animals deserve better, Zigly is the place to start.

Visit your nearest Zigly Pet Care Centre or explore everything we offer at zigly.com.

Because when care is done right, you'll know the difference.



zigly CARES

For The Dogs We Share Our Streets With

- 300K+** Happy Pets Served
- 200+** Vet Care Professionals
- 24x7** Emergency Pet Care



'SANKALP PATRA'

UCC to women welfare: BJP unveils manifesto

Party makes several promises, announces initiatives to establish its credentials as a party of Bengalis

Tanusree Bose
Kolkata, April 10

WITH LESS than two weeks to go for Phase 1 of the West Bengal Assembly elections, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday released the BJP's Sankalp Patra, or manifesto, laying out the party's Bengal roadmap. The party's emphasis is on its core concerns such as national security and infiltration, women's empowerment, the upliftment of the youth, Bengali pride, and infrastructure.

Targeting the TMC government, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said at the manifesto release, "These 15 years for Bengal and its people are like kaal-ratri (dark time). With a lot of hope, the people of West Bengal gave the mandate to Mamata Banerjee. They (TMC) took the second term, also saying they did not have enough time and they got the third mandate with the help of infiltrators and goons. The people of Bengal are now scared and want change."

These are the major take-aways:

Infiltration, UCC, and 'love jihad'

This has been one of the BJP's key planks in the state. Amid continued polarisation over voter roll deletions, especially in border districts, the BJP has intensified its infiltration narrative. The Mamata Banerjee-led TMC, the party alleges, facilitates the entry of undocumented immigrants from across the border.

In line with this, the BJP has promised to adopt a zero-tolerance policy on infiltration, saying it will implement the "Detect, Delete and Deport" model and take strict measures to prevent illegal infiltration and address "silent demographic invasion". The BJP has said it will ensure land allocation for fencing along the India-Bangladesh border within 45 days of forming the government.

The BJP promised to implement a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Assam and has repeated that in Bengal too, promising to bring in a piece of legislation on it. The party has also promised strict laws against "love jihad" and "land jihad", stating that its objective is to protect the state's "social and terri-

torial integrity", and vowed to end "mafia rule".

The BJP has already implemented UCC in Uttarakhand and passed the law in Gujarat, and this is a continuation of its strategy to bring it about across the country by implementing it state by state. With UCC and land and love "jihad" finding prominent space in its manifesto, the party has signalled to its core base its intention to tackle what it sees as TMC's patronage of the minority community that, according to it, has led to demographic changes across the state, especially in the border areas.

Welfare politics and focus on women

With women backing TMC to the hilt for well over a decade, the BJP has attempted to tackle this in the manifesto by promising to provide a monthly financial assistance of Rs 3,000 to women to ensure their financial independence. This is almost double the Rs 1,500 that women receive under the TMC government's Lakshmir Bhandar scheme (it is Rs 1,700 for women from SC and ST communities).

The BJP has also promised to empower 75 lakh women as Lakhpati Didis, establish at least one women's police station in every sub-division and a women's helpdesk at every station, a monetary assistance of Rs 2,10,000 and six nutritional kits to pregnant women from financially marginalised families and women-only "Durga Surokha" squads consisting of patrol teams of women officers to patrol busy city areas and public places.

The BJP has said it will also establish two all-women battalions named after Matangini Hazra and Rani Rashmoni in the state reserve police force and provide 33% reservation for women in all state government jobs, including the police.

While the party has successfully received women's backing in states such as Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra because of similar DBT schemes, in Bengal, women are one of the main engines of the TMC's electoral dominance.

Youth and jobs

The BJP has consistently targeted the Mamata Banerjee gov-

ernment over the lack of jobs for the youth. To address that, the party has promised a monthly assistance of Rs 3,000 for unemployed youth (twice the amount the TMC has promised to pay) and speaks of providing 1 crore new jobs and self-employment opportunities in the next five years to prevent migration and brain drain. To help candidates who have suffered because of paper leaks and exam cancellations, the party has promised to provide age relaxation of up to 5 years for them.

The party has said it will launch a credit card scheme to encourage start-ups. Under this initiative, 5 lakh youth will receive financial support of Rs 10 lakh each, comprising Rs 5 lakh as a grant and Rs 5 lakh as an interest-free loan to encourage entrepreneurship.

Cultural politics

In the past, BJP has stumbled while trying to tackle the TMC's narrative that has painted it as a party of outsiders (bohiragatos). The party has assiduously combated it this time, and this is reflected in its manifesto, too.

The party has said it will protect "Bengali asmita (pride)" and, in that process, has reiterated that every individual has the right to freely practice their religion without any restriction, build a dedicated Vande Mataram museum highlighting its historical significance, and promote the legacy of Rabindranath Tagore by establishing Tagore-inspired cultural centres.

In a move that burnishes both its Bengali cultural credentials and ties with its religious politics, the BJP has promised to build a Shaktipeeth circuit to connect all the Shaktipeeths, a Chaitanya Mahaprabhu spiritual circuit to honour the Bhakti Movement, and pursue the inclusion of festivals such as the Gangesagar Mela, the Maheshwari, Baruni Mela, and Bandna Parab in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

Infrastructure

As part of its vision to develop infrastructure, the party envisages its government building modern deep-sea ports in Tajpur and Kulpi to revitalise the state's maritime trade and promote exports, and construct bridges over major rivers.

The BJP has also promised to build a National Highway connecting the Sundarbans directly to Darjeeling and to operationalise the Purulia, Malda, and Balurghat airports for better regional air connectivity.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar, Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, state BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya at the release of party's manifesto in Kolkata, Friday. EXPRESS

Shah: 15 years under TMC rule like *kal ratri* for Bengal people

Tanusree Bose
Kolkata, April 10

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Friday released the BJP's 'Sankalp Patra' (manifesto), for the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections, themed '*Bhoi noi bhoisha*' (not fear but faith), which promises a roadmap for a 'Sonar Bangla'.

In the manifesto, the party has promised that if it is elected to power, it will increase the monthly assistance provided by the state government to women and unemployed youth to Rs 3,000.

Addressing a press conference in Kolkata, Shah claimed that the state would provide pregnant women with Rs 21,000 and six nutrition kits if the BJP were to be elected.

The senior BJP leader also said that every police station will have women's help desk 24X7 and promised free travel for women in all state government buses. He stated that they would implement the Seventh Pay Commission within 45 days of coming to power.

Criticizing the ruling party, Shah said, "These 15 years for Bengal and its people under TMC government are like *kal ratri* (dark night). With a lot of hope, the people of West Bengal had given a mandate to Mamata Banerjee. They (TMC) got a second term, saying they did not get enough time and got the third mandate with the help of

infiltrators and goons."

Highlighting the issue of cross-border infiltration, Shah said, "The public is fearful that if this infiltration goes on, the what will happen to West Bengal's identity. Give us an opportunity, and we will find each infiltrator and remove them."

The Union home minister also promised to bring a Uniform Civil Code in the state.

Amit Shah claimed that North Bengal has been deprived and promised an AIIMS, an IIT, an IIT, and a fashion designing institution for the region. "We will have a Vande Mataram museum," said Shah.

He also said that Rajbangshi and Kurumalai will be given the status of a special language.

Talking about industrialisation, Shah said Haldia port will be made a part of the blue economy, and the closed mills in the state would be refurbished. "Also, Tajpur and Kulpi will get modern deep-sea ports," he added.

The BJP has also promised to conduct a study for developing Greater Kolkata for the next 10 years and expand the Kolkata Metro network by 100 per cent.

Shah further promised that all illegal encroachments would be removed from state government land within 200 days of them forming the government.

Last month, Shah released the BJP 'chargesheet' against

the TMC government, accusing it of misuse and corruption during its 15-year-long rule.

'Mamata more keen on making nephew next CM'

Turning the BJP's Bengal campaign into a personal and ideological overdrive, Amit Shah on Friday accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of being more interested in installing her nephew as the state's next chief minister than in tackling alleged unemployment, corruption, floods and infiltration.

Addressing a rally at Debra in Paschim Medinipur district, Shah trained his guns squarely on Banerjee and her nephew, TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, seeking to cast the 2026 assembly polls as a battle between what he called dynastic politics.

"People here are suffering, but Mamata Banerjee is more interested in making her nephew the next chief minister," Shah said without naming anyone. He said that while Banerjee has only one objective -- "to make her nephew the chief minister" while "PM Narendra Modi wants to provide jobs to Bengal's youth."

With Debra and adjoining Ghatil region reeling every year under floods, Shah also accusing the TMC government of stalling the long-pending Ghatil master plan.

BJP said, "They will control Bengal from Delhi and Gujarat. What we have been saying for years, BJP today agreed that they will control Bengal with outsiders. If BJP comes to power, they will implement the United Civil Code within six months in Bengal. They will control Bengal's food habits, culture and dress. They are already criticising the fish eating habits of Bengalis."

"If someone speaks Bengali in a BJP ruled state, eats their favourite food, speaks Bengali at home, CM of Assam has openly said, they will go to jail. All those who have spoken anti-Bengali in the past, have been rewarded by the BJP," Abhishek claimed.

AMIT SHAH DENIES BJP LINK

AIMIM snaps ties with Kabir after controversy over 'Rs 1K-cr deal' clip

AIMIM decision will not affect party's electoral prospects, AJUP will go solo: Kabir

Ravik Bhattacharya
Kolkata, April 10

THE ALL India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin (AIMIM) on Friday announced to break off its alliance with Humayun Kabir's Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP), a day after a purported video showing the suspended BJP to defeat Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee surfaced on social media.

The announcement comes just nine days after AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and Kabir held a joint rally in Murshidabad, where the former declared that his party's alliance with AJUP would continue beyond the Bengal Assembly polls and into the Lok Sabha elections in 2029.

"Humayun Kabir's revelations have shown how vulnerable Bengal's Muslims are... AIMIM cannot associate with any statements where integrity of Muslims is brought into question," AIMIM posted on X on Friday.

"As of today, AIMIM has withdrawn its alliance with Kabir's party. Bengal's Muslims are one of the poorest, neglected and oppressed communities. Despite decades of secular rule, nothing has been done for them. AIMIM's policy in contesting elections in any state is so that the marginalised communities have an independent political voice," the post read. "We will be contesting the Bengal elections INDEPENDENTLY and will have no alliance with any party going forward," it added.

The AIMIM is contesting in 11 Assembly seats in West Bengal.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, AIMIM Bengal president Imran Solanki said, "Our party has taken a decision to break off the alliance with Humayun Kabir's AJUP. Now we will fight alone in Bengal and win. We have nominated candidates in nine seats for the first phase and two seats for the second phase."

A scheduled joint public meeting of the two parties in Bhagabangola in Murshidabad on Saturday has now been cancelled. "There is no question of a joint rally now. We will campaign on our own and win seats. Owaisi will visit Bengal for cam-



Humayun Kabir and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi held a joint rally in Murshidabad on April 1. FILE

paigning," Solanki added. The AIMIM has named candidates in Raghunathganj, Kandi, Lalgola, Suti, Nalhati, Muraroi, Sujapur, Mothabari and Asansol Uttar seats, which will go to polls on April 23. It has also named candidates for the Bashirhat Uttar and Habra Assembly constituencies, where polling is scheduled in the second phase on April 29.

The party had unsuccessfully contested six seats in 2021 Bengal elections.

Amid the controversy, Union Home Minister Amit Shah dismissed speculations of any BJP link with Kabir, saying the suspended TMC leader and the BJP were "like the North Pole and the South Pole" and could never be together. Speaking to the media, Shah said, "Humayun Kabir and the BJP are like North pole and South pole. They can never meet. It is better to sit in the Opposition for 20 years (in Bengal) than meet someone who is behind building a Babri Masjid (replica)."

Meanwhile, Kabir said that the AIMIM's decision to snap ties would have no impact on his party's electoral prospects and declared that AJUP would fight the assembly polls alone.

"We are not dependent on anyone or any party. I wanted them (for an alliance). They came with us. They have decided to break away from us. It is their decision. They will be able to tell why they backed away. For us, we will contest the elections alone. It won't be a loss for us," Kabir said.

After the video, whose authenticity has not been verified by *The Indian Express*, surfaced on Thursday, the TMC said it "exposed" the BJP's plan to divide the Muslim votes in poll-bound Bengal and alleged that the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) was also involved in the Rs 1,000 crore deal.

Addressing a press conference, the TMC showed the 19-minute clip and demanded a probe by the ED into Kabir's alleged claims. Kabir, has, however, said the video is "AI-generated".

Abhishek slams BJP over manifesto, questions Hasina's asylum

Atri Mitra
Kolkata, April 10

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS MP and party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Friday slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over its manifesto for the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections, questioning the party's stance on Bangladeshi infiltrators.

Addressing a press conference in Kolkata, Abhishek also asked Union Home Minister Amit Shah to clarify whether former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who has been given shelter by the BJP-led Centre, should be termed an

infiltrator. "Why did they give shelter to Sheikh Hasina? Is she an infiltrator or got asylum. To safeguard which industrialist, did BJP give shelter to Hasina?" he asked.

The TMC leader criticised BJP for its response to atrocities on monks in Bangladesh and the attack on Chinmay Prabhu. "When atrocities were happening on monks in Bangladesh, where was the Modi government? When Chinmay Prabhu was attacked, what did the Modi government do?" he asked.

Taking a sharp aim at Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Abhishek said the BJP leader was "rehearsing the same cassette"

over and over again about 'ghuspetiyas' (infiltrators). He criticised the BJP's handling of the Pahalgam terror attack and Delhi car blast last year.

"If you are in power to safeguard the borders, then why did such an attack happen in Pahalgam? How come a blast happened in Delhi?" he questioned.

The TMC MP from Diamond Harbour lambasted the BJP's promise to pay Rs 3,000 per month to women and unemployed youth, terming it a "new jumla" meant to fool the people of West Bengal. "They are basically trying to fool people of Bengal," he said.

He pointed out that the

prime minister had made a similar promise to women in Delhi, but it was not fulfilled. "The Prime Minister himself promised before the Delhi Assembly election last year that the BJP government will give Rs 2,500 to every woman of Delhi before International Women's Day. One year has gone by, a single woman of Delhi did not get 5 paisa," he claimed.

He highlighted the Lakshmir Bhandar project of the TMC government, which provides Rs 1,500 per month to women.

"We are giving each and every woman Rs 1,500 rupees per month without questioning anything. Just show us a single

state which is giving money to every woman. BJP can't give pollution free air to the people, how will the BJP give money?"

The BJP on Friday released the party's 'Sankalp Patra' and promised to pay Rs 3,000 per month to women and unemployed youth countering the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government's Lakshmir Bhandar and Yuba Sathi programme.

Banerjee claimed that the BJP is trying to control Bengal's culture, food habits, and dress. He also cited the example of the Chief Minister of Assam, who had said that anyone speaking Bengali would be jailed.

Abhishek mentioned that

EC rejects nomination of TMC candidate from Krishnanagar

Press Trust Of India
Uttar Kolkata, April 10

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) has rejected the nomination of Trinamool Congress candidate Abhinav Bhattacharya from West Bengal's Krishnanagar Uttar constituency, citing legal provisions under the Representation of the People Act, a senior official said on Friday.

The Returning Officer cancelled Bhattacharya's nomination under Section 9A of the Act, which disqualifies a candidate if the nominee has an existing business interest or contractual engagement with the government.

The official said it came to light that Bhattacharya was engaged with state government-related contractual work

at the time of filing his nomination papers.

"As per the law, individuals directly involved in government contracts or supply arrangements are barred from contesting elections due to conflict of interest," he said.

Bhattacharya termed the development as "unfortunate", but asserted that he would abide by the party's decision.

A senior TMC leader said the party was mulling fielding another candidate from the seat. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had earlier formally introduced Bhattacharya as the party's candidate at a public rally in Shantipur.

Elections to the 294-member West Bengal assembly will be held in two phases on April 23 and April 29. Votes will be counted on May 4.

'Every central agency sold out like in Chaitra sale': Mamata hits out at BJP over voters' name deletion

Sweetie Kumari
Kolkata, April 10

HITTING OUT at the Centre over the deletion of voter names under the SIR exercise in the poll-bound state, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday alleged that every national agency was "dancing to the tunes of BJP" and compared the political climate to Bengali year-end "Chaitra sale".

Addressing an election rally at Tentulia in North 24 Parganas district, Banerjee said, "Ninety lakh names have been deleted from the voter lists. The tribunals have not even started working yet. No agency in the country is neutral. Every central agency is dancing to the tunes of the BJP. It seems that everything has been sold out like in the Chaitra sale."



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a public meeting in Barasat Kachari Maidan, on Friday. EXPRESS

Alleging that the deletion of names was a "calculated move", Banerjee said, "Out of 90 lakh names that have been deleted, 60 lakh are Hindus and 30 lakh are Muslims. Mota Bhai has deleted voters indiscriminately. You can trust a snake once, but you can't trust

the BJP."

She also claimed that the BJP brought people from outside for the Assam elections as it was not confident of victory with the votes of the state's residents. "A trainload of 50,000 people was brought to Assam from Uttar Pradesh," she said.

The TMC supreme alleged that the BJP was trying to use the same ploy in Bengal to bring in people from outside, which is why officers were transferred.

A large number of police and administrative officers were transferred in Bengal by the Election Commission soon after the announcement of the polls.

Banerjee further claimed that in the NRC exercise in Assam, out of 19 lakh names deleted, 13 lakh were Hindus and 6 lakh were Muslims.

She urged those affected by SIR to appeal before the tribunals and assured legal support to ensure legitimate voters are re-enrolled. "I will not allow NRC in Bengal. There will be no detention camps in Bengal till I am in power," Banerjee said.

• BALLOTIN



TMC candidate Nilabati Saha plays football during a campaign at Malbariya village in Birbhum district on Friday. PTI

SC to consider plea against EC's decision to freeze electoral rolls

THE Supreme Court Friday agreed to hear on April 13 a fresh plea along with pending ones challenging the freezing of electoral rolls by the EC ahead of the upcoming assembly polls in Bengal. The poll panel has frozen and finalised the electoral rolls on April 9 for the assembly seats which are going to polls in the first stage. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Panchohi was urged by a lawyer to take up the plea against freezing. The lawyer said many appeals against deletions from electoral rolls are still pending and the poll panel has frozen the rolls on April 9. "We will consider the petition on April 13," the CJ said.

VOTER DELETIONS ADD TO TENSION IN BORDER DISTRICTS

In Bengal, SIR cloud hangs over Muslim belts

TMC believes adjudication will consolidate Muslim base, while BJP hopes to cash in on polarisation

Ravik Bhattacharya & Atri Mitra
Murshidabad, Malda, April 10

WITH MULTIPLE CCTVs strung on lamp posts around it, the house stands out in a Jafraabad neighbourhood in the Samserganj Assembly constituency, with a West Bengal police camp set up nearby. It belongs to Harogobindo Das and his son Chandan Das, who were hacked to death by a mob on April 11 last year, when protests held against the Centre's amended Waqf law had turned violent in the area.

About 20 kms away, in Kasiannagar village in the Suti constituency, the family of Ejaz Ahmed — who was the third fatality in the April 11 violence in Murshidabad — also continues to grapple with their

grief. Ejaz was killed after police allegedly opened fire on protesters at Sajurmore crossing at the National Highway 12.

With barely two weeks to go for the Bengal Assembly elections, Harogobindo's wife Parul Das tells *The Indian Express*: "We have not accepted any compensation from the TMC. But the BJP has helped us. We had demanded a permanent BSF camp in our area, which has yet to come up. There is a state police camp, but we have no trust in them."

In December, a Murshidabad court convicted 13 accused in the killings of the father-son duo to life imprisonment. Parul, however, says, "We still feel insecure. What will these CCTVs do if we are attacked again? The central security forces patrol the area, but they cannot be deployed here forever."



Ejaz Ahmed's mother Saima Bibi (left) and Harogobindo Das' wife Parul. Ejaz, Harogobindo and his son were killed in separate incidents during anti-Waqf protests in Murshidabad last year. PARTHA PAUL

Parul's younger son Soumitra, who had been working as a labourer in Tamil Nadu, has returned home, deciding to stay with his family now.

Ejaz's mother Saima Bibi says his wife Salima has got a job from the Mamata Banerjee-led state government and that she had got a compensation of Rs10 lakh. "TMC took care of us. But now, no one visits us. My daughter-in-law has also shifted to her father's home," she says.

In the Muslim-dominated border districts of Murshidabad and Malda, the conflict between the TMC and the BJP has always played out along communal faultlines however, their battle in the upcoming polls may be defined by the current hot button: the Election Commission (EC)'s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the deletion of many voters, especially after adjudication.

In Murshidabad, of 57.6 lakh

pre-SIR voters, about 2.78 lakh names were deleted after the SIR's first two rounds. Then under adjudication, 4.55 lakh more names were deleted, as per EC data.

Similarly, in Malda, of about 32 lakh pre-SIR electors, about 2 lakh names were deleted following the SIR's initial rounds. Later, 2.4 lakh more names were struck off the voter list under adjudication, the EC data shows. Seats from Malda and Murshidabad saw some of the highest deletions after adjudication. While all the contenders seem to be struggling to gauge the ramifications of the deletions for the polls, the TMC believes this would result in consolidation of its crucial Muslim base.

The BJP, on the other hand, hopes that it could cash in on the ensuing polarisation.

While the SIR adjudication process is over, it has cast a shadow over the polls, with long

queues seen in the offices of Block Development Officers (BDOs) and panchayats across Murshidabad and Malda, as deleted voters seek to file appeals before tribunals, which are yet to be functional.

The deletion of voters led to protests at various crossings on NH 12 in Malda on April 1. On the same day, at the Kaliachak-II BDO office in Mothabari, seven judicial officers were geroached by protesters for several hours and had to be rescued by the police late at night. During the rescue, the protesters allegedly pelted stones at the police. The Supreme Court ordered the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to probe the incident, with 35 arrests being made so far.

In the 2021 Assembly polls, of Murshidabad's 22 seats, the TMC had won 20 against the BJP's two. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the TMC swept all three seats in the district.

"With SIR hitting people hard, it is to be seen whether TMC is able to consolidate its minority base for the upcoming Assembly polls, or Muslim voters would get divided," says a senior CPI(M) leader. In Malda, TMC bagged 8 Assembly seats of 12 in 2021 as compared to the BJP's 4.

But, in 2024, the TMC could not win any of the district's two parliamentary seats with the BJP and the Congress winning one each.

Senior Congress leader and Baharampur candidate, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury alleged. "In 2024, TMC and BJP played communal politics due to which I lost my Baharampur Lok Sabha seat. But people are tired of this kind of politics now."

Congress MP from South Malda Isha Khan Chowdhury said, "Congress is expecting to win several seats in Malda. But the problem is SIR, due to which huge deletions occurred in some seats where we have had a strong base...We don't know which parties' voters have got deleted more. There is utter confusion."



DECISION 2026 WEST BENGAL

POLLS A to Z

WOMEN'S SAFETY emerged as a political flashpoint in Bengal following the 2024 rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College. The BJP has fielded the victim's mother as a candidate and has alleged that women are unsafe in the state. TMC has countered by accusing BJP of shielding leaders facing sexual assault charges.

HEREBY DECLARE



Tamilisai Soundararajan, 64
FORMER TELANGANA GOVERNOR AND BJP CANDIDATE FROM MYLAPORE

TOTAL ASSETS
₹21.21 cr

MOVABLE ₹5.41 cr

IMMOVABLE ₹15.8 cr

LIABILITIES: ₹3.12 cr

EDUCATION: Graduate

PENDING CRIMINAL CASES: 0

2024 LOK SABHA POLLS

TOTAL ASSETS: ₹21.54 cr



Leemarose, 58
AIADMK CANDIDATE FROM LALGUDI

TOTAL ASSETS
₹5,863 cr

MOVABLE ₹3,627 cr

IMMOVABLE ₹2,236 cr

LIABILITIES: ₹339.87 cr

EDUCATION: Class 6

PENDING CRIMINAL CASES: 4

2021 ASSEMBLY POLLS

TOTAL ASSETS: Did not contest

IMAGE OF THE DAY



PICTURE PERFECT: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin poses for a photo with commuters in a Chennai Metro train on Friday. MKSTALIN/X

Assam's record turnout: BJP, Congress claim win, experts say roll revision a key factor

Sukrita Baruah
Guwahati, April 10

A DAY after voting closed in the Assam Assembly election, the record-high voter turnout is now the focus of attention, with both the ruling BJP and Opposition Congress claiming it indicates a surge in their favour, while experts point to a range of factors from the Special Intensive Revision of voter lists to a competitively fought election that saw widespread mobilisation of voters, as well as a polarised environment.

Assam registered its highest voter turnout on Thursday, with the Election Commission (EC) placing it at 85.91%, a figure that may increase in the EC's final count. The turnout is 1.24 percentage points higher than the previous record of 84.67% in the 2016 election, when the BJP came to power after 15 years of Congress governments. According to the latest figures published by the EC on Thursday, of the state's 126 constituencies, 18 registered a voter turnout above 90%.

The highest turnout was a whopping 96.54% in Lower Assam's Birsing Jarua. Six other seats — Chenga, Dalgaon, Gauripur, Jaleshwar, Srijangram and Manakchar — registered turnouts above 95%. Notably, all seven of these are constituencies where Bengali-origin Muslims constitute a majority of the voters. The community routinely registers a high turnout, something that observers attribute to anxieties surrounding citizenship status and fears of names being struck off from electoral rolls.

Addressing a press conference on Friday, Assam BJP president Dilip Saikia said the high turnout in other constituencies is a bigger takeaway.



People wait to cast their votes in Kamrup on Thursday. ANI

TOP 5 SEATS WITH HIGHEST TURNOUT

Seat	2021	2026
Birsing Jarua	82.4%	96.5%
Jaleshwar		96.3%
Gauripur		96.1%
Dalgaon		95.8%
Srijangram		95.8%

SOURCE: EC

DECISION 2026 ASSAM

"We have always known that constituencies like Chenga and Dalgaon will have 96-97% voting. But that the turnout in Nalbari or Tihu would be nearly 90% is not something a lot of people had foreseen... We will just say our own sinaki (familiar) people have given more votes this time... Our other people who would earlier hesitate in some way have come forward to vote for a strong government," he said.

Saikia said that according to the party's assessment, a high turnout would be a factor that "positively affects" the outcome in the NDA's favour in more than 25 seats, and predicted a "historic mandate" for the ruling party.

Assam Congress leader and Dispur candidate Mira Borthakur Goswami, on the other hand, pointed to the traditional understanding that a high turn-

out signals anti-incumbency. "People were in line from 8 am to 5 pm because they wanted *poriborton* (change). The silent voters will come to us because they cannot tolerate the misgovernance under and behaviour of Himanta Biswa Sarma, and no one else in the BJP has control over the situation," she said.

However, political commentator and Cachar College professor Joydeep Biswas said he doubts that this "standard theory" explains the turnout in Assam.

"What I see it as is 'competitive voting' driven by the polarised environment and election, where even though minority voters have always had a tendency to vote in higher numbers, there is greater fear. On the other hand, other voters have been repeatedly told that there is a threat to their culture and existence. It is competitive on both sides," he said.

A professor at Gauhati University, Akhil Ranjan Dutta, said one straightforward factor contributing to higher turnouts would be the Special Revision exercise undertaken ahead of the elections. In the final voter list released on February 10, there was a net decrease of 2.43 lakh voters from the draft list released earlier, resulting from deaths, voters shifting, and removal of voters appearing in rolls of multiple constituencies.

He too counted "competitiveness" as a factor, but gave more weight to competitive organisation and mobilisation by parties and candidates, and community groups.

He also particularly emphasised women's participation. Women's voter turnout this time stands at 86.5%, up from 82.01% in 2021. "Because of the beneficiary schemes targeting women, there has been an unprecedented wave of women as agents of political mobilisation and campaigning," he said.

Voter turnout dips in CPM's Kannur strongholds

Shaju Philip
Thiruvananthapuram, April 10

AFTER THE high voter turnout in the Assembly election in Kerala, both the ruling and Opposition parties in the state have expressed confidence that they will come out on top.

In the election held on Thursday, following the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, Kerala recorded a polling percentage of 78.27. Out of the 140 constituencies, 42 seats recorded more than 80% polling.

While the Ranni constituency in Pathanamthitta district recorded the lowest turnout at 68.98%, it did see an improvement from 2021, when 65.84% of the eligible voters turned up. The constituency that recorded the

highest turnout this time was Kunnamangalam, with 84.83%. Malappuram, the stronghold of Indian Union Muslim League, saw its highest turnout since the 2011 Assembly election. Eight constituencies in the district recorded polling above 80%.

Ernakulam also saw polling cross 80% in eight of its 14 seats. The increase was tangible in the urban constituencies of the district, such as Thrikkakara, Ernakulam, Thripunithura, Kunnathunadu and Kochi.

The Thiruvananthapuram urban area, which is known for low voter turnout, saw a noticeable increase in polling. In Nemom, where BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar is a candidate, the polling percentage has gone up from 71.33% in 2021 to 80.62%. A sharp increase was also seen in Kazhakkootam, Vat-



Nuns outside a booth in Alappuzha on Thursday. PTI

tiyoorkavu and Thiruvananthapuram Central seats.

Several CPI(M) strongholds in Kannur district, where CM Pinarayi Vijayan and a battery of leaders are in the fray, have seen a slight fall in turnout. Payyanur, Kalyasseri, Taliparamba, Dharmadam and Azhikode, all of which are currently held by the CPI(M), have recorded de-

TOP 5 SEATS WITH HIGHEST TURNOUT

Seat	2021	2026
Kunnamangalam	76%	84.83%
Chittur		84.63%
Kunnathunad		84.09%
Beypore		83.77%
Aroor		83.35%

SOURCE: EC

creased polling. Among these, Taliparamba and Payyanur are two seats where the LDF is being challenged by rebels backed by the UDF.

LDF convener T P Ramakrishnan has said that anti-incumbency would not be a factor. "The LDF will remain in power. The UDF was spreading lies, and they will not get minority votes.

People have voted for development and welfare," he said.

On the other hand, state LoP V D Sathesnan said UDF would come to power with 100-plus seats. "We are going to have a clean sweep in five districts. This election marked the best show by UDF workers and leaders. We have exposed the CPI(M)-BJP deal," he said.

Historically, a higher turnout does not indicate who will be favoured by voters. In 1991, the state recorded a turnout of 73.42%, with Congress coming to power with 90 seats. In 1996, the Left returned to power with 80 seats, even though polling had dropped to 71.16%. The seesaw in power between the Congress and the Left continued until LDF won back-to-back elections in 2016 and 2021. Turnout was 77.53% in 2016, up from 75.26% in 2011. In 2021, when the LDF increased its seat share from 91 to 99, turnout stood at 76%.

THE UNION HOME MINISTER'S RECENT STAYS IN POLL-BOUND STATES ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE PAID OFF FOR THE BJP

Shah pitches tent in Bengal for 15 days, focus on seats BJP narrowly lost in 2021

Liz Mathew
New Delhi, April 10

LAST WEEK at the nomination rally for Suvendu Adhikari, senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that he would camp in poll-bound West Bengal for 15 days, in one of his longest unbroken election stays in a state.

Underlining the importance of winning the unconquered frontier of Bengal for the party, Shah said: "We will win seats one after another and push the number to 175 (out of a total of 294). Change (in the state) will come after that. I will stay in West Bengal for 15 days during the elections."

The site of the announcement — Bhabanipur — was also significant. Adhikari is the BJP candidate from the seat against Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee. An arch-rival of Banerjee, Adhikari had defeated her in the last Assembly polls from Nandigram.

The Union Home Minister began his extended stay in Bengal on Friday, addressing a rally in Debra in Paschim Medinipur district and releasing the party's manifesto in Kolkata. Sources said that during his 15-day stay, Shah will be spending nights in key constituencies of north Bengal, a region the BJP has traditionally dominated since 2019, taking feedback from party leaders,

giving key strategic advice, ironing out any differences among the local leadership, and placating leaders unhappy about being denied tickets.

In north Bengal, Shah is expected to spend time in Siliguri and Balurghat, and to stay in Hooghly in south Bengal, and Kharagpur and Durgapur in south-west, among other places. The focus will be on constituencies where the BJP lost in 2021 by narrow margins.

Shah will also be addressing a public rally or participating in a roadshow in the places where he spends nights.

Ahead of the 2023 Madhya Pradesh, the 2024 Maharashtra and the 2025 Bihar Assembly



Amit Shah at a rally in Debra, Paschim Medinipur, on Friday. PTI

elections, Shah, who remains the BJP's top poll strategist, had similarly held meetings stretching late into the night with local

leaders and booth workers to discuss the party's weaknesses and strategy.

In Bihar, where the BJP

emerged as the single-largest party by far and is set to have its first-ever CM, Shah's poll preparations included splitting the state into 45 organisational clusters, and directly overseeing feedback from these to drive the campaign — not just for the BJP but also the NDA.

"In Bengal, Shah is likely to cover 20-25 constituencies during each night stay. He will have dinner with leaders and meet eminent personalities from the respective regions for talks," a source said.

The source said that Shah will concentrate on constituencies where the BJP narrowly lost in 2021, with sitting MLAs and state leaders expected

to be able to manage seats where the party won.

In the 2021 Assembly elections, the BJP had won 77 seats, a huge jump from 3 in 2016, with its vote share rising more than three times from around 10% to 38%, on the back of a high-decibel campaign. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, while the TMC had clawed back, reducing the BJP from 18 seats in 2019 to 12, the BJP had retained its vote share.

Shah's attention has been on Bengal since last year. In September 2025, the BJP appointed senior leader and Union minister Bhupender Yadav, a trusted Shah hand who oversaw the party's successful campaigns in Madhya Pradesh, Ma-

harashtra and Bihar, as election in charge, with Biplob Kumar Deb, former Tripura chief minister, as co-in charge.

Shah was in Bengal in December for a three-day visit, meeting and discussing the party's preparations, and returned in January 2026. In February, during another visit to Bengal, Shah said the BJP-led NDA alliance was in power in 21 states and Union Territories, but that it was not enough for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party workers. "There will be a smile on their faces when there is a BJP government in West Bengal," he said.

West Bengal will vote in two phases, on April 23 and April 29.

Colonel Purohit promoted to Brigadier

Amrita Nayak Dutta
New Delhi, April 10

LESS THAN a month after his retirement was put on hold by the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), Colonel Shrikant Purohit, acquitted in the 2008 Malegaon blast case in 2025, has been approved for promotion to Brigadier, defence sources told *The Indian Express*. He will now serve for at least two more years, until the age of 56.

The retirement age for Brigadiers in the Army is 56, while for Colonels, it is 54. Col Purohit will also be eligible for further promotions beyond Brigadier, on par with his batch. He had earlier missed his promotion as a full Col, and as a time-scale Col, he was scheduled to retire at the age of 54 on March 31, 2026.

Acquitted in July 2025 in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, Col Purohit had moved the AFT stating that because of the trial, which went on for 17 years, he could not avail his right to be considered for promotion which affected his career. While he was released on bail in 2017, he was under a Discipline and Vigilance ban. His suspension was, however, revoked in July 2020.

10 pilgrims, mostly from Punjab, die as boat capsizes in Mathura

Manish Sahu
Lucknow, April 10

NINE PILGRIMS from Punjab and one from Haryana died after a motorboat carrying a group of devotees capsized in the Yamuna river in Vrindavan area of Mathura district on Friday, police said.

According to police, the motorboat was carrying around 27 pilgrims. Fifteen people were rescued and taken to hospital, where doctors said their condition was stable.

Two to three persons may still be missing, police said, adding that additional lights have been installed for overnight rescue operations.

Citing the survivors' accounts, police said that the boat is believed to have struck a pontoon bridge and overturned after the operator apparently misjudged the distance, according to police.

Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were rushed to the spot to join the rescue operation by police personnel, boatmen and local



Rescue operation underway in Mathura on Friday. ANI

divers, police said.

"So far, 15 people have been rescued and the operation is underway. All the victims are from Punjab and had been staying in Mathura for the last two days. The motorboat was carrying them across the river to a temple," said Rajeev Kumar Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police, Mathura.

Medical and administrative teams have also been deployed at the scene, coordinating with emergency responders to ensure prompt assistance to the victims, police said.

"We have so far recovered the bodies of 10 devotees — five men and five women — all from Punjab," said Shailesh Kumar Pandey, Deputy In-

spector General of Police, Agra Range.

Preliminary inquiries suggest that the victims had hired the motorboat to cross the river to visit a temple. The vessel overturned between Banshi Vat and Keshi Ghat in the Vrindavan area, police said, adding the operator, however, managed to swim to safety.

'Tum kaale ho, you do not deserve me': Wife arrested for 'plotting' murder of MP man

Anand Mohan J
Bhopal, April 10

BEFORE SHE went to bed on April 7 night, Priyanka Purohit allegedly left the front door of her home in Gondikhedha Charan village, Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district, unlocked. Two men allegedly came in after some time, found her husband Devkrishna — a 28-year-old chilli trader — asleep, and killed him with a sharp weapon.

When they left, Priyanka allegedly sat in the dark for 15 minutes. Then she screamed. She allegedly told police that robbers had tied her up, looted gold and silver worth Rs 3 lakh as well as Rs 50,000 in cash, and killed Devkrishna when he resisted. But then came the twist — the jewellery was allegedly found inside the house, her phone records told a different story, and details of the incident changed with each retelling. Within 48 hours, she confessed, police said.

On Thursday, Priyanka (25) was arrested, along with her friend Kamlesh Purohit (31).

The couple's marriage had been arranged when both were 15 — a 'baal vivah' neither had chosen. The two remained with their parents until they became adults, with Priyanka only moving into Devkrishna's home in 2021. There were problems from the start, with Priyanka allegedly making her resentment known. Devkrishna's sister Jyoti said that Priyanka would even make colourist remarks about his skin. "She would tell him 'Tum kaale



Priyanka Purohit (25) has been arrested, police said. EXPRESS

ho (You're dark, you don't deserve me'. She picked fights, disappeared to her parents' home for days, returned only to fight again, and threatened to file false cases against the family."

Since 2017, Jyoti had allegedly been in a relationship with Kamlesh, who ran a dhaba in Raigarh. Kamlesh was married and had two kids, police said.

On March 31, Priyanka returned from her parents' home. That same day, she and Kamlesh allegedly settled on a price: Rs 1 lakh to have her husband killed. They allegedly hired an assassin, Surendra Bhati, from Chhadvad. Surendra was a known history cheater, having served four years for a 2020 Mumbai shooting and wanted for a 2025 robbery in Kukshi. "Rs 50,000 was paid upfront for the killing," police said.

"We probed robbery angle, and eventually the suspicion fell on the wife. During interrogation, she confessed that she had left the door open, that Kamlesh stood outside, that she waited for the signal before raising the alarm. The plan was to make it look like a robbery and mislead us," SP Mayank Awasthi told *The Indian Express*.

Two years after it was proposed, Mumbai opens first detention centre for illegal foreign nationals

Mohamed Thaver
Mumbai, April 10

NEARLY TWO years after it was first mooted and months after being described as "almost ready", the state's first 'shandbadhata kendra' (detention centre) in central Mumbai has finally become operational. The facility, located in Bhoiwada, began functioning two weeks ago and currently houses around 40 Bangladeshi nationals awaiting deportation.

Last month, *The Indian Express* had reported that the centre remained unused due to a bureaucratic deadlock over its management, even as police struggled to accommodate detainees who could not be jailed as they were not facing criminal charges. In 2025, police detained and deported 1,058 Bangladeshi nationals, many of whom were temporarily housed in police station rooms. "On March 26, the facility that can house nearly 80 people was made operational; it was taken over by the Social Welfare department with security provided by the Maharashtra State Security Force within the compound and a constable outside the two-storey structure that has 20 rooms each floor with two bunk beds on either sides," a senior officer said.

That the 40 people lodged at the centre will remain until being transported to the Indo-Bangla border for deportation, the officer said. A lone police guard from the Local Arms Division was stationed outside the structure during a visit by



The 40-room building can accommodate 80 people. MOHAMED THAVER

The Indian Express. Sources said that the Social Justice and Special Assistance department, which manages the facility, has divided it into male and female sections, with space for 60 men and 20 women. "All the necessary facilities such as food, bath-rooms and bunk beds are available at the detention centre."

However, operational challenges remain. "The division of male and female sections was skewed as they assumed more men would be detained. In reality, more women are being detained and the space for 20 women has already filled up due to which we have to house some of them in police stations," an officer said. "We will request the Social Welfare department to make necessary changes..." the officer said.

While over 1,061 Bangladeshi nationals were deported in 2025, nearly 400 have been detained this year, until March-end — 220 by the Mumbai police, and 180

by other units. "While the capacity of the detention centre may at times be inadequate, but with people staying there hopefully for a few weeks before they are deported, it should not be an issue," the official said. The delay in operationalising the centre stemmed from disagreements between departments. The SJSA department had expressed reservations about handling foreign nationals, while police maintained that the detainees were neither accused in criminal cases nor in judicial custody. The issue was resolved with the SJSA taking charge.

In July 2024, the Maharashtra government approved two detention centres for illegal foreign nationals: A temporary 80-capacity facility in Bhoiwada, and a permanent centre at Balegaon SRPF grounds, Navi Mumbai with a capacity of 213. While the Navi Mumbai project has completed tendering, it is yet to become operational.

A guiding light for generations: PM pays tribute to Phule on birth anniversary

Express News Service
New Delhi, April 10

PAYING TRIBUTE to social reformer Jyotirao Phule on his birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was an example of how social change could happen within society and did not have to wait for a change from outside.

"Our land has been blessed, time and again, by great men and women who have strengthened society through thought, sacrifice and action. They did not wait for change to arrive from somewhere else. They became its source. For hundreds of years in our land, the clarion call for social betterment has often risen from within society itself, from those who could see suffering clearly and refused to accept it as fate. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule was one such voice," PM Modi said.

"Today, 11th April, is a deeply special day for all of us. It is the birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, one of India's greatest social reformers and a guiding light for generations. This year, the occasion carries even greater significance, as it marks the beginning of his 200th birth anniversary celebrations," the PM said. "His contribution to our civilisational journey lies in the hope he aroused, the confidence he instilled and the strength his thoughts continue to give to millions of people across the nation." He said Mahatma Phule was blessed with a spirit of enquiry since his childhood, which remained constant in his journey. Quoting the reformer, the PM said: "The more questions we generate, the more knowledge emerges from them."

Hailing Phule as "one of India's greatest social reformers and a guiding light for generations", Modi said: "Throughout his life, learning and education became central to Mahatma Phule's mission. He recognised with rare clarity that knowledge is not a privilege to be guarded, but a force to be shared. At a time when the joys of learning were denied to many, he opened pioneering schools for girls and for those kept out of formal education. He used to say, 'Any improvement that comes in children through mothers is deeply valuable. Therefore, if schools are to be opened, they should first be opened for girls'. He worked to create a new social imagination in which the classroom became an instrument of justice and equality."

PM Modi sought to link his government's policies with the inspirations derived from the life of Phule. "His vision for education inspires us greatly. Over the last decade, we have worked to make research and innovation a cornerstone for the youth of India. Efforts are being made to create an ecosystem where young minds are encouraged to question, explore and innovate. By investing in knowledge, skills and opportunity, India is empowering its youth to become problem solvers and drivers of national progress."

Locating Phule's social milieu, Modi said, "Born in the great state of Maharashtra in 1827, Mahatma Phule emerged from modest beginnings. But his initial hardships never stood



As we mark the beginning of his bicentenary year, the most fitting tribute to Mahatma Jyotirao Phule is about renewal. Renewal of our commitment to subjects close to his heart, such as education. Renewal of our sensitivity to injustice. Renewal of our faith that society can improve itself from within"

in the way of his learning, his courage or his commitment to society. This is a trait that remained with him forever. Whatever the challenges may be, one must work hard, acquire knowledge and mitigate those challenges instead of doing nothing about it... From his school days, young Jyotirao was deeply curious and became a voracious reader, often reading books far beyond what children his age were expected to engage with."

"Due to his knowledge and wisdom, Mahatma Phule developed a strong understanding of areas such as agriculture, healthcare and rural development. He often said that injustice towards our farmers and workers weakens our society. He saw how social inequalities manifested themselves in daily life, be it in the farms or in villages. Hence, he immersed himself in ensuring dignity for the poor, the downtrodden and the marginalised. At the same time, he made every possible effort to ensure social harmony was maintained," the PM said.

Citing Phule's opinion that "true freedom can't be achieved until everyone in society is granted equal rights", the PM said: "He built institutions that translated this vision into ac-

tion, contributing to a just society. The Satyashodhak Samaj, founded by him, was one of the most important social reform movements in modern India... It became an effective voice for women, youngsters and those living in villages... This movement reflected Mahatma Phule's intrinsic belief that society could be strengthened by placing at its core justice, respect for every person and a spirit of collective progress."

PM Modi said working tirelessly among people took a toll on Phule's health, but it did not deter him. "His personal life, too, carried lessons in courage. Always working and being among the people took a toll on his health. But even the most serious health challenges did not dim his resolve. After suffering a debilitating stroke, he continued to work and fulfil his vision. Yes, his body had been tested, but his commitment to society had not yielded."

PM Modi also paid tribute to Savitribai Phule. "No remembrance of Mahatma Phule can be complete without a respectful mention of Savitribai Phule, who was herself one of the tallest reformers of our nation. As one of India's pioneering women teachers, she played a defining role in advancing education for girls, thus giving them the opportunity to pursue their dreams. After Mahatma Phule's passing, Savitribai carried forward that torch and, in 1897, during a plague outbreak, she served victims with such devotion that she herself contracted the disease and lost her own life."

"I fondly recall my visit to Pune in 2022, when I had offered tributes to Mahatma Phule at his grand statue in the city. As we mark the beginning of his bicentenary year, the most fitting tribute to Mahatma Jyotirao Phule is about renewal. Renewal of our commitment to subjects close to his heart, such as education. Renewal of our sensitivity to injustice. Renewal of our faith that society can improve itself from within," PM Modi said.

Govt: 2.49L hectare of crop land affected by unseasonal rain, states to assess damage

Harikishan Sharma
Bhopal, April 10

AROUND 2.49 LAKH hectares of agricultural land has been affected across several parts of the country in the recent unseasonal rains, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Friday.

The Centre has instructed states to conduct an assessment of damage caused to crops by recent hail storms and related weather events. Several parts of India reported rain in late March and early April, affecting crops

like wheat, which is harvested around this time. Chouhan said, "It is difficult to provide a precise estimate, as the states are in the process of conducting their assessments. The figures I received three days ago indicated that nearly 2.49 lakh hectares had been affected. However, this is not the final figure, as adverse weather conditions have persisted continuously since then."

"I have instructed all the state governments to immediately conduct an assessment of the damage in their respective regions... I have urged that these

surveys be conducted by three departments — Revenue, Agriculture, and Panchayat Raj."

Chouhan said, "We have convened a meeting regarding the crop insurance scheme and mobilised the team into action." He said the crop most affected by the unseasonal rains is wheat besides a few horticulture crops. The worst-hit states include Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, and Punjab.

He also announced that a three-day farm fair, Unnat Krishi Mahotsav, will begin in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen on Saturday.

{ COLONEL SONAM WANGCHUK (RETD) • 1964-2026 }

Kargil war hero Col Wangchuk dies of heart attack

Varinder Bhatia
Chandigarh, April 10

COLONEL SONAM Wangchuk (retired), Kargil War hero and a Mahavir Chakra awardee, died of a heart attack at his residence in Leh. He was 61. Col Wangchuk, who had led a "daring counter-ambush" killing enemy soldiers and securing Chhorbat La in the Batalik sector on a freezing night in the 1999 theatre, was nicknamed the "Lion of Ladakh". His exploits had earned him the Maha Vir Chakra, India's second-highest wartime gallantry award.

Born in Leh in 1964, Col Wangchuk completed his schooling at Modern School, Delhi. He left his graduation midway at Sri Venkateswara College to join the Army and was commissioned into the Assam Regiment in 1987. He served deployments in the Northeast and as part of the IPKF in Sri Lanka before being deputed to the Ladakh Scouts, the Army's specialist high-altitude formation

known as the 'Snow Warriors'. The Kargil War began in 1999 when Pakistani forces occupied strategic heights along the LoC. Hostilities escalated after intrusions were detected on May 3, leading to coordinated military action, including air strikes by the IAF and the launch of Operation Vijay by the Army. One of the most critical sectors during the war was Chhorbat La in Batalik sub-sector, at an altitude of 18,000 ft. The area held strategic importance due to its proximity to the NH-1A and its historical use as an infiltration route.

Col Wangchuk, then a Major, was tasked with securing Chhorbat La and establishing an observation post under extreme weather conditions. The Army, sharing excerpts from the citation of his gallantry award, said: "On May 30, 1999, Major Sonam Wangchuk was leading a column of the Indus Wing, Ladakh Scouts, as a part of the ongoing operations during Operation Vijay in Batalik sector. The column was tasked to occupy Ridge



Col Sonam Wangchuk (retd) led a counter-ambush, killing enemy soldiers and securing Chhorbat La in Batalik sub-sector in 1999

Line on the LoC in a glaciated area at a height of about 5,500 metres. This was essential to prevent its occupation by the enemy and subsequent infiltration." While moving towards the LoC, the enemy ambushed the column by firing from a vantage position; one NCO of Ladakh Scouts sustained fatal injuries. Then Major Wangchuk, he held his column together and in a "daring counter ambush", and led a raid on the enemy position

from a flank, killing two of them. He seized a heavy machine gun and one universal machine gun, ammunition, and controlled stores. His successful mission marked one of the earliest victories for Indian forces during the Kargil War, setting the tone for subsequent operations. In recognition of his bravery, two posts in the sector — 'Sonam 1' and 'Sonam 2' — were named after him. His actions during the conflict earned him the Maha Vir Chakra. Paying tributes, General V P Malik (retired), who was heading the Army during the Kargil War, termed Col Wangchuk "a brave leader and a thorough gentleman".

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in a post on X, described him as a "highly decorated officer, renowned for his gallantry, resolute leadership and unwavering commitment to duty". "A proud son of Ladakh, he exemplified the spirit of the region — resilient, steadfast and deeply rooted in service to the nation, while standing as a symbol of In-

dia's unity in diversity... His life remains a testament to courage, sacrifice and national integration and his legacy will continue to inspire coming generations."

The Army, through the Additional Directorate General of Public Information, said, "General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff and all ranks of the Army pay heartfelt homage to Col Wangchuk — a brave soldier, a committed leader and a son of Ladakh whose life embodied courage, service and unity". Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps posted on X said that Col Wangchuk's "indomitable spirit and military acumen contributed significantly to the nation's success in the most challenging high altitude operations".

Col Wangchuk is survived by wife Padma Angmo, an UT cadre civil servant and currently posted in Delhi, and son Riggyal Otuvu, who works in Bengaluru. Buddhist monks would be performing prayers and rituals before fixing a date for the final rites, his family said.

Govt defers power plant maintenance amid gas shortage



At least 15 GW coal capacity was planned for maintenance, out of which 10 GW will not go for maintenance. REUTERS

Pratyush Deep
New Delhi, April 10

INDIA HAS delayed planned maintenance shutdown of 10 gigawatt (GW) capacity of coal-based power plants by three months to ensure uninterrupted power supply amid gas supply constraints triggered by the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

A planned maintenance shutdown of a coal power plant is a scheduled, temporary cessation of operations to perform crucial repairs, inspections, and upgrades that cannot be done while the plant is running. At an inter-ministerial briefing on the West Asia crisis on Friday, Piyush Singh, additional secretary at Ministry of Power, said around 8 GW of gas-based power generation capacity is hit due to higher fuel costs under the impact of the Iran war.

At least 15 GW coal-based

capacity was planned for maintenance during this period.

Out of which 10 GW would not go for maintenance while the rest 5 GW will carry out the scheduled maintenance.

Singh also said that the government plans to add 22 GW capacity in the next three months to accelerate power generation. These included 3.5 GW of thermal power, 10 GW of solar, 2.5 GW of wind, 1.9 GW of Battery Energy Storage System, 3.4 GW of wind and solar hybrid, 750 MW of hydro and 250 MW of pump hydro storage. While gas accounts for only a small share in India's overall generation mix, it plays a crucial rebalancing role during evening peak hours, when solar output drops. The government has said that it plans to use "alternative sources" like coal coal-based generation for reduced gas-based generation.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

'INDIA MUST CHASE EVERY DROP OF OIL & GAS, RAMP UP STRATEGIC RESERVES'

ONGC chief: Notion of easy access to Gulf energy hit

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, April 10

THE WEST Asia war and the halt in vessel movements through the critical chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz have put a question mark on certain long-held assumptions in the energy sector, like the reliability of Gulf energy for India, and the country must act to quickly diversify its energy sources, meaningfully expand strategic oil and gas reserves, and chase "each and every drop of oil, gas, and coal" that can be produced domestically, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Chairman and CEO Arun Kumar Singh said on Friday.

Government-owned ONGC is India's largest producer of crude oil and natural gas.

"I now firmly believe that thinking that the Middle East is nearest to us, and therefore (we have access to) all their resources, I think that assumption should be taken with a pinch of salt," Singh said at an industry event in the Capital.

He also opined that this war may not be just a temporary phenomenon, but a lingering disturbance that could rear its head every now and then due to permanent ideological and internal divisions in the region, which itself is a long-term threat to supply stability.

The effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran, now in its second month, has led to the worst energy supply crisis

• CONTINGENCY PLANNING

WEST ASIA war may not be just a temporary phenomenon, but a lingering disturbance that could rear its head every now and then due to permanent ideological and internal divisions in the region, which itself is a long-term threat to supply stability

SO FAR, the global energy sector functioned on assumption that globalisation will increase, but the hypothesis is now threatened

AS THE world gets more and more "degloblised", there are



ONGC Chairman & CEO Arun Kumar Singh. ONGC

bound to be more problems for India. No one ever believed that one day the strait would be closed. Had that been the case, nobody would have invested so much in countries like Qatar

in decades. About a fifth of global oil and gas transit through the critical maritime chokepoint that connects the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea. Much of these oil and gas volumes go to Asian economies, including India.

The country depends on imports to meet over 88% of its crude oil needs, 40% of which depend on the Strait of Hormuz. As for natural gas, India's import dependency is about 50%, and 55-60% of India's liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports come via the Strait.

In the case of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), India's reliance on imports is 60%, and a whopping 90% of those come through the critical waterway. The supply disruption forced

reduction in natural gas and LPG supplies to certain industries in India as the government was forced to prioritise the requirements of households and priority sectors.

According to Singh, so far, the global energy sector functioned on the assumption that globalisation will increase, but that hypothesis is now threatened and challenged.

As the world gets more and more "degloblised", there are bound to be more problems at hand for energy importers like India, he said, adding that no one ever believed that there would come a day when the Strait of Hormuz would be closed. "Had that been the case, nobody would have invested so much in countries like Qatar,"

the ONGC Chairman said. He said that there is a fundamental "paradigm shift" where the world is moving away from the globalised order of the last 30 years, suggesting that the "orderly" world under a single superpower is over, which may lead to a "war of supremacy" with multiple competing powers. His concerns also centred on the physical vulnerability of energy infrastructure, particularly in West Asia.

He noted that with precision weapons, modern warfare or sabotage does not require destroying an entire refinery; rather, just targeting the crude distillation unit (CDU) will disable the refinery for years.

The West Asia war saw multiple precision attacks on energy infrastructure in the region with low-cost drones and missiles.

This vulnerability is compounded by a shift in global dynamics where countries no longer want to share physical oil in joint projects with other countries, and instead insist that the partners take their share in the form of dividends.

"We should chase wherever oil or gas is in our country at any cost, because in a crisis nobody (will help)," Singh said.

He added that while India oil and gas exploration is being pursued intently, more needs to be done, particularly in deep water areas.

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SRINIVASAN & VIJAY SINGH RENEW IPO CALL

Shapoorji group also pushes for Tata Sons' listing

Group holds 18% stake in Tata Sons

George Mathew
Mumbai, April 10

CLOSE ON the heels of Tata Trusts trustees Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh, the Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) group which holds over 18% stake in Tata Sons has come out demanding listing of the Tata group holding company on the stock exchanges as it will "reinforce corporate governance, deepen transparency and accountability".

"As I have stated earlier, we would like to reiterate that a timely listing of Tata Sons is not merely a regulatory compliance but a necessary evolution. To date, no clear, evidence-based case has been presented to explain how a public listing would materially damage the interests of the trusts or reduce their ability to serve beneficiaries," Shapoorji Pallonji Mistry, Chairman of the SP group said on Friday.

"A publicly listed holding company strengthens board accountability, broadens the investor base, and secures long-term value for all stakeholders," Mistry said. The SP group was looking for an exit from Tata Sons to fund its business plans.

Trustees Venu Srinivasan of the TVS Group and Vijay Singh have publicly advocated listing Tata Sons through an initial public offering (IPO), contrasting with a resolution passed a year ago by Tata trusts to retain its unlisted status.

Shapoorji is the brother of late Cyrus Mistry who was Chairman of Tata Sons. Noel Tata is married to Aloo Mistry, who is the sister of Shapoorji and Cyrus Mistry. Their grandfather Shapoorji Pallonji Mistry bought the stake in Tata Sons through two or three transac-

tions over 50 years ago. However, the SP group doesn't have a seat on the board of Tata Sons.

Incidentally, Mehli Mistry, who was ousted from Tata Trusts late last year is the cousin of Shapoorji and Cyrus.

"Besides, a listing will unlock value for millions of retail shareholders, create a more defined and robust dividend stream for the Tata Trusts, and expand the social and philanthropic impact that benefits the poorest sections of our country," Mistry said. According to him, this group will only be strengthened through complying with RBI mandated listing.

"While we remained in constructive engagement with the Tata Sons leadership to come to an amicable reconciliation at the earliest, we look towards the RBI for a decisive direction with regards to the listing," he said. "We repose full faith in the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India to act decisively," he said.

On October 10, 2025, the SP group had said the public listing of Tata Sons is not merely a financial step — it is a moral and social imperative.

"It will unlock immense value for over 1.2 crore shareholders of listed Tata companies, who are indirect shareholders of Tata Sons, representing the aspirations of all Indians — the very citizens who have, for decades, held faith in the Tata name as a symbol of integrity and national pride," it said. Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Pvt Ltd is a global diversified institution, with a leading presence in the sectors of engineering and construction, infrastructure, real estate, water, energy and financial services.

DEBT-FOCUSED FUNDS, HOWEVER, SAW AN OUTFLOW OF RS 2.95 LAKH CRORE DURING THE MONTH MARRED BY WAR

Equity mutual fund inflows hit 8-mth high in March

Flows into gold & silver ETFs remained lukewarm after record highs in January

Akash Mandal
Mumbai, April 10

Net inflows into equity-focused mutual funds rose 56% month-on-month to Rs 40,450 crore in March, the highest level since July 2025, data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed.

However, debt-focused funds saw an outflow of Rs 2.95 lakh crore during the month. Overall, the mutual funds industry saw net outflows of Rs 2.40 lakh crore, compared to inflows of Rs 94,530 crore last month.

The contribution of systematic investment plans (SIPs) in mutual fund flows touched a record high of Rs 32,087 crore in March, compared to Rs 29,845 crore in February.

Notably, February was a shorter month, which likely affected the numbers. Flexi-cap funds were the biggest contributor among equity funds, with inflows jumping 45% to Rs 10,054 crore. Mid- and small-cap funds saw inflows rise 51% and 61%, respectively, to Rs 6,063 crore and Rs 6,263.56



Overall, the MF industry saw net outflows of Rs 2.40 lakh cr. REUTERS

crore. All other categories, except sectoral/thematic funds, also saw inflow growth during the month. Overall, the average assets under management (AUM) of equity mutual funds fell to below Rs 32 lakh crore from Rs 35.6 lakh crore the previous month due to the sharp correction in the equity markets during that time.

In March, the benchmark Sensex index fell by over 11% as the conflict in West Asia and the resultant high crude oil prices soured investor sentiment. "While the headline numbers for March 2026, a net outflow of Rs 2,39,910 crore and AUM declining... may spook investors, both are misleading in isolation. The AUM decline is a mark-to-market story driven by a sharp equity market correc-

tion during the month, not a confidence story. The net outflow is almost entirely driven by debt fund redemptions, which is a well-established quarter-end phenomenon in March," said Nitin Agrawal, CEO of mutual funds at InCred Money. "Flexi Cap gains the spotlight as the top segment for inflows, reinforcing the importance of diversification across market caps when volatility is elevated. Mid Cap and Small Cap also witnessed sharp acceleration despite meaningful drawdowns, signalling that value buying opportunities are emerging in these segments," said Agrawal.

Flows into gold and silver exchange-traded funds (ETFs) remained lukewarm after record highs in January, when

• AGAINST THE TIDE

FLEXI-CAP funds were the biggest contributor among equity funds, with inflows jumping 45% to Rs 10,054 crore

MID- AND small-cap funds saw inflows rise 51% and 61%, respectively, to Rs 6,063 crore and Rs 6,263.56 crore

IN MARCH the benchmark Sensex fell by over 11% as the conflict in West Asia and the resultant high crude oil prices soured investor sentiment as they rushed to sell stocks, while Flits too hit the sell button amid the falling rupee

they had stolen the spotlight from equity funds. Gold ETFs saw inflows of Rs 2,266 crore in March, down from Rs 5,255 crore in February and the peak of Rs 24,040 crore in January. Outflows in silver ETFs declined to Rs 684 crore from Rs 826 crore a month ago. "Moderation in Gold ETF flows points to a renewed optimism around equities," according to Agrawal of InCred.

However, flows into other ETFs quadrupled to Rs 19,802 crore. Index funds saw inflows nearly tripling to Rs 8,169 crore. Investors are now cyclically shifting to equity ETFs, said Kunal Rambhia, fund manager and trading strategist at The Streets.

FULL REPORT ON
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Markets gain 6% over the week, snap six week losing streak

Akash Mandal
Mumbai, April 10

THE BENCHMARK stock indices ended nearly 6% higher for the week, ending a run of six straight weeks of decline, as a ceasefire between the US and Iran significantly reduced volatility and encouraged a more risk-on approach from investors. The benchmark Nifty 50 and Sensex indices had fallen over 12% in the 6 weeks before this rally.

The BSE's Sensex index ended 1.2%, or 919 points, higher at 77,550.25 points on Friday, led by gains in the banking and financial services sector. The Nifty 50 also closed 1.2%, or 276 points, higher at 24,050.60. Except for IT, all other sectors saw robust gains during the session.

The India VIX, which indicates market uncertainty, dropped another 8% to its lowest level in over three weeks, implying that investors have started to finally expect some stability in the market despite the weak ceasefire.

The improved sentiment is after US President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced a two-week suspension of military strikes against

Iran just hours before his deadline, and Iran agreed to open the Strait of Hormuz for shipments. This led to the Nifty and Sensex jumping 4% during the session. Crude oil prices have also declined sharply this week, falling between the \$95-100 per barrel range from around \$115 a week ago.

However, tensions have been flaring since the agreement, with many unconvinced that the ceasefire would hold.

While foreign investors (FIIs) have continued to pull out money from the Indian markets, the pace has slowed as the month has gone on. On Thursday, FIIs had pulled out \$144 million. The figure was around \$743 million a session ago. On Friday, provisional data from the exchanges showed FIIs invested Rs 672 crore. In comparison, these players had pulled out \$2.2 billion and \$1 billion, respectively, in the first couple of sessions of the month. Domestic investors have also continued to remain robust, buying shares worth Rs 35,572.48 crore so far in March. Mutual funds have continued to buy equities, with inflows rising to an 8-month high in March.

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• BRIEFLY

Dubai limits flights till May 31, Indian airlines hardest hit

New Delhi: Dubai has restricted foreign airlines to just one daily flight to its airports until May 31 due to the Iran crisis, igniting revenue loss fears among Indian carriers that had planned more flights than airlines from any other country, letters show. The Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), which represents top carriers IndiGo, Air India and SpiceJet, has asked India to push Dubai authorities to lift the curbs and, failing that, to consider reciprocal measures on Dubai carriers including Emirates, according to a letter it sent to the Indian government on March 31. REUTERS

IRB Group's toll revenue soars 21% in March

Mumbai: IRB Group, including IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd. and its sponsored two infrastructure Investment Trusts, Viz. IRB Infrastructure Trust and IRB InvIT Fund has collectively reported Rs.8,323Cr toll revenue in financial year 2026 (FY26), which is 10% market share of India's toll revenue of Rs 82,900 crore for FY26. For March 2026, the firm

has reported 21% jump in toll revenue against the same month last year. The group reported toll revenue of Rs 783 crore in the month under review, as against Rs 649 crore in corresponding month of FY25, i.e., March 2025. Commenting on this, Shri Amitabh Murarka, Dy. CEO, IRB Infrastructure Developers Limited said, "With recent commissioning of our new TOT Asset in Odisha and expected commissioning of Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh, we look forward to FY27 with further improved growth trajectory." ENS

Jaiprakash Gaur backs Adani's acquisition of JAL assets

New Delhi: Jaypee Group founder Jaiprakash Gaur on Friday threw his support behind the Adani Group taking over his insolvent infrastructure firm JAL, saying he has full confidence in Gautam Adani's leadership to take the group forward. The statement just came days after rival bidder Vedanta Ltd's Anil Agarwal claimed that Gaur wanted Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL) to be in the "safe hands" of his mining conglomerate. "I appreciate the fair and transparent process," he said. PTI

• SIMILAR EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY AT LARGE TECH COMPANIES THAT ARE SEEKING TO DESIGN THEIR OWN AI CHIPS, INCLUDING META AND OPENAI

Anthropic weighs building its own AI chips amid crunch

Reuters
San Francisco, April 10

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE lab Anthropic is exploring the possibility of designing its own chips, three sources said, as the company and its rivals respond to a shortage of AI chips needed to power and develop more advanced AI systems.

The plans are in early stages and the company may still decide to only buy AI chips and not design any, according to two people with knowledge of the matter and one person briefed on Anthropic's plans.

The company has yet to commit to a specific design or put together a dedicated team

to work on the project, one of the sources said.

A spokesperson for the San Francisco-based company declined to comment on the article. Demand for its AI model Claude has accelerated in 2026, with the startup's run-rate revenue now surpassing \$30 billion, up from about \$9 billion at the end of 2025, Anthropic said earlier this week.

Anthropic uses a range of chips, including tensor processing units (TPUs) designed by Alphabet's Google and Amazon's chips to develop and run its AI software and chatbot Claude. Earlier this week, Anthropic signed a long-term deal with Google and Broadcom,



Designing an advanced AI chip can cost half a billion dollars. REUTERS

which helps design the TPUs. That deal builds on the company's commitment to invest \$50 billion in strengthening US

computing infrastructure. Anthropic's discussions mirror similar efforts underway at large tech companies that are

seeking to design their own AI chips, including Meta and OpenAI. Designing an advanced AI chip can cost roughly half a billion dollars, according to industry sources, as companies need to employ skilled engineers and spend to make sure the manufacturing process has no defects.

Meanwhile, in a related development, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell convened an urgent meeting with bank CEOs this week to warn of cyber risks posed by Anthropic's latest AI model, two sources familiar with the matter said on Thursday. Anthropic launched the powerful

Mythos model earlier this week but stopped short of a broad release, citing concerns it could expose previously unknown cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

The company has said the model is capable of identifying and exploiting weaknesses across "every major operating system and every major web browser". Last week, Anthropic said it was in ongoing discussions with US government officials about the model's "offensive and defensive cyber capabilities." A third source reiterated Anthropic's outreach, saying the company proactively briefed senior US government officials and key industry stakeholders.

• MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold	US Dollar
77,550.25	24,050.60	₹1,55,300	₹92.73
918.60	275.50	Silver	Oil
1.20%	1.16%	₹2,47,000	\$120.28

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER ALL INDIA SARAFI ASSOCIATION GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF APRIL 9, 2026

The Indian EXPRESS
~ FOUNDED BY ~
RAMNATH GOENKA
IN 1932

BECAUSE THE TRUTH
INVOLVES US ALL

A war lesson: Think big, be bold, at home

THE FIRST wave of globalisation from the 1870s, after the opening of Suez Canal and laying of a permanent transatlantic cable connecting Europe and North America, resulted in the US becoming the world's economic superpower. It maintained that position even during the war and depression years (1914-45), when global trade collapsed and recovered gradually over the next three to four decades. The second wave, following the disintegration of the Soviet Bloc in 1989 and lasting till the 2010s, led to China's emergence as the "world's factory" and "mega-trader". This decade ought to have been India's, given its favourable youth demographics (like China's during the 1980s to the 2010s) and policy initiatives spurring digitisation (through Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile), formalisation (GST and demonetisation) and investments in physical infrastructure, from ports and airports to highways and renewable energy. Sadly, the demographic dividend from a labour force "bulge" hasn't materialised due to successive disruptions — Covid, wars in Ukraine and Iran, and US President Donald Trump's unilateral tariffs.

The basis of globalisation — founded on the free movement of goods, services, capital, people and ideas across borders — has been upended. Today, the assumption of wars being a near-inevitability in an age of hyper-economic interdependence between countries lies in tatters. The current decade has seen two major episodes of migrant workers in big cities and industrial centres leaving for their villages and hometowns, the first exodus during the Covid lockdown and the second on account of cooking gas shortages triggered by the Iran war. In short, while China rode the second wave of globalisation to realise the economic growth potential from its high working age-to-dependent population ratio, India has been relatively unlucky on that score.

Whether these setbacks are temporary or not, Indian policymakers and firms will have to factor geopolitical risks into their growth strategies. It would mean diversifying energy and raw material supply chains, and building buffers (fiscal and physical) against unexpected shocks. No less important is staying the course on reforms and macroeconomic stability, which are the best possible insurance against market volatility and a guarantee of investors returning once the panic has subsided. The energy supply and price shocks from the war, reverberating across sectors, call for policy actions beyond picking low-hanging fruit. Reforming the fertiliser subsidy regime that promotes imbalanced nutrient use — especially over-application of urea — and fixing the losses of state discoms can wait no longer. The war has shrunk the economic and political space for easy solutions.

A new measure reframes heat crisis

THE ONSET of climate change has fundamentally transformed the understanding of heat stress on humans. People in most parts of the world are not only experiencing warmer weather, but the rise in temperatures is also accompanied by changing moisture patterns. Humans are resilient to high temperatures, provided sweat can evaporate. However, when the air is saturated with moisture, sweat lingers on the skin, and the body's thermoregulatory system is put under duress. The combined effect of the two variables on human health is not totally unknown to medical science. The wet bulb approach, for instance, attempts to recalibrate temperatures by accounting for heat and humidity. A 35°C wet-bulb temperature is generally considered the theoretical upper limit of human endurance. A new study published in *Nature Communications* draws on recent episodes of intense heat and humidity to conclude that this safe limit could be much lower. A 31°C wet-bulb temperature can be unforgiving for the elderly and people who work outdoors.

The new understanding reframes India's climate challenge. Several cities routinely report heat indices that push human tolerance to its limits, even when wet-bulb temperatures remain below 35°C. The tragedy in Navi Mumbai, three years ago, when sun stroke claimed 13 lives even when the temperature, according to the Met department, was about 35°C, underlined the need to redraw the metrics of well-being during summer. However, planning has been slow to factor in the new imperatives. Concrete-dense neighbourhoods, sparse tree cover, and inadequate ventilation create "urban heat islands" where temperatures can be several degrees higher than surrounding rural areas. In such environments, nighttime offers little space to recover from the heat stress of the day. Heat thresholds are also shaped by social conditions. For construction workers, farm labourers, street vendors, and those who work in the gig economy, heat and humidity are occupational hazards.

In recent years, Indian cities have tried to draw up heat action plans. However, these plans are often based on dry-heat thresholds, and not the more dangerous combination of heat and humidity. Most of them are also not attuned to local idiosyncrasies. Protecting people from heat, humidity and rainfall requires granular knowledge. Dealing with a new form of heat will require joining several dots. India's cities do not have time to lose.

Last link with first Test victory has snapped

WITH THE death of C D Gopinath — the last member of the team that won India's first Test victory in Chennai against England in 1952 — the IPL milieu has lost its surviving link with cricket's amateur era. Behind India's rise as the dominant force in the game was the love and labour, sweat and tears, of men like Gopinath. The Test win Gopinath and his team engineered is a landmark in Indian cricket, the coming-of-age moment that installed belief in a nation just five years old.

He was a dashing batsman with a whiplash square cut. Affable and articulate, he made strong friendships with teammates and rivals. His Test career lasted eight games where he shone sporadically. But without his defiant 35 and 93-run stand with Polly Umrigar in the second innings, India's wait for the first Test win would have lasted longer. Three years later, he captained Tamil Nadu to their maiden Ranji Trophy title in 1955.

He regaled his audience with stories, and talked poignantly about the pre-Independence era. He was born on a curfew day in 1930, and the doctor, when prescribing medicine for the newborn, named him "Baby Gun". Even after calling time on his career, he didn't sever his ties with the game. He became a selector and spotted Gundappa Viswanath, one of the all-time greats. Even in his 80s, he would turn up for Test matches in Chennai and patiently sit through them. With his departure, Indian cricket has lost its last link with its first Test victory.

THERE IS a wry joke that the jurist Edward S Corwin once told: A doctor, an engineer and a politician were debating which of their callings was the most ancient. The doctor claimed that the removal of the rib from Adam's side was clearly a surgical operation. The engineer replied that even before Adam, the world had to be created out of chaos, surely an engineering feat. "Very true," said the politician, "but who do you think created the chaos?" Today, one might plausibly rewrite the joke: What might be called the "judicial complex" — that peculiar combination of Supreme Court judges and lawyers — could give politicians a run for their money as originators of chaos. The latest salvo in this vein is the debate over the term "constitutional morality."

According to reports, the solicitor general, in submissions before the Supreme Court in the Sabarimala case, has expressed scepticism about the judicial use of the term in recent judgments. There is, to be sure, a legitimate criticism to be made of some of its uses. For many, including this columnist, the term is not a judicial standard of adjudication. In an earlier formulation ("What is Constitutional Morality", Seminar 615, November 2010), I had suggested that constitutional morality refers, instead, to the formal virtues of a constitutional sensibility: Self-restraint, respect for plurality, deference to processes, scepticism towards authoritative claims of popular sovereignty, and a commitment to an open culture of criticism that lies at the heart of constitutionalism. There is also a case, often

made in this column, against judicial overreach, against excessive deference to the judiciary, and for restoring greater space for parliamentary sovereignty.

But the context of the present attack matters. It should be clear that the critique of "constitutional morality" is not offered in service of the Constitution. It is, rather, part of a broader attempt to hollow it out.

There are at least two reasons to think so. One way of dismissing a term is to label it, what the philosopher J.L. Austin once called a "trouser term": A concept so indeterminate that it derives its meaning only in opposition to something else. The charge, then, is that "constitutional morality" is vague, defined merely against "societal morality". On this telling, it appears as a top-down, catch-all category. Its function is essentially to displace an organic, historically evolved, bottom-up set of norms. It becomes a judicial ruse, a means by which courts extend authority against society.

But this is a critique in bad faith. "Societal morality" is more of a trouser term, indeed, arguably, an even more vacuous one. One may concede that "constitutional morality" is indeterminate and that it cannot, by itself, yield a standard of adjudication. Yet it has at least this virtue: It gestures towards the kinds of reasons that ought to be in play in adjudication. In a case like Sabarimala, it invites us to ask: How are liberty and equality to be reconciled with the autonomy of institutions? When does a practice so burden the standing of members that their civic equality is compro-



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

In a case like Sabarimala, it invites us to ask: How are liberty and equality to be reconciled with the autonomy of institutions? When does a practice so burden the standing of members that their civic equality is compromised?

mised? These are difficult questions, but they are the right questions.

By contrast, invoking "societal morality" in this context does not advance an argument; it forecloses one. It is less a reason than a refusal of reason, a device to insulate social practices from scrutiny. It is no accident that the objection to "constitutional morality" has been most strenuously voiced in cases like *Navtej Singh Johar v Union of India*, where entrenched social prohibitions were tested against the constitutional commitments to freedom and equality. Whatever its vagueness, "constitutional morality" at least orients us toward those values. It is their substance that matters, not the label. "Societal morality", in this usage, is an attempt to immobilise reason, and that, precisely, is what makes it attractive.

The second reason for scepticism is more troubling. Even if "constitutional morality" does not furnish a rule of decision, it does provide a standpoint from which to judge the Court itself. The anxiety it provokes is not about vagueness. It is, rather, that the term casts an unflattering light on the Court's own trajectory, its drift, at times, toward a kind of judicial nihilism. The moral substance, procedural discipline, and predictive stability of law appear increasingly eroded, replaced by arbitrariness in process and uncertainty in outcome. It is not that plaintiffs cannot get relief. But which ones do, and on what grounds, appears increasingly random and contingent.

No one who takes the Constitution seriously can now say, with

confidence, what it requires, or when the Court will choose to uphold its discipline. In recent weeks alone, several Rubicons seem to have been crossed. How, for instance, is one to assess the Court's prickly and disproportionate handling of a minor episode involving an NCERT textbook, an episode in which segments of the Bar seemed more eager to appease judicial sensitivities than to defend principle, turning the proceedings into a theatre of the absurd? More gravely, how is one to come to terms with a situation in which the Court appears untroubled by the disenfranchisement of lakhs of voters in West Bengal without full due process, suggesting, in effect, that no serious constitutional injury occurs even when eligible citizens are unable to vote because the Court has endorsed a flawed process?

"Constitutional morality" may not tell us what the right answer is in Sabarimala, how textbooks ought to be written, or which voters possess valid documentation. But it can still serve as a diagnostic. It alerts us to the presence of arbitrariness and unaccountable power; to moments when freedom and equality are treated with suspicion; to instances where a court ceases to enable reason and instead begins to immobilise it.

Question constitutional morality by all means. But a reactionary assault on constitutional morality is a misunderstanding of its character. It is, in effect, to sow the seeds of moral and judicial chaos, an outcome to which our judiciary now seems, regrettably, determined to contribute.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

LPG shock could impact nutrition outcomes



DIPA SINHA AND KALYANI RAGHUNATHAN

THE ONGOING war in West Asia has resulted in an LPG crisis in India. The disruption in supplies has led to higher prices, panic buying, long queues and black-marketing. Reports have also indicated a reduction in output of small industries reliant on LPG, and of migrant workers in cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Surat starting to return to their villages, reminiscent of the Covid lockdown. Sensibly, the government has prioritised domestic supply over industrial (and restaurant) use and has sought alternative imports.

What are the implications of this supply reduction on access to and preparation of a diet that meets India's nutritional guidelines? There are both direct and indirect effects. The rising cost of cooking fuel immediately raises the costs of preparing meals. This is not insignificant; according to the nationally representative Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) data from 2023-24, fuel and light constitute 6.1 per cent and 5.6 per cent of total monthly per capita expenditure in rural and urban areas respectively, close to the amount spent on medical expenses or education.

There are also several knock-on effects. India is heavily dependent on imports for both finished fertilisers and raw materials. The disruption to fertiliser supply chains — combined with rising costs of mechanisation and transportation — is likely to increase the costs of cultivation substantially, leading to the risk of food inflation.

These could erode access to a healthy diet. Even prior to this crisis, healthy diets were unaffordable for many. We use the HCES 2023-24 to estimate the Cost of a Healthy Diet (CoHD), which is the minimum daily rupee amount one would need to spend to meet the ICMR's food-based dietary guidelines. We estimate the national average CoHD for a non-vegetarian diet at Rs 73.1 per person per day in 2023-24, suggesting that between 25 to 49 per cent of the population could not afford the raw cost of the foods that would make up a healthy diet, depending on which threshold one used. However, preparing a meal includes

other costs beyond the raw food costs, such as the cost of spices and, more importantly, of fuel. When these costs are accounted for, the CoHD increases by about Rs 9.5, of which Rs 6.5 comes from the cost of the fuel used to prepare the meal. This means that the proportion of the population who cannot afford a healthy diet increases to 32-62 per cent, depending on the affordability threshold used. With this war, the contribution of cooking fuel costs to the overall cost of meal preparation is likely to rise substantially; along with the possible rise in food prices, this will further reduce the affordability of a healthy diet.

What should be the way forward? Our research highlights the importance of expanding the focus to include dietary diversity as well as other accompanying factors, such as access to and costs of cooking fuel, the reach and coverage of social safety nets, and the division of labour within the home — all of which come together to determine what people ultimately eat. In the immediate term, expanding the scope of social safety net programmes to subsidise the cost of nutritious foods like pulses, vegetables, eggs and flesh foods, and nuts and seeds would help buffer rising food prices for these perishable and semi-perishable items, and raise consumption to the levels recommended by the ICMR. Continued support through schemes like the PMUY is critical, as is the inclusion of migrant populations within its ambit, even if only temporarily. In the longer term, the availability of nutritious foods could be enhanced through agriculture policies.

The current situation of increasing fuel costs and the prospect of a global food price surge underscores the relevance of a food systems approach to food policy. In a country with a high and stubborn level of malnutrition, such shocks could have immediate effects on people's health and nutrition outcomes. We must not lose sight of the need for nutrition security if we are to weather this storm.

Sinha is at Centre for the Study of the Indian Economy, Azim Premji University and Raghunathan is an independent researcher. Views are personal

In a Chennai film festival, comeback of a Dalit actor



NEERAJ BUNKAR

A FILM festival named after P K Rosy, as part of the Vaanam Art Festival in Chennai, might seem like just another cultural event. It is not. It is a statement, about memory, caste, and who gets to be seen. Rosy's story sits at the uneasy beginning of Indian cinema. A Dalit woman from Kerala, she acted in *Vigathakumaran*, the first Malayalam feature film, in the late 1920s. Her role should have marked a breakthrough. Instead, it triggered outrage. Her "crime" was playing an "upper-caste" woman. Theatres were attacked. Her house was burned. She disappeared from public life and lived the rest of her years under another name. The erasure reveals something fundamental about Indian cinema. It has never just been about storytelling. It has always been about who is allowed to appear, and under what conditions.

Nearly a century later, cinema has grown in scale and ambition. It occasionally engages with caste, even critiques it. But the Dalit woman is still largely absent, not just in numbers, but in perspective. She appears sporadically, often filtered through someone else's gaze, rarely as a subject who defines her own story.

This is why the P K Rosy Film Festival matters. Launched by filmmaker Pa Ranjith's Neelam Culture Centre, it is part of a larger effort to build cultural spaces that do not wait for mainstream validation. Naming it after Rosy is an act of correction, restoring her to the centre of a history that pushed her out. It brings together films that engage directly with caste, labour, land, gender, and resistance. It creates a space where Dalit lives are central narratives. Mainstream cinema often absorbs dissent slowly and selectively. It makes space, but within limits. Festivals like this allow stories to exist without being softened or made palatable.

Across the world, there is a shift towards centring Dalit and marginalised voices in cinema, not as subjects of study, but as creators. From New York to Nottingham to London, Dalit-Adivasi film festivals are forging a transnational network that places caste firmly within conversations on race and justice.

At the same time, this moment draws from a longer history of cultural assertion. The Women in Cinema Collective in Kerala, for instance, established the P K Rosy Film Society in 2019 to foreground feminist and marginalised cinema. These efforts recognise something essential: Representation alone is not enough. There must be spaces that sustain and circulate these voices.

All of this makes the timing of the P K Rosy Film Festival especially significant. Held every April, it coincides with Dalit History Month and the birth month of B R Ambedkar and Jyotirao Phule. And yet, the need for such spaces reveals a continuing failure. Nearly a century after Rosy's debut, mainstream institutions remain hesitant to fully acknowledge her legacy.

That gap, between acknowledgement and transformation, is where this festival intervenes. It refuses to let Rosy remain a footnote. It insists that her story is not just about the past, but about the future of cinema. And it asks a difficult question: What would Indian cinema look like if those once excluded were not just included, but centred? For a few days in Chennai, that answer begins to take shape.

Bunkar is a researcher specialising in caste and cinema

40 YEARS AGO

April 11, 1986



Terror attack in Punjab

TERRORISTS STRUCK at three places, killing two personnel of the Government Railway Police and one SI of the Punjab Police. The security forces retaliated by launching a "bullet-for-bullet" operation and gunned down three terrorists in Amritsar. The two GRP personnel were killed and one injured when they were attacked aboard a running train at Kotla Gujran railway station near Amritsar.

Benazir welcomed in Pakistan

BENAZIR BHUTTO received a welcome unprecedented in Pakistan's 39-year history and formally launched her political career with a warning to Gen Ziaul Haq to hand over

power to the people by holding elections. An estimated half a million people at her first political meeting in Pakistan joined Bhutto, chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, in chanting "Zia jave, jave" (Zia is bound to leave). Wild scenes of street dancing and joy heralded her return from a two-year exile in Europe, and Bhutto took the opportunity to tell the people that her decision to enter politics was a fulfillment of her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's, wish.

Turkish PM in India

THE FIRST Turkish Prime Minister to pay an official visit to India, Turgut Ozal, said he was hopeful that his visit would launch a "new era of improved relations" between the two

countries. Ozal announced that it had been agreed to constitute a joint economic commission to promote bilateral cooperation. He admitted there had not been any high-level exchanges between the two countries since 1960, when Jawaharlal Nehru visited Turkey. India and Turkey, he disclosed, had signed an air services agreement earlier in the day.

Attack copters under Army

THE GOVERNMENT has decided that attack helicopter squadrons, while owned and maintained by the Air Force, will now come under the Army's command and control. The decision, hinted at by the PM in his reply to the defence debate in the Lok Sabha, partly meets a long-standing demand of the Army.



The strait of high stakes, where law and leverage collide



ARUN PRAKASH

THE STRAIT of Hormuz is, today, the epicentre of a global economic and maritime crisis. Following the unprovoked US-Israeli attack on Iran on February 28, the waterway now has the status of a "war zone", placing severe restrictions on the passage of global shipping. Impacting nearly 20 per cent of the world's oil and 25 per cent of LNG trade, this is the most significant disruption to global energy supply since the 1970s.

Its navy may have been destroyed, but the threat posed by Iran's coastal missile batteries, drone swarms, and sea mines has been sufficient to deter all but the most desperate commercial shipping from attempting a passage through the Strait of Hormuz. Marine insurance premiums have jumped from 400 per cent to 600 per cent, and Iran is reportedly demanding tolls of up to \$1 per barrel of oil for transit, a measure seen as "extortionate". Yet this challenge defies an easy or swift resolution. It is essential to step back and grasp the full interplay of legal, strategic, and political factors at work.

An overwhelming majority of global trade travels by sea, and while the oceans may appear vast, the compulsions of safe and expeditious transit tend to funnel shipping traffic through a set of narrow waterways, termed "maritime choke points" — constricted channels that connect major seas. By controlling access to vital seas, these choke points have, historically, amplified naval power projection, turning geography into a force multiplier for maritime powers.

"Pax Britannica", which defined Britain's role as the global hegemon between 1815 and 1914, was built upon its control over strategic locations like Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, Oman, Singapore and Cape Town, which dominated choke points and sea lanes. In World War I, the Dardanelles Strait played a pivotal role in prolonging the survival of the Ottoman Empire, when suc-

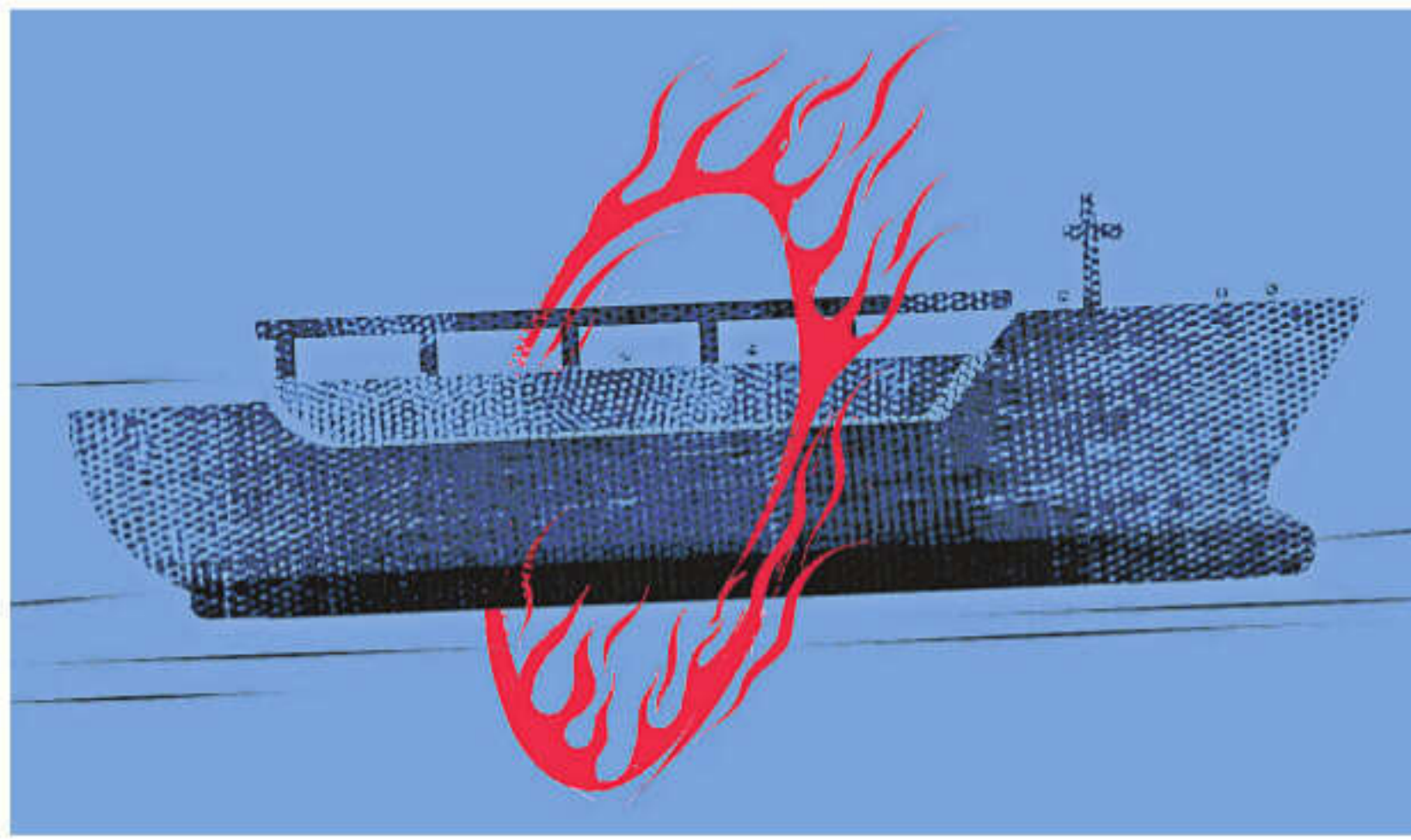


ILLUSTRATION: C.R. SASIKUMAR

cessive Allied amphibious assaults were thwarted by the Turks.

In the current scenario, US President Donald Trump's obsession with acquiring Greenland, and regaining control of the Panama Canal Zone may arouse derision, but it is rooted in strategic concern regarding the control of choke points, particularly in the context of rising competition with China and Russia. Greenland happens to be the northern anchor of the strategic Greenland-Iceland-UK (GIUK) Gap, a narrow transit corridor that is the primary exit for Russia's Northern Fleet from its Arctic bases. As for China, with the melting of the Arctic ice, it is actively eyeing the Northern Sea Route via the GIUK Gap as a polar extension of its Maritime Silk Road.

The principle that the sea was international territory, and that all nations were free to use it for trade, has a hoary provenance, going back to the concept of *Mare Liberum*, or "free sea", proposed by Dutch jurist Hugo Grotius in 1609. Since nations had taken to arbitrary extensions of territorial waters, order and regulation were restored by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which fixed the limit of

"territorial waters" at 12 miles. Maritime choke points have, however, created a hurdle to the established principle of freedom of navigation because they often fall within the territorial waters of one or more states.

To prevent global commerce from being held hostage by geography, two legal regimes were adopted by UNCLOS for shipping to negotiate territorial waters. One was the concept of "Innocent Passage" that allows a vessel to pass through the territorial waters of a state, subject to stringent restrictions on movement and activities, including suspension of passage. A similar right, termed "Transit Passage", was created, applicable only to international straits, granting freedom of navigation solely for the purpose of continuous and expeditious transit of global trade. Unlike in the case of innocent passage, the coastal state cannot suspend or hamper transit passage in any way, nor can it discriminate between flags.

The Strait of Hormuz, connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, qualifies as a "strait used for international navigation" under UNCLOS. The entire navigable corridor of this strait falls within the territorial waters of Iran and Oman.

Iran's closure of the Strait brings it into direct conflict with the UNCLOS regime of Transit Passage. But it also remains this beleaguered nation's final strategic lever

Iran signed the UNCLOS in 1982, but has not (like the US) ratified it so far. Having deliberately chosen to apply the restrictive Innocent Passage clause, Iran's closure of the Strait brings it into direct conflict with the UNCLOS regime of Transit Passage, designed precisely to prevent such a unilateral blockade of strategic straits.

Maritime choke points are the physical manifestations of global interdependence. While coastal states like Iran and Oman or those bordering the Malacca Strait have legitimate interests in protecting their waters from threats such as pollution and smuggling, international law, specifically the regime of Transit Passage, denies them the right to interfere with the flow of global shipping. Moreover, an attempt to exercise control by mining, or the threat of kinetic action, would be seen as an illegal and aggressive action under the UN Charter.

However, Iran faces stark choices against overwhelming military odds. With its political and military leadership brutally decapitated, its economy under a total embargo, and its infrastructure devastated by heavy bombardment, the Strait of Hormuz remains this beleaguered nation's final strategic lever. Tehran is likely to exploit this choke point to extract maximum concessions from its adversaries.

For India, the Strait of Hormuz is no mere waterway but a vital "jugular vein", whose closure or disruption poses a grave threat to national security, economic growth and domestic stability. The continuation of this conflict also evokes the unthinkable spectre of a "mushroom cloud" over the region.

Given its international standing and cordial ties with the three primary actors — the US, Israel, and Iran — India's peremptory dismissal of a mediatory role, yielding centre stage to Pakistan, remains a puzzling diplomatic choice. Nevertheless, in keeping with its traditional strategic culture, India must continue to leverage quiet diplomacy to safeguard its own interests while urging all parties to comply with UN laws and mandates, not only for the sake of regional peace, but also to avoid widespread economic distress in the Global South.

The writer is a former Indian Navy chief

With Nitish exit, Bihar Sushasan must go beyond top-down



ASHMITA GUPTA, DANIEL BERLINER
AND MARTIN HAUS

UNDER THE leadership of Nitish Kumar, Bihar has undergone a remarkable transformation in good governance (*Sushasan*): Roads now allow fast travel even to remote districts, electricity has reached far-flung villages, and government schools have expanded both infrastructure and staffing. In March 2026, the Bihar Public Policy Days at the London School of Economics highlighted that the next generation of reforms, *Sushasan 2.0*, needs to move from expanding access to ensuring quality. This requires deeper reforms of how the bureaucracy functions.

A core insight from our survey, a joint project by LSE and the Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), highlights that earlier reforms were largely logistical (building roads, expanding electricity access) and therefore easier to monitor from above. However, *Sushasan 2.0* involves improving difficult-to-monitor public services such as elementary schools, health centres, anganwadis, and right-to-work schemes. These require reforms that cannot simply be ordered from the top and improving the utilisation of existing resources (like teachers and school buildings).

Improving utilisation requires understanding the human side of service delivery. Across Bihar, frontline workers provide essential public services. How do they feel about their work? What hinders them? Our findings show that while frontline staff are generally motivated and find their work fulfilling, many feel burdened by repetitive tasks or rigid rules. At the managerial level, block and district officers overwhelmingly see rule enforcement as their primary responsibility. This aligns with earlier findings by Akshay Mangla that India's bureaucracy often emphasises narrow rule-following, hindering effective service delivery.

In our study, a large majority of managers expressed the belief that, unless closely monitored, subordinates will be lazy. This points to a deeper problem in how the system views its own frontline workers. Instead of being trusted to make decisions, teachers, nurses, and local officials are often given little autonomy. It reflects a broader pattern identified by Pratap Bhanu Mehta and Michael

Walton, who argue that there is a widespread lack of trust in India's government workforce by the country's elite. Frontline officials are often seen as inefficient or corrupt, which leads to more rules and stricter oversight. This creates a cycle: When workers are not trusted or empowered, they are less likely to take initiative, reinforcing the very perceptions that led to tight control in the first place. As Bihar prepares for new leadership, this presents an opportunity. Two key lessons from global evidence



stand out for the next CM. First, surveillance-based strategies have shown limited success in improving effort where performance is difficult to measure. Second, effective alternatives do exist. Approaches that combine trust, professional autonomy, and supportive supervision have shown better outcomes.

The central challenge for *Sushasan 2.0* is therefore: How can the system be redesigned to encourage greater effort from frontline workers? Our study offers an important clue as nearly two-thirds of frontline staff say they would be willing to work harder if their colleagues did the same. Effort is shaped not just by rules, but by shared norms and expectations. A sense of purpose, professional pride, and the satisfaction of serving others are especially critical in roles where effort is hard to observe, yet they remain largely overlooked in policy design. To make public services truly work for Bihar's citizens, reforms must be seen as part of a sustained, long-term process. As Martin J Williams argues in *Reform as Process*, reforms that focus narrowly on formal rules and are implemented as discrete projects often fall short. More durable change comes from continuous reform efforts that create space for internal dialogue, learning, and adaptation within the bureaucracy. Over time, such processes can reshape norms, build trust, and enable the state to function more effectively.

Deep reform requires empowering those within the system, drawing on support from institutions within the public system such as BIPARD and IIM Bodh Gaya rather than consultancies with their shallow and generic reform suggestions, and prioritising intrinsic motivation and non-formal aspects of work. Nitish Kumar has already shown that sustained governance reforms can set a state on a different path. If Bihar's next chief minister can build on this foundation, there is a real opportunity to leave behind a legacy that reshapes the state's development trajectory for decades to come.

Gupta is associate professor and member secretary, ADRI. Berliner is professor of Political Science and Public Policy, LSE. Haus is PhD candidate, LSE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A new beginning

AHEAD OF the visit of Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman to Delhi on Tuesday, PM Tarique Rahman said that the discussions will focus on the "future of relations" between the two countries. ("Delhi, Dhaka must sidestep short-termism", *IE*, April 10). This time, Dhaka's confrontational animus towards India seems missing. The flexibility Bangladesh has chosen to display in promoting better ties with India is a good sign.

S S Paul, Nadia

IN TODAY'S uncertain global environment, peace and cooperation should be a priority. There is a need for stronger ties between neighbouring countries like India and Bangladesh. Differences rooted in politics or the past should not hinder progress, especially when the well-being of ordinary citizens is at stake. ("Delhi, Dhaka must sidestep short-termism", *IE*, April 10). Constructive dialogue, trust, and shared goals can pave the way for growth and long-term stability, while continued tensions only create insecurity and setbacks.

Parul Rana, Zirakpur

Needed, stability

ANOTHER MAJOR conflict is the last thing the world needs ("Trump should rein Netanyahu in", *IE*, April 10). The current situation involving the US, Iran, Israel, and Lebanon highlights how fragile peace has become, as attacks continue to rise and the ceasefire appears increasingly uncertain. It is innocent civilians who suffer the most in such crises, with lives being lost and countless families forced to leave their homes. If tensions continue to escalate, the conflict could grow into a wider war, affecting not only the region but also the global economy. This is the moment for world leaders, especially the US, to act responsibly, reduce hostilities, and work toward lasting peace. What the world needs is less aggression and more understanding.

Rachita, Chandigarh



RAM RAJYA
BY RAM MADHAV

NEXT WEEK, Parliament will take up the Women's Reservation Bill in a special session, a historic step by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Despite efforts, we failed to provide proper representation to women in Indian legislatures in the past 75 years. At the time of our Constitution-making, there were suggestions that, just like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, women, too, should be given a quota in our legislatures.

Prominent women members of the Assembly said women should get genuine equality rather than protective discrimination. "We have never asked for privileges... To seek any form of reservation would be to admit that women are not equal to men," Hansa Mehta, a member from Bombay, argued. Renuka Ray from Bengal echoed the sentiment. Durgabai Deshmukh from Madras Province opposed special privileges, saying they might hinder rather than promote long-term equality.

Behind their rejection was the hope that, by looking at their contributions during the freedom movement, the Indian political system would naturally come forward to offer proper representation. Sadly, we betrayed their hopes and aspirations. Successful Western democracies like the US and UK have demonstrated the will and maturity to provide greater repre-

We began well, with nearly 5 per cent of members in the first Parliament being women. This has seen little improvement — in the 2004 Lok Sabha, 9 per cent of MPs were women; and just 14-15 per cent in 2024

sentation for women in their parliaments without any quota system. In the US, the representation of women in Congress was just 2 per cent in 1950. It stands at almost 30 per cent today. In the UK House of Commons, it grew from 3 per cent in the 1950s to 18 per cent in the early 2000s to a commendable 35 per cent today. In India, we began well, with nearly 5 per cent of members in the first Parliament in 1952 being women. This has seen little improvement — in the 2004 Lok Sabha, 9 per cent of MPs were women; this grew to just 14-15 per cent in 2024.

The first major success in providing greater representation to women in elected bodies happened through the 73rd and 74th amendments in 1992. Women were provided 33 per cent reservation in village panchayats and municipal bodies. That led to the demand for a similar provision in Parliament and state legislatures. The Deve Gowda-led government made a half-hearted attempt in 1996 to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill. Strong opposition from its own allies forced them to push it to a select committee and bury it there.

The Vajpayee government made several attempts during 1998-2004 to introduce the bill. But parties like the Samajwadi Party and the RJD put up resistance, insisting that a 33 per cent quota be earmarked for OBCs within the women's quota. This was a clear ex-

On women's representation, India's overdue correction

Through Phule's eyes, connecting the inequality dots



D RAJA

THE ENDURING relevance of Jyotirao Phule does not lie in ceremonial remembrance but in the clarity with which he understood Indian society. He saw, long before others, that inequality here is structured through the combined force of class exploitation, caste hierarchy and patriarchy. These are not separate problems. They are intertwined systems that sustain each other.

Phule began by attacking the ideological roots of caste. He refused to accept that hierarchy was divinely ordained. Instead, he located it in history, conquest, and the systematic subjugation of the majority by a minority that monopolised knowledge

and power. In *Gulamgiri*, he wrote with striking force: "The condition of the Shudras and Ati-Shudras is not very different from that of slaves in America." That insight remains disturbingly relevant. Even today, caste determines access to land, education, employment and dignity. Atrocities against Dalits continue with alarming regularity. Entire communities remain trapped in degrading occupations. Yet, there is a growing attempt to blur these realities under the language of cultural unity. The insistence on a homogenised Hindu identity often sidelines the lived experiences of caste oppression. Critique of inequality is recast as an attack on tradition.

Phule did not stop at caste. He extended his critique to the economic structure of society. In *Shetkaryacha Asud*, he turned his attention to the peasantry and exposed the

mechanisms of exploitation that governed agrarian life. Equally central to Phule's thought was his understanding of patriarchy. Along with Savitribai Phule, he opened the doors of education to women at a time when society was deeply hostile to the idea.

Today, patriarchy remains deeply entrenched. Violence against women, discrimination in workplaces, and restrictions on autonomy continue to shape everyday life. At the same time, there is a visible push to reassert so-called traditional values, often presented as cultural pride. The ideo-

We are witnessing a departure from the very principles that thinkers like Phule helped to shape

logical framework associated with the RSS and BJP tends to valorise a conservative social order, where hierarchy is normalised and dissent is discouraged. In such a setting, the struggle for women's equality cannot be separated from the struggle against caste and class oppression. Phule's work also had a profound influence on B R Ambedkar who himself acknowledged Phule as one of his intellectual predecessors. The Constitution, with its commitment to equality, liberty and fraternity, bears the imprint of this intellectual lineage.

When constitutional values are diluted, when inequality is normalised, and when dissent is delegitimised, we see a departure from the very principles that thinkers like Phule helped to shape. The attempt to replace social justice with cultural nationalism, to privilege identity over equality, and

to silence critique poses a direct challenge to this legacy. Phule's words continue to resonate because they address the foundations of inequality. They do not offer easy comfort. They demand that we look at society as it is, not as we would like to imagine it. They compel us to recognise that class exploitation, caste discrimination and patriarchy are not relics of the past. They are active forces shaping our present.

To engage with Phule today is a political necessity. It is about reclaiming a tradition of thought that places the oppressed at the centre, that values equality over hierarchy, and that insists on justice as the basis of social life. Phule is a guide for the present, and perhaps more importantly, for the future.

The writer is general secretary, Communist Party of India

ON A Sunday morning, the road leading to The Church of Signs and Wonders begins to swell hours before the service starts. Buses from nearby villages, and autos and tractor-trolleys packed with families head to a large ground in Khambra village, on the outskirts of Jalandhar, for 'pastor' Ankur Narula's sermons.

Inside, the atmosphere is electric. Under a structure supported by a grid of beams and columns, hundreds of people stand in neat rows, hands clasped in devotion. Soon, a live orchestra fills the hall with hymns in Punjabi and Hindi, similar in style to the *bhajans* in temples and *deras*. Men and women in coordinated black-and-white attire lead the singing, while big LED screens amplify the spectacle. The crowd responds by clapping and swaying.

After half an hour of music, the stage is opened up for personal narratives. A couple steps forward with two young children. "We had no hope after years of marriage," the woman says. "We came here, we prayed, and today we are blessed."

A young man speaks next. "I was addicted to drugs. Nothing worked. I came here and now, I am clean."

A woman from Bihar slowly walks up the steps to the stage. "I could not walk for years," she says. "Now I can."

Each testimony, told under dramatic arc lights and accentuated by music, is met with applause. Some in the audience weep, others raise their hands in prayer.

After hours of music and testimonies, the hall erupts as pastor Narula, clad in white *kurta-pyjama*, takes the stage. He begins with a hymn in Hindi before starting his sermon. "Medicine can manage. But only faith can heal completely," says Narula, whose ministry claims a following of around 3-4 lakh people in India and abroad.

As he speaks, some in the audience begin to tremble and others fall to the ground. Volunteers move quickly to assist them.

Unlike traditional institutions such as the Roman Catholic Church or the Church of North India, independent ministries such as the one Narula runs in Khambra village represent a relatively newer, popular face of Christianity in Punjab.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent statement, that the BJP would bring a law to stop "forcible conversions" in Punjab if voted to power in 2027, brought renewed scrutiny to the rapid growth of these churches across the state. According to Albert Dua, president of the United Christian Federation, of the 5,000-odd churches in Punjab, more than 80% belong to the newer denominations. Some like Narula's Church of Signs and Wonders are established institutions that run out of massive structures spread across acres, there are several smaller churches that run out of homes.

A different kind of faith

What complicates the political debate over conversion is the unique, fluid nature of the faith that's practised by these ministries. Churches such as Narula's are independent entities influenced by the Pentecostal movement that places more emphasis on a "direct encounter with God", rather than any structured, organised conversion.

The ground outside the prayer enclosure resembles a fair with food stalls, book counters, and families sitting together with home-packed meals.

"I have not changed my religion," says Sunita Verma at one of the food counters. "Earlier, I used to go to temples. But now I believe in Jesus even though I am a Hindu."

Like her, most of the faithful participate in church gatherings, but undergo no formal conversion or change in official identities.

It's this grey area that any anti-conversion law in Punjab will have to navigate.

Dua of the United Christian Federation calls the political debate on the anti-conversion law "a stunt". "If thousands gather, believe, and return, yet never formally convert, what does conversion even mean? In Punjab today, faith is not always a matter of record. And that is what makes it so difficult to regulate. There should be a proper census," he says.

"There is no document, no legal declaration," says Chandigarh-based advocate Manjeet Singh. "If a person attends prayers but does not officially convert, how do you prove conversion? You cannot legislate what is happening inside someone's mind."

While Christians officially account for 1.5% of Punjab's population of 27.7 million (2011 Census), community leaders estimate that up to 15% of the population could be "informal believers".

Nearly a century after Rev. John C. Lowrie arrived in Ludhiana, marking the beginning of Christianity and organised missionary activity in Punjab, including preaching, education, and social work, Christianity remains a small but significant part of Punjab's religious landscape.

But unlike the traditional church, with its strict rules for baptism and memberships, many of the new Pentecostal Christian missions are more fluid, with their followers retaining parts of their previous religious identities while participating in prayer meetings and congregational life.

At these churches, sermons are delivered in Punjabi and Hindi, hymns resemble *bhajans* and community meals in line with the *langar* tradition are organised on special days. *Shobha yatras* (religious

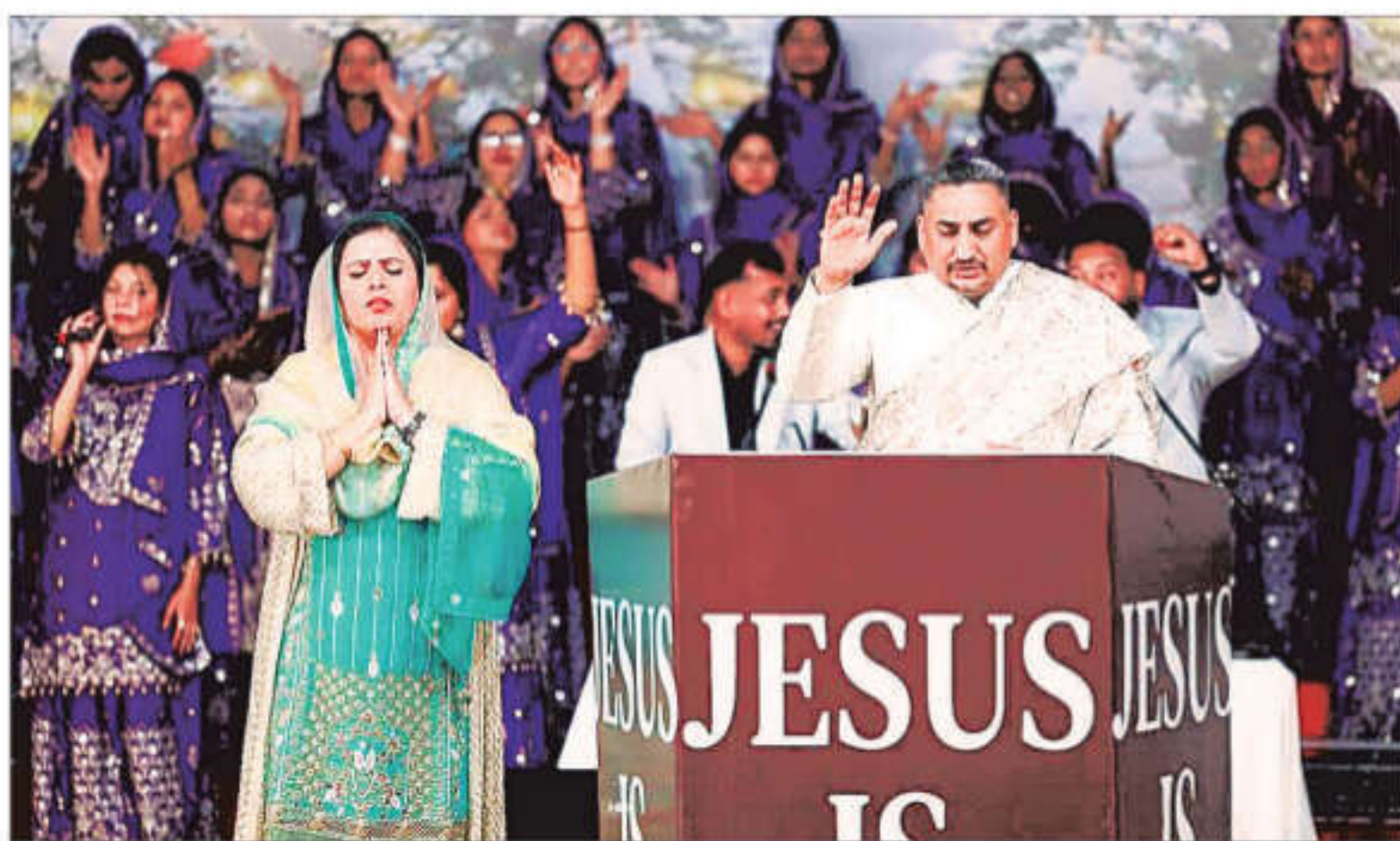


ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA

THE NEW CHURCHES OF PUNJAB

MINISTRY OF FAITH

Sermons by self-appointed pastors, hymns on the lines of *bhajans*, and the dispensing of 'miracles' — some of the newer churches in Punjab are testing the limits of traditional religion. Amid Amit Shah's recent remarks on an anti-conversion law, ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA & KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR visit some of these churches where faith is more than an identity



COURTESY: OPEN DOOR CHURCH

(Clockwise from top) Ankur Narula's church complex at Khambra village in Jalandhar; Narula claims a following of around 3-4 lakh people in India and abroad; a sermon by Harpreet Deol of the Open Door Church ministry at Khojewala, Kapurthala.



COURTESY: THE CHURCH OF SIGNS AND WONDERS

processions, with the Bible placed on a vehicle, are carried out like Sikh processions for the Guru Granth Sahib. Pastors now frequently wear turbans and keep beards. One of the most commonly used quotes at these gatherings is, "Jesus doesn't change your religion; he changes your heart."

The pews in these churches have been replaced with floor mats (*dari*), and visitors to some of the smaller churches are required to remove their shoes, like in gurdwaras and temples.

Borrowing from experiences at Hindu and Sikh *deras*, some of these gatherings offer a grand experience with high-quality sound systems, professional lighting, and grand halls.

What draws them

Sadiq village in Faridkot district has one Partition-era gurdwara and four churches, three of these Roman Catholic churches. The fourth, 'Ishwar Satya Bhawan', is run by Barkat Singh, an independent pastor.

A Majhabhi, or Dalit Sikh, Barkat set up the church in 2010, when he converted "for personal reasons". The church runs out of a hall that's part of his house, where he lives with his wife and the families of his two sons.

"Around 50 followers come to my church. There has been an increase in the Christian population in Punjab, but the numbers are not as great as is being projected. There are 10-12 Christian houses in this village. Others are Sikhs. We all have

to live in peace," says Barkat. Sadiq village is in Punjab's Dalit heartland of Doaba, where Hindu and Sikh Scheduled Castes make up 40% of the population. The region is also home to Dera Balan that's at the heart of Dalit politics and caste pride. Yet, three of the biggest Christian *deras* that have their base here are all run by upper-caste pastors (Harpreet Deol, Bajinder Singh, and Ankur Narula).

Nearly 2 km from Sadiq village, pastor Sunil Sethi runs a church at his village, Mani Singh Wala. "I am a Sethi (upper caste). My caste has not changed. But now I am blessed and have quit my bad habits. I converted to Christianity in 2009," he says.

Asked if intercaste marriages are common after conversion to Christianity, Sethi says, "Everyone tries to arrange the marriage of their children into their own caste."

Barkat is proud of his caste. "Caste can't be changed. I was born into a family of Majhabhi Sikhs. My two sons are married into Sikh families. My daughter is married to a Christian family. My daughters-in-law go to the gurdwara," he says.

With caste an entrenched reality, most followers of these churches say it wasn't discrimination, but the "miracles" they witnessed that drew them to their new faith. Gurcharan Singh, a Majhabhi Sikh labourer in Sadiq, says he converted to Christianity in 2021 after attending a congregation in the village about a year ago. "We saw how those who couldn't walk started dancing. It was a miracle."

Gurcharan doesn't go to any of the four churches in Sadiq. Instead, he travels nearly 80 kilometers to a church in Bathinda. "I am a follower of pastor Jaspreet. I started believing in him after witnessing miracles with my own eyes. They can cure every kind of physical pain. My niece almost died in an accident. We took her to many places and finally, to Pastor Jaspreet's church. She is fine now. What can be

a bigger miracle than this? Our entire family was possessed by evil spirits. Now we are free," he says.

In the second half of the 19th century, Punjab witnessed the Singh Sabha movement, a socio-religious reform movement to promote rational thinking among Sikhs that led to the formation of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC). "After 1984, this movement within the Sikhs found a new objective: to shun every practice that has any roots in a Brahminical approach. It led to Sikh activists opposing *siyane* (faith healers) and *peers* and warning Sikhs against visiting them. Then came the pastors. Now the same people who would go to *peers* go to these gatherings in the hope of witnessing miracles," says Sarabjit Singh Dhotian, head preacher of the SGPC.

The pastors, he says, are a powerful anchor for those in distress. "At the gurdwara, the priest is more like a caretaker. Some people feel the need for a middleman between them and God, to whom they can tell their problems. Pastors place their hands on the heads of the devotees and play the middleman," he says.

A senior RSS leader in Punjab, who spoke on the condition that he won't be named, calls for societal support. "Instead of focusing only on conversions, society should strengthen itself from within. There is sometimes a lack of meaningful social or spiritual engagement among Hindus and Sikhs. This gap can lead individuals to search for support in other spaces," he says.

Jatinder Masih Gaurav, Chairman of the Punjab State Minority Commission, dismisses allegations of "forced conversion". "People attend ministry church gatherings in large numbers, not necessarily to change their religion, but to find peace and spiritual comfort. Amit Shah, who holds a constitutional position, should exercise caution while making such statements. In Punjab, there has not been a single reported case of forced conversion," he says.

• THE BIG CHURCH MINISTRIES

'APOSTLE' ANKUR YOSEPH NARULA:

Senior Pastor of the Church of Signs and Wonders, he founded what's considered one of the largest and fastest-growing church ministries in Punjab. After a battle with drug addiction, he says he turned to faith. In 2007-08, he started his own church in Khambra village (Jalandhar) with just three followers. He now claims a following of around 3-4 lakh people. His ministry has expanded beyond Punjab, with branches in Australia, the UK, Canada, US, and parts of Europe.

BAJINDER SINGH:

Began his church activities in Mohali after his release from jail in a murder case in 2012. He later established a major centre at Tajpur village near Jalandhar, where large-scale congregations are held, drawing thousands of attendees. In 2018, he was arrested in a rape case and came out on bail. In 2025, he was convicted and has been in jail since. His family manages these gatherings. His organisation reportedly operates around 250 branches

HARPREET DEOL:

Runs the Open Door Church ministry in Khojewala village, Kapurthala. His ministry attracts thousands of followers, organises regular bi-weekly congregations, and operates multiple branches

A growing sense of unease

The rise of these churches has been accompanied by a growing list of controversies, ranging from allegations of sexual harassment and financial irregularities.

Among the controversial figures is Bajinder Singh of the Church of Glory and Wisdom, who is currently lodged in Mansa jail after a rape conviction. Police say Singh, who converted while in jail in a murder case in 2011-12, later built a large following through "miracle" claims. His church was raided by the Income Tax Department in 2023.

Ankur Narula, founder of one of Punjab's largest ministries, has also faced scrutiny, with his premises, too, subjected to Income Tax raids.

Narula, however, maintains that all activities of the church are conducted openly and events are broadcast live on their social media channels. "If we were doing anything wrong, why would we make everything public?" he asks, maintaining that he gets no foreign funding and that all "contributions come voluntarily from people within India".

Traditional Christian denominations such as the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of North India are wary as they watch the rise of Pentecostal-style "ministry churches" across Punjab.

"The Catholic Church has no relation with such ministries," says Tarsem Peter of the Diocesan Pastoral Council in Jalandhar, underlining structural and theological differences. He points out that becoming a priest in the Catholic tradition involves years of training, unlike the relatively unregulated rise of "self-styled pastors".

Distinguishing the structured Catholic Church from the emerging "pastor culture", Thomas Masih, state president of the BJP Punjab Minority Morcha and a Catholic Commission associate, says that the traditional system has no room for "forced conversions" and therefore no reason to fear an anti-conversion law.

Dua of the United Christian Federation says, "Earlier Pentecostal groups focused strictly on the Holy Bible and a simple life. There was no emphasis on miracles. But the newer ministries are adopting practices like processions for Good Friday and Christmas, while promoting miracle healing and signs and wonders. They are more like *deras*," he says.

Fr. Jose Sebastian Bishop of the Jalandhar Diocese, which has 150 churches and 75 schools across Punjab, parts of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh and J&K, says that while it's a "deep thirst for fulfilment" that draws people to such spaces, "larger followings are not proof of genuineness. People will find that out soon".

But none of this scepticism finds space at Narula's gathering in Khambra village. Sitting on chairs in the back row of the enclosure, Mahesh and his wife Reena Baghel say they travelled from Chhattisgarh to pray at Narula's church, hoping to be parents after 18 years of marriage. "Maybe it is belief, maybe miracle... but people feel something. That is why all these people have come."



ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA

As pastor Ankur Narula speaks, some in the audience begin to tremble and others fall to the ground. Volunteers move quickly to assist them



Of Love, Longing and Everything In Between

Shubhra Gupta

THIS MARATHI language feature involves a pair of former lovers accidentally bumping into each other in Tokyo years after their painful parting. The meeting between Toh (He, Lalit Prabhakar) and Ti (She, Mrinmayee Godbole) causes facades to be peeled off, re-opening old wounds: can these two forgive each other, and is forgetting on the cards?

Directed by Mohit Takalkar and written by Irawati Karnik, *Toh Ti Ani Fuji* is the kind of grown-up relationship drama which feels fresh, contemporary and urgent: as Toh and Ti are drawn to each other, trying to see how they fit in. We see just how complex the thing between two people can be, where 'extreme hatred and extreme love', as one of the two puts it, can appear to be the two sides of the same coin.

Watching this film, which clocks in at a leisurely two hours — with some of those moments feeling stretched but never superfluous even if the flashbacks become a tad too much — you are back in that middle-of-the-road zone which Hindi cinema used to inhabit in the '70s and '80s, when flawed adult characters were allowed to exist, and play off each other.

Watching Toh and Ti circle around each other afresh, in a city far away from the place where they first fell in love, rubbing up against spots still raw from back then, reminded me, a little, of the Richard Linklater movies, in which the lovers walk and talk, pause and fumble, and then start again, in a life-like manner. When have we not felt like shooting our partners, and jumping their bones, all at the same time?

There are other characters here, primarily a cute — not cutesy, thanks be — little boy (Deven) who is revealed to be Ti's

TOH TI ANI FUJI (MAIN, WOH AUR FUJI)
 ★★★
DIRECTOR: Mohit Takalkar
CAST: Lalit Prabhakar, Mrinmayee Godbole, Kabeer Deven
STREAMING ON: Sony Liv

son, but the identity of the father takes a while to unpack, even though we know, of course we do. An old friend of Ti's, a simpatico man, also in Tokyo, also deeply connected to the twosome, leaves us wondering, albeit briefly, if we are in for a threesome.

Parental figures, not very sympathetic, show up, helping us know our characters and what makes them tick: Ti's invalid mother who binds her daughter to herself till the threads unravel, Toh's keeping-the-balance mother and snooty father whose wealth is not the barrier that the latter thinks it is.

But the film works best as a two-hander, coasting on a surprisingly frank sexual register which feels like actual passion, unlike the anodyne stuff we get in most mainstream Hindi cinema. Prabhakar is a volatile charmer who can slide from ardour to murder in a heart-beat: the

onions need to be sliced, not chopped, otherwise all hell can break loose. He's got serious daddy issues, and can go to any lengths to get his point of view across: the prospect of being a daddy himself opens up a possible new path for him — will he be able to walk down it?

Godbole is a delight, showing both strength and vulnerability, doing what she needs to survive, and yet not losing her essence — her reading a Sylvia Plath novel feels appropriate, as does her warm Indian clothes being switched for Japanese pastels. She makes 'He' come alive, and vice versa, and the two create that fire that only two people — totally into each other, the world be damned — can.

This is a well-written, well-directed love story — the titular Mount Fuji a fleeting physical but constant metaphysical presence — whose crests and troughs feel real and relatable.



An Apology Tour with Mixed Results

Alaka Sahani

EVERY ONCE in a while Hollywood undertakes the exercise of looking inwards and coming up with a cinematic exploration about the fallout of stardom. Months after Noah Baumbach's *Jay Kelly* told the story of its titular protagonist, an aging star played by George Clooney, who is struggling to reconnect with his daughters and reflecting on his past actions, Jonah Hill-directed *Outcome* makes Reef Hawk (Keanu Reeves) make a series of apologies to the people he might have hurt in his long career as a child prodigy-turned-America's heartthrob.

With a runtime of 85 minutes, the movie tries to comment on several aspects of stardom even as it remains focussed on the crisis that Hawk faces after he has finally achieved sobriety and managed to put his drug addiction behind him. A blackmail threat looms over his carefully rebuilt image. What follows is a series of image-management exercises that capture the machinery behind the present-day celebrity culture.

Outcome, which is written by Hill and Ezra Woods, is a satirical take on contemporary celebrity culture; the price of constantly living under the arc light; the trial by social media; and looking for reaffirmation of being loved in media contents. Hill aims for the satire that is biting. At times it veers into the zone of absurdity. Still, it remains one of the film's strongest aspects even though the narration is not always engaging.

After receiving the threat that unless Hawk coughs up \$35 million, a video that might damage his image will be leaked, this crisis lawyer Ira Slitz (Hill) advises the actor to track down his potential haters and apologise. Slitz lines up a bunch of experts, who lecture Hawk on what are the

things he has done wrong in his career and why he is facing the possibility of being cancelled.

At one point, Slitz even tells Hawk that the best way of warding off the crisis is to "become a victim". Outcome talks about the social media-driven culture that capitalises on 'victimhood' and promotes 'attention culture'.

Reeves, who might have had many references for this character, portrays his character's insecurities and need for validation convincingly. Among the film's several meta moments is the appearance of Drew Barrymore as herself. Her journey captures one of Hollywood's most astounding successes as a child star, the tragedy of not getting proper parental guidance and going through a difficult phase of addiction.

When Hawk makes an appearance on Barrymore's talk show, she tells him "how much our lives have paralleled and how much we have been through". In spite of that Barrymore takes a dig at the tendency of glorifying victimhood. Don't skip the credits.

Outcome holds a mirror to the current trend of stars indulging in self-pity to stay relevant. That's something one comes across in long-form interviews and podcasts these days. The storyline is peppered with several thought-provoking moments. Some of them are sly and smart such as the message on the back of Slitz's vehicle saying: "Honk if you can separate the art from the artist".

Yet, for all its insight, *Outcome* doesn't always engage. At times, it feels weighed down by its own commentary. It could have tapped into the comedic talent of Reeves and Cameron Diaz for levity. Martin Scorsese, who appears as Hawk's former manager now working in a bowling alley, makes up for that with a memorable cameo.

Chase that Runs Out of Steam

Shubhra Gupta

THIS TELUGU-HINDI thriller, meant to be a fast-paced romance between two good-looking people from opposite sides of the tracks, proves a few things: plots trying to be new shouldn't feel familiar, it's never a good idea to waste Prakash Raj, and that Anurag Kashyap needs to act a lot more, as he literally saves this film from sinking.

It's good to have Adivi Sesh back in action, building on his kinetic Kshanam-Goodachari persona. But his conflicted convict Hari, out for revenge against the love of his life (Mrunal Thakur), whom he holds responsible for his ruin, is overwrought. More underwhelming is Thakur as Saraswati, the upper-class, upper-caste woman whose idea of showing her lover a good time is to teach him how to drive on a straight road.

You wish someone had pressed the clutch-and-brake harder at the convoluted proceedings, which involve Atul Kulkarni, as a former inmate, helping Hari break free. There's a hospital overrun by shady characters, Covid sufferers floating about in masks, and the patient for a long-awaited heart transplant undergoing a huge setback, while corrupt hospital owner (Raj) and his cohorts gleefully count their ill-gotten cash.

Anyone could have warned Hari that things would not go well, as Saraswati's family consists of your standard horrible types, including a stone-faced mother (Zarina Wahab in a blink-and-miss part) refusing to melt at her daughter's pleas: the crime is rape-and-murder, the victim is a



DACOIT
 ★★
DIRECTOR: Shaneil Deo
CAST: Adivi Sesh, Mrunal Thakur, Atul Kulkarni, Prakash Raj, Anurag Kashyap, Zarina Wahab

lower caste woman who dares to stand up for her own rights, the perpetrators are a bunch of upper caste men, and in goes innocent Hari into the clink.

A strand involving Saraswati's present family unit — a spouse who nurses venomous secrets and a young daughter who has the habit of asking inconvenient questions — created while Hari is thinking his dark thoughts, adds very little to the film, which descends into teary melodrama whenever Thakur is up against obstacles, which happens more often than not.

Plenty of Bonnie-and-Clyde type scooter-and-shoots, with Hari pushing and Saraswati pulling, ensue: every type of vehicle — motorcycles, police vans, ambulances, cars — is pressed into service as the two go careering off with the police in hot pursuit. That's when a world-weary cop (Anurag Kashyap) who has turned religious, steps up, giving the film a more effective climactic point than the leads would have managed on their own.

• MUSIC THIS WEEK

A Stage of Her Own

THE ALL HEARTS TOUR - LIVE
 ★★★★★
ARTIST: Shreya Ghoshal
LABEL: Sony Music

Suanshu Khurana

NEAR-PERFECT IS not a promise that a live album ever gets to make. Even at its best, the precision in most live albums, barring some exceptional classical ones, surfaces in flashes of those rigorously practised sections. And if one is lucky, there may be some unanticipated moments that may just align well when one least expects them.

Even though playback singer Shreya Ghoshal's voice, for years now, has carried a certain studio-like clarity in her live presentations (her stripped down, acoustic versions of *Sun raha hai (Aashiqui 2, 2013)* and Lata



Mangeshkar's *Rasm-e-ulfat* in *MTV Unplugged* remain great lessons in how technical command can seamlessly merge with the emotional core of a song), a stage concert in auditoriums and stadiums with numerous factors at play can place even the most seasoned performers at the mercy of uncontrollable variables. That she has chosen to release recordings from her recent 'The All Hearts Tour' and put them out as a nine-track album is lion-hearted. That she is also perhaps the first woman playback singer in

about three decades to do so makes this all the more compelling. Mainly because live music brutally exposes what the insulated studios smooth over with careful production and corrections for many sub-par yet often popular artists.

What to me is also of interest is that Ghoshal takes some of her more tuneful melodies — *Saibo (Shor in the City, 2011)*, *O saathi re (Omkaara, 2006)*, *O Rangrez (Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, 2013)* and *Samjhavaan (Humpty Sharma ki Dulhaniya, 2014)*, among others and does her blazing versions of them. She lingers on a note when she wants, adds aalaps that aren't originally there, improvises and takes these songs to newer dimensions. They often deviate from how they appear in their respective films and that's remarkable.

A lot of these songs are originally duets, built on the interplay between two distinct voices. But Ghoshal sings both parts and owns the pieces, creating the dialogue with a single voice. That she recently spoke of gender inequality in the film industry in an interview is resonant here. As mentioned by other women singers too, they have been overshadowed in collaborative formats in the last few decades, unlike the older days

when the Mangeshkar sisters dominated the space.

In the album, the distinction between live and studio fades from the word go. While the slower melodies soar easily, the item numbers like *Nagada (Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram Leela, 2013)* and *Chikni Chameli (Agnepath, 2012)*, even though ably delivered, do not feel as settled. One can sense the breath working harder, all of it going into the functional domain. An exception is *Radha (Student of the Year)*, where a chorus for some part of the song allows Ghoshal to play off the collective energy and retain massive clarity in the briskly moving notes. The upshot is that Ghoshal doesn't treat the stage as a litmus test to be passed. One can hear her genuinely enjoy the music she has worked on, an extension of her craft. She plays the piano live along with some of the songs in her concerts, as if she is rehearsing in her living room and the audience has been invited to her private space. From an Indian film music singer of today, that is heartening. Even if she still has to jostle for space with male singers on the cutting table, at this point, Ghoshal is inhabiting the stage on her own terms. And she is knocking it out of the park.

• STREAMING WATCHLIST



O' Romeo
 PRIME VIDEO

SET IN post-independence Mumbai, the underworld rises amidst a changing city. *O' Romeo* is a gritty tale that explores the criminal landscape of a bygone era, weaving through the streets and shadows of the metropolis. When true love claims a stone-hearted gangster and bloodthirsty womaniser, leaving him helpless and unguarded, a gang war erupts that shakes the entire underworld to its very roots. Written and directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, the film stars Shahid Kapoor, Triptii Dimri, Nana Patekar, Avinash Tiwary, Tamannaah Bhatia and Farida Jalal.



Anaconda
 NETFLIX

IN JACK Black's 2025 meta reboot of *Anaconda*, directed by Tom Gormican, the buddy comedy follows four friends who head into the jungle to remake their favorite creature feature, only to realize they're being hunted by a real Amazonian serpent — with a monster appetite. Joining Black in the action-adventure film are Paul Rudd, Steve Zahn, and Thandiwe Newton.



Anemone
 JIHOTSTAR

THE FILM explores the complex and profound ties that exist between brothers, fathers, and sons. The intimate drama directed by and co-written by Ronan Day-Lewis marks the return of Daniel Day-Lewis to acting. The film follows a man (Sean Bean) travelling into the woods to reconnect with his hermit brother (Daniel Day-Lewis).



Big Mistakes
 NETFLIX

DAN LEVY is bringing the family drama (and crime) with the new comedy series *Big Mistakes*. In this dysfunctional, hilariously chaotic ride, the series follows two deeply incapable siblings who are blackmailed into the world of organised crime. Blackmailed into working for some very dangerous people, two deeply incapable siblings become the most disorganised duo in organised crime. Alongside Levy, the eight episodes will star Taylor Ortega and Laurie Metcalf.

The Testaments
 JIHOTSTAR

CHASE INFINITI and Lucy Halliday feature in this series that deals with an evolution of *The Handmaid's Tale* and a dramatic coming-of-age story set in Gilead. Ann Dowd reprises her role as Aunt Lydia, alongside new series regulars. Three episodes are available for streaming and a new episode is added every Wednesday.



ALAKA SAHANI

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

How the war will hit India's growth, and your wallet



GRAPHS, DATA, PERSPECTIVES
BY UDIT MISRA

WEEKLY ECONOMIC AND POLICY INSIGHTS USING DATA

INDIA'S REAL economic growth rate is expected to dip below the crucial 7% mark in the current financial year thanks to the war in Iran, according to a new assessment by the World Bank.

On February 27, the Indian government had updated the way it estimated its economic growth. The most significant change was the use of a new base year (2022-23). It was a long-pending update — the previous base year was 2011-12 — as a growing number of observers had raised questions about the quality of India's GDP data, especially many who claimed India's GDP was being overstated.

While the new gross domestic product or GDP was lower in the new data series, a silver lining was the fact that in each of the years in the new GDP data series, the growth rate of India's real GDP (that is, economic growth after taking away the effect of inflation) was above 7%.

The new series pegged India's real GDP growth rate at 7.2% for FY24, 7.1% in FY25 and 7.6% in FY26. Commenting on the data, India's Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran had underscored the importance of the 7% growth rate. "This is very important because these are the numbers when we talk about achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047. The numbers being talked about are between 7% and 8% in real growth rates."

The very next day, however, the US and Israel attacked Iran — a war that continued for 39 days before reaching a fragile ceasefire agreement. Over the next few days, top negotiators from the US and Iran will meet in Islamabad and attempt to bring hostilities to an end. But even as things stand, India's GDP growth rate has been dented enough to dip below the 7% mark according to the World Bank's latest India Development Update (see table).

"In the absence of the conflict, GDP growth was projected at 7.2 percent... Growth is now projected at 6.6 percent in FY27, reflecting headwinds from the Middle East conflict — assuming an extended disruption in global energy (oil and gas) supply till end-2026," states the World Bank. It has also provided a detailed breakdown about how different components of India's growth will be affected. Typically, the GDP of a country is generated by four main engines:

- Expenditures by private individuals for their consumption ('C') — this includes everything from food to train tickets
- Expenditures by companies towards their businesses (these are called investments or 'I' in the table)
- Expenditures that the government makes for its daily functioning (for instance, salaries and fuel bills).
- The net effect of exports ('X') and imports ('M'); exports bring money in and add to GDP. Imports do the opposite.

The equation is $GDP = C + I + G + NX$ (net exports). The biggest deceleration in the overall GDP is likely to happen via the deceleration in the growth of private consumption, which is also the biggest engine of growth in any year, accounting for almost 55% to 60% of India's total GDP. In the past couple of years, the government has tried to boost private consumption by providing relief both in direct income tax as well as indirect (GST) tax. But the higher prices in the wake of this war is expected to hit "disposable" incomes.

The growth in "investments" by companies — the second biggest engine, contributing almost 30% of total GDP in a year — is likely to slow down due to market uncertainty. The government's own expenditure, too, is likely to be constrained because it is already over-stretched on its total borrowings and with oil prices staying elevated, the subsidy bill is likely to rise further.

Last, while exports are expected to continue to grow at the same rate, imports are likely to increase at a faster clip and the net effect is expected to drag down India's GDP further.

• DENT TO GROWTH PROJECTION

Growth rates (year-on-year)	2025-26	2026-27
Real GDP	7.6%	6.6%
Private Consumption (C)	7.7%	7%
Gross Fixed Capital Formation (I)	7.1%	6.7%
Government Expenditure (G)	6.6%	6.3%
Exports (X)	6.5%	6.5%
Imports (M)	6.4%	6.7%

SOURCE: CEIC, MOSPI, WORLD BANK STAFF CALCULATIONS.

• CLIMATE

Global concerns vs national interest: Why India lost interest in hosting COP33

Amitabh Sinha
New Delhi, April 10

IT WAS in December 2023, during COP28 in Dubai, that Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered to host the 2028 edition of the annual climate summit in India.

A public and explicit offer to host a COP meeting, five years in advance, and that too from a head of state, was extremely rare. It was a clear indication that India was looking to play a more active and leading role in international climate affairs. The offer had come just a few months after a successful G20 meeting in New Delhi whose final outcome had important decisions on climate.

But events of the last few years, on the climate front and elsewhere, prompted a rethink. India soon realised that the objectives it had in mind while offering to host the event could not be achieved in this changed situation. India's own positions on climate issues evolved significantly during this time. It became increasingly evident that as host and president of a COP meeting, it would have to champion causes that

could come in conflict with its own stated positions and national interest.

As a result, India has decided to drop this matter and not bid for COP33 when the process begins this year to pick the 2028 host.

India's sharpening positions

India has not spelt out the reasons for this change of mind, but its predicament is not difficult to comprehend. In the last few years, India has been taking unusually strong positions on climate-related matters.

This was prompted by the evolution of global climate negotiations well as a recalibration of India's own perspective. There has been a growing acknowledgment of the fact that the international climate framework, represented by the Paris Agreement, remains heavily stacked against developing countries — particularly a country like India which has a large emission footprint but a compelling need for more carbon space to ensure prosperity to its people. Consequently, in matters of climate and energy, there has been a clear attempt by India in the last few years to prioritise long-term na-

tional interest over global climate concerns.

India even began questioning the very foundations of Paris pact, arguing that pursuing arbitrarily-defined temperature goals (1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius targets) was probably not the best way, and certainly not the only way, to deal with climate change. India has been arguing that rapid development was probably the best insurance against climate change as that would bring in greater resilience to withstand climate impacts.

This approach is at variance with the mainstream, 'progressive' position that frames climate change as an existential threat, and wants every country, regardless of their level of development, to prioritise climate action. India, on the other hand, had begun to argue for a development-first approach, hoping to get on a trajectory similar to that of China, which in the last three decades prioritised growth to reach a position from where it can make meaningful contributions on climate without hampering its interests. There is a reason why China, and for that matter US, has never shown any interest in hosting climate meetings.

In the last few years, India has been vocal in articulating its recalibrated positions. It had reacted with uncharacteristic anger at the disappointing outcome on climate finance negotiations at COP29 in 2024. It has been pressing for the full implementation of Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement, a largely overlooked provision that says developed nations "shall provide", not just 'mobilise', financial resources for developing countries. On India's insistence, COP30 in Brazil last year was forced to establish a two-year work programme to discuss all pending matters on climate finance, including Article 9.1.

A difficult position

Having taken these positions, it would have been extremely difficult for India to steer the negotiations at COP33. The host and president of the COP meetings is expected to champion the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, not question its foundations. It is supposed to ensure that COP discussions lead to outcomes that will speed up the rate of emission cuts, not raise doubts over their

usefulness. India feared that taking on that role for COP33 would have required it to prioritise global climate concerns over its own national interests.

This predicament would have been pronounced in COP33 because that meeting is due to carry out the second Global Stocktake (GST) to assess the progress being made on Paris Agreement targets. GST is an important exercise under the Paris Agreement, to be carried out at five-year intervals, to ensure that the world does not lose sight of its goal and adjusts the ambition of its climate actions to achieve these. Considering that the world is currently nowhere close to the pathway that will achieve the Paris targets, COP33 would need to deliver an outcome that would result in substantial increase in climate ambition, an unlikely scenario.

The IPCC AR7 angle

The under-preparation seventh assessment report (AR7) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) worsened India's predicament. Work on AR7 began last year and it is due to be published

in 2029. But there are demands from some countries to expedite the publication of the report by 2028 itself so that it can feed into the GST process. The assessment reports are the most comprehensive scientific view of the state of global climate and have served as the scientific basis for international climate negotiations from the start.

AR7 is likely to present a grim picture of the state of global climate, and, if published ahead of the GST exercise, could lead to renewed calls for raising of climate ambition. India, along with countries including China, has been opposing the early publication, arguing that many developing countries would have less time to review it.

As host and president of the COP supervising the GST process, it would be difficult for India to oppose the early publication. Stepping aside would also be a missed opportunity for India to push forward the cause of Global South. But weighed against the prospect of getting boxed in, India thought it prudent to opt out.

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• U.S.-IRAN TALKS

'Difficult to replace the Gulf as a supply source'



EXPERT EXPLAINS

AJAY SINGH

ENERGY AND SHIPPING INDUSTRY EXECUTIVE

THE TWO-WEEK ceasefire between the US and Iran appears increasingly fragile as delegations from both countries meet in Islamabad today. Israel attacked Lebanon claiming it was not part of the ceasefire deal, Iran again closed the Strait of Hormuz over the alleged violation, and US President Donald Trump accused Tehran of breaching the deal with the fresh blockade.

The two-week period for talks between the US and Iran, therefore, becomes crucial to not just strike a lasting peace but also to ensure the flow of energy through the maritime chokepoint that accounts for a fifth of the world's oil demand during peacetime.

Ajay Singh, an energy and shipping executive based in Tokyo, tells Anil Sasi that even if the ceasefire holds, restarting and stabilising production and exports from the Persian Gulf could possibly take weeks. Singh, who is a former Shell and Japan Petroleum Corporation executive with considerable experience of West Asia, also explains why the US and Venezuela cannot replace the Gulf as a supply source even in the long run. Edited Excerpts:

With a ceasefire deal having been announced, what are the prospects for oil and gas exports to resume?

A ceasefire has been announced but it is still unclear whether all three warring countries are fully on board, and whether it will fully take effect and hold. That is essential for substantial oil and gas exports through the Strait of Hormuz to resume. Disagreements have been reported among the parties concerned about the terms of the ceasefire. Meanwhile attacks have continued in Kuwait, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Lebanon including on oil and gas facilities. It is too early to say that oil and gas exports can substantially re-commence.

If the ceasefire actually takes effect and



Police officers in Islamabad ahead of negotiations between Iran and the US on Friday. AP

holds, then exports could resume relatively quickly but they will initially be quite limited. Tankers are at hand in the Persian Gulf region, as are stocks of oil and gas at export terminals, but everything has been idle for weeks and it will take time for volumes to build up. Various problems will need to be sorted out, from fixing accumulated technical issues at export terminals and aboard ships, to seeing to essential supplies and relief for seafarers stuck on board, to coordination between exporters and buyers of oil and gas, shipping companies, insurers and the authorities exercising control over the Strait of Hormuz.

There are around 500 tankers and gas carrier ships stuck on either side of the Strait of Hormuz, which could make for a sort of maritime traffic jam. Moreover, production across various oil and gas fields, refineries and LNG plants had been reduced and even shut down in many cases. Restarting and stabilising production and exports will take several days, possibly weeks.

How significant is the two-week timeframe for energy markets?

The period is insufficient to make a major and reliable difference to global oil and gas supply. The main considerations behind that timeframe would be military and negotiation-related. During this, the

parties will remain positioned to resume combat. Meanwhile, whether merchant ships can be sent back into the Gulf will depend on what confidence can be gained from the progress of negotiations.

Until the parties agree to a settlement or at least stand down from combat readiness, supply out of the Gulf will remain limited. For consumer countries, the main relief lies in the partial cooling down of prices. Sourcing of supply will remain a challenge. It is important to continue preparations for a scenario of prolonged conflict, at a higher or lower level of intensity than thus far.

Maritime traffic jam

Around 500 tankers and gas carrier ships are stuck on either side of the Strait of Hormuz

Even if Iran reopens the Strait, their movement will be slowed down as they squeeze through the narrow passage

What role, in your view, did the oil price play in the push for a ceasefire?

It played a key role. Gasoline prices at the pump in America had risen by 35% since the start of the war and the stock markets had taken a beating, causing political concern on the US side. Second, although the military action against Iran has caused immense damage, there are doubts over its efficacy in ending the alleged nuclear weapons programme and missile capability. Meanwhile, further stoppage of oil and gas exports via the Strait, beyond the six weeks that have already elapsed, raises the prospect of much higher and prolonged rise in prices and a global recession. So, reopening the Strait rightly became the central issue.

'Full spectrum of peace agreement, strategic resolution unlikely'



EXPERT EXPLAINS

MAJ GEN G G DWIVEDI (RETD)

PROFESSOR, STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, DELHI

LESS THAN 24 hours after the US-Iran ceasefire was greeted with relief, the agreement is tottering, with Israel bombing Lebanon and seemingly no consensus between Tehran and Washington. Both sides, however, are still headed to Islamabad to continue negotiations. In modern conflicts, a ceasefire is more like a pause button and rarely the end point. The current truce is more due to the constraints of both sides rather than any convergence of political objectives. Just like the war demonstrated both sides' differing capabilities and methods, the negotiations are likely to be far from linear.

The divergence

While the US and Israel, with a much

more conventionally powerful military, sought to overwhelm Iran with a rapid, high-intensity bombing campaign and killing of its top leaders, Iran's strategy of asymmetric warfare entailed redundancy, decentralised control and dispersal to engage in a protracted war. By establishing control over the Strait of Hormuz, it gained a major negotiating advantage. Its proxies — Hezbollah in South Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen and fringe 'façade' Shia elements in Iraq — established a perilous escalatory vector, opening multiple fronts and providing Iran strategic depth. Given the asymmetry, the ceasefire is going to be inherently fragile.

What now in ceasefire talks

For Washington, the pause is more tactical in nature, while Tehran seeks to make it into a structural settlement. As of now, Israel is not even a party to the ceasefire. The immediate focus will be on holding the ceasefire, maintaining its sanctity and expanding the scope to the proxies as well. Limited 'Confidence Building Measures' could also be instituted through the intermediaries.

The negotiations following the ceasefire are likely to proceed in a graduated, step-by-step manner, involving tough bargaining marked by deep distrust.

The USA's 15 points and Iran's 10-point proposals will set the framework for the ne-

The divide

- For Washington, the pause is more tactical in nature, while Tehran seeks to make it into a structural settlement
- At best, there could be an interim deal encompassing capping of uranium enrichment, gradual sanctions relief, and a mechanism to restrain proxies

gotiations process to start. The key issues would be Iran's nuclear programme, sanctions relief and regional de-escalations. It's going to be a long-drawn affair. While the US will be insisting on Iran's nuclear roll back and limit its missile capability, Tehran on the other hand will be pushing for security guarantees, besides complete lifting of sanctions.

At best, there could be an interim deal encompassing capping of uranium enrichment, IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) enhanced monitoring, graduated sanctions relief, and an informal mechanism to restrain the proxies.

Geopolitical ramifications

The Iran War has deep geopolitical implications — both regional and global. The ceasefire itself underscores the emergence of a new architecture, driven by middle powers like Pakistan, Egypt, Turkey and Gulf states, instead of the traditional Western-dominated conflict resolution model.

With declining trust in the US as a security guarantor, Gulf states might enter 'mini-lateral coalitions' with increased defence spending. The Saudi-Pakistan 'Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement' could potentially expand to include Türkiye and Egypt.

China has expanded its diplomatic and technological footprint, offering digital infrastructure as an alternative to the West-

ern system. Hence, US alliance structures in West Asia will come under serious scrutiny. The great Hormuz shock and the fragility of energy hubs like Qatar's Ras Laffan are bound to lead to the development of alternative supply routes to obviate vulnerabilities. In this transition process, India has substantial stakes, beyond energy security, diaspora interests and maritime trade. In fact, India needs to revisit its West Asia engagement strategy and position itself as a proactive voice, particularly as the representative of the global South. Islamabad's central role as an interlocutor, though possibly limited, signals a subtle shift in regional power dynamics — something Delhi cannot ignore.

The way ahead

The current ceasefire provides space for diplomacy, dialogue and de-escalation. The danger lies not in its failure but in overpitching the expectations. The process of negotiations remains vulnerable to risks from spoilers, like the proxies, domestic political pressures and the Israeli security calculus.

A full spectrum of a peace agreement and strategic resolution of the conflict is unlikely even in the distant future. The probable end state may be that of "managed rivalry and confrontation" — reconciliation being a delusion.

Format C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) of 2011.

Name and address of candidate : **ARUP KUMAR DAS**
Vill- Serpur Etoyaribard, Po- Contai, Ps- Contai, Dist- Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721401

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **216, KANTHI DAKSHIN**

I, **ARUP KUMAR DAS** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	Ld. SCJM at Paschim Medinipur	Kotwali PS Case No.-793/2019, GR No.-72/20 Charges have not been framed	U/S-143/506 Offences under I.P.C., Section 32 Police Act.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	Ld. ACJM at Tamluk	Tamluk PS Case No. - 595/2021, Charges have not been framed	U/S-341/186/187/188/189/269/270/295A/ 506/120B Offences under I.P.C. & Section 5 OAct. 1923	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
3.	Ld. ACJM at Contai.	Bhupatinagar P.S. Case No. 193/2022, Dated 21.05.2022, GR No.- 1030/22 Charges have not been framed	U/S-147/148/149/353/333/186/325/307/ 506/509/379/153A/295A/120B Offences under I.P.C and Section 3 of PDPP Act.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Format C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) of 2011.

Name and address of candidate : **ANANDAMAY BARMAN**
Mirjangla, P.O.: New Chamta, P.S: Matigara, Sub: Siliguri, Dist. Darjeeling, PIN-734009

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **25, MATIGARA NAXALBARI (SC)**

I, **ANANDAMAY BARMAN** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	A.C.J.M. Court, Siliguri	G.R. 45/2023, Siliguri P.S. No. 10 of 2023, Dt. 03/01/2023 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 186/188/431/34 Offences under I.P.C.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	A.C.J.M Court, Siliguri	Siliguri PS Case No. 847/2020, Dt. 14/07/2020 Charges have not been framed	U/S 188/269/270 Offences under IPC R/W Section 51(B) D.M. Act 2005	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Format C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) of 2011.

Name and address of candidate : **SUKUMAR RAY**
Vill : Dakshin Kalarayer Kuthi PO. Pundibari, P.S. Pundibari, Dist. Coochbehar, PIN 736165

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **3, COOCHBEHAR UTTAR (SC)**

I, **SUKUMAR RAY** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	LD. CJM, Sadar Cooch Behar	Pundibari PS, Case - 285/2023 Dt. 28.04.2023 GR Case - 744/2023, Charges have not been framed	U/S - 448/325/427/307/34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	LD CJM, Sadar Cooch Behar	Pundibari PS, Case - 604/2025 Dt. 04.07.2025, GR Case - 1242/2025, Charges have not been framed	126(2)/118(2)/109/3(5) Offences under BNS 25(1)(a)/27/35 Offences under Arms Act.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
3.	LD CJM, Sadar Cooch Behar	Kotwali PS, CASE-183/2008 Dt. 15.03.2008 GR CASE-180/2008, Charges have not been framed	25(1)(a)/25(1)(b) Offences under Arms Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
4.	Ld CJM Cooch Behar	Pundibari PS, Case 207/2019, GR CASE-502/2019 Charges have not been framed	447/323/427 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
5.	Ld CJ M Cooch Behar	Kotwali PS Case 1158/2015, Dt. 30.11.2015, GR CASE-1380/2015 Charges have not been framed	341/302/506/34 Offences under IPC 25/27 Offences under Arms Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
6.	Ld. ACJM Tufanganj	Tufanganj P.S Case No. 81/2020 Dt. 10.02.2020, G.R Case No. 128/2020 Charges have not been framed	341/186/353/506/34 Offences under IPC & 8B Offences under NH Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
7.	Ld CJM Cooch Behar	Kotwali PS Case No. 799/2018, Dt. 27.12.2018, GR Case 1281/2018 Charges have not been framed	143/188/189/506 Offences under IPC RW Sec 32 Offences under Police Act.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
8.	Ld ACJM Dinhata	Dinhata P.S Case No 43/1995 Dt. 14.02.1995, GR Case No 46/1995, Charges have not been framed	461/379 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
9.	Ld C.J. M Cooch Behar	Kotwali PS Case No 371/2006, GR Case No 381/2006 Charges have not been framed	147/148/149/325/324/326/354/302/307 IPC & 25/27 Arms Act.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

(As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate : **CHANDRA SEKHAR BANERJEE**
Krishnakunj Apartment, Santiban Park, Sanjib Sarani, Durgapur - 713201, PS - Durgapur, Dist. Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**.
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **276, DURGAPUR PURBA**

I, **Chandra Sekhar Banerjee** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	Ld. 3rd J.M., Durgapur	Coke Oven P.S. GR 575/2016 Charges have not been framed	U/S 143, 506 IPC Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	Ld. 3rd J.M., Durgapur	Coke Oven P.S. GR 1790/2015 Charges have not been framed	U/S 406, 420, 409, 506, 120B IPC Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
3.	Ld. 3rd J.M., Durgapur	Coke Oven P.S. GR 1062/2006 Charges have not been framed	U/S 323, 325, 148 IPC Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
4.	Ld. 3rd J.M., Durgapur	Coke Oven P.S. GR 1465/2016 Charges have not been framed	U/S 147, 149, 323, 506, 325, 120B IPC Offence under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
5.	Ld. 3rd J.M., Durgapur	Coke Oven P.S. GR 572/2016 Charges have not been framed	U/S 323, 341, 354, 506, 34 IPC Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
6.	Ld. 3rd J.M., Durgapur	Coke Oven P.S. GR 877/2016 Charges have not been framed	U/S 147, 149, 447, 323, 427, 506 IPC Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Format C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

(As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate : **KSHETRA MOHAN HANSDA**
Vill- Sarasbedia, P.O. - Lurka, P.S.- Raipur, Dist.- Bankura, Pin- 721504

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**.
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **250, RAIPUR (ST)**

I, **Kshetra Mohan Hansda** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	J.M, Khatra	Raipur P.S. FIR No. 69/18 Dt. 12.10.2018 GR-450/2018 Charges have been framed	U/S-447/341/323/354(b)/325/506/34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Format C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) of 2011.

Name and address of candidate : **SWAGATA MANNA**
Vill-Dharmapur, P.O.-Panskura, P.S.- Panskura, Dist.-Purba Medinipur, PIN-721139

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **227, PINGLA**

I, **SWAGATA MANNA** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	Ld. CJM, Purba Medinipur at Tamluk	Panskura PS, Case No. 101/20 dated 12.03.2020; next date 29.12.2026 (Evidence), GR Case No. 556/205, Charges have not been framed	U/S- 341/323/506/34 Offences under I.P.C. as per Charge Sheet	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	Ld. JM 2nd Court, Purba Medinipur at Tamluk	Panskura PS, Case No. 299/2025 Dated 02.04.2025; next Date 02.02.2027 (Appearance & Charge) GR Case No. 929/25, Charges have not been framed	U/S- 329(3)/115(2)/74/3 51(2)/3(5) Offences under BNS	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Format C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) of 2011.

Name and address of candidate : **SHRI SUBHASHIS OM**
Vill-Daunia, PO-Boicha, PS-Debra, Dist-Paschim Medinipur, Pin-721301

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **229 - DEBRA**

I, **SHRI SUBHASHIS OM** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	CJM Paschim Medinipur	Debra PS, Case No. 106/24, dt. 17.02.2024 GR No. 427/2024, Charges have not been framed	U/S-143/149/188/283/431 Offences under I.P.C.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE

CONSTABLE M DHANDAPANI 14.04.1977 - 11.04.2000



Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable M Dhandapani on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting militants in area of Dhamkund, Jammu and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

HC/RO LAXMI NARAYAN HEMBRAM 08.01.1972 - 11.04.2006



Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Head Constable/Radio Operator Laxmi Narayan Hembram on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he made ultimate sacrifice while on operational duty in Uri (J&K).

ASSISTANT SUB INSPECTOR TELHOO RAM 01.07.1962 - 11.04.2017



Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Subordinate officer Assistant Sub Inspector Telhoo Ram on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he made ultimate sacrifice while on operational duty on Indo-Bangladesh border in Malda area, West Bengal.



Burdwan Region GOLD ORNAMENTS AUCTION NOTICE

Some individuals / persons who have availed Gold Loans from our following branches, by pledging gold ornaments, have defaulted in repaying as per schedule. Their legal heirs have not properly responded to the notice/notices or the notice returned undelivered. In this circumstances, it has been decided that if the gold loan (s) is / are not liquidated before 4 P.M. of the previous day of auction, pledged ornaments will be publicly auctioned at under mentioned time and date at the branch premises/Gold Hub, without further notice. All expenses incurred in this connection will be borne by the borrowers. Bank reserves the right to postpone/withdraw the auction at any time and stop the auction in the middle. Successful bidders shall pay the full amount and obtain possession of ornaments or a minimum of 25% of bid amount should be deposited by the successful bidder on the spot and remaining portion within 7 days. In case of default, Bank may forfeit the initial deposit amount.

Table with columns: SL No., Name of Branch, Account Name, Account No., Outstanding Balance, Date of Recall Notice, Date of Auction, Gross Wt. of Gold / Ornaments (in Gms.), Gold Purity in Carat, No. of Article. Includes items like Panchghara Katwa, Tarakeswar, etc.

Date : 11.04.2026 Place : Burdwan Branch Head

Government of Karnataka Department of School Education Office of The Commissioner, New Public Offices, Nrupatunga Road, Bengaluru-560001, Phone: 080-22213129 No.DPI/2026-27/1ND0661 Date: 10.04.2026 SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement System) The Director (Minority), Office of the Commissioner, Department of School Education, Bengaluru - 01 invites tender as per the K TPP Act, 1999 from the Manufacturer / Dealer / Suppliers for Supply of Sandals to the Students studying in Government Higher Primary & High Schools in the State of Karnataka for the year 2026-27 through e-Procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Registered bidders can upload their applications on the portal until 5.30 PM on 27.4.2026. The tender document with detailed conditions can be obtained through website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and should submit through e-procurement System Only. Sd/- The Director (Minority), Office of the Commissioner, Department of School Education, DII/PR/CP/JA/156/2026-27

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER e-Tender Notice No.: M_HLZ_COACH SL_CLNG_2026, Dated : 09.04.2026. Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Kharagpur, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of President of India for the following work : Brief description of name of work with its location : Mechanized Cleaning & Watering of coaches at Haldia Station, Cleaning and attending ancillary works at Sick line, BH Yard/GM Yard, Haldia for a period of three years on outcome basis. Advertised Value : ₹ 45,89,080.47. Earnest Money: ₹ 91,800/-. Date & time for closing of e-tender : 04.05.2026 at 16.00 hrs. Bidding Start Date : 20.04.2026. Website particulars & details : www.ireps.gov.in (PR-31)

Format C-7

(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates. along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP (C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of the Political Party : Indian National Congress

* Name of the Election : General Election To The Legislative Assembly, 2026

Name of the State / UT : West Bengal

(1) Name of the Constituency : 69 Bharatpur Assembly Constituency

Name of the candidate : MD AZHERUDDIN

Table with columns: SI No., Nature of the offences, Offences alleged under sections, Case No., Name of the Court, Whether charges have been framed or not, Date of conviction, Details of punishment undergone, Any other information required to be given, The reasons for the selection of the candidate, Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected.

*In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party Sd/- Suman Paul State General Secretary Indian National Congress (INC), West Bengal

Format C - 7

(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

*Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026

Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL

(1) Name of the Constituency : 281 - ASANSOL UTTAR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate : PRASENJIT PUTTANDY

Table with columns: SI. No., Criminal antecedents, Nature of the offences, Case No., Name of the Court, Whether charges have been framed or not, Date of conviction, Details of punishment undergone, Any other information required to be given, The reasons for the selection of the candidate, Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected.

Name of the Constituency 281 - ASANSOL UTTAR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate PRASENJIT PUTTANDY and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party (Sourav Ghosh) General Secretary West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

Format C - 7

(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026

Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL

(1) Name of the Constituency : 264 - KALNA (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate : AMAL KUMAR SAHA

Table with columns: SI. No., Criminal antecedents, Nature of the offences, Case No., Name of the Court, Whether charges have been framed or not, Date of conviction, Details of punishment undergone, Any other information required to be given, The reasons for the selection of the candidate, Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected.

Name of the Constituency 264 - KALNA (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate AMAL KUMAR SAHA and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party (Sourav Ghosh) General Secretary West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION Central Offices: Stores & Purchase Department, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027 No. BMTC/COSP/STR/SDS/025/2026-27 Date: 10.04.2026 "e"-Auction Notice Scrap Vehicles and Scrapped Materials available at BMTC will be sold through e-Auction to be conducted by M/s. M.S.T.C. (A Govt. of India undertaking). The e-Auction schedule is as under: Scrapped Vehicles with RVSF and Scrapped Material, Date of e-Auction: 23.04.2026. The interested bidders may log on to www.mstcecommerce.com for further details and registration. They may also contact M/s. M.S.T.C Ltd., at below mentioned address for needful clarification. Address: M/s. M.S.T.C. LTD., No.19/5, 19/6, 3rd Floor, Kareem Tower, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru- 560 052. Contact phone Nos: 080- 22266054, 22266417, 22287356, BMTC Contact phone Nos: +91 7760991157. Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES

CHANGE OF NAME I. Debjani Sutradhar Wife of Mr. Pradip Sutradhar residing at D.N Banerjee Road, Sadhur Bagan, PO - Agarpara +P.S - Ghola, Kolkata-700109 have changed my name to Debjani Mukherjee and shall hereafter be known as Debjani Mukherjee as declared before the Ld.1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, West Bengal vide Affidavit No. 4619 dated 09.04.2026. Debjani Sutradhar and Debjani Mukherjee both are the same and identical person.

कार्यालय नगर निगम जयपुर
(सांगनेर स्टेशन वाती रोड, गर्ल स्कूल के पास, सांगनेर जयपुर)
E-mail :- eesanganezone01@gmail.com
क्रमांक :- जसस/2026/19 दिनांक: 08.04.2026

निविदा सूचना संख्या 01-05/2026-27

केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के सभी विभागों में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं नगर निगम जयपुर के पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से बिड अधि. अभि. (सांगनेर जेन) से संबंधित विकास कार्य की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, टेण्डर बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तारीख, टेण्डर शर्तें आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाइट <http://spppp.raj.nic.in> and www.jaipurmc.org पर देखी जा सकती है। स्टेट पब्लिक प्रोक्वायमेंट पोर्टल का **Unique Bid Number JMC2627WSOB00008** से **JMC2627WSOB00012** है।

अधिशायी अधियता
सांगनेर जेन
नगर निगम जयपुर

राज.संवाद/सी/26/653
i 5h 8

ADVERTISEMENT FOR HIRING OF DISCIPLINE & VIGILANCE OFFICER (DVO) ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

DG NCC, MoD invites applications from retired Armed Forces and Civilian Officers as Discipline and Vigilance Officers (DVO) on contractual basis in NCC Dte Delhi on behalf of HQ DG NCC.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Retired Officers from all Arms & Services/civilian officers preferably LLB/LLM qualified from a recognized university.
- Regular Graduate/Post Graduate Degree from a recognized university.
- Experience in handling disciplinary, vigilance or legal cases is desirable.
- Gap between retirement and hiring should not exceed 4 years.

LOCATION OF DUTY: DELHI

HOW TO APPLY: Please forward your details and application: By E-mail: jtdirpersnccdetdel@nccindia.nic.in
By Post: NCC Directorate Delhi, NCC Bhawan, Sector-19, Rohini, Delhi-110089

FOR DETAILS AND TO APPLY VISIT:
<https://www.nccindia.gov.in/hiring>
Last date of Receipt of Applications - 30 Apr 2026

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

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Through e-procurement portal)

No: BESCOM/CGM(Proj)/DGM-1/AGM-1/BC-14/26-27/CYS-11

BESCOM Invites a tender for the work of "Conversion of existing LT Overhead lines into LT Aerial Bunched cable in 4 feeders in Pavagada Sub-division of Madhugiri Division, Tumkur circle, CTAZ" on Total Turnkey basis under Percentage Quoting basis.

Tender Enquiry No: BESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT 1072. **Availability of Bid Documents:** 15.04.2026 onwards. **Last date for submission of bid Queries:** 23.04.2026 before 17:00 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting:** 24.04.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs. **Venue of Pre-Bid meeting:** O/o Chief General Manager (Ele), 4th Floor, Project Section, B Block, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R Circle, Bangalore- 560 001. **Last date & Time for bid submission:** 15.05.2026 @ 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Technical Bids:** 16.05.2026 @ 15:15 Hrs.

The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the e-procurement portal from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

E-procurement Help Desk: Phone No: +91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com

Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on e-procurement portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the e-procurement during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele),
Projects, BESCOM
E mail: cgmproject.bescom@gmail.com

NOTICE

E.E Berhampore Division - I, PWD invites offline short Notice Inviting Quotation No.- 02 of 2026-2027 for the work of-

- Emergent erection of temporary structure for providing logistic supports and accommodation of CAPF at 7(seven) locations of Berhampore Police Station under Murshidabad Police District in the district of Murshidabad in connection with ensuing West Bengal Legislative Assembly election 2026 under Berhampore Division - I, P.W.Dte
- Emergent erection of temporary structure for providing logistic supports and accommodation of CAPF at 3(Three) locations of Sagardighi Police Station under Jangipur Police District in the district of Murshidabad in connection with ensuing West Bengal Legislative Assembly election 2026 under Berhampore Division - I, P.W.Dte
- Emergent erection of temporary structure for providing logistic supports and accommodation of CAPF at 4(Four) locations of Raghunathganj Police Station under Jangipur Police District in the district of Murshidabad in connection with ensuing West Bengal Legislative Assembly election 2026 under Berhampore Division - I, P.W.Dte
- Emergent erection of temporary structure for providing logistic supports and accommodation of CAPF at 4(Four) locations of Farakka Police Station under Jangipur Police District in the district of Murshidabad in connection with ensuing West Bengal Legislative Assembly election 2026 under Berhampore Division - I, P.W.Dte
- Emergent erection of temporary structure for providing logistic supports and accommodation of CAPF at 3(three) locations of Samsheerjanj Police Station under Jangipur Police District in the district of Murshidabad in connection with ensuing West Bengal Legislative Assembly election 2026 under Berhampore Division - I, P.W.Dte
- Emergent erection of temporary structure for providing logistic supports and accommodation of CAPF at 4(Four) locations of Suti Police Station under Jangipur Police District in the district of Murshidabad in connection with ensuing West Bengal Legislative Assembly election 2026 under Berhampore Division - I, P.W.Dte

The detailed schedule of all items of works will be available in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD, Berhampore Division - I. Last date and time for receipt of application for Quotation documents on 13/04/2026 upto 01.00 PM. Last date and time of issuance of Quotation documents on 13/04/2026 upto 02.00 PM. Last date and time of receipt of Quotation in sealed envelope on 13/04/2026 upto 02.30 PM. Opening of financial bid on 13/04/2026 at 03.00 PM.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Berhampore Division-I P.W.D

KOLKATA DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 2
7th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building
42C, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 071

Case No. TRC / 127 / 2026
Union Bank of India
- Vs. -
M/s. Neha Garments & Anr.

SALE NOTICE

Pursuant to the Order dated 06.04.2026 passed by the Ld. Recovery Officer, DRT - 2, Kolkata, there will be sale of immovable property described as:
(Deed No. 05246 of 2010 Book No. L, CD Volume No. 19, Page from 2245 to 2261 Registered in the Office of ADSP, Barrackpore on 05.05.2010)
All that a brick built shop room identified by a Shop Room No. 4, on the Ground Floor, having a covered area of 80.75 Sq.ft. corresponding to super built up area 97 Sq.ft. into out of the schedule A Property together with undivided proportionate share of land beneath and 50% right of common partition wall in the southern, eastern and western side of the shop room and undivided share of the roof of the said shop room along with right to common use of vacant statutory free space for ingress and egress erected upon. All that piece and parcel of plot of land having possessory right admeasuring 6 Decimal (2 Decimal in Dag No. 808 and 4 Decimal in Dag No. 810) classified as Bastu together with two storied building standing thereon consisting a residential building and several shop room on the Ground Floor by the estimation within Mouza - Ghojala, J.L. No. 14, Re. Sa. No. 103, fourri No. 83 and 183, Dag No. 808 & 810 under Khatian No. 891, 1478 respectively, P.S. - Khardah under Additional District Sub-Registrar at Barrackpore in the District of North 24 Parganas, under the Collectorate of North 24 Parganas on behalf of Government of West Bengal within the local limits of Panihati Municipality, being Municipal Holding No. 5/S/4, Prasanna Chatterjee Road under Ward No. 30, together with all the estate right, easement, interest, appendages, hereditaments etc., reserve to the land and building which is butted and bounded as follows : On the North : 10' wide Common Passage and 4' wide Common Passage, On the South : Gana Milan Kendra, On the East : Land of Ek-Kari Khoso, On the West : P. C. Road."

By way of public auction on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis though e-auction and shall be subject to the final approval of the Tribunal. The intending purchasers will have to deposit an earnest money @10% of the Reserve Price of the property in the form of Demand Draft / pay order only in favor of the Recovery Officer, DRT - 2, Kolkata or through Net banking with consultation of Certificate Holder Bank. The said deposit shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidder and refund to other bidders on receipt of E-auction report. Successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale proceeds after adjustment of earnest money by the next day of sale within 4 P.M., if the day is Holiday or Sunday then on 1st working day, failing which the earnest deposit shall be forfeited.

The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of sale proceeds within 15 days from the date of auction sale. The reserve price below which the property shall not be sold for is Rs. 4,07,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Seven Thousand only) and 1% of the reserve price will be the increment Bid amount. The other terms and conditions are same as per proclamation of sale issued by the undersigned in the instant cases as in TRC / 127 / 2026, dated 08.04.2026.

Notice is hereby given that the said property shall be sold by way of Online Auction (e-auction) which will be conducted on 14.05.2026 at 3.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with 3 minutes unlimited extension on E-Auction Platform at Website : <https://drt.auctiontiger.net>. The prospective bidder is required to download sale proclamation and sale notice from <https://drt.auctiontiger.net> and register their name for participating in the auction or before 12.05.2026 along with Earnest Money through Demand Draft / Pay Order in favor of Recovery Officer, DRT-II, Kolkata payable at Kolkata along with their offer.

However, the undersigned will not be responsible for any error occurred through network at the time of Auction.

The user ID and password will be directly sent to Registered participants / Intending purchaser with further directions by the e-auction provider company, if any, for login and participating in the auction through On-line.

The details of authorized auction service provider E-procurement Technologies Ltd., Mobile No. 99785 91888, E-mail : support@auctiontiger.net

The interest bidders may visit the Website : <https://drt.auctiontiger.net> for detailed procedure, term & conditions and any other support / help in respect of e-auction. For inspection and other details please contact, Tanusri Ghosh, Authorised Officer, Mobile No. 98925 84884, E-mail : ubini0554731@unionbankofindia.bank.in. Branch Address : Union Bank of India, 1st Floor, Yamma Bhawan, 55/58, Ezra Street, Kolkata - 700 001.

Sd/- Prem Chand Sharma
Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal - II
Kolkata

Date : 08.04.2026
Place : Kolkata

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamaraajpet Division,
2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Chamaraajpet, Bengaluru-560018

No.: **EE/CRP/KPP/TEND/01/2026-27** Date: **10.04.2026**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Notification: Two Cover System)
(Through GOK KPPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Chamaraajpet Division, BCCC, invites tenders from eligible contractor registered in KPWD / GBA / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations Class-I Contractor for the work mentioned in the statement below. (Standard Tender Document - KW4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Annual Maintenance of Strom Water Drains in Chamaraajpet Constituency. Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): 175.00, EMD (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.70 Lakhs (Rs. 1.00 Lakh online plus remaining balance BG/FDR).

Calendar of events: (1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the KPPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka from **15.04.2026**. (2) Pre bid meeting will be held on **21.04.2026** at **11:00 a.m.** in the Office of the Chief Engineer (Central, Zone-2), Annexure-3, GBA Head Office, Bengaluru-560001. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m. on 27.04.2026** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. (4) Technical bids will be opened on the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamaraajpet Division on **29.04.2026** at **4:30 p.m.** (5) Opening of Financial bid will be followed after approval of Technical bid (if possible). Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamaraajpet Division,
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
SHORT TERM NIT No. 01/2026-27

Tenders are invited from reputed contractors registered in appropriate class with RRVPNL and A & AA class in Central/State Govt. Department and their undertakings and registered in GST department for the Bid S. No. 1 of NIT 01 under Executive Engineer (Civil) Udaipur. All details above NIB are available on website www.rvnpn.co.in & <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> or <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>.
UBN No. - VPM2627WSOB0098
Raj.Samwad/C/26/678 RRVPN/TR-7487/2026

Superintending Engineer
(Civil), Udaipur

मुख्य कार्यालय विरार
सहसंचालक, विरार (प.)
ता. वसई, जि. पालघर-२०१३०३

जाहीर ई-निविदा सूचनाकरिता द्वितीय मुदतवाढ

वसई विरार शहर महानगरपालिका कार्यक्षेत्रातील आचोळे सच्छे नं. ६ येथे ४०० खाटांचे बहुविशेषण (Multispeciality) रुग्णालय उभारणे या कामासाठी कंत्राटदार नियुक्त करण्याकामी जा.क्र./ववशाम/वांघ/श/२५५/२०२६ दि. २५.०२.२०२६ अन्वयेची ई-निविदा सूचना <https://mahatenders.gov.in> या अधिकृत संकेतस्थळावर निविदा आयची क्र. २०२६ VVCMC २२२६७९ १ दि. २७.०२.२०२६ रोजी प्रसिद्ध करून दि. २७.०२.२०२६ ते दि. २०.०३.२०२६ रोजी स. ११.०० वाजेपर्यंत ऑनलाइन मागविण्यात आली होती. तसेच जा. क्र. ववशाम/श/वांघ/११०/२०२६ दि. १८.०३.२०२६ रोजीच्या पत्रान्वये प्रथम मुदतवाढीप्रमाणे ऑनलाइन ई-निविदा स्वीकृतीची अंतिम दि. १०.०४.२०२६ रोजीपर्यंत वाढविण्यात आली होती. सदर निविदेमधील स्वीकृतीची अंतिम तारीख प्रशासकीय कारणास्तव पुढीलप्रमाणे सुधारित करण्यात येत आहे.
मुदतवाढीचा तपशील खालीलप्रमाणे

- ऑनलाइन ई-निविदा स्वीकृतीची अंतिम दिनांक: दि. २४.०४.२०२६
सकाळी ११.०० वाजेपर्यंत
- ऑनलाइन ई-निविदा उघडण्याची दिनांक : दि. २८.०४.२०२६
सकाळी ११.०० वाजता.
सही/-
(प्रदीप पांचगे)
प्र. शहर अधियता
वसई-विरार शहर महानगरपालिका

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank (Govt. of India Undertaking)
CIRCLE OFFICE : PASCHIM MIDNAPORE BE - 1, Bidhan Nagar East, Rly. Station Road Midnapore, Pin - 721 101, W.B. Tel. : 97714 91203 / 89000 19033 Mail ID : cs8294@pnb.bank.in

E-AUCTION DATED 05.05.2026

Annexure - B
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 under the provision of Rule 8(6) read with Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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

Sl. No.	Name of the Branch Name of the Account Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantors Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged / Owner's Name (Mortgagors of Property(ies))	A) Dt. of Demand Notice U/s. 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 B) Outstanding Amount C) Possession Date U/s. 13(4) of Sarfeisi Act 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic / Physical / Constructive	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B) EMD (Rs. in Lacs) C) Bid Increment Amount (Rs. in Lacs)	Date / Time of E-auction Details of the Encumbrances known to the Secured Creditors
1.	Midnapur (Sol Id : 035000) M/s. Roy Drier Mill Proprietor : Mrs. Shibani Roy i) Mrs. Shibani Roy, W/o. Arun Kumar Roy ii) Arun Kumar Roy (Guarantor), S/o. Panchanan Roy Both are at : Kshudiram Nagar, P.O. - Midnapur, P.S. - Kotwali, Dist - Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, Pin - 721 101. A/c. Nos. : 035000870004313, 035000L00000113, 035000JH00272533 & 035000JY00000023	Equitable mortgage of Land situated at Dist-Paschim Medinipur, P.S. - Sabinoi, Mouza - Janda, J.L. No. 504, LR Kh. No. 26, Plot No. 22, Bastu Commercial Land, Total Area 24 Decmal, vide Deed No. 3513 of 2009, In favour of Arun Kumar Roy, Bounded by : North : Govt. Land & PMGSY Road, South: Vacant Land of Ananda Mahadanda, East: Owner Vacant Land of same plot, West : Forest Land. (Property is under Symbolic Possession)	A) 28.06.2024 B) Rs. 13,64,433.88 (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Three and Paise Eighty Eight only) plus interest from 01.05.2022 and Penal Charges Less Recovery if any. C) 05.07.2024 D) Symbolic Possession	A) Rs. 5,78,340.00 B) Rs. 0.60 Lakhs C) Rs. 0.02 Lakh	05.05.2026 From 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. Not known to Bank

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE

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

- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the SecurityInterest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal <https://baanknet.com>
- The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal (<https://baanknet.com>) using their email-id and mobile number. The process of eKYC is to be done through Digilocker. Once the e-KYC is done, the intending Bidders / Purchasers may transfer the EMD amount to their e-Wallet using online payment or challan mode. The EMD amount has to be linked with property before the EMDEnd Date and time in the portal. The registration, verification of eKYC, transfer of EMD in wallet and linking of wallet amount to Property must be completed well in advance, before EMD End date time / auction.
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above deposited in e-Wallet, shall be linked with property. Bidders, not linking the required EMD online before EMD end date time, will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earnest Money Deposited shall not bear any interest.
- Platform (<https://baanknet.com>) for e-Auction will be provided by e Auction serviceprovider M/s. PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. having its Registered office at Unit 1, 3rd Floor, VIOS Commercial Tower, Near Wadala Truck Terminal, Wadala East, Mumbai - 400 037 (Helpdesk Number +91 82912 20220, Email Id : support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com). The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to participate in the e-Auction process at e-Auction Service Provider's website <https://baanknet.com>. This Service Provider will also provide online demonstration / training on e-Auction on the portal.
- The Sale Notice containing the General Terms and Conditions of Sale is available/ published in the following websites/ web page portal. (1) <https://baanknet.com> (2) www.pnbindia.in
- The intending participants of e-auction may download free of cost, copies of the Sale Notice, Terms & Conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction related to this e-Auction from e-auction portal (<https://baanknet.com>).
- Bidder's e-Wallet should have sufficient balance (>=EMD amount) at the time of bidding.
- During the e-auction, bidders will be allowed to offer higher bid in inter-se bidding over and above the last bid quoted and the increase in the bid amount must be of increment amount mentioned. Two minutes time will be allowed to bidders to quote successive higher bid and if no higher bid is offered by any bidder after the expiry of five minutes to the last highest bid, the e-auction shall be closed.
- It is the responsibility of intending Bidder(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms & conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction and follow them strictly.
- In case of any difficulty or need of assistance before or during e-Auction process, bidder may contact authorized representative of our e-Auction Service Provider M/s. PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. details of which are available on the <https://baanknet.com> Portal.
- After finalization of e-Auction by the Authorized Officer, only successful bidder will be informed by above referred service provider through SMS / email. (On mobile no / email address given by them/ registered with the service provider).
- The secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price.
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% (twenty five percent) of the bid amount, less EMD amount deposited, on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of auction by way of Transfer / NEFT / RTGS / in the form of Banker's Cheque / Demand Draft issued by a Scheduled Commercial Bank drawn in favor of "The Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank, A/c (Name of the A/c.) Payable at (Place). In case of failure to deposit the amount as above within the stipulated time, the amount deposited by successful bidder will be forfeited to the Bank and Authorized Officer shall have the liberty to conduct a fresh auction / sale of the property & the defaulting bidder shall not have any claim over the forfeited amount and the property.
- Payment of sale consideration by the successful bidder to the bank will be subject to TDS under Section 194-1A of Income Tax Act 1961 and TDS is to be paid by the successful bidder only at the time of deposit of remaining 75% of the bid amount / full deposit of BID amount.
- The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone / cancel / adjourn / discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.
- The sale certificate shall be issued in the favour of successful bidder on deposit of full bid amount as per the provisions of the act.
- The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT ISBASIS" and "WHATSOEVER THERE IS BASIS".
- The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
- It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The bidder inspects the property in consultation with the dealing officer as per the details provide.
- All statutory dues/attendatnt charges / other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser.
- The Authorized Officer or the Bank shall not be responsible for any change, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-Auctioned) not known to the bank. The Intending Bidder is advised to make his own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc.
- The bidder should ensure proper internet connectivity, power back-up etc. The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure or technical reasons or reasons / contingencies affecting the e-auctions.
- It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and make self bid and participate in the auction.
- For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://baanknet.com> & www.pnbindia.in.

Date : 10.04.2026
Place : Paschim Midnapore
Sd/- Md. Waize Ansari, Authorised Officer
Punjab National Bank

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MD. IMRAN MULLICK, S/O. M.D. Ismail Mullik, residing at Vill - P.O. - Kharsarai, P.S. Chanditala, Dist- Hooghly, Pin - 712304 (W.B.) hereby declare that, my father's name is Md. Ismail Mullik which has been recorded in all my official documents, but his name Md. Ismail Mullik has been recorded as Ismail Mallick in his Voter Identification Card being No. - GRL0568910, which I declare before the Ld. First Class Judicial Magistrate at Serampore Court, Hooghly by an Affidavit bearing No.-9386 dated 05.04.2026. That Md. Ismail Mullik and Ismail Mallick is the name of same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Gour Chandra Ghosh, S/O- Lt. Lal Mohan Ghosh, resident of Vill- Kamalpur, P.O. & P.S.- Chakdaha, Dist.- Nadia, WB, Pin No.- 741222, That in my Service Certificate dt. 22/10/2025 issued by Eastern Railway Howrah Division, where my father's name has been inadvertently recorded as Late Mohan Ghosh vide Affidavit No. 04, dated 12/02/2026, before the L.D.A.C.J.M II (1st Class) at Kalyani, Court Nadia, That Lal Mohn Ghosh and Late Mohan Ghosh are same and identical person.

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.
D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065, E-Mail-edepmrmssc-raj@nic.in

Ref. No. : F-8) RMSC/EPN/M/4/NIB-930/2025-26/3 Dated - 08/04/2026

Corrigendum / Addendum

Bid for item WASTE BIN RED, BLACK & YELLOW (15 & 25 Ltr) are invited from interested bidders up to Date : 23/04/2026 : 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> or www.dipronline.org or <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> or website <http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in>.

UBN No. : MSC2526GLOB00054
Raj.Samwad/C/26/665
Executive Director (EPM)
Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation

Format C - 7
(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
(1) Name of the Constituency : 133, KULPI ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
Name of the candidate : KUTUBUDDIN MOLLA

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	violence by an unlawful assembly, voluntarily causing grievous hurt, criminal force against a woman, house trespass
b.	Case No.	1. KULPI PS: 237/2014, GR No. 1562/2014, 2. KULPI PS 542/2014, GR NO 4284/2014 SC NO. 43(9) 2015
c.	Name of the Court	1. LD. J.M. 1ST COURT, DIAMOND HARBOUR 2. LD. FASTTRACK, 4TH COURT, DIAMOND HARBOUR, SOUTH 24 PGNS
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good political and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 133, KULPI ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
Name of the candidate KUTUBUDDIN MOLLA and so on
* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourov Ghosh)
General Secretary
West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

ZAHEER KHAN MASTERCLASS

Listening to the man who could make the ball talk

Learning on the fly, gleaning advice from peers, practising, experimenting, learning to read the batsman's mind and setting him up, he details to SRIRAM VEERA and SANDEEP DWIVEDI about his fascinating journey

ZAHEER KHAN tried to bowl the back-of-the-hand slower ball for years. It wouldn't come. His action didn't allow it. Nor his body. He tried the Brett Lee variation—keeping everything behind the ball but slowing the wrist at release, not breaking it. His arm speed dropped. Batsmen picked it. Out of the window. He tried the split-finger slower one, the ball Dillhara Fernando used to bowl. He spoke to the Sri Lankan pacer. "I realised he just had the advantage of being flexible. The length of the fingers was fine, but I didn't have flexibility."

He tried Charl Langeveldt's version—fingers bent on the seam, reducing speed without changing arm speed. "That was also not working because I was not able to grip it properly."

Four variations. Four failures. Each one tried honestly, understood technically, and discarded without sentiment.

The journey, as he describes it, was not about finding a trick. It was about finding the trick his body could perform. "I had my own version of the slower one." The knuckleball. The one that worked.

"When it started, it just started coming out very well for me." Through his coaching work since retirement, Zaheer has understood why. "Maybe the flexibility of being able to get the knuckles behind the ball was the advantage I had."

Sachin Tendulkar was there through the process. "He would encourage me to add a slower one because that was very important."

The knuckleball became one of the defining deliveries of Zaheer's second career—the World Cup semi-final and final in 2011, the prime moments when it mattered most. But it began as the fifth option, after four had failed.

●●● Zaheer started playing cricket late. His coach Sudhir Naik told him so, plainly. "In Mumbai cricket, they start at the age of 9 and 10. You are starting at twice the age. So just know that you do a lot of catching up to do." The words landed and stayed.

"It just became a part of my routine—to be able to pick things." The catching up never ended. It became the method.

The first half of his international career was, by his own description, decent. Pace, swing, the raw materials. But the awareness of his own bowling—the four-part division he now teaches, load-up, delivery, follow-through, and the run-up that sets everything in motion—that came later.

"The team was so busy. Me playing both formats—at that stage, T20 was still not around. But the ODIs, the Test matches,

and the domestic season in between was not giving me ample opportunity to prepare myself to do those changes at the international level."

The progression needed confidence. "At the highest level, you can't say, okay, if I mess up, I mess up. It doesn't work like that." Then came the break. The time away from the Indian team that is remembered publicly as a setback. Zaheer remembers it as the space he needed.

"That break gave me enough time to work on things." He had been using his variations at first-class level already—the shorter run-up, the around-the-wicket angle, the adjustments. "The progression from using those changes from

The knuckleball became one of the defining deliveries of Zaheer's second career—the World Cup semi-final and final in 2011, the prime moments when it mattered most. But it began as the fifth option

first-class level to the international level—I needed that much confidence and that much of a break for that."

When he came back, the bowling had changed. He went around the wicket a lot more. He bowled from closer to the stumps. The run-up was shorter. The leap wasn't as exaggerated. The bowler who returned was not the bowler who left.

●●● Zaheer's most spectacular reverse benders from around the wicket came from a technical flaw, he reveals. In Bangladesh, he was finding it difficult to control the ball from over the wicket. "My wrist position had gone a little wrong—I was falling. My head was falling a bit, and because of that, I was coming into a position which was not giving me control with the new ball." So he went around the wicket. The angle was better. From that angle, he learned to control the falling head and the wrist position that had been detrimental. A flaw led to a solution. The solution became a weapon—and the weapon produced two of the deliveries he keeps closest.

The first was to Ian Bell in the 2007 Test at Trent Bridge. It was England's second innings, India trying to bowl them out. "That delivery gave me a lot of excitement." It bent back in late to trap Bell lbw. The second was to Ricky Ponting in Melbourne.

Around the wicket, around off stump, cutting back into the right-hander. "Just doing enough for the bails to come off." Both deliveries came from the angle that a flaw had forced him to find.

●●● There are certain batsmen who play on line. There are certain batsmen who play on length. This is how Zaheer Khan divides the world.

A batsman who plays on length is looking for the ball to be pitched up—he wants to drive. "You can catch that guy on line," Zaheer says. "Because even if the line is wider, he doesn't mind. He is backing himself to play the length. So as the line is getting shifted, he is still risking it. You can actually catch him with the ball which is too wide to be driven, but being there for the drive."

A batsman who plays on line is the opposite. If the ball is in his line, he will play, regardless of whether the length is back. Virinder Sehwag is the example Zaheer reaches for—cutting deliveries even when the length was close enough to drive, because the ball was on his line and that was enough. The commitment to the shot came before the length was fully read.

There are batsmen so confident in their judgement of length that they keep going regardless of the line. Over time, that confidence becomes the vulnerability. Like Virat Kohli at the end of his Test career. "That is typically the case," Zaheer says.

●●● Graeme Smith was a tall man, an outside player. Everything in his setup—the grip, the stance, the bat angle—was designed to take advantage of angles created by right-arm bowlers.

"With my delivery swinging late to him, he would have less time to adjust because his bat would not come straight. So he has to play the ball to mid-off, he would not be able to play it with a straight bat." On the back foot, Smith's shot was predominantly the punch—so for him to drive through the covers, the ball had to be really full. "If you get the length right, that's where the length factor becomes crucial, then you have both sides to play. The ball coming back in and the ball moving away."

Kumar Sangakkara was different. He played the ball late. His setup was built to defer the decision—play or leave—as long as possible. "Sanga was very good. He used to play the ball late. He would take advantage of your lengths nicely. I would try and get as close to the off stump as possible so that he has to work that much harder to play or leave. You have to be so precise."

Two of the great left-handers of their era. Two completely different puzzles. Both were solved in real time, by a bowler who started late and never stopped catching up.



Zaheer Khan says the awareness of his own bowling came much later in his career. FILE

Beyond technique, beyond the line-or-length preference, there is a third layer: how a batsman builds his innings. "It doesn't matter which format they're playing. They always have this template of first 10-15 deliveries."

In T20, the window compresses—maybe four deliveries for a batsman to get in. But the template exists. The bowler who recognises it can attack within it.

The example Zaheer reaches for is Dhoni. "He's so assured of himself that he can hit the ball out of the park once he's in. Once he sees the ball the way he wants to see it." So if Dhoni walks in under pressure, Zaheer knows he will not attack immediately. "Even if it's ten deliveries to go and they need twenty-five runs, he will still say, okay, let me see."

But when Dhoni walks in and hits the first ball—that tells you he has already read the conditions before arriving at the crease. "This is the side of things which goes beyond just the technique, beyond just the game. How one sees a situation when the pressure is highest—how are you going to react?" Zaheer reads opponents to get them out. He reads Dhoni to know when the chase is already won.

●●● The cues are there, Zaheer says. Whether the batsman is standing deep in the crease or ahead of it. Whether the weight is on the back foot or the front. Whether he is adjusting—which means the batsman is conscious of something, a technical correction, a fear, a habit he is trying to suppress.

"If someone is consciously trying to put his leg outside the line of the leg stump, that means he is conscious about it." The bowler's job is to notice.

Sometimes, to mention it in the follow-through. Just loud enough to be heard: the front leg is still coming across. Not an insult. A reminder of the thing the batsman is already worrying about.

Ponting was run out in a Test match. Zaheer was in a huddle with his teammates. "You think you were Usain Bolt?" he said as Ponting walked past. Exit sledging—quick, disposable, designed to travel back to the dressing room.

Trent Bridge, 2007, was different. The jelly beans on the pitch, the escalating theatre, the bat eventually pointed at the England dressing room—these were not emotions. They were construction. "I made sure I involved the umpires in that, so that nothing would come back to me," he says. Kevin Pietersen drew the attention, the energy redirected away from Zaheer and towards the spectacle itself.

What about bowling to a

"Sledging is not about the use of bad words. It's using it to your advantage—and not losing yourself in the process."

●●● Between deliveries, Zaheer Khan had twenty to thirty seconds. What happened in his head? "A large part of it would be what's coming next. A short part of it would be what has happened in the previous ball."

In white-ball cricket, he carried two options to the top of his mark. "If the batter moves, I'm going to do this. If the batter stays, I'm going to do this." Both options aligned with the over's plan. The system was fed. The body was trusted to react.

●●● The Nagpur Test against Australia was the longest siege. A 7-2 field, a line drilled wide outside off stump, over after over, from both ends. Zaheer and Ishant Sharma were not trying to take wickets. Eventually, Simon Katich got out—adjusting and adjusting to follow the wide line until an in-

The data question troubles him... The instinct that Mumbai club cricket once demanded—because you had no data, because you had catching up to do—is being coached out of the game

swinger from Zaheer found him in front.

"MS and us, we just continued. Stayed patient." The details of how long, Zaheer can't quite remember. The details he keeps are the ones that taught him something.

●●● The data question troubles him. Not because data is wrong but because it has replaced something that cannot be replaced. "With more and more data, you're just becoming too data-dependent. It is taking that instinct of the game out for a cricketer." He sees it in the IPL. Batters turning to the dugout mid-over. The instinct that Mumbai club cricket once demanded—because you had no data, because you started late, because you had catching up to do—is being coached out of the game.

"When you're too data-dependent, you are doing your work before the game and after the game. But when playing the game, you are not able to make decisions," he says.

Are matchups overrated? "In some cases, yes." A left-arm spinner bowling to a left-hander because the data says so—but the data doesn't distinguish between one bowling at 135 kilometres and one bowling at 125. "The data gives you a reference point. But for you to execute, everything has to come together."

What about bowling to a

batsman's strength? If his out-stump yorker lands at 75 per cent accuracy, and the batsman's strength is hitting a missed yorker into the stands, who does the bowler back? "Just because someone is strong enough to put a missed yorker out of the park, am I going to move away from my strength? Who are you going to back, your skill or the batsman's?"

●●● There is another kind of catching up he is invested in now. He is a co-owner of a franchise in the EUT20 Belgium cricket league, European cricket's attempt to build what the IPL took decades to become—a pipeline, a culture, a place where the game means something to people who didn't grow up with it.

Belgium is not a country that has produced international cricketers. The growth is slow. "It is a long-term thing," he says. "You are not going to see the results immediately." The franchise model gives him something ICC development programs don't—decision-making influence. A seat at the table rather than a presence in the bleachers.

"Cricket business in Europe is about value creation over time."

●●● South African seamer Fanie de Villiers told him something about awareness that stayed. Even if de Villiers bowled from a short distance, he would know exactly where his front foot was landing. Full run-up, same thing.

"It's just about perfecting those last three, four steps so nicely that you know exactly—it doesn't matter from where you're coming."

De Villiers used white chalk on the ball. After bowling, he would walk to the pitch and see how many deliveries had landed on the seam. Before pitch maps existed. Before Hawk-Eye. Before data. A man with chalk and a cricket ball, reading the surface itself.

Wasim Akram talked about wrist position and body exaggeration when the swing wasn't there. Jason Gillespie called after the Chennai Test in 2001 to talk about how to think about bowling going forward.

"What stood out for me predominantly across all those conversations, was the position at the crease and being aware. The steady head."

Every conversation pointed to the same thing. Awareness. Of the body. Of the ball. Of the batsman. Of the surface. The coach's words from the beginning—you are starting at twice the age, you have a lot of catching up to do—turned out not to be a warning. They turned out to be a method.

He tried four slower balls before finding the one his body could bowl. He learned from de Villiers how to read the pitch with chalk before Hawk-Eye told him what the surface said. The catching up never became catching up. It became the way he saw.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Sooryavanshi turns another chase into child's play as RR hunt down RCB's big total

SYNOPSIS: Vaibhav steals thunder on a night of rain and twists to extend Rajasthan Royals' winning streak

Sandip G
New Delhi, April 10

A CONTEST rain threatened to wash away ended up producing a mass entertainer, replete with thrills and chills. Royal Challengers Bengaluru breezed to 58 for 2 in 4.4, slumped to 94 for six, recovered to put on 201; Rajasthan Royals waltzed to 129 for 1 in 8 overs, sank to 134 for 4. The climax was not quite cinematic, but the Friday crowd were genuinely engaged.

Vaibhav steals thunder

What Vaibhav Sooryavanshi does should be illegal. He can't drive, or drink, or vote, but he could hit the perfect six, he can make bowlers twice his age wince, and he can suspend the audience into disbelief.

The most mind-boggling aspect of his rise has been the ability to demystify reputations. Jasprit Bumrah defanged, he demolished Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood on Friday. The first ball he faced, from Bhuvneshwar, he shovelled him for a four down the ground with ferocious whirr of his fast hands. Up next was Hazlewood, the bowling mastermind of RCB's title triumph. The first ball was hard length, holding the line and stifling him for room. He was already committed to the cut; he didn't change his mind.

He chopped the ball from an impossible angle behind backward point.

More spellbinding strokes followed. At the end of it, Hazlewood just looked blankly into the skies. The next ball landed on good length, and he cuddled it over mid-on. A hurt Hazlewood went fuller, whereupon Sooryavanshi fleeced it through covers. The best was yet to be, when a short ball out of sheer frustration, ended up in the stands over deep square leg. In four overs, RR had already shaved off one fourth of the target.

The barrage of boundaries was ceaseless. Bhuvneshwar was recommissioned to little effect. Sooryavanshi greeted him with a six over mid-on, and then wore a Buddha-like expression of calm, as if this was



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi scored 78 off 26 balls (8x4, 7x6). CREIMAS/BCCI

simply a trailer of grander feats to arrive. A shuddered Bhuvneshwar stood helpless, as Sooryavanshi, a toddler when he made his India debut, thrashed him for a brace of fours. The stingless Abhinandan Singh was introduced, only

to be caned by Dhruv Jurel, who plundered 24 runs of the overs. RR's powerplay score read an unfathomable 97 for 1. All they could do was shuffle their bowlers and hope something worked. A misjudgment, a moment of indiscretion. Only

boundaries whistled past them. The next two overs bled 32 runs as the world stood stuck at the genius of the 15-year-old.

The impetus his knock infused was such that RR could afford to drop their gears and still win the game. Not to forget Jurel's imperious knock of 81, where he showed veins of ice and awareness of the situation to steer RR home.

Rain and twists

After the rain and delayed start, twists and turns poured in a passage of wild fluctuations, strewn with drama, strokes and wickets. In the first four-and-a-half overs, until Virat Kohli's extravagant cover drive, his gate agape, ended with his stumps shattered by the resurgent Ravi Bishnoi, the stars gleed at the defending champions. Catches

were spilled, the swinging ball hissed past cowering bats, in between boundaries flew; Kohli essayed gorgeous strokes, through the covers as well as behind the stumps, harnessing the bowlers' pace.

In 4.4 overs, RCB swept to 58 for 2, nearly 12 runs an over. But the next ball changed the game around. Bishnoi then twinkled out Krunal Pandya, caught acrobatically by Shimron Hetmyer, his second catch diving forward. Wickets kept tumbling. Medium pacer Brijesh Sharma ejected Jitesh Sharma, and later Tim David. After 11 overs, RCB tottered to 94 for six. But RCB bat so deep that they still had two men capable of inflicting damage. So Romario Shepherd and Rajat Patidar did, and stitched an momentum-imparting stand of 31 off 18

balls. Shepherd departed, but RCB summoned Impact Sub Venkatesh Iyer. The move though meant that they were short of bowling options.

Patidar was the lighthouse of RCB's hope. He curbed his aggression, weathered the storm and executed an array of glorious strokes, blending power and grace. He has a malleable pair of hands, a velcro-touched gnome when he is at the peak of his prowess. When finally he miscued to deep-wicket for a 40-ball 63, he had dragged his team out of the mess and propelled them to 201. But it took a 15-year-old to topple the defending champions.

BRIEF SCORES: RR 202/4 (Sooryavanshi 78, Jurel 81 not out; K Pandya 2/30) beat RCB 201/4 (Patidar 63, Kohli 32; Bishnoi 2/32) by six wickets

Meenakshi bags silver at Asian Wrestling C'ships

Press Trust of India
Bishkek, April 10

MEENAKSHI GOYAT added a third silver to India's tally in the women's 53kg category, while three men's freestyle wrestlers advanced to the gold medal bouts in their respective weight classes at the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships here on Friday. Monika (women's 65kg) and Harshita (women's 72kg) then signed off with bronze medals to take India's overall medals tally into double figures — three silver and seven bronze.

India's sole gold medal hope on Friday rested on Meenakshi, who had fought back from the brink in the semi-finals to reach this far. However, the 25-year-old was not at her best and went down 0-10 against China's Jin Zhang.

While Meenakshi's loss came as a heart-break for the Indian contingent, Monika and Harshita lifted their spirits with clinical performances to clinch the bronze medals.

Monika defeated Hanbit Lee of South Korea 9-0 to win the bronze in women's 65kg category, while Harshita got the better of Sevinchoy Polvonoa 5-0 in the women's 72kg bronze medal bout.

Earlier, India's men's freestyle wrestlers showcased their growing stature on the continental stage as U-23 world champion Sujet (65kg), Abhimanyou (70kg) and Sandeep Mann (79kg) sealed their final berth. In the 65kg freestyle semi-final, Sujet defeated Abdulmazzhid Kudiev of Tajikistan 7-2. The 23-year-old, winner of two Ranking Series earlier this year, had beaten Kyrgyzstan's Rustamzhan Kakharov by technical superiority.

He will now face Umidjon Jalolov of Uzbekistan in a re-match of the U23 world championships final that the Indian had won comfortably tomorrow for the title.

ASIAN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ayush beats world No 4 Christie to notch up career's biggest win

The 20-year-old signals the start of a new era in Indian men's singles, as his 6-ft-4 attack complemented his dextrous point construction

Shivani Naik
Mumbai, April 10

JONATAN CHRISTIE just couldn't shake off Ayush Shetty. It's one thing to have an annoying little bee buzzing in your ear, but quite another for an elephant to be stomping his feet all around you, as the 6-foot-4 Ayush did, with the persistence of a pecking bird. The World No 4 from Indonesia was brought down 23-21, 21-17 in Ningbo, China, one rally at a time, as the 25th-ranked Indian reached the semifinals of his first Badminton Asia Championships.

Ayush trailed Jojo Christie right until 18-18 in the opening set. But every time, the 28-year-old former Asian Games champion compiled a 3-point lead, Ayush would start snapping at his heels and never stop pursuing. What makes the tall Mangalorean, still only 20, the biggest talent for the future — and the future is here clearly — is how he easily erased two set points, to sneak ahead 23-21 in the opener. His bulking smashes nearly saw him through the second — in much the 'here comes the cavalry' fashion. But winning that first set needed painstaking effort, which Ayush was ready to put in.

It's a fairly simple thing to thwack a smash from his vantage with outstretched limbs and racket. But the first set was about drawing out trap plans and ambushes. This Ayush achieved with pin-

Perhaps the canniest of Ayush's plans, thanks to Jojo's former coach Irwansyah, was baiting the Indonesian to go for the lines and corners where he is strong.

pricks — lobs going over and behind Jojo, smashes into the Indonesian's body that even an agile defender like him couldn't evade and they sailed wide. That's how Ayush arrived at 18-11; the series read 7-10, 11-11, 11-14, 13-14, 13-16, 15-16. Jojo was prevailing in fast parallel exchanges and drawing out smashing errors into the net by pushing the Indian back.

Perhaps the canniest of Ayush's plans, thanks to Jojo's former coach and father figure Irwansyah, was baiting the Indonesian to go for the lines and corners where he is strong. But when you tunnel him into exchanges that are skimming that airspace over the line, the 4th effort after three accurate ones is bound to sail wide. Ayush lured Jojo to that thin red line and teased out wide errors.

Jojo still led 19-18, countering Ayush into wildly swinging racket evasively on body shots. And the Indonesian had the set point after Ayush was left with no choice but to send his backhand lift to



Ayush Shetty will face World no 1 Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the semifinal tomorrow. BWF/BADMINTON PHOTO

the backline, which went long. But here's where the power game, that's been the staple of a PV Sindhu or HS Prannoy, came into play. Ayush sent a scorching cross-court smash to get to 19-20. Under pressure now, Jojo netted the next one, 20-all. Jojo was chasing now, as he levelled at 21-21 with a straight smash. But the quaking racket grip sent the next into the net, giving Ayush his second set point.

For a power player with a sledgehammer, gritting out these points is like threading a needle. But the Mangalorean wasn't averse to the hard work. The first set came not from an expansive smash but a pointed attack on the body, which Jojo ended up parrying clumsily as the shuttle went wide.

With the first set pocketed, Ayush was riding the confidence wave and then rolled in the heavy materials. Half a dozen big statement smashes. He entertained resistance from Jojo till 9-9 and then had enough of it. At 13-9 came the soft concession by Christie. Like all ageing, slightly jaded players (he won Asian Games in 2018 at age 20), he allowed a shuttle on the backline to drop — not because it was going out, but he hoped it would. Bang on the line. At 15-12, Ayush prevailed in a long rally. And though Jojo came within 16-17 of the Indian's advantage, Ayush always had the A-Smash to nose ahead.

A terribly poor lift from Jojo — his shuttle and length control is considered amongst the best in men's singles — saw Ayush swat-

ting at it for 19-17. And two errors, long and wide, followed, as the great Indonesian was overcome in 54 prophetic minutes.

When the 20-year-old was tiring, he also took a good break at 17-18, which shows he is in the big league. Top players tend to know these things, Vimal added. "Asian Championships are as good as the Worlds," he would say, adding that these were good results with wins over Christie and Li Shifeng in a week.

The path to the top of the podium (no Indian has won the men's singles gold at the Asians since Dinesh Khanna in 1965) only gets tougher as he faces world No 1 Kunlavut Vitidsarn next. They have met once previously, and the Thai star had prevailed 21-15, 21-16 at the Arctic Open last year.

Pragg & Sindarov: Two prodigies who are pushing each other

Amit Kamath
Mumbai, April 10

WHEN JAVOKHIR Sindarov was seven years of age, his grandfather made a prophecy: in 20 years, this kid will be one of the strongest grandmasters in history! Sindarov's grandfather, the man who introduced him to chess, was not talking about the Uzbek phenom, who is currently terrorising opponents at the FIDE Candidates tournament in Cyprus. Sindarov senior was talking instead about Pragganandhaa, who was also a seven-year-old at that time, and dominating baby Sindarov in their match-up.

On Thursday, the day he got the better of Pragganandhaa for the second time in the ongoing Candidates tournament in Round 10 — a result which edges Sindarov closer to a fight in the World Chess Championship against another Indian prodigy, D Gukesh — Sindarov recollected how those early

battles between him and Pragganandhaa used to be completely lopsided: Pragg beat him in the Asian Championship in Iran by a 2.5 out of 3 score. Then, Pragg prevailed at a tournament in Al Ain. And then again at a tournament in Greece.

Understandably, for Sindarov, facing Pragg is always a game to look out for. That's why on the happiest day of his fledgling career, after he had won the FIDE World Cup in Goa last year to secure a spot in the Candidates, when he was asked if there was a particular opponent he was looking forward to facing in Cyprus, the grinning Uzbek had hand-picked Pragganandhaa.

"I played him for the first time back in 2013. Even at that age — I was just seven — I knew he would become one of the top players in the world..." said Sindarov, "...because he beat me."

Sindarov had gone on to predict a couple of "very interesting matches" against Pragg



R Pragganandhaa (R) and Javokhir Sindarov in 10th round of Candidates. MICHAL WALLUSZA/FIDE

at the Candidates in Cyprus. The Uzbek prodigy has more than delivered on that prediction, beating the Indian twice now in their two head-to-head battles at this edition of the Candidates tournament.

The defeat on Thursday for Pragg more or less confirms that the Indian cannot win the tournament any more since he is now four points behind the

Uzbek prodigy with four rounds to go. The Indian is in seventh spot in the standings. Meanwhile, with eight points, Sindarov now leads the event with a two-point gap over Anish Giri. Thursday's win also handed the Uzbek grandmaster the record for the most victories at the Candidates in the current format of the tournament — and that too with four rounds to spare.

Pragg had come into the tournament with an imposing head-to-head record against Sindarov in classical chess. In 10 classical games, Pragg had won four times while Sindarov claimed a single victory. That record has been upended by the Uzbek in Cyprus after winning both games against the Indian.

The rivalry between the two mirrors the one between world champion Gukesh and Uzbekistan's top grandmaster No-dirbek Abdusattorov.

The latest installment of Pragg vs Sindarov shifted on

move 22 when Pragg played bishop to d7 — a move the engine flagged as a blunder. At that stage, the Indian had an extra bishop on the board as opposed to Sindarov's two additional pawns. Two moves later, Sindarov sacrificed his queen to pick off both of Pragganandhaa's rooks. This material imbalance — Pragg's two rooks against Sindarov's queen — stayed the same till the game ended on the 53rd move.

Sindarov has seemed content to play out draws in the second half of the tournament, a trait highlighted by his decision not to go for the kill in the 9th round against Matthias Bluebaum. But against Pragg, he opted to chase victory — and it arrived.

"Pragg's score at the tournament has been very poor reward for his play. His play has been quite good. He's come up with some good ideas, but essentially he's lost three games since that first victory," said five-time world champion Vis-

wanathan Anand in the FIDE commentary.

In a chat with The Indian Express during the World Cup in Goa, Sindarov had pointed out how his CV would have looked a lot different without Pragg. "He beat me in a lot of age group tournaments. If he wasn't around at that stage, I would have won a minimum of two cadets tournaments," Sindarov chuckled goodnaturedly.

As Sindarov recollected, back in 2013, he was on a hot streak, going six out of six at a cadets championship. So was Pragganandhaa. Then Pragg beat Sindarov — and it started a run of losses for the Uzbek.

Now 13 years later, at the Candidates, the defeat to Sindarov in round 3 was the start of Pragg's event coming unstuck. The latest chapter of the Pragg-Sindarov rivalry may have favoured the boy from Uzbekistan, but both 20-year-olds have many more battles left on the board.

• SRI LANKA'S FINEST

Pathirage, latest javelin sensation from South Asian region

Prithish Raj
New Delhi, April 10

WHEN SRI Lanka's javelin thrower Rumesh Pathirage was in his teenage, he used to clock 130kph with the cricket ball. He participated in a pace hunt and nudged the speed gun to 134kph in the U18 category. He finished second. The topper, Eshan Malinga, turns up for his country and Sunrisers Hyderabad. But the road not taken would not haunt Rumesh because he is breaking records in the chosen field too.

He climbed to ninth in the world last season, and leads the distance chart this season; he holds the fourth best hurl by an Asian, a mark of 89.37 achieved at the Champions Track and Field meet in Sri Lanka.

The twist of fate came when legendary throws coach Tony Prasanna stumbled onto him. He coaxed him into flinging the javelin and took him under his wings. "It was coach Tony who introduced me to javelin," he tells The Indian Express. The coach's advice was simple: "He

always tells me that if I master the basics and do them the right way, I will eventually reap the rewards," Rumesh told The Indian Express. "He is more than a coach. He doesn't just teach me the sport but about life as well," he adds.

His run-up and release bear uncanny resemblance to Lasith Malinga's human slingshot of an action. The arc of his throwing arm is huge. He thumps his left-foot into the turf, so as to maximise the physical attributes for the distance (pace for Malinga).

Until early this year, his best was an above-average but not exemplary 86.50m, which he recorded at the Indian Open Bronze Continental Tour event in Bhubaneswar. But then came the spurt that changed his career. He remains modest about it.

"I had been hitting some good distances in training, but this happened on my very last throw of the competition. So it was a bit of a surprise, but yes, it was a massive throw."

Together with Neeraj Cho-



Rumesh Pathirage recorded a PB of 89.37m. SIHATH ABEYRATHNE

pra, Sachin Yadav and Arshad Nadeem, he forms part of a formidable South Asian bloc that could make javelin one of the tightest contests in the Asian Games. Four South Asian javelin throwers were in the final of the 2025 World Athletics Championships, more than any other region, too. Rumesh

eclipsed them all. Rumesh's breakthrough came in the 2025 season when he finished seventh at the World Championships, making it the best-ever finish by a Sri Lankan male athlete at the World Championships. Rumesh termed the experience at the World Championships

as "magical". "I met the "best of the best" in current javelin throwing. Sharing the bench with athletes like Neeraj and Nadeem was a dream moment for me," he says

He made full use of the opportunity and overshadowed the likes of Neeraj and Nadeem. But he insists on taking one step at a time. "I am trying to build my confidence day by day. I am sticking to my basics and trying to execute them the right way. Consistency is important for me," he says.

Consistency is key

Consistency has been his trademark. Unlike the talented but erratic former Sri Lankan thrower Sumedha Ranasinghe, the first of his country to cross 85m and then slipped, Rumesh has consistently crossed 82m-mark (13 times in the 2025 season). He has pushed himself further this season.

"I had a successful season last year and finished seventh in my very first World Championships. Because of that, I am trying to push myself to achieve even more this season," he says.

The 89m mark breached, he is among the elites of the world. The next target would be crossing 90m, but he has his feet firmly on the ground. "I don't want to be in a competition with anyone. I follow everyone because there is something to learn from every athlete. I'm happy to say that the other elite athletes help me if I ask them anything. They are legends in this sport, and I am always happy to compete alongside them," he says.

In his hometown, he is something of an outlier. Sri Lanka has barely produced a world-class athlete, barring the sprinter Susantha Jayasinghe. But she wears the responsibility lightly. "Every time I improve a centimetre, my nation moves forward by one centimetre," he says.

"Every time I wear the Sri Lankan flag on my chest, I get goosebumps. I am trying to give everything to keep my flag flying high," he adds. At the moment he is.

Ahmedabad's CWG to have 17 disciplines



Veer Savarkar Complex in Ahmedabad. FILE/EXPRESS

Express News Service
New Delhi, April 10

THE 2030 Commonwealth Games (CWG) in Ahmedabad is likely to feature 16 to 17 sports, with the possibility of shooting, wrestling, hockey and cricket — sports omitted from this year's edition in Glasgow but India's strong suits — being in the programme in four years' time.

The pared-down Glasgow Commonwealth Games will have only 10 events after the Australian city of Victoria withdrew as host three years ago due to escalating costs. Glasgow, which stepped in as hosts, won't have a Games Village and venues used in 2014 will be reused or upgraded to help cut costs. After Victoria pulled out as hosts, the Commonwealth Sport announced a new-games model with nine core sports, 14 optional sports and the option of traditional or indigenous sports.

India is expected to put its best foot forward for the CWG to add to its track record of hosting multi-sport events and strengthen its bid for the 2036 Olympics. Ahmedabad has been proposed as the host city for both the CWG and the Olympics.

"What we can say is that from what we have seen, the capacity to host a wide range of sports in India is evident. There's no doubt that at the end of the day, once we have finished all the necessary consultations with the IFs (international federations), with the city, looking at what's available, we're going to have a very vibrant, responsive program that caters to not only what is a very important constituency here in India, but for our 74 territories. Because at the end of the day, it's about the athletes being able

to showcase their talent and put on a good show," Commonwealth Sport president Donald Rukare said during a media briefing on Friday.

India is also likely to push yoga as a medal sport at the centenary games in Ahmedabad. "There are a number of sports here in India we can choose from, and there's a wide range of cultural sports here that could easily fit the bill," Rukare said.

Rukare is part of a delegation from Commonwealth Sport, which included CEO Katie Sadleir and Director of Games and Assurance Darren Hall, that completed a three-day visit to review infrastructure and venues in Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Gandhinagar and Ekta Nagar in Gujarat.

"From what we saw yesterday and the day before, it's very clear that with the available facilities, Ahmedabad can host a wide range of events. The possibilities are quite a number in terms of facilities that are there and those that are being planned. We believe very soon we should be able to announce a 16 to maybe 17 sport program that will be here in 2030," Rukare said, adding that the sports programme will be finalised by the first half of 2027.

Discussions about the sports for the 2030 Games will be ongoing, the Commonwealth Sport President said. "The final sports programme will reflect the aspirations of our members and our athletes and also take into account a bit of room to accommodate what might be culturally relevant for particular regions and territories," Rukare said when asked about finding a balance between traditional sports and modern ones.

• BRIEFLY



Vishvanath Suresh (L) competing at Asian Championships. FILE

Vishvanath wins gold in 50 kg as India finish with five golds

INDIA CAPPED off a memorable Asian Boxing Championships campaign with Vishvanath Suresh clinching the medal gold in the men's 50kg category on Friday. Vishvanath defeated Japan's Daichi Iwai by a dominant 5-0 margin in the final. Sachin (60kg) added to the tally with a hard-fought silver medal, rounding off a strong showing for the men's contingent. India finished second on the table with five gold, one fewer than Kazakhstan, but claimed the most medals (16) overall. Vishvanath's gold marks a significant milestone in his rapid rise through the ranks. Having emerged through the national circuit with consistent performances, he has quickly established himself. PTI

White named head coach of Jr Women's team

AUSTRALIAN TIM White was on Friday named the head coach of India's junior women's hockey team by the national federation, replacing Tushar Khandekar who was with the team since 2023. Hockey India did not specify the reasons for the change and also did not divulge the duration of White's contract. White recently served as the head coach of the Accord Tamil Nadu Dragons in the Hockey India League (HIL) in January this year and had an experience of Indian setup. PTI

Top T&F stars to participate in Indian Open

TOP INDIAN track and field stars will populate the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Saturday to take part in the Delhi leg of Indian Open Series. The event has attracted more than 900 entries across age-groups. World Championships finalist Sachin Yadav, 100m NR holder Animesh Kujur, 400m NR holder Vishal TK, Shaile Singh, Shivam Lohakare along with a returning Hima Das are some of the big names who will be in action tomorrow at the Indian Athletics Series. ENS

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JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

Format C - 7

(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates.

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 83 - KRISHNANAGAR UTTAR
 Name of the candidate : **ARGHYA GON**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a	Nature of the offences	Wrongful restraint, voluntarily causing simple hurt, uses criminal force on a woman, criminal intimidation
b	Case no.	G.R. CASE NO – 1952/2024
c	Name of the Court	Judicial Magistrate 6th at, Krishnanagar, Nadia
d	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The case stated is to family land dispute related. The candidate has been selected based on his extensive experience and leadership. He is widely accepted in the district and assembly constituency.
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The case stated is to family land dispute related. . The candidate has been selected based on his extensive experience and leadership

Name of the Constituency 83 - KRISHNANAGAR UTTAR

Name of the candidate **ARGHYA GON** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
 West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

Format C - 7

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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 4-COOCHBEHAR DAKSHIN (GEN) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **KHOKAN MIAH**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Unlawful Assembly, Rioting with deadly weapons, assault to public servant, criminal intimidation
b.	Case No.	1. Case no - 470/08 OF KOTWALI PS, GR No.; 442/08 2. Case No. 472/08 Kotwali PS, GR 444/08 3. Case No. 195/15 Kotwali PS, GR 237/15 4. Case No. CR - 438/17
c.	Name of the Court	1. Ld. CJM, COOCHBEHAR 2. Ld. JM 2nd Court, COOCHBEHAR 3. LD. CJM COOCHBEHAR 4. LD. CJM 3, COOCHBEHAR
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 4 - COOCHBEHAR DAKSHIN (GEN) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **KHOKAN MIAH** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
 West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

Format C - 7

(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 35 - RAIGANJ (GEN) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **MOHIT SENGUPTA**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Law & Order problem by two political party supporters at the time of Panchayat Election 2018. Criminal Breach of Trust being in any manner entrusted with Property, or with any dominion over property in his capacity of a Public Servant.
b.	Case No.	1.G.R. Case No. 515/2018 2. CRA(DB)/271/2024
c.	Name of the Court	1.Ld. CJM COURT AT UTTAR DINAJPUR, AT RAIGANJ 2. Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 35 - RAIGANJ (GEN) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **MOHIT SENGUPTA** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
 West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

Format C - 7

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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 99 - BADURIA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **QUAZI ABDUR RAHIM**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Rioting, criminal trespass, voluntarily causing grievous hurt, house trespass, theft
b.	Case No.	GR 247/08
c.	Name of the Court	Ld. 1st ADDITIONAL JM AT BASIRHAT
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	He has served as a MLA and has fulfilled the expectation of the local people and has been working honestly for the betterment of the constituency for last 30 years .
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 99 - BADURIA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **QUAZI ABDUR RAHIM** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
 West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

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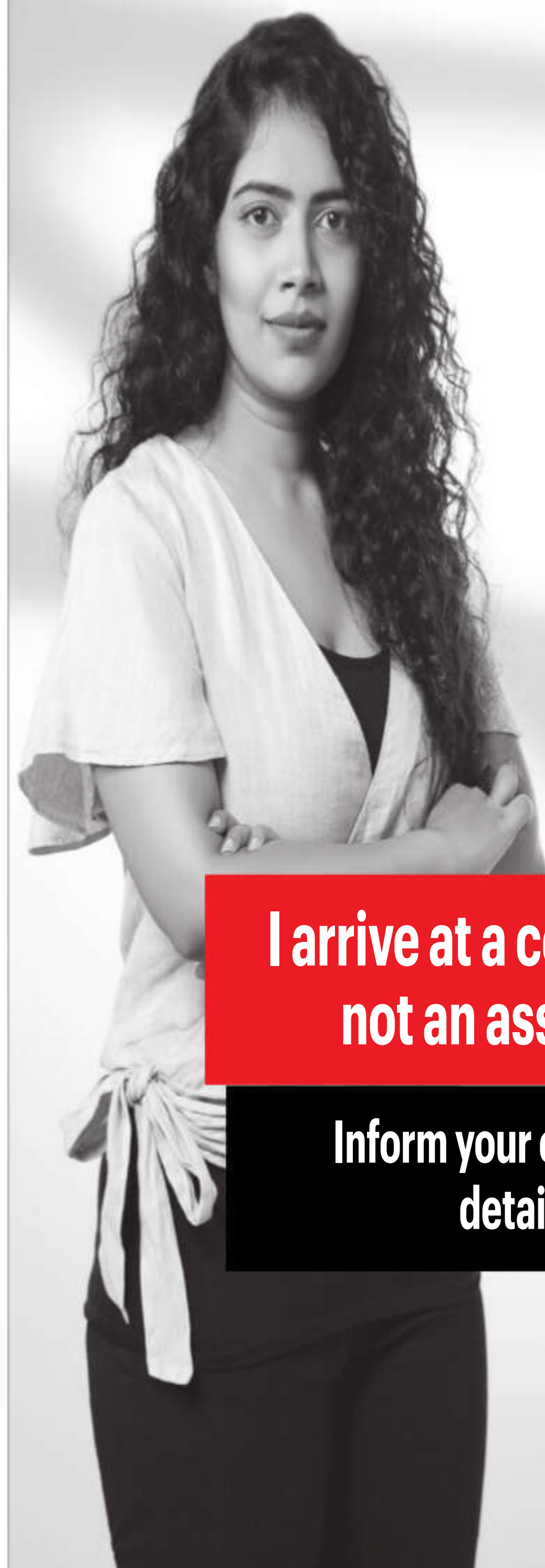
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CPC-75/2025-26	Bids are invited from reputed manufactures in two part bidding system for supply of 237.7 Kms GI earth wire on Turnkey Contract Basis in e-tendering mode only. Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 29.04.2026 upto 13:00 Hrs.	Rs. 1,13,45,658/-
CPC-74/2025-26	Bids are invited from reputed manufactures in two part bidding system for Engineering, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of High Temperature Low Sag (HTLS) conductor after dismantling of ACSR panther conductor in existing 132kV Burla PH-Katapali Ckt-I&II line in Sambalpur District on Turnkey Contract Basis in e-tendering mode only. Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 07.05.2026 upto 12:45 P.M.	Rs. 12,41,57,478/-
CPC-02/2026-27	Bids are invited from reputed manufactures in two part bidding system for Design, engineering, erection, installation, testing & commissioning of 4th ICT 500MVA, 400/220/33kV (BHEL make) along with construction of one number 400kV Dia and 220kV Bay arrangement with construction of new 220kV Bay with associated system at existing 400/220kV Grid S/S, Mendhasal on Turnkey Contract Basis in e-tendering mode only. Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 30.04.2026 upto 12:30 P.M.	Rs. 4,11,98,161/-
CPC-07/2026-27	Bids are invited from reputed manufactures in two part bidding system for Engineering, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of augmentation of Atri S/S capacity from 320MVA (2 X 160 MVA) to 480MVA (3 X 160 MVA) at 220kV level through construction of 220kV & 132kV 3rd 160MVA Auto transformer bay and 60MVA (1 X 40+1 X 20 MVA) to 110MVA (1 X 50+1 X 40+1 X 20 MVA) at 132kV level through construction of 132kV & 33kV 3rd 50 MVA Power transformer bay in Khurda District on Turnkey Contract Basis in e-tendering mode only. Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 04.05.2026 upto 12:45 P.M.	Rs. 7,15,18,576/-

Complete set of bidding documents are available at www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL and www.optcl.co.in.

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Inform your opinion with insightful perspectives.

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Dt.10.04.2026

Supply Of Stores Items. E-Procurement Tender Notice: -The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website www.ireps.gov.in And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. *For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System as Available On www.ireps.gov.in."

Tender No.	Brief Description
30261011	Helical Spring
82265016	HQ-MED-ZRC-zonal Rate Contract supply (PH.NO:02064) Liquid Medical Oxygen
33261691	Set of TPU rings
77251145C	Paint Ready Mixed Red Oxide
60265650	Procurement of various M.S.Bolts &nuts tapered washers for CMS Crossings
LH265493	Supply installation & Commissioning of fully automated computerized SCTR
LY265229	supply Commissioning & Testing of Electrical Overhead Traveling Crane 25/5T capacity
LY265230	Supply Commissioning & Testing of Electrical Overhead Traveling Crane 25/5T capacity
76261003	Steel wire 1.2mm in spool of weight approximately 15 kgs.
38263706	Hose Assembly
38261009	Articulated lock lift lever Assy
38261016	Yoke for Non-transition
6026PT014	Procurement of Over Riding switches 60 kg 1 in 8.5 to RDSO Drg no.T-4966
SCR-26-CAP-NG8W1	RC for the Supply installation & Commissioning of new gantry(8wheeler) track relaying trains machine for IR
66257783	Procurement of Spares for Track Machines
LH257347	Supply of 150 sq.mm thin wall with e-beam irradiation/chemical curing process
38261331	Screw Coupling
LH265345	Lead acid starter batteries of 24V 290AH
31260007	Stabilizer link for Vande Bharat Train
31261023	Spherical Bearing for Reaction Rod
38261435	Brake wear plate
38261014	Knuckle for non-transition
60265262	Procurement of Spring Setting Device
66258312	Procurement of Spares for Track Machines
6026PT003	PSC Mainline Sleepers to T-8746
43261072	Disconnecting Earthing Device
52265002	25 W VHF Digital Radio Set
45261003	Blind Socket

Note: Due dates of tender opening
SL.No.01 on dt.20.04.2026.SL.No. 02 on dt.23.04.2026. SL.No. 03 on dt. 28.04.2026. SL.No.04 on dt.29.04.2026. SL.No.05 to 08 on dt.30.04.2026. SL.No.09 to 12on dt.04.05.2026. SL.No.13 to 15 on dt. 05.05.2026. SL.No.16 to 18 on dt. 06.05.2026. SL.No.19 to 22 on dt. 07.05.2026. SL.No.23 to 26 on dt. 11.05.2026. SL.No.27 on dt. 21.05.2026. SL.No.28 on dt. 25.05.2026.

Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having Value Above Rs. 50 Lakhs for details Please Visit Railway Website Above.
Principal Chief Materials Manager A046 /Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

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(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)
Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
*Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
(1) Name of the Constituency : 144, FALTA (GEN) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
Name of the candidate : **ABDUR RAZZAK MOLLA**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Illegal construction
b.	Case No.	1. NGR 806/16 ; 2. NGR 1137/14
c.	Name of the Court	1. Ld. J.M. 2ND COURT, DIAMOND HARBOUR 2. Ld. J.M. 1ST COURT, DIAMOND HARBOUR
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 144, FALTA (GEN) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
Name of the candidate **ABDUR RAZZAK MOLLA** and so on
* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.
Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
General Secretary
West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
(1) Name of the Constituency : 142, MAGRAHAT WEST ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
Name of the candidate : **ABDUL MAJID HALDER**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	COMPLAINT CASE
b.	Case No.	C-372/24
c.	Name of the Court	J.M. 1ST COURT, DIAMOND HARBOUR
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 142, MAGRAHAT WEST ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
Name of the candidate **ABDUL MAJID HALDER** and so on
* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.
Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
General Secretary
West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

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(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 50, MALDA (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **BHUPENDRA NATH HALDER**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	unlawful assembly, causing simple hurt, criminal force against a woman, mischief, causing damage to national highways
b.	Case No.	1. GR - 269/15 ; 2. GR - 2534/8; 3. GR - 2132/7
c.	Name of the Court	1. LD. CJM, MALDA COURT 2. LD. CJM, MALDA COURT 3. LD. JM, 1ST COURT, MALDA
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency: 50 MALDA (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **BHUPENDRA NATH HALDER** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 135-MANDIRBAZAR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **CHAND SARADER**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	WRONGFUL RESTRAINT, GRIVEOUS HURT BY DANGEROUS WEAPONS, ATTEMPT TO MURDER, CRIMINAL INTIMIDATION
b.	Case No.	1. Mandirbazar P.S. Case No. 155/2019 2. Mandirbazaqr PS Case no. 214/2019
c.	Name of the Court	1. Fast Track 3rd Court, Diamond Harbour 2. JM, 1st Court Diamond Harbour.
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 135-MANDIRBAZAR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **CHAND SARADER** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

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(Sourav Ghosh)
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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)
Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
*Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
(1) Name of the Constituency : 157 - METIABRUZ ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
Name of the candidate : MD. MUKHTAR

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Obstructing in public way, causing assault, using force to deter a public servant, rioting and attempt to murder with arms, possession of arms without license, causing hurt with dangerous weapon.
b.	Case No.	1. New Market PS Case no. 36/2025. 2. Gardenreach PS Case no. 149/2024 3. Bidhannagar PS Case No. 3105/2022 4. Gardenreach PS Case No. 51/2021 5. SC 37(8)/2025 6. Hare Street PS Case No. 36/2025 7. ST 3(5)16 8. C.G.R. 2652/2017 9. C.G.R. 5053/2016 10. Gardenreach PS Case No. 214/2012 11. Gardenreach PS Case No. 03/2012 12. Metiabruz Police Case No. 88/2011 13. C.G.R. 271/2010 14. Gardenreach PS Case No. 03/2010 15. Gardenreach PS Case No. 01/2010 16. Metiabruz PS Case No. 100/2009 17. B.G.R. 823/2005 18. Gardenreach PS Case No. 02/1995
c.	Name of the Court	1. CJM AT CALCUTTA 2. CJM AT ALIPORE 3. ACJM AT BIDHANNAGAR 4. CJM AT ALIPORE 5. 8th FTC AT ALIPORE 6. CJM AT CALCUTTA 7. 1ST ADJ AT ALIPORE 8. 3RD JM AT ALIPORE 9. 7TH JM AT ALIPORE 10. CJM AT ALIPORE 11. CJM AT ALIPORE 12. ACJM AT ALIPORE 13. 3RD JM AT ALIPORE 14. CJM AT ALIPORE 15. CJM AT ALIPORE 16. ACJM AT ALIPORE 17. 2ND JM AT ALIPORE 18. CJM AT ALIPORE
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate Has A Very Good Potential And Has A Social Standing And Acceptability Throughout The Assembly

Name of the Constituency 157 - METIABRUZ ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
Name of the candidate **MD. MUKHTAR** and so on
* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.
Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
General Secretary
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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 215 - KHEJURI (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : ASIT PRAMANIK

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	illegal possession of arms/ammunition, unlawful assembly, rash handling of fire or combustible materials, criminal force against a woman
b.	Case No.	TALPATI COSTAL PS CASE No. 190/2023
c.	Name of the Court	CONTAI SUB DIVISIONAL COURT, PURBA MEDINIPUR
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 215 - KHEJURI (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate ASIT PRAMANIK and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 14 - MADARIHAT (ST) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : JOY PRAFULLA LAKRA

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a	Nature of the offences	Unlawful assembly, disturbing peace and tranquillity, damaging public property, criminal force against a public servant, theft
b	Case no.	1. GR. NO. 817/2022 2. GR.698/2023 3. GR. 1636/2023 4. NGR 159/2026
c	Name of the Court	1. LD. ACJM, ALIPURDUAR 2. LD. ACJM, ALIPURDUAR 3. LD. ACJM, ALIPURDUAR 4. Executive Magistrate, Malbazar, Alipurduar
d	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 14 - MADARIHAT (ST) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate JOY PRAFULLA LAKRA and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 110, DUM DUM UTTAR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **DHANANJAY MOITRA**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Rioting with weapon, unlawful assembly, voluntarily causing simple hurt, criminal force against a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty, wrongful restraint, criminal defamation
b.	Case No.	1. 179/2011 2. 253/2013
c.	Name of the Court	1. LD. JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, BARRACKPORE 2. LD. JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, BARRACKPORE
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 110, DUM DUM UTTAR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **DHANANJAY MOITRA** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 128, BASANTI (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **GOPINATH NAIYA**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Domestic Violence
b.	Case No.	GR 1588/18
c.	Name of the Court	Ld. ACJM 1ST COURT AT BARUIPUR
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 128, BASANTI (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **GOPINATH NAIYA** and so on

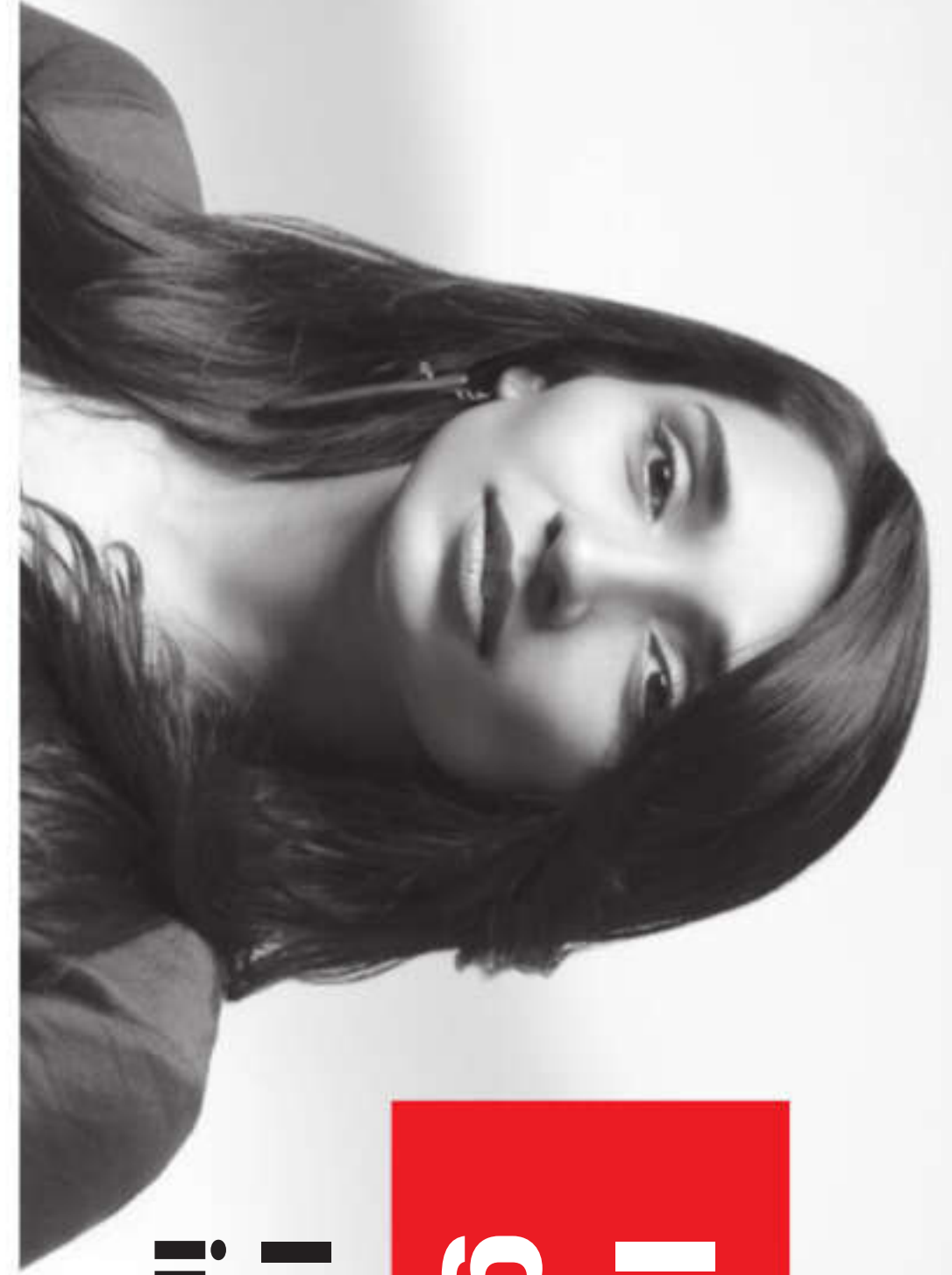
* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 129, KULTALI (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **RUPA HALDAR**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Wrongful restraint, Voluntarily causing grievous hurt, criminal intimidation
b.	Case No.	1593/25
c.	Name of the Court	Ld. ACJM, Baruipur, South 24 Parganas
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 129, KULTALI (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **RUPA HALDAR** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
 West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

Format C - 7

(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 16, MAYNAGURI SC ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **JOGEN SARKAR**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Wrongful restraint, voluntarily causing simple hurt, criminal intimidation
b.	Case No.	Mal PS Case No. 425/13
c.	Name of the Court	Ld. JM 3rd COURT
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 16, MAYNAGURI SC ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **JOGEN SARKAR** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
 West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 161 BALLYGUNGE ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **ROHAN MITRA**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Intimidation to simple hurt, criminal intimidation
b.	Case No.	68/23
c.	Name of the Court	LD. CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, Alipore
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate Has A Very Good Potential And Has A Social Standing And Acceptability Throughout The Assembly

Name of the Constituency 161 BALLYGUNGE ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **ROHAN MITRA** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates.

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 189 - CHANDANNAGAR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **RATAN KMAR GOLDER**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a	Nature of the offences	Criminal force against a woman with intention to outrage her modesty, criminal intimidation
b	Case no.	111/2009
c	Name of the Court	CHANDANNAGAR COURT, HOOGHLY
d	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate Has A Very Good Potential And Has A Social Standing And Acceptability Throughout The Assembly

Name of the Constituency 189 - CHANDANNAGAR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **RATAN KMAR GOLDER** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

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(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates.

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 44, GAZOLE (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **PREM CHOWDHURY**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a	Nature of the offences	Domestic Violence, Political Issue and force to deter public servant from discharge his duty, wrongful restraint, illegal possession of firearms, rioting, voluntarily causing simple hurt, attempt to commit culpable homicide not amounting to murder
b	Case no.	1. Gazole PS Case No. 599/24 2. Gazole PS Case No. 349/24 3. Gazole PS Case No. 20/15 4. Gazole PS Case No. 18/15
c	Name of the Court	1. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Malda 2. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Malda 3. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Malda 4. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Malda
d	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate Has A Very Good Potential And Has A Social Standing And Acceptability Throughout The Assembly

Name of the Constituency 44, GAZOLE (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **PREM CHOWDHURY** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party

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General Secretary

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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates.

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 139 - CANNING PURBA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **SABIR ALI SARDAR**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a	Nature of the offences	Forgery, cheating, voluntarily causing simple hurt and grievous hurt, wrongful restraint, theft, criminal breach of trust
b	Case no.	1. BGR 4464/12 2. BGR 3913/19 3. 40/18
c	Name of the Court	1. Ld. JM 1st Court, Alipore 2. Ld. JM 5th Court, Alipore 3. Ld. CJM at Barasat
d	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly

Name of the Constituency 139 - CANNING PURBA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **SABIR ALI SARDAR** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party

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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 78, TEHATTA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **JYOTIRMOY SARKAR**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	causing damage to property, voluntarily causing simple hurt, criminal intimidation, house trespass
b.	Case No.	1. GR 1068/14 2. GR 1147/08
c.	Name of the Court	1. JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, TEHATTA 2. JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, TEHATTA
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 78, TEHATTA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **JYOTIRMOY SARKAR** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 109 - KHARDAHA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **JAYDEB GHOSH**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	With a common intention criminal trespass and voluntarily causing simple hurt
b.	Case No.	861/16
c.	Name of the Court	BARRACKPORE COURT.
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 109 - KHARDAHA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **JAYDEB GHOSH** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates.

(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition(C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of the Political Party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**
 *Name of the Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**
 Name of State/UT : **WEST BENGAL**
 (1) Name of the Constituency : **158, KOLKATA PORT**
 Name of the Candidate : **RAKESH SINGH**

Sl. No.		
1.	Criminal antecedents	
	a.	Nature of the Offences
		Felonious
	b.	Case No.
		1. Entally P.S., Case No. 216 dt. 29.08.25 U/S: 329(4)/109/326/115(2)/118(1)/126(2)/79/351(2)/324(6)/3(5) BNS R/W 25/27A/ Act 2. Anandapur /ARS DD P.S., Case No. 286 dt. 23/9/25 U/S: 61(2)/318(4)/316(2)/336(2)/340(2)/329(4)/305/351(3) BNS 3. Metiabruz P.S., Case No. 118 dt. 8/6/2025 U/S: 192/196/299/351/352/353(1) (b) /353(1)(c)/356(2)BNS 4. Jadavpur P.S., Case No.133 dt.01/09/2025 U/S: 115(2)/126(2)/351(2)/118(1)/109/127(2)/304(4)/318(4)/338/61(2) BNS and 25/27 Arms Act 5. Kasba P.S., Case No.501 dt.27/10/25 U/S: 79/351(2)/121(1)/3(5) BNS 6. Watgunge P.S., Case No. 154, dated- 26.07.2024 U/S: 126(2)/115(2)/351(2) BNS 7. Watgunge P.S., Case No. 113 dt.09.05.2025 U/S: 353(2)/299/302 BNS 8. Alipore P.S., Case No. 144 dt. 16.11.2025 U/S: 61(2)/329(4)/238/304(2)/74/118(1)/189(2)(4) BNS R/w 25/27 Arms Act 9. Kasba P.S., Case No. 286 dt.27/6/25 U/S: 285/3(5) BNS 10. Hare Street P.S., Case No. 178 dated- 09.08.2025 U/S: 285/223/189(2)/3(5) BNS 11. Alipore P.S., Case No. 182 dated- 30.12.2025 U/S: 25/29/35 Arms Act 12. Alipore P.S., Case No. 182, Dt: 11.08.07 U/S: 147/148/149/324/307 IPC 13. Alipore P.S., Case No. 187, Dt: 20.09.06 U/S: 147/148/323/427/188 IPC GR No- 2343/06 merged with C/No. 13, Dt: 18.01.07, U/S-148/448/427/324/452/506/34 IPC GR No-184/07 14. Alipore P.S., Case No. 186, Dt: 15.08.07 U/S: 143/188 IPC 15. Alipore P.S., Case No. 288 Dt: 05.12.10 U/S: 147/323/354/427 IPC 16. Alipore P.S., Case No. 56, Dt: 20.02.12 U/S: 143/149/283 IPC 17. Alipore P.S., Case No. 190 Dt: 06.06.12 U/S: 341/323/506/114 IPC 18. Alipore P.S., Case No. 288 Dt: 29.06.2016 U/S: 341/323/506/114 IPC 19. Alipore P.S., Case No. 49 Dt: 20.02.11 U/S: 341/332/506 IPC 20. Alipore P.S., Case No. 205, Dt: 24.08.17 U/S: 143/149/386/420/120B IPC & Sec. 4 of West Bengal Medicare service persons and Medicare service institutions (Prevention of violence and Damage to properties) Act, 2009 21. Alipore P.S., Case No. 58, Dt: 17.02.18 U/S: U/S-341/283/34 IPC 22. Alipore P.S., Case No. 68 Dt: 27.02.18 U/S: 353/283/120B IPC 23. Alipore P.S., Case No. 219 Dt: 10.09.17 U/S: 186/353/307/212/34 IPC 24. Alipore P.S., Case No. 189 Dt: 6/6/12 U/S: 143/149/427/506 IPC 25. Amherst St. P.S., Case No. 133 Dt. 14.05.19 U/S: 147/148/149/353/254/341/323/324/427/448/436 IPC, 33 SPDP Act

Sl. No.		
	b.	Case No.
		26. ARS, DD Hare Street P.S., Case No. 59 Dt: 14.01.12, GR No-191/12 U/S: 385/506 IPC (TF to ARS DD 01.02.12) 27. ARS, DD Hasting P.S., Case No. 15, Dt-09/01/14 U/S: 387/427/506(ii)/34 IPC GR No-87/14 28. ARS, DD Hasting P.S., Case No. 553 Dt: 13.10.16 U/S: 387/341/323/504/506/34 IPC 29. ARS, DD Hasting P.S., Case No. 119 Dt: 03.02.12 U/S: 385/114 IPC & 25 & 27 Arms Act 30. ARS, DD Hasting P.S., Case No. 107 Dt: 19.02.15, GR No-398/15 U/S: 307/34 IPC 31. Bhawanipore P.S., Case No. 324 Dated: 22.07.18, GR No-3090/18 U/S: 324/506/34 IPC 32. Ekbalpore P.S., Case No. 270 Dt: 02.07.08 U/S: 148/149/332/354 IPC 33. Ekbalpore P.S., Case No. 268 Dt: 28.06.08 U/S: 143/188 IPC 34. Ekbalpore P.S., Case No. 111 Dt: 17.02.18 U/S: 143/149/283 IPC 35. Ekbalpore P.S., Case No. 222 Dt: 27.04.16 U/S: 188 IPC 36. Ekbalpore P.S., Case No. 277 Dt: 16/5/16 U/S: 143/149/283 IPC GR No-22(36) 16 37. Entally P.S., Case No. 17 Dt: 19.01.17 U/S: 324/506 (II)/34 IPC & 25 (1B)(a) Arms Act 38. Hare Street P.S., Case No. 108 Dt: 19.02.15 Gr No-405/15 U/S: 353/506 (ii) IPC & 379/511 IPC 39. Hare Street P.S., Case No. 720 Dt: 11.12.15 U/S: 143/149/283 IPC 40. Hare Street P.S., Case No. 199 Dt: 02.04.16 U/S: 283/188 IPC 41. Hare Street P.S., Case No. 457 Dt: 10.07.13 U/S: 143/149/188/283 IPC 42. Hastings P.S., Case No. 111 dated 26.03.16 U/S: 188 IPC 43. Hastings P.S., Case No. 16 Dt: 09.01.14 U/S: 341/323/506/34 IPC 44. Hastings P.S., Case No. 31 Dt: 15.02.18 U/S: 143/283/109 IPC 45. Hastings P.S., Case No. 09, dt-06/01/14 U/S: 341/323 IPC read with 3(i)(x) of SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities of 1989) No-01/14 46. Karaya P.S., Case No. 75 Dt: 16.03.07 U/S: 148/149/332/353/506 ii/307 IPC 47. Karaya P.S., Case No. 20 Dt: 12.01.19 U/S: 147/148/149/448/323/427 IPC & 3 PDPP Act 48. New Alipore / N Cell DD P.S., Case No. 65 dt. 19.02.21 U/S: 21(b)/29 NDPS Act since added 27A NDPS Act 49. Shakespeare Sarani P.S., Case No. 58 Dt: 27.02.18 U/S: 506 IPC 50. Shakespeare Sarani P.S., Case No. 283 Dt: 11.09.17 U/S: 387 IPC 51. Watgunge P.S., Case No. 67, Dt. 11.03.10 U/S: 341/323/506 (ii) IPC 52. Watgunge P.S., Case No. 183, dt-06.07.10 U/S: 147/149/323/427 IPC 53. Watgunge P.S., Case No. 157, dt-25.08.11 U/S: 509/34 IPC GR NO-3079/11 54. Watgunge P.S., Case No. 177, dt. 22.07.16 U/S: 448/427/380/506(ii)/120B IPC 55. Watgunge P.S., Case No. 202, dt. 15.10.11 U/S: 341/323/114 IPC 56. Watgunge P.S., Case No. 177, dt. 21/05/09 U/S: 341/323/114 IPC 57. Watgunge P.S., Case No. 295, dt. 14/09/09 U/S: 147/148/149/324/427 IPC 58. Watgunge P.S., Case No. 296, dt. 14/09/09 U/S: 387/114 IPC

Sl. No.	Case No.
59.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 152, dt. 30/05/10 U/S: 341/323 IPC
60.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 41, dt. 15.02.17 GR No. 681/17 U/S: 143/147/149/448/342/504/506(ii) IPC,
61.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 72, dt. 23.03.17 U/S: 143/288/341 IPC
62.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 86, dt. 18.05.19 U/S: 364/307/332/353/506/427/34 IPC
63.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 171, dt. 03.11.22 U/S: 341/323/324/114/387 IPC
64.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 44, dt. 25.02.23 U/S: 324/114 IPC r/w 25/27 Arms Act
65.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 123, dt. 14.08.22 U/S: 324/114 IPC r/w 25/27 Arms Act
66.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 116, dt. 25.09.20 U/S: 65/347/506/34 IPC
67.	Bowbazar P.S., Case No. 77, dt. 15/02/05 U/S: 307/341 IPC & 25(1B)(a)/27 Arms Act
68.	Kasba / ARS DD P.S., Case No. 499, dt. 27/10/25 U/S: 35(5)/329(2)/124(1)/124(2)/311/109(2) BNS r/w 25/27 Arms Act
69.	South Port P.S., Case No. 233, dt. 10/12/2019 U/S: 147/149/353/283 IPC
70.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 04 dt.02/1/2001 U/S: 302 IPC r/w 25(1B)(a)/27 Arms Act - Charge Sheeted - 11.07.01
71.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 108 dt.13/06/2011 U/S: 323/354/114/504 IPC
72.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 25 dt.07/02/2005 U/S: 323/324/325/307/436/201/34 IPC
73.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 37 dt.16/03/2006 U/S: 326/114 IPC
74.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 242 dt.07/11/2007 U/S: 333 IPC
75.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 44 dt.20/02/2012 U/S: 341/323/506(II)/34 IPC & 25/27 Arms Act
76.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 06 dt.05/01/2013 U/S: 307/34 IPC
77.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 326 dt. 23/08/2013 U/S: 147/148/149/324/379/427 IPC
78.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 363 dt.30/11/2015 U/S: 323/341/354/379/506 IPC
79.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 67, Dt. 25.03.16 U/S: 188 IPC
80.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 12, Dt. 01.02.2020 U/S: 153A/295A IPC
81.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 109, Dt. 09.07.2022 U/S: 341/323/506/114 IPC
82.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 120, Dt.13.08.2022 U/S: 341/324/307/34 IPC
83.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 179, Dt.15.11.2022 U/S: 324/114 IPC
84.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 17, Dt.29.01.2023 U/S: 326/354/427/506/114 IPC
85.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 50, Dt. 04.03.2023 U/S: 307/326/324/354/506/504/34 IPC
86.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 96, Dt. 04.03.2023 U/S: 307/326/324/354/506/504/34 IPC
87.	Watgunge P.S., Case No. 180 dt. 16.11.22 U/S: 448/420/467/468/471/120B IPC
88.	Hastings P.S., Case No. 1 dt. 01/01/2016 U/S: 279/337/338/427 IPC Since Amended U/S- 279/304A/337/427 IPC
89.	Alipore P.S., Case No. 106 dt. 06.09.19 U/S: 341/323/506/384/385/34 IPC & West Bengal Medicare Service persons & Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to property Act, 2009)
90.	Shakespeare Sarani P.S., Case No. 369 Dt: 18.08.10 U/S: 143/283 IPC

Sl. No.	Name of the Court
1.	ACJM, Sealdah
2.	NOT KNOWN
3.	NOT KNOWN
4.	ACJM, Alipore
5.	NOT KNOWN
6.	NOT KNOWN
7.	NOT KNOWN
8.	NOT KNOWN
9.	NOT KNOWN
10.	NOT KNOWN
11.	CJM, Alipore
12.	CJM, Alipore
13.	CJM, Alipore
14.	Alipore CJM
15.	JM, Alipore
16.	NOT KNOWN
17.	1 JM, Alipore
18.	2 JM, Alipore
19.	Alipore CJM
20.	CJM, Alipore
21.	7 JM, Alipore
22.	9 JM, Alipore
23.	CJM, Alipore
24.	NOT KNOWN
25.	ACJM-II, Kolkata
26.	CMM, Calcutta
27.	CMM, Calcutta
28.	CJM, Kolkata
29.	CMM Calcutta
30.	CMM Calcutta
31.	1 JM, Alipore
32.	CJM, Alipore
33.	CJM Alipore
34.	5 JM, Alipore
35.	7 JM, Alipore
36.	7 JM, Alipore
37.	ACJM, Sealdah
38.	4 JM, Alipore
39.	NOT KNOWN
40.	NOT KNOWN
41.	3 JM, Kolkata
42.	CMM
43.	CMM
44.	CMM
45.	CMM
46.	ALIPUR CJM
47.	6 JM, Alipore
48.	4 ADJ, Alipore
49.	CMM
50.	4, JM, Kolkata
51.	NOT KNOWN
52.	CJM, Alipore
53.	ALIPUR CJM
54.	7 JM, Alipore
55.	1 JM, Alipore
56.	CJM Alipore
57.	NOT KNOWN
58.	NOT KNOWN
59.	Alipur CJM
60.	7 JM, Alipore
61.	2 JM, Alipore
62.	DJ, Alipore
63.	CJM, Alipore
64.	Alipur CJM
65.	CJM, Alipore
66.	9 JM, Alipore
67.	CMM Calcutta
68.	ACJM, Alipore
69.	1 JM, Alipore
70.	Alipur CJM
71.	NOT KNOWN
72.	Alipur CJM
73.	Alipur CJM
74.	Alipur CJM
75.	Alipur CJM
76.	NOT KNOWN
77.	4 JM, Alipore

Sl. No.		
c.	Name of the Court	78. ALIPUR CJM 79. 7 JM, Alipore 80. ALIPUR CJM 81. CJM, Alipore 82. CJM, Alipore 83. CJM, Alipore 84. CJM, Alipore 85. CJM, Alipore 86. CJM, Alipore 87. CJM, Alipore 88. CMM 89. CJM, Alipore 90. CMM
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e.	Date of conviction, if any	Not Applicable
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	Not Applicable
g.	Any other information required to be given	No

Sl. No.		
2.	The reasons for the selection of the candidate, Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	All the criminal cases registered against the candidate are politically motivated. The party inclined to choose him as a fit candidate for Legislative Assembly as he has longstanding association with the party. He has got a long time attachment in the social and cultural field in the constituency.
3.	Reason as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	All the criminal cases registered against the candidate are politically motivated. The party inclined to choose him as a fit candidate for Legislative Assembly as he has longstanding association with the party. He has got a long time attachment in the social and cultural field in the constituency.

*In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party



Shashi Agnihotri
State General Secretary
BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)
WEST BENGAL

Format C-1
(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) of 2011.

Name and address of candidate : **DADHIRAM RAY**
Vill: 147 Bhotbari, PO.- Bhotbari, PS.- Mekhliganj, Dist.- Coochbehar, West Bengal, Pin- 735301

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **1, MEKHLIGANJ (SC)**

I, **DADHIRAM RAY** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R Case No. 439/2013 Charges have not been framed	U/S 188,143,148, 149, 186,353,323, 325 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 440/2013 Charges have not been framed	U/S 143,148,323, 325 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
3.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 272/2013 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 143,325,427, 506, Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
4.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 233/2013 Charges have not been framed	U/S 143,341,186, 506 offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
5.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 164/2013 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 143,427,506 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
6.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 620/2014 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 141/147,148, 149, 341,447,323, 326,307, 379 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
7.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 25/2014 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 341,323,34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
8.	J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 13/2014 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 341,323,427, 506,34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
9.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 668/2014 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 147,148,341, 325,307 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
10.	C.J.M., Jalpaiguri	G.R. Case No. 5102/2015 Charges have not been framed	147,148,149,186,3 53,323,325,506 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
11.	J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 272/2015 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 147,148,325, 379,354 offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
12.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 587/2018 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 143,186,189, 353,427,34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
13.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 503/2018 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 143,283,290, 506 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
14.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 444/2018 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 341,323,324, 325, 354, 506, 34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
15.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 550/2024 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 126(2), 117(2), 118(2), 109(2), 3(5) Offences under BNS	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
16.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 551/2024 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 329(3),118(2), 117(2),303 (2),3(5) Offences under BNS	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
17.	A.C.J.M., Mekhliganj	G.R. Case No. 559/2024 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 329(3),321(3), 224(2),132 (2),3(5) Offences under BNS	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

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(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) of 2011.

Name and address of candidate : **AJAY RAY**
Ward No.02, Burningghat Road PO and PS- Dinhata, Dist- Coochbehar, Pin-736135

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **7, DINHATA**

I, **AJAY RAY** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 579/25, PS- 553/25 Dt. 14/11/25. Charges have not been framed	U/S -189(2), 221/224/132/121(1)121 (2) Offences under BNS	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	ACJM - II, Dinhata	GR NO. 98/24, PS- 80/24 Dt. 15/2/24 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 341, 323, 324, 427, 506, 34 RW 9(B)(2)(b) Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
3.	ACJM - II, Dinhata	GR NO. 97/24, PS- 78/24 Dt. 13/2/24 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 143, 186, 188, 283, 290, 427, 506 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
4.	ACJM - II, Dinhata	GR NO. 296/23, PS-274/23 Dt. 10/6/23 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 342, 325, 326, 427, 506, 34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
5.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 174/23, PS- 172/23 Dt. 4/4/23 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 341, 326, 307, 506, 120B, 34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
6.	ACJM - II, Dinhata	GR NO. (I) 91/23, PS- 95/23 Dt. 26/2/23 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 341, 323, 326, 334, 506, 34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
7.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 427/23, PS- 388/23 Dt. 17/7/23 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 448, 341, 323, 379 Offences under IPC, RW 25/27 Arm Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
8.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 666/22, PS- 597/22 Dt. 4/12/22 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 341, 323, 325, 326, 307, 506 IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
9.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 183/21, PS- 171/21 Dt. 13/4/21 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 448, 323, 379, 354, 427, 34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
10.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 95/22, PS- 83/22 Dt. 19/2/22 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 341, 326, 307/ 34 Offences under IPC, RW 25 1(A) 27R Arm Act R/W 3/4 DP Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
11.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 243/21, PS- 231/21 Dt. 7/5/21 Charges have not been framed	U/S 143, 341, 323, 325, 307,427, 358 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
12.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 766/23, PS- 731/23 Dt. 23/12/23 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 341, 325, 326, 307, 34 Offences under IPC, RW 25/27 Arm Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
13.	A.S.J., Dinhata	GR NO. 36/20 Session No. 16/25, PS-34/20 Dt. 20/1/2020 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 341, 325, 326, 307, 506, 34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
14.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 377/23, PS- 363/23 Dt. 10/7/23 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 341, 323, 186, 332, 307, 34 Offences under IPC, R/W 25/27 Arm Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
15.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 65/21, PS- 65/21 Dt. 16/2/21 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 448, 323, 325, 427, 353, 382, 34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
16.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 527/22, PS- 176/22 Dt. 03/11/22 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 341, 325, 326, 379, 427,506, 34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
17.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 412/23, DHT PS-376/23 Dt. 13/07/23, Charges have not been framed	U/S 447, 341, 323, 166,186,188,506, 34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
18.	ACJM - I, Dinhata	GR NO. 1671/13, DHT PS-1583/13 Dt. 21/12/13 Charges have not been framed	U/S 447,323, 354,34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
19.	C.J.M. , Cooch Behar	Kotwali P.S. Case NO- 325/2024 dated. 21.3.2024 Charges have not been framed	U/S 143, 341, 323, 325, 326, 307, 506 Offences under IPC Read with Sec. 25/27 Arms Act.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
20.	C.J.M. , Cooch Behar	GR Case No.- 651/25, Kotwali P.S. Case No-334/25 Dated 4.4.25. Charges have not been framed	U/S 189(2), 126(2), 115(2), 117 (2), 118(2),324(4),109 Offences under BNS	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

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I arrive at a conclusion not an assumption.

Inform your opinion with detailed analysis.

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(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) of 2011.

Name and address of candidate : **TAPAN BHUYA**
Vill -Shobanipur Po- Matkatpur,
Ps - Kharagpur Local, Dist - Paschim
Medinipur, Pin 721305

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**
(Independent candidates should write
"Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026,
WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **228, KHARAGPUR**

I, **TAPAN BHUYA** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	Ld. C.J.M., Paschim Medinipur	Kotwali P.S. Case No. 466/2021, G.R. No. 2219/2021, Charges have not been framed	U/S-1341/188/34 IPC 51(B), Offences under DM Act.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	Ld. C.J.M., Paschim Medinipur	Kharagpur Local P.S. Case No. 447/2024 dated 31.05.2024, Charges have been framed	U/S-143/147/149/332/353/188/431 IPC & Sec. 8B of the NH Act Sec., 9 of the W.B. Maintenance Act. 1972 Sec. 3 of PDPP Act 32 of Offences under Police Act.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
3.	Ld. C.J.M., Paschim Medinipur	Kotwali P.S. Case No. 234/2022, GR No. 1116/2022	U/S-143/188/186/353/332/506/34 Offences under I.P.C.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

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Format C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

(As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate : **TAPAS CHANDRA ROY**
Vill-Kushmandi, P.O.-Kushmandi,
P.S.- Kushmandi, Dist.-Dakshin Dinajpur,
Pin-733132, State-West Bengal

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP).**
(Independent candidates should write
"Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026,
WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **37, KUSHMANDI (SC)**

I, **Tapas Chandra Roy** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	Ld. A.C.J.M. Gangarampur at Buniadpur, Dakshin Dinajpur	NGR Case No. 1304/20 Charges have been framed	U/S - 32 OF POLICE ACT Offences under Police Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.



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Format C - 7

(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 284 - DUBRAJPUR SC ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **SANJOY BYAPARI**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Wrongful restraint, obstructing in public way, causing damage to property
b.	Case No.	216/2023
c.	Name of the Court	LD. ACJM, BOLPUR
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate Has A Very Good Potential And Has A Social Standing And Acceptability Throughout The Assembly

Name of the Constituency 284 - DUBRAJPUR SC ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **SANJOY BYAPARI** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
 West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

Format C - 7

(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 12 - ALIPURDUARS ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **MRINMOY SARKAR**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Gaming with playcards using money
b.	Case No.	Falakata PS Case No. 20/2017 GR 146/2017
c.	Name of the Court	Ld. JM 1st COURT, ALIPURDUAR
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 12 - ALIPURDUARS ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **MRINMOY SARKAR** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
 West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

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Format C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

(As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate : **SHRI SUBHENDU SARKAR**
Vill-Bararaghunathpur, PO-Beltalapak
PS-Balurghat, Dist- Dakshin Dinajpur
Pin-733103

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP).**
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **38, KUMARGANJ**

I, **Shri Subhendu Sarkar** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	CJM(P) Court, Dakshin Dinajpur, Balurghat	Balurghat P.S Case No. 419/17, Dt. 9/10/2017, GR 1207/2017 Charges have been framed	U/S - 186/353/506 IPC Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	CJM(P) Court, Dakshin Dinajpur, Balurghat	Balurghat P.S Case No. 168/17 dt.11/04/2017, GR No. 424/2017 Charges have been framed	U/S - 147/186/506 I.P.C. Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
3.	CJM(P) Court, Dakshin Dinajpur, Balurghat	Balurghat P.S Case No. 162/18, Dt. 13/5/2018, GR 373/2018 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 153A/295A/ 298/509/34 IPC Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
4.	JM 1st Court, Dakshin Dinajpur, Balurghat	Balurghat P.S Case No. 441/2018 Dt 7.12.2018, GR - 986/2018 Charges have been framed	U/S-341/188/ 278/ 290 IPC & 34B Police Act. Offences under IPC Act.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
5.	CJM(P) Court, Dakshin Dinajpur, Balurghat	Balurghat P.S Case No. 170/2018 Dt 30/12/2018, GR 396/2018 Charges have been framed	U/S - 341/323/34 IPC Offences under IPC Act.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
6.	JM 2nd Court, Dakshin Dinajpur, Balurghat	Balurghat P.S Case No. 132/19 Dt 3.3.2019, GR 218/2019 Charges have been framed	U/S - 8B of NH Act. Offences under IPC Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
7.	CJM Court (Grofile), Dakshin Dinajpur, Balurghat	Balurghat P.S Case No. 26/20 at 13.1.2020, GR 62/2020 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 143/188/506 IPC Offences under IPC Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
8.	ADJ Court, Gangarampur, Buniadpur	Gangarampur P.S. 211/2019. Dated 08/06/2019 G.R. Case No.- 457/2019 Charges have not been framed	U/S-147/148/149/ 186/188/332/353/ 325/326/307 IPC R/W Sec. 3 of P.D.P.P. Act. & R/W Sec. 8(B) of NH Act. & R/W sec. 09 of M.P.O. Act. Offences under IPC Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
9.	ADJ Court, Gangarampur, Buniadpur	Banshihari PS, Case No. 87/2018, Dt. 08/06/2018, Special Case No. 145/2019 Charges have not been framed	U/S - 306/34 I.P.C. Offences under IPC Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Format C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

(As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate : **PRADIP LODHA**
Vill-Radhanagar, P.O.-Amlagora, P.S.- Garhbeta, Dist-Paschim Medinipur, Pin-721121

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP).**
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **233, GARBETA**

I, **Pradip Lodha** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	ACJM, Garhbeta	Garbeta P.S. Case No 107/17 Dt. 30.04.2017 GR-157/2017 Charges have not been framed	U/S 505/506/509/ 153A/504/143/147/ 149/34 IPC 32/34 (A) Police Act & 3 PDPP Act. Offences under IPC/PDPP/Police Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Format C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

(As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate : **NILADRI SEKHAR DANA**
Kankata, P.O.- Kenduadihi, Dist- Bankura, Pin - 722102

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP).**
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **252, BANKURA**

I, **Niladri Sekhar Dana** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	Special Court (P.C.Act) 4th Court Krishnaga Nadia.	Kalyani P.S. FIR No. 241/2022 Date-20.05.2022 Special Case (P.C.Act)- 01/2022 Charges have not been framed	U/S 420/406/120B/ 34 IPC and 7/7A/8/ 11/ 13 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 Offences under IPC & Prevention of Corruption Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Format C-1**(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)****Declaration about criminal cases**

As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) of 2011.

Name and address of candidate : **SHRI BIMAN MAHATA**
Kanyabali, P.O- Bhimpur, P.S- Salboni,
Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, Pin-721516

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**
(Independent candidates should write
"Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026, WEST
BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **234, SALBONI**

I, **SHRI BIMAN MAHATA** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	Ld. 4th JM Court, Paschim Medinipur	Salboni P.S Case No. 76/2018, GR Case No. 1247/2018 Charges have not been framed	U/S 147/148/149/323 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	Ld. 5th JM Court, Paschim Medinipur	Salboni P.S Case No. 62/2021, GR Case No. 808/2021, Charges have been framed	U/S 143/149 /188 IPC & 32/34(a) Offences under Police Act.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
3.	Ld. 4th JM Court, Paschim Medinipur	Salboni P.S Case No. 9/2022, G.R. Case No.17846/2022 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 143/188/51(B) Offences under D.M. Act	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
4.	Ld. 3rd JM Court, Paschim Medinipur	Salboni P.S Case No. 249/2019, G.R. Case No.4228/2019 Charges have not been framed	U/S. 341/323/325/34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
5.	Ld. 3rd ADJ Court, Paschim Medinipur	Goaltore P.S. Case No. 48/2019, G.R. No 48/2019 Charges have been framed	U/S. 143/145/147/149/186/188/332/333/353/325/323/427/34 Offences under IPC	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
6.	Ld. ADJ Court, Paschim Medinipur	Special Trail No. 23/2021, Charges have not been framed	U/S. 341/354/506/34 IPC & Add Sec. 3(i)(R), 3(1)(s), 3(1)(v) of the SC & ST Prevention of Atrocities Act Offences under IPC, SC & ST & Atrocities Act.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Format C-1**(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)****Declaration about criminal cases**

As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) of 2011.

Name and address of candidate : **SUBRATA MAITRA (KANCHAN)**
72 Exhibition Bagan Road, Gorabazar,
P.O.+P.S.- Berhampore, Dist.- Murshidabad,
Pin- 742101

Name of political party : **BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)**
(Independent candidates should write
"Independent" here)

Name of Election : **GENERAL ELECTION TO THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2026,
WEST BENGAL**

*Name of Constituency : **72, BAHARAMPUR, WEST BENGAL**

I, **SUBRATA MAITRA (KANCHAN)** (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

Sl. No.	Pending criminal cases			Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences	
	Name of Court	Case No. and status of Case	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed
1.	JM 3rd Court, Berhampore, Murshidabad	Berhampore P.S Case No- GR No.-105, 21/2014 dated 06/01/2014, Charges have not been framed	U/S-341/323/325/506/35 Offences under I.P.C.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2.	JM, 2nd Court, Berhampore, Murshidabad	Berhampore P.S Case No- 752/2014, GR No.-2946/2014 Dt. 17/06/2014, Charges have not been framed	U/S-143/323/427/34/ Offences under I.P.C.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
3.	CJM, Berhampore, Murshidabad.	Berhampore P.S Case No. 1348/13, GR No.-5169-2013 dt. 19/10/2013, Charges have not been framed	U/S-341/323/34 Offences under I.P.C.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
4.	JM 3rd Court, Berhampore, Murshidabad	Berhampore PS Case No- 593/2014, GR No.-2234/2014 dt. 10/05/2014, Charges have not been framed	U/S-341/323/325/506/35 Offences under I.P.C.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
5.	CJM Court, Berhampore, Murshidabad.	Berhampore P.S Case No- 624/20, GR No.- 2103/2020 Dt. 1/07/2020, Charges have not been framed	U/S-143/323/427/34/ Offences under I.P.C.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
6.	Ld 2nd JM Court, Berhampore	Berhampore PS Case No- 1613/12, GR No.- 6269/2013Charg es have not been framed	U/S-341/354/509/506 Offences under I.P.C.	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.



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— JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —

Format C-7

(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP (C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of the Political Party : Indian National Congress
 * Name of the Election : General Election To The Legislative Assembly, 2026

Name of the State / UT : West Bengal
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 59 Raghunathganj Assembly Constituency

Name of the candidate : NASIR SAIKH

Sl No.		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Offences alleged under sections : U/s-186/332/333/353/34 IPC
b.	Case No.	P.S CASE NO-249/13 DT 08/04/2013 GR NO-582/13
c.	Name of the Court	1st JM at JANGIPUR COURT
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes / No.)	No
e.	Date of conviction, if any	No
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	No
g.	Any other information required to be given	No

2 The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)
 The selected candidate is a very sincere and dedicated party worker, who has already been on various important position of Murshidabad District Congress.

3 Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)
 As a sincere and dedicated party worker he had an edge over other individuals considering the fact whatsoever charges are alleged in the F.I.R have no substance and are purely with a vindictive approach and personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies. The case is long pending and the party believes that there will be no adverse outcome against the alleged accused.

*In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
Sd/-
Suman Paul
State General Secretary
Indian National Congress (INC), West Bengal

"IMPORTANT"

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(for political parties to publish in the newspapers, social media platforms & website of the party)

Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 216 - KANTHI DAKSHIN
 Name of the candidate : MASUD MALLIK

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a	Nature of the offences	Posting of content on social media platform alleged to hurt the religion sentiment of the complainant.
b	Case no.	GR 614/2018
c	Name of the Court	LD. JM, 1st Court, Contai Sub Divisional Court
d	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 216 - KANTHI DAKSHIN
 Name of the candidate MASUD MALLIK and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
General Secretary
West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates. (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 15- DHUPGURI (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : HARISH CHANDRA ROY

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a	Nature of the offences	Criminal breach of trust, forgery, Criminal intimidation and committed by several person, kidnapping, abetment of suicide
b	Case no.	1. Dhupguri PS Case No. 286/17 2. Dhupguri PS Case No. 94/22
c	Name of the Court	1. Addl. District Judge, 2nd Court, Jalpaiguri 2. Addl. District Judge, 3rd Spl. Court
d	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 15 - DHUPGURI (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate HARISH CHANDRA ROY and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
General Secretary
West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee



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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 131, KAKDWIP ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **NASIRUDDIN AHMED**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a	Nature of the offences	Rioting, criminal trespass, mischief, causing simple hurt
b	Case no.	Kakdwip PS Case No. 507/2015
c	Name of the Court	Kakdwip
d	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 131, KAKDWIP ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **NASIRUDDIN AHMED** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
 West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

Govt. of West Bengal.

Short Notice Quotation Tender is hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, PWD, South 24 Parganas Electrical Division, 57/2, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata-700023 from the eligible contractors for the following works. Name of Works: i) Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis at different locations under Usthi PS for deployment of CAPF/SPF for General Election to Legislative Assembly of West Bengal 2026. (For 15 days W.e.f. 12.04.2026) (Tender Ref: **NIQ No. 74/Q of S24PED of 2026-27**)
 ii) Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis at different locations under Bishnupur PS for deployment of CAPF/SPF for General Election to Legislative Assembly of West Bengal 2026. (For 15 days W.e.f. 12.04.2026) (Tender Ref: **NIQ No. 75/Q of S24PED of 2026-27**)
 iii) Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis at different locations under Maheshtala PS for deployment of CAPF/SPF for General Election to Legislative Assembly of West Bengal 2026. (For 15 days W.e.f. 12.04.2026) (Tender Ref: **NIQ No. 76/Q of S24PED of 2026-27**)
 iv) Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis at different locations under Pujali PS for deployment of CAPF/SPF for General Election to Legislative Assembly of West Bengal 2026. (For 15 days W.e.f. 12.04.2026) (Tender Ref: **NIQ No. 77/Q of S24PED of 2026-27**)
 v) Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis at different locations under Kalitala PS for deployment of CAPF/SPF for General Election to Legislative Assembly of West Bengal 2026. (For 15 days W.e.f. 12.04.2026) (Tender Ref: **NIQ No. 78/Q of S24PED of 2026-27**)
 vi) Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis at different locations under Nodakhali PS for deployment of CAPF/SPF for General Election to Legislative Assembly of West Bengal 2026. (For 15 days W.e.f. 12.04.2026) (Tender Ref: **NIQ No. 79/Q of S24PED of 2026-27**)
 vii) Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis at different locations under Diamond Harbour PS for deployment of CAPF/SPF for General Election to Legislative Assembly of West Bengal 2026. (For 15 days W.e.f. 12.04.2026) (Tender Ref: **NIQ No. 80/Q of S24PED of 2026-27**)
 viii) Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis at different locations under Magrahat PS for deployment of CAPF/SPF for General Election to Legislative Assembly of West Bengal 2026. (For 15 days W.e.f. 12.04.2026) (Tender Ref: **NIQ No. 81/Q of S24PED of 2026-27**)
 ix) Temporary Electrical Installation and DG Set, on hire basis at different locations under Sonarpur PS for deployment of CAPF/SPF for General Election to Legislative Assembly of West Bengal 2026. (For 15 days W.e.f. 12.04.2026) (Tender Ref: **NIQ No. 82/Q of S24PED of 2026-27**)
 Date of Permission : **11.04.2026 Upto 01.00 P.M** Bid Submission closing: **11.04.2026 Upto 01.30 P.M** Bid opening Date: **11.04.2026 after 02.00 P.M.**

Sd/- A. Haldar
 Executive Engineer, PWD
 South 24 Parganas Electrical Division

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Information regarding individuals with pending criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for such selection, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 94 – BAGDA (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **PRABIR KIRTANIYA**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a	Nature of the offences	Wrongful restraint, voluntarily causing hurt to a public servant, criminal defamation
b	Case no.	1. Bagda PS Case No. 397/11 2. Bagda PS Case No. 151/17 3. Bagda PS Case No. 151/17
c	Name of the Court	1. Ld. JM at Bongaon 2. Ld. ACJM at Bongaon 3. Ld. JM at Bongaon
d	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 94 – BAGDA (SC) ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **PRABIR KIRTANIYA** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
 West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

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Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 53 - SUJAPUR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **MD ABDUL HANNAN**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a	Nature of the offences	Assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty
b	Case no.	Englishbazar PS Case No-2093/23
c	Name of the Court	LD. CJM Court, Malda
d	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 53 - SUJAPUR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **MD ABDUL HANNAN** and so on

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Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 218 - EGRA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **ANJAN KUMAR PATTANAYAK**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	wrongful restraint, attempt to commit culpable homicide not amounting to murder, damage to property
b.	Case No.	Egra PS Case no - 615/2022
c.	Name of the Court	LD. ACJM AT CONTAI COURT, PURBA MEDINIPUR
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 218 - EGRA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **ANJAN KUMAR PATTANAYAK** and so on

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(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 276 - DURGAPUR PURBA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **DEBESH CHAKRABORTY**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a.	Nature of the offences	Unlawful assembly, house trespass, obstruction of a public servant
b.	Case No.	Durgapur PS Case No. 267/2013
c.	Name of the Court	JM 3RD COURT, DURGAPUR
d.	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	NO
e.	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f.	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g.	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 276 - DURGAPUR PURBA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **DEBESH CHAKRABORTY** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

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(As per the Commission's directions issued in pursuance of the Order dated 13.02.2020 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in contempt petition (C) no. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) no. 536 of 2011)

Name of Political Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
 *Name of the Election : WEST BENGAL STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2026
 Name of State/UT : WEST BENGAL
 (1) Name of the Constituency : 31, CHAKULIA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY
 Name of the candidate : **ALI IMRAN RAMZ**

Sl. No		
1	Criminal antecedents	
a	Nature of the offences	Chaos in political movement, domestic violence, provocation with intent to cause riot, house trespass, causing damage to property, mischief by injury, attempt to murder, Voluntarily causing grievous hurt, theft, unlawful assembly, criminal conspiracy, wrongful confinement, obstructs a public servant from discharging their public functions, criminal intimidation
b	Case no.	1. Chakulia ps -20/2026 2. Chakulia ps -52/2026 3. Chakulia ps -473/2025 4. Chakulia ps -291/2025 5. Beniapur P.S Case no 36/2024 6. A.C 1045/2024 7. Chakulia ps -176/2023 8. Kishanganj PS Case no 525 /2019
c	Name of the Court	1. Acjm Islampur 2. Acjm Islampur 3. Acjm Islampur 4. Acjm Islampur 5. Acjm, Sealdah, Kolkata 6. Ld. 6th JM at Alipore 7. Acjm Islampur 8. LD. District & Session Judge, Kishanganj
d	Whether charges have been framed or not (Yes/No)	No
e	Date of conviction, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
f	Details of punishment undergone, if any	NOT APPLICABLE
g	Any other information required to be given	NOT APPLICABLE
2	The reasons for the selection of the candidate. Selection shall be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate, and not mere "winnability" at the polls (not more than 100 words)	The candidate is extremely popular in the assembly constituency and is associated with various social work. He has a very good chance of winning
3	Reasons as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates (not more than 100 words)	The Candidate has a very good potential and has a social standing and acceptability throughout the assembly.

Name of the Constituency 31, CHAKULIA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Name of the candidate **ALI IMRAN RAMZ** and so on

* In the case of election to Council of States or States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of Constituency.

Signature of office bearer of the Political Party
(Sourav Ghosh)
 General Secretary
 West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee

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Your opinion should belong to you.

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until the truth is uncovered.

A mind that isn't fuelled by
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