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INDIA TODAY



THE NEW GEN BUDGET

WILL THE MODI GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES
FOR MASSIVE JOB CREATION WORK?

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2024-25**

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THE NEW GEN BUDGET

**WILL THE MODI GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES FOR
MASSIVE JOB CREATION WORK?**

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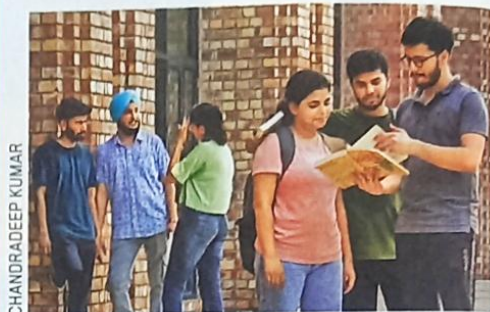
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**INDIANS ARE FACING A DEBILITATING SLEEP DEFICIT,
BUT PROMISING NEW THERAPIES ARE AT HAND**

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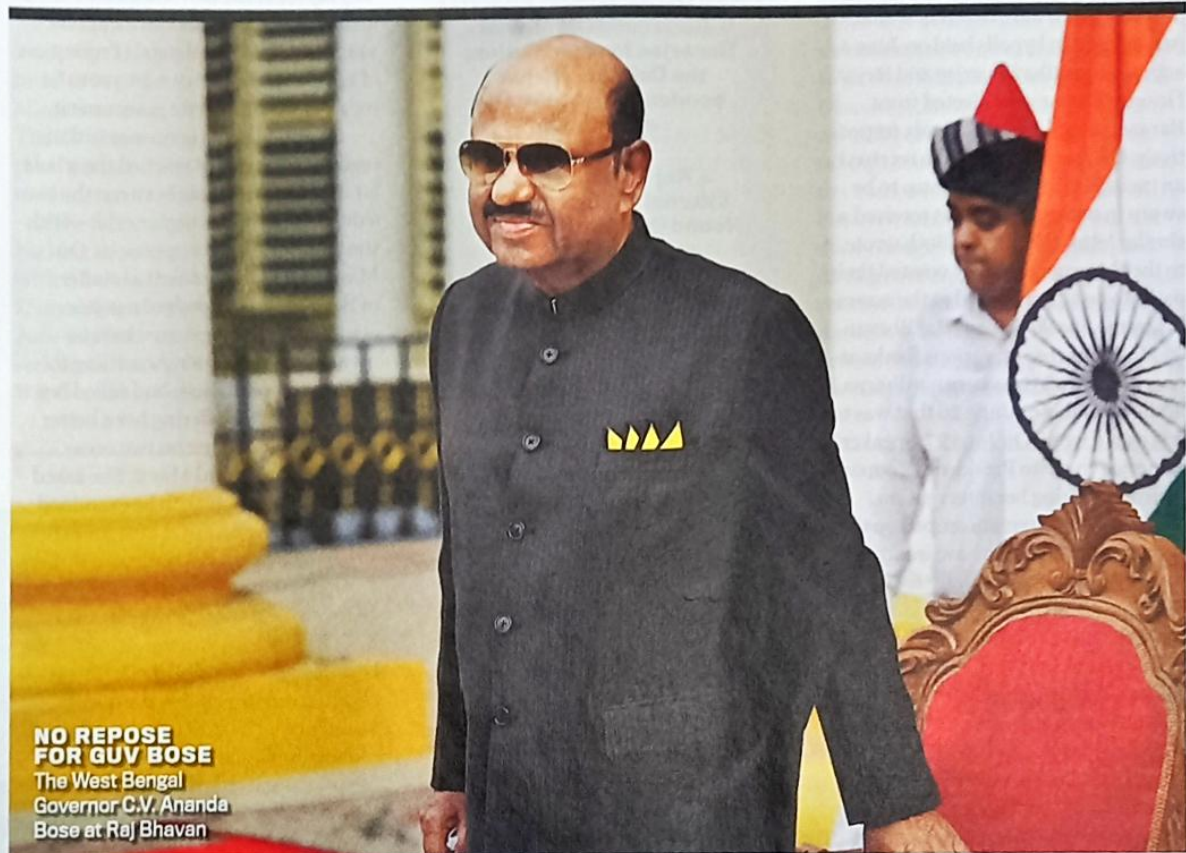
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**NO REPOSE
FOR GUV BOSE**

The West Bengal
Governor C.V. Ananda
Bose at Raj Bhavan

HINDUSTAN TIMES

BENGAL

THE RAJ BHAVAN STAND-OFF

By Arkamoy Datta Majumdar

The true dimensions of the present can only be understood when measured against the past. Biman Banerjee, Speaker of the West Bengal assembly, looks back almost wistfully at the tenure of the previous governor. Before his nomination as India's vice-president in July 2022, Jagdeep Dhankhar had had a rancorous three-year run at Kolkata Raj Bhavan—relations with the state

government had deteriorated to such an extent that chief minister Mamata Banerjee had blocked him on Twitter. But compared to how things are now, Speaker Banerjee finds that phase "still acceptable". Governor C.V. Ananda Bose, in office since November 18, 2022, finds himself entangled in a bitter war with the Trinamool Congress (TMC) regime that's gone well beyond the usual standoffs about assent being withheld

to bills. The hostilities have attained another scale, with the gubernatorial office entrapped in an unprecedented web of litigation—sexual harassment charges against Bose have now led to the Supreme Court examining the legal immunity afforded to governors. Toss into that boiling pot a defamation case against Mamata, and it was a perfect recipe for high constitutional drama.

How raw the feelings are on both

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**QUOTAS IN QUOTA
A PANDORA'S BOX**

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CIRCLE OF FIRE

WHY INDIA SHOULD WORRY

Clockwise from centre

Narendra Modi, Xi Jinping (China),
M. Muizzu (Maldives), Min Aung Hlaing
(Myanmar), Sheikh Hasina (Bangladesh),
K.P.S. Oli (Nepal), R. Wickremesinghe
(Sri Lanka) & Shehbaz Sharif (Pakistan)

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WAYANAD LANDSLIDES

PICKING UP THE PIECES

By Jeemon Jacob in Chooralmala, Wayanad

It's as if even the road is afraid to go down that last stretch to the 'valley of death'. Ten days have passed since a wailing wall of monsoon water and mountain debris cannoned down on two villages, Mundakkai and Chooralmala, leaving only memories, videos and sundered human body parts. But nothing ventures beyond Kalpetta, the administrative headquarters of Wayanad district, which you hit climbing up the hairpin bends from Kozhikode. Only ambulances and police vehicles stir the gravel on those last 21 kilometres.

Past Meppadi, you bump into police checkpoints—another reminder that the emergency period isn't over. Search and rescue operations are still on for the 152 people who have not been accounted for.

There is nothing to mark the two villages that have disappeared, except for some broken signage. School, houses, the small line of shops down main street, the resorts on the outskirts, it's all now part of a mud sludge, a thick brown line across the foothills, running down from Punchirimattom, the epicentre of the first landslide. The July 29 disaster has

officially claimed the lives of 224 people, including 88 women and 37 children. The unofficial toll exceeds 500. Only 172 bodies have been identified so far—180-odd body parts, severed from perhaps a roughly proportionate number of owners, await claimants. Perhaps in vain.

On August 6, around 35 unidentified bodies and 154 body parts were buried, after all-faith prayers, in Puthumala, itself a site where a landslide had killed five people in August 2019. The mourners included state ministers and district officials. The bodies and body parts are

STICKS 'N STONES
Rescue operations in
Vellarmala, Wayanad

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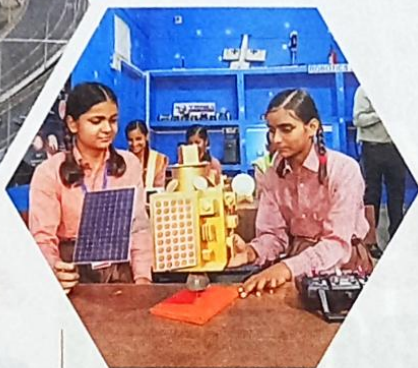
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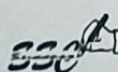
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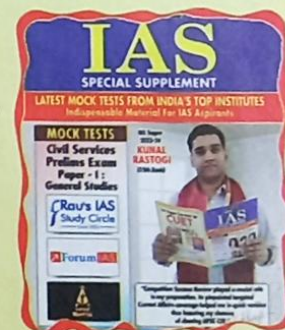
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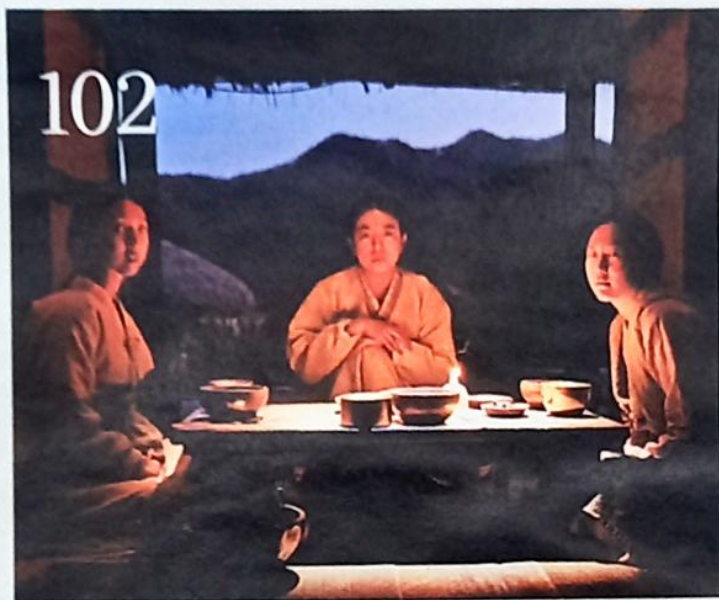
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