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6 MAR

JAIPUR
4 MAR

JODHPUR
7 MAR

LUCKNOW
12 MAR

PUNE
15 MAR

मोपाल
11 जून

जयपुर
4 मार्च

लखनऊ
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THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



A paramedic walks onboard the flight

NEW ZEALAND

Plane dropped abruptly mid-air, over 50 injured

Sydney: New Zealand's Transport Accident Investigation Commission said Tuesday it was seizing the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder of a LATAM Airlines Boeing 787 after an incident that left more than 50 people injured. The airline and passengers aboard the Sydney-Auckland flight on Monday said the plane with 263 passengers and nine crew members on board dropped abruptly mid-air. "My neighbour who was in the seat two over from me, there was a gap in between us, as soon as I woke I looked and he was on the ceiling and I thought I was dreaming," Brian Adam Jokat, a Canadian citizen, said. Photos taken by Jokat after the incident showed damage sustained to the ceiling of the airplane. **REUTERS**

IRAN

Iran, Russia, China to conduct joint naval drill

Tehran: Iran will begin a joint naval drill with Russia and China in the northern part of the Indian Ocean, state media reported. Iran has stepped up its military cooperation with Beijing and Moscow in response to regional tensions with the US. A report by state TV quoted the drill's spokesperson, Adm. Mostafa Tajaddini, as saying that "Marine Security Belt 2024" will begin later Tuesday in 17 thousand square kilometres of the water. The drill is aimed at "fostering security and multilateral cooperation," as well as showing the allies' good will and capacities. Oman, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and South Africa would be observers in the joint drill. **AP**

SUDAN

Military regains control of TV and radio HQs

Cairo: Sudan's military has said it regained control of the country's national radio and television headquarters on Tuesday from a rival paramilitary group. It has been battling for about a year. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces seized the headquarters of Sudan's Radio and Television in the first weeks of Sudan's conflict which broke out in April last year after long-simmering tensions between its commander and the head of the military. There was no immediate comment from the RSF. **AP**

NEPAL
PM 'Prachanda' to seek trust vote today

Kathmandu: Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' is scheduled to seek a vote of confidence from Parliament on Wednesday, days after the Maoist leader dumped the Nepali Congress and forged a new alliance with the Communist Party of Nepal (UML). Prachanda, a former guerrilla leader belonging to the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre).

ENS



Pedestrians and commuters on a street in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Tuesday. **AP**

Haiti PM pledges to step down once panel formed to lead crisis-hit nation

REUTERS

PORT-AU-PRINCE/KINGSTON, JAMAICA, MARCH 12

UNCERTAINTY HUNG over Haiti's political future on Tuesday after its prime minister said he would step down, a move welcomed by some Haitians frustrated by months of gang violence, but made without a clear path to stability yet in place.

Henry, who had led the Caribbean country since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, traveled to Kenya in late February to secure its sup-

a transition council and temporary leader could be chosen.

But it was not clear when this might happen. Security conditions in capital Port-au-Prince remain dire, with armed men controlling the airport and key infrastructure, while doubts still linger over the timing of plans to deploy an international mission to boost outgunned local police and restore order.

Henry, who had led the Caribbean country since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, traveled to Kenya in late February to secure its sup-

port for the long-delayed United Nations-backed security mission. While Kenyan leaders have recently said its police officers will soon be deployed to Haiti, uncertainty about the mission's financing have cast doubt on its prospects. The 74-year-old Henry had repeatedly postponed elections. Haitians had protested his continued rule and US had called on Henry to accelerate a transition to a structure that would pave the way for free and fair elections.

Following the PM's announcement, some Haitians celebrated in the streets of the capital. The

planned presidential transition council, announced after high-level meetings of Caribbean leaders in Jamaica, is aimed at representing diverse sectors of Haitian society. It will be tasked with appointing an interim PM and establishing a provisional electoral council to facilitate polls, which would be Haiti's first since 2016.

Haiti declared a state of emergency earlier this month as clashes led to two mass prison breaks, with the country's most powerful gang leader, Jimmy "Barbeque" Cherizier, threatening to overthrow Henry.

RUINED NUCLEAR PLANT'S DISCHARGES

TRANSPARENCY IS KEY: IAEA CHIEF TO JAPAN

Tokyo: The head of the UN atomic agency Tuesday emphasised to Japan's government the importance of transparency in its ongoing discharges of treated radioactive wastewater at the ruined Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi is in Japan for the first time since releases of the treated water began in August.

FUNDED BY UAE, CARRIED OUT BY U.S. CHARITY

First aid ship leaves Cyprus as people in Gaza stare at famine

REUTERS

LARNACA, CYPRUS/CAIRO, MARCH 12

A SHIP carrying 200 tonnes of aid for Gaza left Cyprus on Tuesday in a pilot project to open a sea route to deliver supplies to a population aid agencies say is on the brink of famine.

The charity ship Open Arms was seen sailing out of Larnaca port, towing a barge containing flour, rice and protein. The mission was funded mostly by the United Arab Emirates and organised by US-based charity World Central Kitchen (WCK).

The journey to Gaza takes about 15 hours but a heavy tow barge could make the trip take considerably longer, possibly up to two days. Cyprus is just over 320 km north-west of Gaza.

The US military said its vessel, the General Frank S. Besson, was also en route to provide humanitarian relief to Gaza by sea.

With agencies saying deliveries into Gaza have been held up by bureaucratic obstacles and insecurity since the start of the war on Oct. 7, and even Israel's allies demanding easier aid access to Gaza, attention has shifted towards alternative routes including sea and air drops.



Aid ship, amid a test to launch a new sea route from a port in Cyprus to deliver aid to Gaza Strip, on Tuesday. **Reuters**

the next few days.

"Part of our calculation is the port will be ready when we arrive there," he said. The UN humanitarian office welcomed efforts to provide aid by sea and air, but said they would not be enough. "It's not a substitute for the overland transport of food and other emergency aid to Gaza," said spokesperson Jens Laerke.

Israel says it is allowing aid through two crossings at the southern edge of the territory. Aid agencies say that is not enough to get sufficient supplies through, particularly to the northern part of Gaza that is cut off.

Prosecutor defends Biden 'poor memory' reference in report

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, MARCH 12

documents found at Biden's personal home and former office.

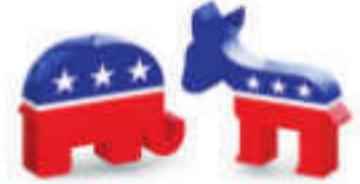
Hur, a Republican, said Biden's memory and state of mind were relevant to his conclusions about whether Biden knowingly retained sensitive information. The report concluded that "Mr. Biden would likely present himself to a jury, as he did during our interview of him, as a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory."

A transcript of Hur's interview with Biden reviewed by

Reuters, conducted last October as Biden grappled with the fallout from Hamas's Oct. 7 assault on Israel, showed that the president brought up the issue of

his memory first. "I'm a young man, so it's not a problem," Biden, 81, said jokingly to Hur when the prosecutor said he'd be asking questions about events that happened years earlier, the transcript showed.

The transcript showed Biden gave freewheeling answers to many of Hur's questions, but struggled to recall certain details, including when he left the vice presidency.



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE



A resident collects belongings in the ruins of a destroyed house following Ukrainian military strike in Makivka in the Donetsk region on Tuesday. **Reuters**

Russia faces Ukraine drone strikes, border incursion ahead of elections

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW, MARCH 12

UKRAINIAN LONG-RANGE drones smashed into two oil facilities deep inside Russia on Tuesday, officials said, while an armed incursion claimed by Ukraine-based Russian opponents of the Kremlin unnerved a border region just days before Russia's presidential election.

The attack by waves of drones across eight regions of Russia displayed Kyiv's expanding technological capacity as the war extends into its third year.

The reports of border fighting were murky, and it was impossible to ascertain with any certainty what was unfolding in Russia's Kursk and Belgorod regions. Cross-border attacks in the area have occurred sporadically since the war began and have been the subject of claims and counterclaims, as well as

The cross-border ground assault also weakened President Vladimir Putin's argument that life in Russia has been unaffected by the war, though he remains all but certain to win another six-year term after eliminating all opposition.

The reports of border fighting were murky, and it was impossible to ascertain with any certainty what was unfolding in Russia's Kursk and Belgorod regions. Cross-border attacks in the area have occurred sporadically since the war began and have been the subject of claims and counterclaims, as well as

disinformation and propaganda. Soldiers who Kyiv officials say are Russian volunteers fighting for Ukraine claimed to have crossed the border.

The Freedom of Russia Legion, the Russian Volunteer Corps and the Siberian Battalion released statements and videos on social media claiming to show them on Russian territory. They said they wanted "a Russia liberated from Putin's dictatorship."

On Tuesday, an Il-76 heavy-lift transport plane of the Russian air force with 15 people on board crashed while taking off from an air base.

These images are in stark contrast to the ones that the Kremlin's propaganda machine has sought to project, claiming that the siege of Mariupol spared civilians and that the occupied city is now thriving under Russian rule.

Mariupol, a city of 500,000 people before the war, was severely damaged in the fighting.

After occupying the city,

Russian authorities started to rebuild it, bulldozing some damaged homes and replacing them with new ones. These efforts have been celebrated by the Russian news media as proof that the city is flourishing thanks to investment from Moscow. But Western news reports have shown that the reconstruction has been essentially cosmetic.

NYT

UKRAINIANS SAY RECOGNITION FOR '20 DAYS IN MARIUPOL' WILL HELP REFOCUS ATTENTION ON RUSSIAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Pride & Hope: Ukraine celebrates Oscar for Mariupol documentary

CONSTANT MÉHEUT

KYIV, MARCH 12

STREETS AND squares are being changed from Ukrainian names to those from the Soviet era. Only Russian passport holders will have access to health care and social services. Teachers have been forced to switch to Russian curriculums.

The Ukrainian port city of Mariupol has been a symbol of Russia's brutal invasion and occupation of vast areas of Ukrainian territory. But as the war drags on and Moscow tries to turn the city into a model of Russification, Mariupol's fate risks slipping away from the world's consciousness.

Zelensky and other officials said the documentary, filmed by Associated Press journalists, had

celebrated winning its first-ever Oscar for the documentary *20 Days in Mariupol*, which recounts the ferocity of the Russian siege of the city in spring 2022.

The Oscar for the film, Ukrainians said, may help refocus attention on the martyred city and the war in general, at a time when aid from allies is uncertain and Russian troops are retaking some ground.

"*20 Days in Mariupol* is a film that shows the truth about Russian terrorism," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a statement on Telegram on Monday. It "allows us to speak out loudly about Russia's war against Ukraine," he said.

So it was with satisfaction and hope that Ukraine on Monday cel-



Mstyslav Chernov (center), accepts the award for best documentary with Raney Aronson-Rath (left), and Michelle Mizner (second from right) in Los Angeles on Monday. **AP**

helped debunk Moscow's claims that its troops have committed no crimes. It shows medics desper-

ately trying to save children hit by Russian shells and residents boiling snow for water and digging

ditches to bury corpses.

These images are in stark contrast to the ones that the Kremlin's propaganda machine has sought to project, claiming that the siege of Mariupol spared civilians and that the occupied city is now thriving under Russian rule.

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After occupying the city, Russian authorities started to rebuild it, bulldozing some damaged homes and replacing them with new ones. These efforts have been celebrated by the Russian news media as proof that the city is flourishing thanks to investment from Moscow. But Western news reports have shown that the reconstruction has been essentially cosmetic.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LOS ANGELES, MARCH 12

HOLLYWOOD ICON Al Pacino has issued a clarification over the way he presented the best picture category at the 2024 Oscars ceremony. The ceremony was announced by the producer for the final and most important award of the night. But in a rather odd presentation, the veteran actor did not list any of the 10 nominees for best picture and simply opened the envelope, announcing Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer* as the winner.

The 83-year-old actor released a statement on Monday. "I just want to be clear that it was my intention to omit them, rather a choice by the producers not to have them said again since they were highlighted individually throughout the ceremony," the actor, who won the Oscar for best actor for 1992's *Scent of a Woman*, said.



Al Pacino

Al Pacino on best picture row: Was told not to name nominees



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EXPLAINED CULTURE

GI tag for Assam's Majuli masks: history of the art form

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, MARCH 12

THE TRADITIONAL Majuli masks of Assam were given a Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Centre earlier this month. Majuli manuscript painting also got the GI label.

A GI tag is given to products originating from a specific geographical region, signifying unique characteristics and qualities. It serves as a trademark in the international market.

Majuli, the largest river island in the world and the seat of Assam's neo-Vaishnavite tradition, has been home to the art of mask-making since the 16th century.

The masks

The handmade masks are traditionally used to depict characters in *bhaonas*, or theatrical performances with devotional messages under the neo-Vaishnavite tradition, introduced by the 15th-16th century reformer saint Srimanta Sankardeva. The masks can depict gods, goddesses, demons, animals and birds – Ravana, Garuda, Narasimha, Hanuman, Varaha Surpanakha all feature.They can range in size from those covering just the face (*mukh mukha*), which take around five days to make, to those covering the whole head and body of the performer (*cho mukha*), which can take up to one-and-a-half months to make.

According to the application made for the patent, the masks are made of bamboo, clay, dung, cloth, cotton, wood and other materials available in the riverine surroundings of their makers.

Practised in monasteries

Satras are monastic institutions

The masks are used in *bhaonas*, or theatrical performances with devotional messages. Expressestablished by Srimanta Sankardev and his disciples as centres of religious, social and cultural reform. Today, they are also centres of traditional performing arts such as *borgeet* (songs), *xatriya* (dance) and *bhaona* (theatre), which are an integral part of the Sankardev tradition.

Majuli has 22 satras, and the patent application states that the mask-making tradition is concentrated in four of them – Samaguri Satra, Natun Samaguri Satra, Bihimura Satra, Alengi Narasimha Satra.

Hemchandra Goswami, *sattradhikar* or the administrative head of the Samaguri Satra and a well-known practitioner of the art, said that while the masks were traditionally made only for *bhaonas*, over the past couple of decades, the Samaguri satra has been trying to promote mask-making as an art form in its own right.

Majuli painting

It is a form of painting, also originating in the 16th century, done on *sanchi pat*, or manuscripts made of the bark of the *sanchi* or agar tree, using homemade ink. This art was patronised by Ahom kings.

Cuttack's famed silver filigree work, which got the GI tag

THE RUPA Tarakasi, or silver filigree work of Odisha's Cuttack, has received the geographical indication (GI) tag.

Rupa Tarakasi

In Odia, 'tarakasi' means wire and 'kasi' means to design. Thus, as part of Rupa Tarakasi, silver bricks are transformed into thin fine wires or foils and used to create jewellery or showpieces.

Origin

While the exact origin of the filigree art in Cuttack is not clear, it is known to have existed as far back as the 12th century. The art form received considerable patronage under the Mughals.

History

Document submitted by the Odisha government before the GI reg-

istry said: "The silver filigree work in which the people of Cuttack have attained such surprising skill and delicacy is identical in character with that of Arabia, Malta, Genoa, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and with the filigree work of ancient Greece, Byzantium, and Etruria, and was probably carried into the West by the Phoenicians and Arabs, and into Scandinavia by the Normans and in the course also of the medieval trade between Turkistan and Russia."

Products

Iconic items are the Durga Puja Medha (silver decorations for the Durga idol and pandal), Odissi jewellery, religious/cultural pieces linked to the customs of Odisha, and the Dama chain.

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Importance of Gandhi Ashram

Gandhi set up two settlements in South Africa, where he lived from 1893 to 1914, and three in India, where he arrived in January 1915. The settlements were "places of continuous experiment and search", Neelkanth Chhaya, a former professor at CEPT University, wrote in the book *Gandhi's Places: An Architectural Documentation*.

Gandhi set up the first ashram in Ahmedabad in Kocharab in 1915. It was an "already built space, rented for use by the ashram and was therefore not according to Gandhi's own ideas of how such a place should be designed and built", Chhaya

wrote. Thus, in 1917, he founded the Sabarmati Ashram. The Sabarmati Ashram is seen as the most important in Gandhi's life and work. It was a space that Gandhi designed himself, and built using local material. He spent the most time here.

Sabarmati Ashram as it exists today covers only 5 acres, and is managed by the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust (SAPMT). The new memorial will be spread over 55 acres, and the en-

tire precincts will cover 322 acres.

According to the masterplan, 20 buildings will be conserved – including Hriday Kunj, where Gandhi and Kasturba lived, the Gandhi Memorial Museum designed by Charles Correa that opened in 1963, Vinoba-Mira Kutir, where Vinoba Bhave stayed, and the Junu Rasodu (Old Kitchen). Thirteen buildings, including two gaushalas, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's office, and Dus Ordi (Ten Rooms), will be restored, and three buildings are proposed to be rebuilt.

Masterplan

The masterplan, prepared by Ahmedabad-based Bimal Patel's HCP Design, Planning, and Management Pvt Ltd, aims to restore, conserve, and rebuild about half of the 63 structures in the original ashram that was spread over 120 acres by the Sabarmati river on Ahmedabad's outskirts.

Sabarmati Ashram as it exists today covers only 5 acres, and is managed by the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust (SAPMT). The new memorial will be spread over 55 acres, and the en-



PM Narendra Modi at the Sabarmati Ashram on Tuesday. PTI

wrote. Thus, in 1917, he founded the Sabarmati Ashram. The Sabarmati Ashram is seen as the most important in Gandhi's life and work. It was a space that Gandhi designed himself, and built using local material. He spent the most time here.

Apart from the Dandi March, he also launched the Champaran Satyagraha (1917), the Ahmedabad mills strike and Kheda Satyagraha (1918), the Khadi movement (1918), the Rowlett Act and Khilafat Movements (1919), and the Non-Cooperation movement (1920) while living here.

Redevelopment project

The redevelopment and restoration plan is based on a 1949 satellite image of the ashram, and a 200-page concept note prepared by the SAPMT based on the ashram's documented accounts, brochures, and "a study of the visitors' books of last ten years to understand what people want from this space", a source associated with the project said.

The ashram has been maintaining a visitors' book since 1963 – eminent visitors include Queen Elizabeth (1961), the Dalai Lama (1984-85), South Africa's former President Nelson Mandela (1995), and former US President Bill Clinton (2001).

According to the masterplan, the redeveloped memorial and precincts will have a new orientation centre, a scholars' resi-



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EXPLAINED POLICY

The CAA Rules, unpacked

What do the Rules notified by the government for the implementation of the new citizenship law say? What documents must applicants provide, and who will be in charge of processing their applications?

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE CENTRE on Monday notified Rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), paving the way for the implementation of the controversial law more than four years after it was passed by Parliament in December 2019.

The CAA will benefit thousands of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, or Christian migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who entered India before December 31, 2014, and seek the citizenship of India. This group of people has been living in India illegally or on long-term visas (LTVs).

What information must the intended beneficiaries of the CAA provide?

The CAA aims to give citizenship to the target group of migrants even if they do not have valid travel documents as mandated in The Citizenship Act, 1955. The CAA presumes that members of these communities who entered India faced religious persecution in these countries. The law has cut the period of citizenship by naturalisation from 11 years to five.

Under the CAA Rules, immigrants from these countries only need to prove the country of their origin, their religion, the date of their entry into India, and the knowledge of an Indian language to apply for Indian citizenship.

What proof is required to establish the country of origin?

The rules have been relaxed very significantly. The earlier essential requirement of a valid passport issued by Pakistan, Bangladesh, or Afghanistan, along with a copy of a valid Residential Permit of India, has been virtually done away with.

According to the CAA Rules, a birth or educational institution certificate, "Identity Document of any kind", "Any License or Certificate", "Land or tenancy records", or "Any other document" issued by these countries, which proves the applicant was their citizen, would serve as proof of citizenship.

Any document that shows that "either of the parents or grandparents or great grandparents of the applicant is or had been a citizen of one of the three countries" is also acceptable.

Importantly, these documents will be admissible even beyond their validity period. Sources said these documents can also be used to establish the religion of the applicant.

The requirement of a certificate from an educational institution, certifying that the applicant knows one of the languages mentioned



The All Assam Students Union protested the CAA Rules in Guwahati on Tuesday. PTI

in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, has also been done away with. Now, merely a declaration to that effect, and the ability to speak the language, will be enough.

And how will the date of entry into India be established?

The Rules list 20 documents, any of which would be admissible as proof of date of entry into India.

These include a valid visa or residential permit issued by the Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO); slip issued by census enumerators in India; a driving licence, Aadhaar, ration card, or any letter issued by the government or a court; an Indian birth certificate; land or tenancy records; registered rent agreement; PAN card issuance document, or a document issued by the central or a state government, PSU, or bank; certificate issued by an elected member of any rural or urban body or officer thereof, or a revenue officer; a post office account; an insurance policy; utility bills; court or tribunal records; EPF documents; school leaving certificate or academic certificate; a municipality trade license; or a marriage certificate.

Earlier, a visa along with certain other documents was an essential requirement.

Who will be in charge of processing the applications for citizenship?

Opposition-ruled states including Kerala and West Bengal have said they will not implement the CAA. Under the Rules, however, the Centre has tweaked the process of grant

of citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from the three countries in such a way that states will have little say in the matter.

Thus, while citizenship applications were earlier made to the district collector – who is under the administrative control of the state government – the new Rules provide for an Empowered Committee and a District Level Committee (DLC), to be instituted by the Centre, to receive and process the applications, which are to be submitted electronically.

Applications will be made to the DLC, and the final decision will be taken by the Empowered Committee.

The Empowered Committee will be headed by a Director (Census Operations), and will have as its members an officer of the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau (under the Ministry of Home Affairs) of the rank of deputy secretary or above, the FRRO, the State Informatics Officer of the National Informatics Centre (under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology), and the Postmaster General (under the Union Ministry of Communications) of the state. A representative each from the state home department and the Railways will be invitees to the Committee.

The DLC shall consist of the District Informatics Officer or District Informatics Assistant of the concerned district, and a nominee of the central government. The two invitees to the committee will be a representative of the district collector's office not below the rank of Naib Tehsildar or equivalent, and the jurisdictional station master of the Railways (subject to availability).

Finally, in 2018, a year before Parliament passed the CAA, the government issued a notification that made these communities eligible for LTVs if they sought Indian citizenship. A range of benefits were extended to them – they could get a private job, start a business, admit their children to school, move freely within the state, open a bank account, buy a house, and get a driving licence, PAN, and Aadhaar.

But scientists soon realised that like CFCs and HCFCs, HFCs too are powerful greenhouse gases. In 2016, more than 150 countries signed the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, agreeing to reduce consumption of HFCs by 80% by 2047. If successful, the amendment could avoid more than 0.4 degree Celsius of global warming by 2100.

In 2015 and 2016, the government amended The Passport (Entry into India) Rules and The Foreigners Order exempting Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh from the process of law in case they entered India without a passport or visa.

The Montreal Protocol was implemented in the US in 1990 by an addition to the Clean Air Act, which identified HCFC 22 as a regulated ozone-depleting substance. Since 2020, the US has banned the import of HCFC 22 for any purpose other than in a process which results in its transformation or destruction.

Starting January 1, 2022, regulated HFCs cannot be imported into the US in bulk without permission.

Montreal Protocol

In 1987, almost 200 countries signed the Montreal

Protocol, agreeing to freeze the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances, including CFCs, at then current rates. Countries were to phase out CFCs by 1996, and HCFCs by 2030. HCFCs were used only as an "interim" solution to CFCs because they were less harmful to the ozone layer.

As a result, HFCs which, unlike CFCs and HCFCs, have zero ozone-depleting potential

ODP

gradually became the most prominent refrigerant.

But scientists soon realised that like CFCs

and HCFCs, HFCs too are powerful greenhouse gases. In 2016, more than 150 countries signed the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, agreeing to reduce consumption of HFCs by 80% by 2047. If successful, the amendment could avoid more than 0.4 degree Celsius of global warming by 2100.

US law on HCFCs, HFCs

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

**10 convicted,
get life term
in 2018 Hapur
lynching case**DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, MARCH 12

ALMOST SIX years after a cattle trader, Qasim (45), was beaten to death and another person, Samaydeen (62), seriously injured by a mob in Hapur district of Uttar Pradesh, a local court on Tuesday convicted all 10 accused and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

Additional Sessions Judge Shweta Dixit convicted the accused under IPC Sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion etc), 149 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting) and 148 (armed with deadly weapon).

The 10 who have been convicted have been named as Maangeram, Karanpal, Rinku Rana, Hari Om, Lalit, Rakesh, Manish, Yudhishtir, Sonu Rana and Kanu. They have also been imposed a fine of Rs 58,000 each.

The incident dates back to June 18, 2018, when Qasim, a resident of Pilkhuwa in Hapur district, was cornered by a mob, allegedly over rumours of cow slaughter, and beaten to death. A video clip that surfaced showed Qasim lying in a field, his clothes torn and bruises across his body.

In his statement, Samaydeen told police he and his neighbour Hassan, both residents of Madapur Mustafabad village, had gone to collect fodder when they saw the mob chasing Qasim.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



New Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini being sworn in by Governor Bandaru Dattatreya after Manohar Lal Khattar (extreme right) resigned. Jasbir Malhi

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 12

within hours by BJP state president and Kurukshetra MP Nayab Singh Saini as the CM.

As the BJP effected a change of guard in the state ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, it ended its four-and-a-half year alliance with the Janayak Janta Party (JJP) led

by Dushyant Chautala.

Saini, an OBC leader, was sworn in as Chief Minister by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORTS
PAGE 6

CRIME RATES LOWER: REPORT BY N K SINGH

**Joint polls see high GDP growth, low inflation:
Kovind committee told**DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

Lok Sabha polls are held together. The report, which has been submitted to the High Level Committee on One Nation, One Election chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind, has also said that expenditure is more efficient post simultaneous elections, inflation tends to be lower, learning outcomes are better, and crime rate is lower.

The high-level committee, which was set up in September last year to suggest ways to hold

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

New Zealand
Dy PM on Nijjar
killing: Where's
the evidence
(of India link)?P8
THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WINSTON PETERS
NEW ZEALAND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERSHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

NEW ZEALAND Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters has questioned the lack of evidence on a "potential" Indian link – as alleged by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau – in the killing of Canada-based Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

New Zealand is one of the members of the Five-Eyes intelligence alliance, which includes the US, Canada, UK and Australia. Canada is learnt to have shared intelligence related to the Nijjar killing with its alliance partners.

Peters (78), who is on a visit to India from March 10-13, became Deputy Prime Minister after the Centre-Right parties

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**On CBI radar in Russia 'war visa' case:
BJP corporator's son, mystery office**Mother of accused
is first-term BJP
corporator in MPJAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE PRIME accused in the CBI case over student visas being misused to allegedly push Indians into Russia's war against



The Safdarjung Enclave address 'misused' by Suyash Mukut's company. Express

terest of both countries to not have "that many forces on the Line of Actual Control (LAC)".

Jaishankar was speaking at the Express Adda held in New Delhi on Monday evening, where he was in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, and C Raja Mohan, Contributing Editor, The Indian Express.

Responding to a question by Zhou Yongsheng, political counsellor at the Chinese embassy in New Delhi, who asked how

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Jaishankar to China: It's in our common
interest not to mass troops at the LAC**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the Express Adda in New Delhi on Monday. Renuka Puri

**SBI complies with
SC order, submits
details of electoral
bonds to poll panel**Information in digital format, we can
meet March 15 deadline: EC officialsDAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

COMPLYING WITH the directions of the Supreme Court, the State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday handed over data pertaining to the purchase and redemption of electoral bonds to the Election Commission.

According to sources, a senior officer of the poll panel received the data in "digital" form from representatives of the bank. However, it is not known whether the information includes a unique bond number for each purchase and redemption.

Sources indicated that Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, who is away on a visit to Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, instructed the officers not to review the data until the poll panel completes its visit by Wednesday night. Kumar is expected to return late Wednesday night.

The Commission currently has only one member, Rajiv Kumar, as Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey retired on February 14, and Election Commissioner Arun Goel abruptly resigned last Saturday for undisclosed reasons.

A committee will be set up to review the SBI data. Given that it is in digital format, we should ideally not have any problem meeting the Supreme Court deadline (of March 15) for making it public. But anyway, this tranche of data will only be accessed by any office of the Commission once the CEC (Chief Election Commissioner) is back,

said a source. Another officer said, "We have not yet seen the content of the shared data. However, we will ensure that it is made public exactly in the format it has been provided."

Confirming it has received the electoral bond details, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Adhir to Govt:
Give me dossier
on shortlisted
names for ECs'This will
enable in
taking a
reasoned
decision'MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

WITH THE Prime Minister-led selection committee set to meet Thursday to pick two Election Commissioners, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the Opposition member in the three-member panel, has written to the government, seeking the "dossier" containing the "bio-profiles" of the shortlisted persons "well before" the meeting.

In a letter to Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Legislative Department and Department of Legal Affairs, Union Ministry of Law and Justice, Chowdhury is learnt to have referred to the process followed by the government regarding the selection of the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners and Chief Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioners and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Day after PM
praise: Why
BJP moved
out KhattarVARINDER BHATIA
& LIZ MATHEW
CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI,
MARCH 12

THE DAY began with talk of a split in the BJP-Janayak Janta Party (JJP) alliance in Haryana and the resignation of the Manohar Lal

Khattar government. By late Tuesday afternoon, the alliance was over, Khattar was out, and state BJP president Nayab Singh Saini, the Kurukshetra MP, had declared the new Chief Minister. According to party insiders, Khattar himself proposed Saini's name at the BJP Legislature Party meeting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Khattar government. By late Tuesday afternoon, the alliance was over, Khattar was out, and state BJP president Nayab Singh Saini, the Kurukshetra MP, had declared the new Chief Minister. According to party insiders, Khattar himself proposed Saini's name at the BJP Legislature Party meeting.

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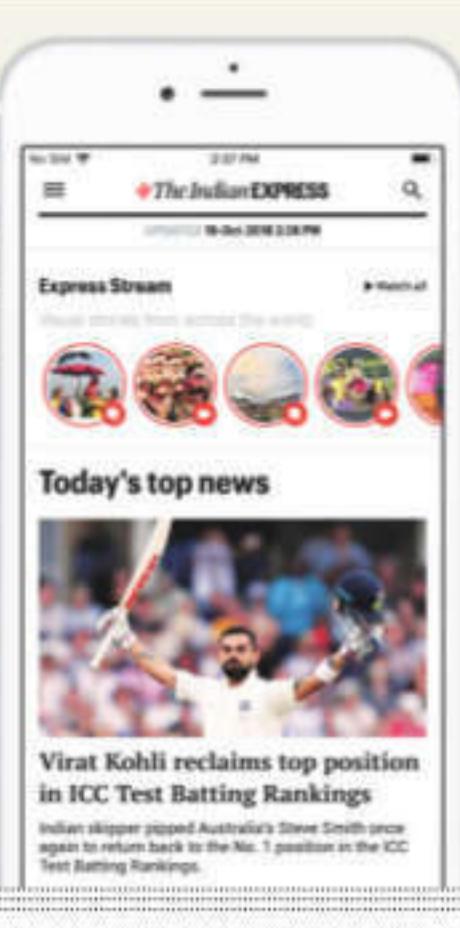
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EXPRESS **AUDIO**

Arun Goel resigns, Bengaluru water crisis and GN Saibaba case

On 3 Things, first, we discuss resignation of EC Arun Goel from his post and the concerns it raises about poll process. Second, we explain Bengaluru's severe water crisis, and in the end, the acquittal of Delhi University professor G N Saibaba.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Saini replaces Khattar as Haryana CM

Governor Bandaru Dattatreya.

BJP leaders Kanwar Pal Gujjar, Moolchand Sharma, Dr Banwari Lal, J P Dalal and Independent MLA Ranjit Singh, who were ministers in the previous government, were sworn in as ministers again Tuesday. Former Home Minister and six-term MLA Anil Vij did not find a place in the new cabinet. No one was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister — Dushyant Chautala held the post in the Khattar government. Vij walked out of the BJP Legislature Party meeting and returned to his home in Ambala in his private vehicle. Party sources told *The Indian Express* that Vij was not in favour of Saini being elevated as the CM.

Khattar bowed out a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised his work — they were together in Gurgaon Monday for the inauguration of a new section of the Dwarka Expressway. He pointed to a likely role in the Lok Sabha elections. "There is a possibility that I may be given some responsibility in Lok Sabha polls."

The Haryana Assembly will hold a session Wednesday for the Saini-led government to seek a

trust vote.

After being sworn in, Saini held his first cabinet meeting.

Sources said an expansion of the cabinet is likely in the next few days.

Dushyant Chautala will be addressing his party's rally in Hisar

Wednesday. In a post on X, he thanked the people of the state for giving him the opportunity to serve as Deputy Chief Minister. "I will always be grateful to you for the constant trust you have shown in us and the support you have always given us during our times of difficulty and struggle. I assure you that following the footsteps of Janayak Chaudhary Devi Lal ji, I will always be dedicated to protecting the interests of Haryana and the people of Haryana. Our efforts for social and economic security of the people of Haryana will continue," he said.

In the 2019 Assembly elections, the BJP won 40 seats in the

90-member Haryana Vidhan Sabha while the JJP managed 10.

The BJP and JJP forged a post-poll alliance and formed the government. Khattar became the CM for a second time and Chautala was appointed as Deputy CM.

For the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, Chautala had been demanding two seats — Hisar and Bhiwani-Mahendragarh. On Monday night, the BJP high command was said to have conveyed to him that none would be given.

Tuesday morning saw both BJP and JJP calling separate meetings of their MLAs.

While BJP's party affairs in-charge of Haryana Biplob Deb, Saini and Khattar first chaired a meeting of BJP ministers, they later held a meeting of party MLAs.

Chautala called a meeting of his party MLAs in New Delhi. Only five reached there. Four came to Chandigarh and even attended the swearing-in ceremony.

In the evening, Khattar said, "Polls are coming. The Parliamentary Board had taken this decision that Nayab Saini should be appointed as CM. The Legislature Party decided on his name and he was selected. He has taken the oath."

"I have spoken with the senior BJP leadership who told me that they would be giving me some other responsibility. There is a possibility that I may be given some responsibility in Lok Sabha polls. That is what I am feeling. Whatever the Parliamentary Board decides, it shall be accepted," he said.

On his relationship with Saini, Khattar said, "Nayab Saini is my very old colleague. Since 1995-1996 when Narendra Modi became in-charge of Haryana, Nayab Saini and I worked together in the party office. Especially the office-typing work and writing work, we did together. We went to several places together for party-related work. The party finally decided to field him from Naraingarh constituency and then chose him as the Lok Sabha candidate from Kurukshetra. He is a team-man. That is the reason why he would have been the party's choice for

it. It came as a surprise to us too. I was in my constituency when I got a call that this had happened. I came to Chandigarh and here I am with the other MLAs at Raj Bhavan. As far as supporting BJP or moving out of JJP is concerned, we cannot say anything as of now. About tomorrow's (JJP) rally in Hisar, so far we have not received any invitation. If we get an invite from the party, we shall see whether to attend or not," Devender Singh Babli, former Panchayat minister and JJP MLA from Tohana, told *The Indian Express*.

Joint polls see high GDP growth: Kovind panel told

simultaneous elections, is likely to submit its report to President Droupadi Murmu this week, sources said.

Simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies were held in 1951-52, 1957, 1962, and 1967. However, macroeconomic data for before the 1960s was not easily available, it is learnt. The report looked at elections post-1962 and included election cycles where 40 per cent or more states went to the polls as "simultaneous" election years.

Taking data of the election years — 1962, 1967, 1977, 1980, and 1984-85 — and the period of two years before and after the election year, the report found that GDP growth increased by 1.5 percentage points more from pre-election to post-election period in a simultaneous year compared to the corresponding period around a non-simultaneous year.

On the other hand, growth rates fell by about a percentage

point from the period before to after non-simultaneous election years, it found.

Sources said some outside experts and economists who were consulted said a sharp increase in growth and a lowering of inflation were "bold conclusions" drawn in the report. Inflation, for instance, depends much on food prices, which do not depend on election cycles, they said. Similarly, the impact of external events may not have been taken into account while concluding that simultaneous elections was followed by a growth boost.

The report also found that public spending after simultaneous elections was higher after simultaneous elections. Capital expenditure, too, increased in the period. This could be because spending before elections, including on freebies, is higher during non-simultaneous elections, it said. The report is believed to have found higher investments in the

period around simultaneous election years compared to non-simultaneous years. The Gross Fixed Capital Formation, as a fraction of GDP, was half a percentage point higher on average of joint election periods compared to non-simultaneous cycles, pointing to a less interruption in economic activity owing to multiple polls and Model Code of Conduct.

From economic factors, the report also looked at the impact on educational outcomes and crime rate, since school teachers and police are deployed for election duty. In non-simultaneous election periods, enrolment in primary schools was lower by about half a percentage point compared to simultaneous election years. Using National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data from 1980 onwards, the report also found the increase in crime rate in simultaneous elections periods to be less compared to the non-simultaneous years.

New Zealand Dy PM on Nijjar killing: Where's evidence?

came to power in New Zealand last November, defeating the Left-leaning Labour Party. He is also his country's foreign minister.

In an interview to *The Indian Express* on Tuesday, asked if Canada had shared information on the Nijjar case and if New Zealand had conveyed its position to India, Peters said: "Well, I wasn't here, it was handled by the previous government. But look, sometimes when you're hearing Five-Eyes information, you're hearing it and saying nothing. It is coming past you. You don't know

the value or the quality of it, but you're pleased to have it. You don't know whether there is going to be substantial material value or nothing. But the very, very critical information that matters... This was mainly handled by the previous government."

"As a trained lawyer, I look okay, so where's the case? Where's the evidence? Where's the finding right here, right now? Well, there isn't one," he said.

This is the first time that a Five-Eyes partner has questioned

Canada's allegations.

Last September, Trudeau had alleged that Canadian security agencies were probing "credible allegations" about a "potential" link between Indian government agents and Nijjar's killing in June. The Indian government had rejected Canada's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated".

A veteran politician of four-and-a-half decades, Peters held a bilateral meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday. Before coming to Delhi, he also went to Gujarat.

Adhir to Govt

asked the government to follow the same procedure.

As leader of the largest Opposition party in Lok Sabha, Chowdhury is also a member of the Prime Minister-led panels which select the CIC and the CVC.

"It will be essential to have the bio-profiles of the persons shortlisted by the Search Committee well beforehand... The Meeting of the Selection Committee. This will enable in taking a reasoned decision in the matter. I would, therefore, request that the 'Dossier' containing the bio-profiles of the shortlisted persons to be considered for appointment be made available to the Members well before the Meeting," he wrote.

The committee comprises the Prime Minister, a Union Minister nominated by the Prime Minister, and Leader of the Opposition or the single largest Opposition party in Lok Sabha, in this case, Chowdhury. The panel is set to meet Thursday to select two Election Commissioners to fill the vacancies created by the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey in February and the surprise resignation of Arun Goel last Saturday.

●

Jaishankar to China: It's in our common interest not to mass troops at LAC

China and India, as "important neighbours", could find common interests and be partners instead of being rivals, Jaishankar said: "I think it's in our common interest that we should not have that many forces on the LAC, it's in our common interest that we should observe agreements that we have. And today, it's not just in common interest, I believe it's in China's interest as well."

"The tension has not served either of us well. So the sooner we resolve it, I genuinely believe it's good for both of us. And I'm still very much committed to finding a fair, reasonable outcome. But one which is respectful of agreements, which recognises the LAC, and doesn't seek to change the status quo," he said.

Asked if the current dispensation would get more empowered to talk on the issue with more seats in Parliament, Jaishankar said: "To me, the territory of India and the fairness of a boundary solution has nothing to do with how many seats. Either it's a good deal or not a good deal. The issue today is not whether you have a political majority or not. It is whether

you have a fair deal on the table, that is the issue."

The minister said he has remained in touch with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, whom he has known for many years, on many of these issues. "We have been constantly in touch. Even on the morning after the Galwan incident, he was the person I spoke to," he said, adding that the present situation at the LAC was "very tense and dangerous".

The Express Adda was attended by German Ambassador Phillip Ackermann, Australian High Commissioner Philip Green, Indonesian Ambassador Ida Krishnamurti, Nepal Ambassador Shankar Prasad Sharma, Bhutan Ambassador Major General Vetsop Namgyel and several ambassadors and diplomats from Mongolia, Slovenia, Estonia, Chile, Spain, Italy, Philippines among others.

During the discussion, that spanned almost two hours, Jaishankar also spoke on a range of other foreign policy issues, including India's ties with Pakistan, and where it's headed.

On Pakistan, he emphasised

that the issue of terrorism has to be brought to the table. "We have no complaints but it is the BJP's efforts always to give fresh faces and to provide chances for other leaders," said a senior party leader involved in the party's organisational activities in Haryana.

BJP insiders said while the party was confident of winning all the 10 seats in the Lok Sabha elections, it had concerns about its Assembly election prospects. The polls are scheduled for later this year. "In Haryana, the Lok Sabha elections are not going to be tough for BJP. All 36 significant communities in the state love Prime Minister Modi and support him," said the leader, adding that farmers' protest and the wrestlers' agitation could dent the party's prospects in the Assembly election.

Khattar's tenure

Khattar had contested his first Assembly election from Karnal in Haryana in 2014 and won in 2019, too. In 2014, the BJP created history by winning a majority in the 90-member Assembly as it bagged 47 constituencies.

During his tenure of more than nine-and-a-half years, Khattar faced several challenges,

unlike his predecessors, especially several major law-and-order problems. There was the Jat reservation agitation in 2016 in which more than 30 people died,

clashes between armed forces and followers of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Ram Rahim after he was convicted of rape by a CBI court in Panchkula in 2017 in which more than 40 people lost their lives, the arrest of religious leader Rampal in 2018 during which at least six persons died, the farmers' protest of 2020-21, last year's communal violence in Nuh, and the ongoing farmers'

fifer", who, "in collusion with the local police, dictated a concocted and false complaint, thereby fabricating evidence, wherein the mob lynching is falsely stated to be an act of road rage emanating from a motorcycle accident."

"It is perhaps the first conviction under IPC Section 302 in a case of this nature, where, on a rumour of cow slaughter, two people were attacked because of their religion. The conviction under IPC Section 153A is thus significant, as it highlights that this murder was a result of spreading hatred and ill will on communal lines," said Soutik Banerjee, the victim's lawyer.

"One hopes that the rule of law will force from this judgment, and vigilante and majoritarian mob lynching will not be repeated," he added.

WITH INPUTS FROM AMIT SHARMA IN MEERUT

they life imprisonment, because we just wanted to make them realise the gravity of their crime. We do not have enmity against any of them. The judgment should send a message to society... hate must end," he said.

"Even today, I am not able to understand how a group of men can beat another man to death... When they killed Qasim, they deliberately turned it into a fake cow

slaughter allegation. The police did not support us, that is why we had to move the Supreme Court, and, on the orders of the apex court, the investigation was carried out in a professional manner.

We want peace and harmony among communities," said Mehruddin.

In their plea in the SC, Samaydean's family and friends had alleged that they were subjected to grave threat, coercion and intimidation by the circle of

try if it didn't have debates. So, I don't have an issue with that. What I have an issue with is that you question something, it's (attributed) a political agenda."

In a lighter vein, the minister also spoke about maintaining so many relationships, and even sharing WhatsApp forwards with his counterpart foreign ministers. "I do send WhatsApp forwards, WhatsApp jokes, but it's a mix. Today, the nature of diplomacy itself is changing, as more people directly reach out to each other, and you don't go through cumbersome protocols.

It's like any profession — you make friends, you hang out together, you eat together, you spend time together."

A career diplomat-turned-politician, Jaishankar has been the face of India's diplomacy in the fast-changing world over the last five years. As one of the most articulate voices on the Modi government's foreign policy, he has sought to craft the intellectual underpinnings of India's place on the global stage with his two books — *The India Way*, and *Why Bharat Matters*.

TRAFFIC COPS ISSUE 8,000+ CHALLANS THIS YR

Najafgarh tops list of triple riding challans



In a bid to bring down the number of such offenders, the traffic police has enhanced surveillance in the city. Archive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE DELHI Traffic Police has issued over 8,000 challans — more than the last two years combined — against commuters for triple riding on a motorcycle in the Capital, with Najafgarh topping the list with 452 challans, according to official data. Bhajanpura ranked second with 401 challans so far, said officers.

According to officers, as many as 8,015 challans were issued for triple riding on a bike in January and February this year, against 6,225 in 2023 and 4,216 in 2022. Further, among the 10 most prosecuted regions in Delhi, the western part recorded the maximum number of triple riding cases.

In a bid to bring down the number of such offenders, the traffic police has enhanced its surveillance mechanism across the city to keep a check on triple riding. "This involves deploying additional police personnel at strategic locations and leveraging technology, such as CCTV cameras, to monitor traffic violations effectively," said an officer.

Mentioning that strict action is taken against such offenders, police said: "Offenders caught engaging in triple riding are being subjected to penalties as per the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, to deter recurrence of such violations... In addition to en-

IN NUMBERS

8,015
challans issued so far in 2024

6,225
challans in 2023

4,216
challans in 2022

■ With 452 challans, Najafgarh recorded maximum violations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

ANNOUNCING A Rs 9,957-crore budget for this fiscal, the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) allocated a significant chunk — almost 60% of funds or Rs 6,063 crore — to land acquisition, said officials. Other important projects for which funds have been earmarked include the upcoming Noida International Airport at Jawar (Rs 702 crore) and the Rapid Rail for better multi-modal connectivity (Rs 300 crore). Development and construction has been allocated Rs 1,948 crore, added officials. The budget for the financial year 2024-25 was approved at the Authority's 80th board meeting Tuesday.

YEIDA said it has planned to acquire around 3,700 hectares of land in two years to create a land bank for different investors, FDI, and other schemes. "To increase



Upcoming Noida International Airport at Jawar. Express

MAJOR ALLOCATIONS

Land Acquisition

₹6,063 cr

Jewar Airport

₹702 cr

Multi-modal connectivity

₹300 cr**₹9,957 cr**

Total Budget expenditure

Development and Construction work

₹1,948 cr

the land bank, the authority had prepared a plan of Rs 11,750 crore to acquire land in sectors 10, 7, 5, 6, 8, 9, 4A, 28, 29, 32 etc.

Of this, the authority requested the government to give 50% of the amount — Rs 5,875 — as interest-free loan. The rest was to

be borne by YEIDA. In this regard, the government provided an interest-free loan of Rs 3,279 crore. During 2023-24, around 290 hectares of land was acquired," said an authority official.

YEIDA said it will get receipts of Rs 9,992 crore during FY 2024-25, mostly from sale/allocation of its assets.

The authority also increased allocation/bidding rates of different assets (commercial, residential, group housing, industrial) by around 5%. Earlier, the rate of allocation for residential assets was Rs 24,600 per sqm; it has now been increased to Rs 25,900 per sqm. Similarly, in group housing, the rate has been increased to Rs 32,375 per sqm from Rs 30,750 per sqm. For industrial assets, the new rate varies from Rs 8,670 per sqm to Rs 14,240 in different areas.

The authority also reserved 100 acres in Sector 10 for the Centre's Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) scheme.

'Fix all issues': Chief Secy Kumar after Sangam Vihar visit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

CHIEF SECRETARY Naresh Kumar Tuesday conducted a field inspection in Sangam Vihar to ensure effective compliance with the directions of L-G V K Saxena, days after the latter flagged "poor condition" of the area with officials concerned.

Kumar directed officials concerned from the Delhi Jal Board, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Development Authority, and Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation, among others, to remove debris, improve civic amenities, cover manholes by constructing steel frames/slabs

on drains, and complete road repair and maintenance projects to prevent waterlogging. He directed the DJB to conduct a survey of all existing 300 borewells and check the quality of water as well as shift borewell pumps for road obstruction. The DJB has also been directed to complete — in a week — pending civic works.

The L-G, who visited Sangam Vihar on March 4, had

posted photos of the area and accused the AAP-led government in Delhi of not improving living conditions — poor roads, lack of garbage disposal, non-existent sewerage system, and overflowing drains — despite being in power for nine years. Following this, CM Arvind Kejriwal wrote to the Chief Secretary, directing him to address the issue in a week.

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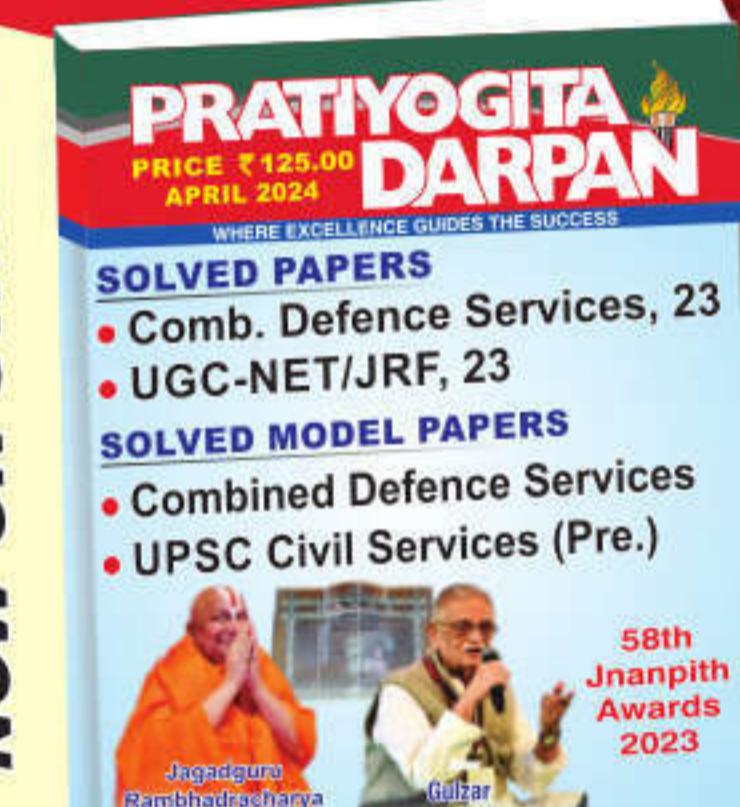
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Registering an FIR is the duty of police officers, says court

NIRBHAY THAKUR

NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

A DELHI court has recently said it was the duty of police officers to register an First Information Report (FIR) whenever they received information regarding the commission of a cognizable offence.

The observation was made by Metropolitan Magistrate Jyoti Nain of Rohini Courts on February 23 while directing the Delhi Police to register an FIR regarding allegations of a woman being beaten up and her clothes being torn.

The complainant has alleged that on May 13, 2022, an argument broke out between her brother and another woman.

Advocates Sanjay Sharma and Richa Sharma, appearing for the complainant, submitted before the court that despite specific allegations in the written complaint filed by the woman to the police, a case wasn't registered.

They also added that the SHO of the police station concerned is liable to be prosecuted as per the IPC.

The complainant moved an application under Section 156 of the CrPC titled 'Police Officer's power to investigate cognisable case'.

Allowing this application, the court directed the SHO to file an FIR.

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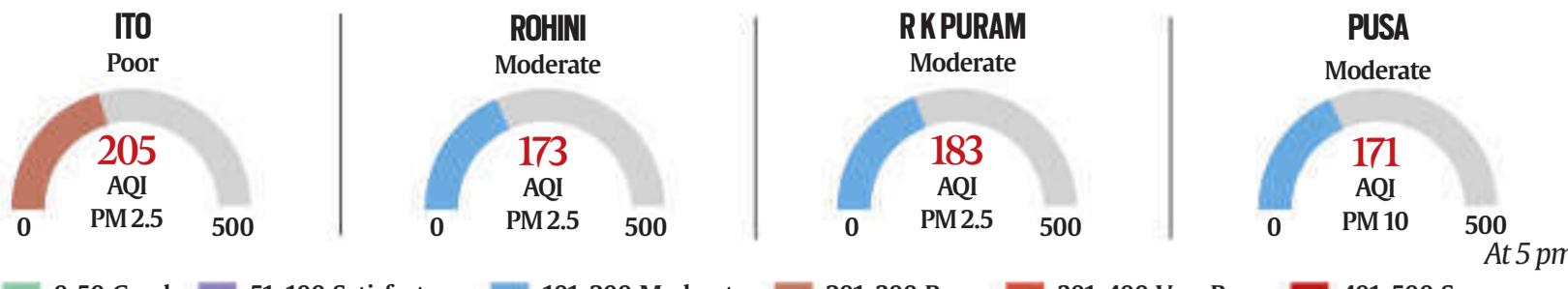
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FORECAST: March 13
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Possibility of very
light rain/drizzle

MAX: 31 2.1°C above normal | **MIN: 14** 1.1°C below normal



CAPITAL MEET

Delhi L-G V K Saxena and CM Arvind Kejriwal during the inauguration of the first engineered landfill site in Tehkhanda on Tuesday. *Praveen Khanna*

BRIEFLY

Rooftop solar plants for 645 govt buildings

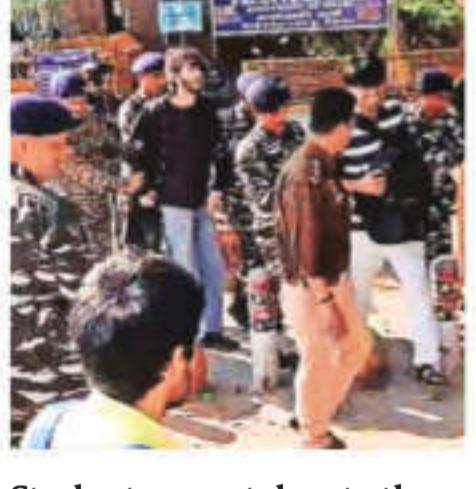
New Delhi: The Delhi government and MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) buildings are set to go green soon, as the state government has approved a plan to install a 50-mW grid-connected rooftop solar power system on all the government buildings — covering over 500 square metres — in the national capital. Power Minister Atishi approved the solar plant installation initiative last week, said officials. Under the plan, 645 (approximately) government and MCD buildings with educational institutions, healthcare facilities, DTL substations, and DTC depots among others would get solar power plants and facilities. **ENS**

Man stabbed to death in Bakra Mandi

New Delhi: A 30-year-old man was stabbed to death in Bakra Mandi area of East Delhi on Tuesday, said police. The accused, Shishpal (23), was apprehended from the spot with the weapon used in the crime. "On Tuesday morning, we were informed about a stabbing incident in Bakra Mandi in Ghazipur area. The victim, Dharmendra, was rushed to a hospital where he collapsed and died," said a senior police officer. Police said an FIR has been registered under IPC Section 302 (murder) and a probe is on. **PTI**

Nearly 70 students detained at DU for anti-CAA protest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12



Students were taken to the Burari police station, and later released. *Express*

AROUND 60 to 70 students were detained on Tuesday from the Delhi University Arts Faculty while they were protesting against the Ministry of Home Affairs' Monday notification on the rules for implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. DCP (North) Manoj Meena said that the "detained students were taken to the Burari police station, and later released — within a few minutes".

Scores of students from the affiliated All India Student Association (AISA) called for an anti-CAA protest on Monday.

AISA President Nilas Bose and General Secretary Prasenjeet Kumar, in a joint statement on Tuesday, said: "With the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024, being notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday, the BJP-led central government has delivered yet another blow to the democracy and secular fabric of the nation. The wide-spread and strong resistance against the patently unjust, discriminatory, and divisive CAA in December 2019, and the fight put up by the people to uphold the Constitution and democracy was quelled by the government."

"With the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, it can be said that the BJP-RSS made it clear that these elections will be fought on their communal agenda. However, we already see that the people of Assam have clearly rejected these rules," read the statement.

Under the Rules, persecuted non-Muslim migrants — Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians — from Pakistan, and other sensitive areas, police said.

Bangladesh and Afghanistan will be eligible to acquire Indian nationality.

Another DU student, who was detained for being part of the protest, said: "Today, we were protesting against the CAA and NRC at DU, when we were detained by police... We urge all the students of the Delhi university to join this protest against the BJP government and the implementation of CAA-NRC."

Past 'tension'

After the CAA Bill was passed in Parliament on December 11, 2019, protests erupted across the country, including many on university campuses in the Capital.

On Monday, after the CAA rules were notified, a "small protest" was held on Jamia campus, leading to a heavy police deployment in the area.

Security, meanwhile, has tightened across the national capital with paramilitary personnel conducting night patrols and flag marches in the northeastern parts of the city, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar and other sensitive areas, police said.

Security forces kept a close eye on the space, with personnel stationed both on the ground and on the rooftops of nearby buildings.

Police sources said roughly 150 personnel from the Special Staff, Dwarka South and Bindapur thanas, and the 3rd Battalion were stationed at the venue. Police had instructions to prevent any escape attempts or possible attacks by Jathedi's rival gangs, said sources.

The venue was adorned with flowers and orange fabric. On one side of the mandap, the village's women gathered, singing traditional wedding songs, while the couple sat on stage surrounded by elders who bestowed their blessings.

Anuradha was dressed in a bright pink saree with silver embroidery, complemented by the groom's white kurta-pajama paired with a deep pink floral Nehru jacket. The ceremony proceeded swiftly, as Jathedi was granted parole for six hours.

There was also a wide variety of food: Live dosa and chaat counters, a spread of nine different types of starters, seven main dishes, and three types of desserts.

The guest list had been restricted to 150 people by the family, who had to verify their identity to the police through their Aadhaar cards. Jathedi's brother Pradeep said: "We

wanted to keep the ceremony small to avoid rush and chaos of any sort."

Some were turned back at the gates for not being on the list.

Surya Jhanjhariya, Jathedi's paternal cousin, missed the groom's entry to the venue by a few minutes and was barred from entering the hall.

Neither his nor his mother's names were on the list. "He's my

7 ARRESTED IN 4 RAIDS ACROSS DELHI, GURGAON

Filling vials with spurious substances: How fake anti-cancer drug racket ran

ANKITA UPADHYAY & ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

COLLECTING EMPTY vials with labels from hospitals, filling them with spurious substances, and selling them as "high-value" anti-cancer medicine: This was the modus operandi of a fake drug racket that operated from two flats at DLF Capital Greens in West Delhi's Moti Nagar.

On Tuesday, during raids by the Delhi Police Crime Branch and the Delhi government's drug control department, seven people, including employees of Delhi and Gurgaon-based hospitals, were arrested in connection with the racket. More than 140 vials of the fake medication — that originally cost around Rs 4 crore in the open market — were seized, along with machines, packing material, labelled vials, printed literature and rubber pack seals.

According to officials from the drug control department, the accused persons "used disposable syringes to fill innocuous substances into the vials, which were manually sealed and sold to unscrupulous dealers".

Additional CP(Crime) Sanjay Bhatia said they received information regarding the gang and a police team was formed to conduct simultaneous raids at four places — Moti Nagar, South City

WHO ARE THE ACCUSED

VIPHIL: The kingpin who allegedly ran the racket from two rented EWS flats in DLF Capital Greens, West Delhi's Moti Nagar

SURAJ: Police said he handled refilling and packaging of the vials

NEERAJ: He worked as a manager in the Oncology department of hospitals in Gurgaon and Delhi from 2006 to 2022 and was arrested during a raid at South City in Gurgaon. Police said he hoarded a large cache of spurious anti-cancer injections, vials

TUSHAR: Police said he is a lab technician and Neeraj's cousin; nabbed on the latter's instance. He worked with Neeraj to supply the fake medicines

in Gurgaon, Yamuna Vihar and a Delhi hospital — to nab the accused: Viphil Jain (46); Suraj Shat (28); Neeraj Chauhan (38); Tushar Chauhan (28); Parvez (33); Komal Tiwari (39); and Abhinay Kohli (30).

"Jain, who is the kingpin of the racket, had taken two EWS flats on rent at DLF Greens to run the enterprise," said police.

Officials said three kinds of fake medicines were being manufactured:

■ Nivolumab 10 mg/mL, a monoclonal antibody, manufactured by Bristol-Myers Squibb Holdings Pharma. It is used to prevent and treat infections caused by fungi and yeasts.

Officials said samples were seized and sent to a laboratory for testing; the reports are awaited. Police said Jain stumbled upon the idea of marketing spurious life-saving cancer injections as these were costly and he could make money out of it. "He targeted expensive injection



Vials and packing material seized from the flats in Delhi's Moti Nagar. *Express*

brands and involved Parvez in arranging empty vials and supplied the fake injections to Neeraj and other persons on demand," said a police officer.

DCP Amit Goel said: "In some cases, it appears he refilled the empty vials with the anti-fungal drug Fluconazole, which costs Rs 100. After re-packaging, he used to sell it in the market for Rs 1 lakh to Rs 3 lakh, according to the brand."

An official from the state health department said this modus operandi of filling used vials with spurious drugs has come to light for the first time.

"Before this, those selling fake drugs used to make their own fake labels. This is a concerning matter, considering the drugs they were making are used to treat different kinds of cancers," he added.

Stay vigilant, maintain peace: JNU advisory ahead of students' union elections

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

"REMAIN VIGILANT and maintain peace and harmony on the campus", Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Monday directed its students in an advisory, in view of the ongoing students' union election process.

After a gap of four years, Delhi's JNU is scheduled to hold its students' union elections on March 22, with the results to be declared on March 24. Elections to the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) were last held in 2019.

The advisory released late Monday evening read: "In view of the ongoing students' election process on campus and various events being organised by the student bodies, all campus stakeholders are appealed to remain vigilant and contribute to maintaining peace and harmony on campus. Your cooperation in upholding a peaceful and disciplined campus is crucial."

"Security officials should be immediately informed, in case, anyone is found to be indulging in unauthorised activities. The administration firmly reiterates its commitment to zero tolerance towards any form of violence or indiscipline on campus, and appeals to all stakeholders of the campus to desist from all such activities. Cooperation from all stakeholders in this regard is highly solicited," it added.

The advisory came hours after the Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday notified rules for implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019; however, it did not mention whether it was released in connection with the CAA notification.

Gangsters Sandeep alias Kala Jathedi and Anuradha Choudhary alias Madam Minz tie the knot — under heavy police deployment — at a banquet hall in Delhi's Dwarka on Tuesday.

brother... there are circumstances that compel people to take certain steps..." said the 21-year-old law student.

"Many people had to make their own arrangements to go back to Sonipat because they didn't get their ID cards," said Raj Singh, a village elder from Jatheri. Others were impressed by Anuradha's educational background. "She's well-mannered and educated... and she's trying hard to get back into society...."

Anuradha's lawyer, AP Singh, who also attended the wedding, said she is pursuing a law degree.

(Himanshu Harsh is an intern with The Indian Express)

Gang, Baaja, Baarat: Kala Jathedi &

Madam Minz officially tie the knot

UPASIKA SINGHAL & HIMANSHU HARSH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

NO MUSIC, no phones allowed, a trimmed guest list, and a posse of security personnel: It was a rather somber wedding ceremony for two notorious gangsters — Kala Jathedi aka Sandeep Jhanjhariya and Anuradha Choudhary aka Madam Minz — as they tied the knot at Santosh Garden in Dwarka on Tuesday.

Jathedi, who is jailed at Mandoli prison, arrived at the wedding venue around 10 am. According to locals, police had instructed shops in the vicinity to remain closed till 5 pm and had conducted patrols two to three days before the event.

Security forces kept a close eye on the space, with personnel stationed both on the ground and on the rooftops of nearby buildings.

Police sources said roughly 150 personnel from the Special Staff, Dwarka South and Bindapur thanas, and the 3rd Battalion were stationed at the venue. Police had instructions to prevent any escape attempts or possible attacks by Jathedi's rival gangs, said sources.

The venue was adorned with flowers and orange fabric. On one side of the mandap, the village's women gathered, singing traditional wedding songs, while the couple sat on stage surrounded by elders who bestowed their blessings.

Anuradha was dressed in a bright pink saree with silver embroidery, complemented by the groom's white kurta-pajama paired with a deep pink floral Nehru jacket. The ceremony proceeded swiftly, as Jathedi was granted parole for six hours.

There was also a wide variety of food: Live dosa and chaat counters, a spread of nine different types of starters, seven main dishes, and three types of desserts.

The guest list had been restricted to 150 people by the family, who had to verify their identity to the police through their Aadhaar cards. Jathedi's brother Pradeep said: "We

wanted to keep the ceremony small to avoid rush and chaos of any sort."

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Surya Jhanjhariya, Jathedi's paternal cousin, missed the groom's entry to the venue by a few minutes and was barred from entering the hall.

Neither his nor his mother's names were on the list. "He's my



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Express

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Frame SOP to ensure release of inmates within 48 hrs of bail: HC to Delhi govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE DELHI High Court on Tuesday called for the framing of an standard operating procedure (SOP) to ensure that inmates, who have been granted bail, are released from jails within 48 hours.

The HC was hearing a suo motu plea, initiated by it in February 2024, pertaining to the delay in the acceptance of bail bonds by jail superintendents. A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Amit Mahajan, while asking the Delhi government counsel to ob-

tain instructions, orally observed: "As soon as the order is communicated, the jail superintendent shall ensure the convict speaks to his family or lawyer or whoever. And, build an SOP whereby he gets released in 48 hours... In general, if the person is released within 48 hours, but in special emergencies, you can release them much earlier. In the case of a funeral/marriage, you will have to compress it to five to six hours."

The HC said on Tuesday that at times, when there are emergencies in convicts' families — majority of whom are poor, with many not even able to afford lawyers — it is not possible for them to keep

following up with everyone. "Speak to the jail superintendent and director general (Prisons)," the bench told the counsel, while also calling for a supplementary affidavit within 10 days, and listing the matter on April 1.

The Delhi government counsel told the bench on Tuesday that as per the jail superintendent, "the moment they get intimation of the surety, that very moment they wireless it to the police station concerned". The bench, thereafter, said that the prison authorities must have Internet connection and make use of technology available to it in a way that people could be released in 48 hours.

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following up with everyone. "Speak to the jail superintendent and director general (Prisons)," the bench told the counsel, while also calling for a supplementary affidavit within 10 days, and listing the matter on April 1.



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CHANGE IN GUARD IN HARYANA

Once BJP's 'saviour' to 'too demanding', Dushyant now stares at tough road ahead

VARINDER BHATIA

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 12



JJP chief Dushyant Chautala

JJP CHIEF Dushyant Chautala and his nine legislators had formed a post-poll alliance with the BJP and emerged as its "saviour" in 2019 after the Haryana Assembly polls threw up a fractured mandate. Four-and-a-half years later, ditched by its ally and facing rebellion from its own ranks, Dushyant stares at a tough road ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and the subsequent state polls.

The BJP had made Dushyant the Deputy CM as reward for supporting the BJP-JJP government. Two other JJP MLAs – Anoop Dhanak and Devender Singh Babli – were also made ministers in the Manohar Lal Khattar Cabinet.

BJP sources said the decision was taken finally to sever ties with the JJP as the chorus of workers who felt Dushyant was getting "too demanding" was growing. The last straw was the JJP chief's demand for 2 Lok Sabha seats – Hisar and Bhiwani-

the-BJP, especially ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. The alliance was called off for many other reasons, which will emerge in the near future," a senior BJP leader told *The Indian Express*.

Sources said there was unanimous consensus to snap ties with Dushyant at a meeting held by state BJP on February 29, where the party finalised candidates for all 10 seats in the state and sent it to the high command. Several of them were of the view that the party should discard the JJP and rely on the seven Independent MLAs to continue in government, with most having already declared support to the BJP.

Dushyant had floated the JJP with his father Ajay Singh Chautala in 2018, after a fallout with the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), just one year ahead of the 2019 elections. He had won 10 seats but emerged as the king-maker after the BJP fell short of the magic number of 46 in the 90-member House.

Insiders told *The Indian Express* that the JJP's drubbing in last year's Rajasthan Assembly polls also led the BJP to take the

decision to dump the party. The JJP had fielded candidates in 19 seats and all, except one, forfeited their deposits. Together, they polled 0.15% of the votes, lesser than NOTA's 0.96%. As many as 12 of the 19 candidates got only 160-1,200 votes.

Days ago, BJP Hisar MP Brijendra Singh, the son of veteran leader Birender Singh, crossed over to the Congress citing the BJP's alliance with the JJP as one of the reasons.

However, more than the break with the BJP, what may cost Dushyant more is the rebellion from his own leaders. At the meeting led by him in Delhi as the BJP held its own to decide the future of the alliance, only 6 of the party's 10 MLAs came. Tohana MLA Devender Singh Babi, Barnaund MLA Ram Kumar Gautam, Barwala MLA Jagi Ram Siha, and Guhla MLA Ishwar Singh skipped the meeting. Incidentally, Dushyant had also faced trouble from within the party during the farmer agitation of 2020. JJP said despite the challenging situation, the party was confident of contesting all 10 LS seats.



Failed coalition government was running in state, says Bhupinder Singh Hooda. File

Hooda demands President's rule in Haryana, says BJP has no right to be in power

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 12

CONGRESS LEADER Bhupinder Singh Hooda Tuesday demanded that President's Rule be imposed in Haryana and Assembly elections be held, claiming that BJP and the JJP, which ruled state for four and a half years, have accepted defeat even before the polls by breaking the alliance and changing the chief minister.

"It is clear that a failed coalition government was running in the state, which had completely disillusioned the people. Today, both Manohar Lal Khattar and Dushyant Chautala have been shown the door and a new chief minister has been installed just before the elections. The BJP by doing this is trying to divert attention from the failures of nine-and-a-half years. The BJP has no moral right to remain in power in the state. Assembly elections should be conducted immediately by immediately imposing President's rule in the state," Hooda said.

He said the BJP-JJP alliance was not for any policy or public interest. "They joined hands to enjoy the fruits of power. Today both the parties have broken the alliance to deceive the public. The truth is that this alliance has been broken under the same agreement under which the BJP-JJP had got into the alliance. Both parties are still the same internally. They will create drama of fighting separately to divide the votes against this government in the elections," he added.

Hooda said that he had said this in public forums even before the 2019 assembly elections. "During the election campaign, I had told people that both BJP and JJP are in collusion and are creating drama of opposing each other just to divide the Congress votes. Ultimately that is what happened and JJP sat in the lap of the government against which the people of Haryana had voted. I had called it a 'thugbandhan' and said that it was an opportunistic and a selfish alliance," he said.

BJP sources told *The Indian Express* Vij was not happy with Saini being selected as CM, and voted against it in the Legislature Party meeting. Despite repeated attempts to reach out to him, Vij did not respond to the calls made by *The Indian Express*.



PM Narendra Modi during the 'Bharat Shakti' war exercise in Pokhran on Tuesday. PTI

Those who ruled country for decades didn't build modern border infra: PM

First in 23 years, Tejas aircraft crashes, pilot safe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

A TEJAS light combat aircraft (LCA) of the Indian Air Force crashed in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district on Tuesday during an operational training sortie, the IAF said. It was the first crash of the indigenous fighter jet since its maiden flight 23 years ago. The pilot ejected safely.

The crash took place around 100 km away from the site in Pokhran where the tri-service fire power demonstration exercise, Bharat Shakti, was being conducted. PM Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had attended the event.

The aircraft crashed into the compound of the Bhil Community Hostel in Jawahar Nagar, 2 km from Jaisalmer city, at around 2 pm. Jaisalmer SP Sudheer Chaudhary said, "The students were in different rooms. No one was injured."

According to an IAF statement, "A Court of Inquiry has been constituted to find out the cause of the accident."

IAF currently operates two LCA squadrons. In February 2021, the Defence Ministry had signed a Rs 48,000-crore deal with HAL to procure 83 LCA-Mk1A aircraft – 73 LCA Tejas Mk-1A jets and 10 LCA Mk-1 trainer aircraft. With additional LCA deliveries scheduled this month, the IAF is expected to raise a third LCA squadron soon.

Saini takes Haryana CM chair: A Khattar confidant, OBC face

VARINDER BHATIA

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 12



Nayab Singh Saini lost his first poll in 2009.

A DAY after PM Narendra Modi singled out Manohar Lal Khattar for praise at the inauguration of the prestigious Dwaraka Expressway project, he was removed as the CM of Haryana by the BJP, which replaced him with the party's Kurukshetra MP and its state unit chief, Nayab Singh Saini.

With the Lok Sabha polls near and the Haryana Assembly elections scheduled for the end of the year, the BJP appears to have gone in for the 54-year-old OBC leader, in place of Khattar, who has been the CM since 2014, so as to consolidate the non-Jat and OBC votes across the state. It is also an attempt to counter anti-incumbency against Khattar.

In Haryana, politics the Jat support is largely divided among the Congress, JJP and INLD. Even the appointment of Khattar, a Punjabi, was seen as a bid by the BJP to break the Jat stranglehold on the state.

Crucially, Saini is considered

His name in list of Cabinet ministers, Vij skips swearing-in

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 12

Haryana's former home minister Anil Vij

a close confidant of Khattar, with their relationship going back to their RSS days.

He contested his first election in 2009 from the Naraingarh Assembly constituency, but lost to the Congress's Ram Kishan Gurjar. In 2014, Saini won and was inducted as a Cabinet minister. In 2019, Saini defeated Congress candidate Nirmal Singh by more than 3.8 lakh votes. That year, the BJP won all 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana.

In October 2023, the BJP appointed Saini as its Haryana unit president, replacing Om Prakash Dhankar, who was moved as national secretary of the party. Saini's appointment was then too seen as a bid to consolidate OBC votes, aligning with the BJP's OBC push across the country.

While efforts were made by BJP leadership including former CM Manohar Lal Khattar to pacify him, Vij did not relent, left the meeting and went to his home at Ambala in his private vehicle.

When the swearing-in ceremony was going on at Raj Bhavan, a video of Vij playing with his brother's grand-daughter surfaced on social media. He briefly spoke with the media there and praised PM Narendra Modi on the issue of the CAA. In the evening, Khattar confirmed Vij was among those leaders to be sworn in on Tuesday. "He got annoyed over something and left," he said.

Anil Vij is a very committed and senior worker of our party. Since 1990, Anil Vij and I have had

an association. I had worked with him since the first time he contested polls and was elected as an MLA. There had been several instances when he had got annoyed, but he got back to normal soon. We spoke with him today, but he refused to come. Our new CM, Nayab Saini, will also speak to him. Anil Vij's name was also among the council of ministers to be sworn in today. But he could not make it to Raj Bhavan for certain reasons. We will speak to him and as and when he is available, he will also be sworn in," he said.

BJP sources told *The Indian Express* Vij was not happy with Saini being selected as CM, and voted against it in the Legislature Party meeting. Despite repeated attempts to reach out to him, Vij did not respond to the calls made by *The Indian Express*.

feld from Karimganj, joined the Congress last year. From another seat in Assam, Dipu (ST), former JJP MLA Joyram Engleng, who joined the Congress last year, has been feld. In Rajasthan, the party has felded Rahul Kaswan from the Churu seat that he had won for the BJP in 2019. Kaswan joined the Congress only on Monday.

■ The list has many sitting MLAs who won in the recent Assembly elections. In MP, include Bhandar MLA Phool Singh Baraiya, from Bhind (SC) seat; Satna MLA Siddharth Kushwaha from Satna seat; and Dindori MLA Omkar Singh Markam from Mandla (ST) seat.

In Gujarat, the Congress has felded Vav MLA Geniben Thakor from Banaskantha seat and Vansda MLA Anantbhai Patel from the Valsad seat. In Rajasthan, it has felded Mundawar MLA Lalit Yadav from the Alwar seat against Union minister Bhupender Yadav, and Deoli-Uniara MLA Harish Chandra Meena from Tonk-Sawai Madhopur.

■ Those who contested but lost the recent Assembly polls also figure in the list, including Lalit Vasoya from Porbandar seat in Gujarat, CWC member Kamleshwar Patel from Sidhi seat in MP, former Rajasthan Minister Govind Ram Meghwal from Bikaner (SC) seat and Udaiyal Anjana from Chittorgarh seat.

Madhab Rajbanshi, felded from Darrang-Udalguri, used to be in the Congress but had switched to the AGP in 2014. Later, he returned. Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Choudhary, who has been

from Jalore. BJP have won it the last four times. Senior leaders Sachin Pilot and Bhanwar Jiitendra Singh are also unlikely to contest. Those who have expressed reluctance to contest reportedly include Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely, former Gujarat Congress chief Bharatsinh Solanki and former Uttarakhand CM Harish Rawat.

Asked if senior party leaders were shying away from contesting, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said if workers asked him to fight, he might, but age was a constraining factor. "Sometimes we are at the back, sometimes we are at the forefront, we also have a list of 10 people asking for the same seat," he said.

■ The BJP's attacks on Congress of "parivarvaad" notwithstanding, at least four scions figure in the list. Apart from Vaibhav, Gaurav Gogoi, a son of late Assam veteran Congress leader Tarun Gogoi; Nakul Nath, the son of another veteran, Kamal Nath; Bharat Makwana, the son of

Union minister Yogendra Makwana, who has been felded from Ahmedabad West (SC) seat; and Brijender Ola, the son of late Congress veteran Shishram Ola, felded from Junjhunu.

■ Venugopal said the second list had 13 candidates from OBC communities, 10 from SCs, nine from STs and two Muslims. Of the 43 seats announced by the party, 18 are SC/ST reserved seats, meaning the party has felded one SC/ST candidate from a general category constituency.

■ Several leaders who joined the Congress from other parties have got tickets. For example, Garjan Mashhary, felded from the Kokrajhar (ST) seat, who was the chief convenor of the Peoples' Joint Action Committee for Bodoland Movement and joined the Congress in 2021.

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Madhab Rajbanshi, felded from Darrang-Udalguri, used to be in the Congress list for Gujarat is Rohan Gupta, who was removed as AGC spokesperson in June 2022.

FULL REPORTON
www.indianexpress.com

The Forest Rights Act, enacted by the UPA government in 2006, is about giving forest dwellers ownership rights of the land they have been staying on. More than 15 years later, just about half of individual claim ap-

plications have been settled. The second Congress promise was to "withdraw all amendments made by the Modi Government to Forest Conservation and Land Acquisition Acts" which it claimed "have caused such great distress to the Adivasis."

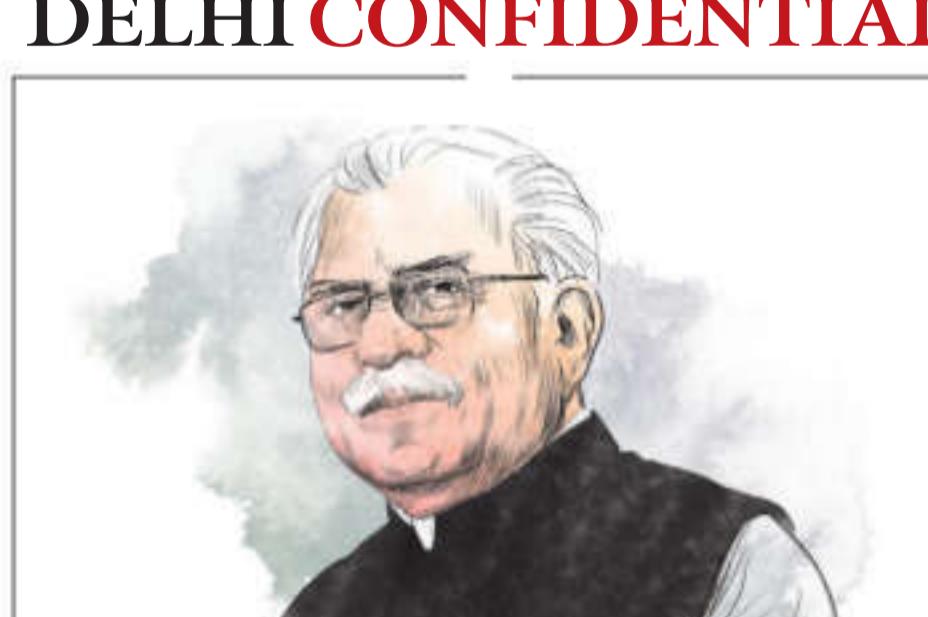
The significant amendment brought by the BJP government on Forest Conservation Act (FCA) of 1980 concerns the definition of forest. A 1996 SC order had ensured that for purposes of FCA, the dictionary definition of forest must be used. Last year, the Modi government brought in an amendment to the FCA, one of the provisions of which was to make the law applicable only on lands classified as forests in government records.

Kharge listed the guarantees, including reviving the Scheduled Caste Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan, emphasising that Congress would protect tribal rights as well as their "zamani, jungle and jal".

Elaborating on the guarantees, Kharge said if voted to power, Congress would set up a "national mission" for the implementation of FRA through a dedicated FRA division, separate budget and action plans. "We will ensure settlement of all pending FRA claims within 1 year and establish a process to review all rejected claims within 6 months," he said.

The Forest Rights Act, enacted by the UPA government in 2006, is about giving forest dwellers ownership rights of the land they have been staying on. More than 15 years later, just about half of individual claim ap-

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



OBSERVER, INDICATOR

IN DECEMBER last year, after the BJP won the Madhya Pradesh election with a landslide majority, the party had sent former Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar as an observer for the formation of the new government. The move had surprised many as it was unusual to send a sitting CM to oversee the selection of another CM. Some in the party said it never happened before. Party leaders now say it was a clear indication that the party's top leadership could replace him. According to sources, the PM, who apparently appreciates Khattar and his political record, had sounded it out to him that the party wanted a fresh face ahead of elections in Haryana and that he should be mentally prepared for it.

TALKING BOOKS

LAST WEEK, while releasing a book on RSS founder Dr K B Hedgewar by Nana Palkar in the Parliament Complex, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale ended up heaping praises on another book on the first RSS chief by BJP MP Prof Rakesh Sinha. Hosabale said there had been three good books on Hedgewar which included 'Dr Hedgewar, The Epoch Maker' by HV Sheshadri, and the books by Palkar and Sinha. Hosabale said Sheshadri's book was not complete but it is available as an official epic. "What Nana Palkar wrote is also an authentic biography. But Sinha's book is specially talked about with the Sangh. Perhaps Nana Palkar did not get access to all the facts. So, one must read all three books to understand Hedgewar," Hosabale said.



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with party leaders Ajay Maken and KC Venugopal in New Delhi, Tuesday. Anil Sharma



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- Centralised State of the art Operation Control Centres** *Prayagraj (EDFC) Ahmedabad (WDFC)*
- Enhanced Safety** - Over **850** level crossings eliminated
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New Track Construction (NTC) machine for faster single day track laying capacity



High rise Over Head Equipment for Double Stack Container Trains



1500 Metre Long Haul Freight Trains

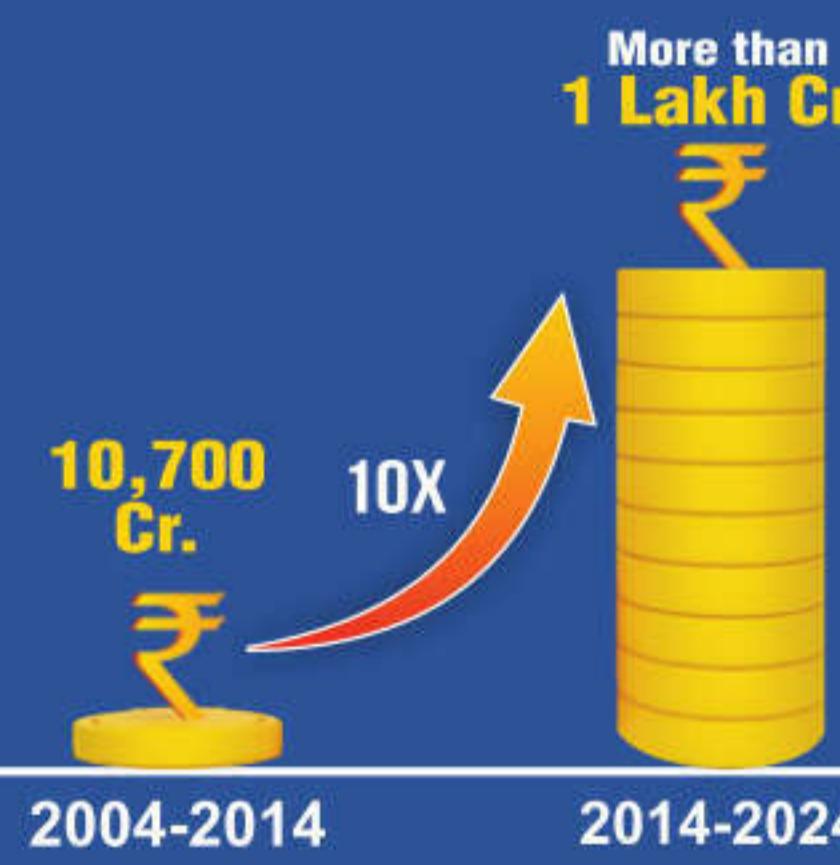


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- Green Corridors for cleaner environment by significant reduction in CO₂ emissions

DAY AFTER CAA RULES NOTIFIED

No provision in new law to strip anyone of citizenship, says Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

A DAY after the Central government notified the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) Rules, 2024 four years after the Act was passed in Parliament, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and CPI(M) youth wing Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) moved the Supreme Court with their petitions Tuesday, seeking a stay on the rules.

In its application, the IUML, whose petition challenging the Act is pending before the SC, said the rules "create a highly truncated and fast-tracked process for granting of citizenship to persons covered under the exemption created by Section 2(1)(b) of the Citizenship Act, 1955... which is manifestly arbitrary and creates an unfair advantage in favour of a class of persons on the ground solely of their religious identity, which is impermissible under Articles 14 and 15".

The rules "eliminate" the "tiered level of scrutiny" for naturalisation and registration under the Citizenship Rules 2009 "and grants the power to a District Level Committee to verify documents", the party said in its application. The composition of the Empowered Committee, which may scrutinise the applications, is not defined, IUML said.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Union Minister G Kishan Reddy (third from left) during a meeting of BJP polling booth workers in Hyderabad on Tuesday. PTI

opposed the CAA," Shah said, justifying its implementation.

He said in order to save their faith and honour, lakhs and crores of people from Pakistan and Bangladesh came to India, but were not granted citizenship. "They (refugees) felt insulted in their own country when they were not granted citizenship," he said, adding that PM Modi honoured Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and Sikh refugees by granting them citizenship through the CAA.

The Centre on Monday implemented the CAA, 2019, noti-

fying the rules four years after the contentious law was passed by Parliament to fast-track citizenship for undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014. With the unveiling of the rules that came days ahead of the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections, the Modi government will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants — Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians

— from the three countries. The rules came into force with immediate effect, according to a Gazette notification.

Addressing a BJP booth workers' meeting here, Shah hit out at those spreading "misapprehension" about the CAA, saying the law grants citizenship and would not take it away. He slammed AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi and said they were lying that minorities will lose citizenship due to CAA.

India is a thriving democracy, having its elections very shortly. Its economy is heading to be a much better economy within the next 10 years. And we believe that we have had a long, cordial relationship with India...that we've got a lot to offer here. Areas like education and IT and other things that we could be working on.

In a strategic sense...we live in a world where defence and security is of critical importance. And India will be acutely aware of that, and we want to cooperate and do more together.

What are the focus areas of bilateral cooperation?

I came in 2020 but, unfortunately, we got the Covid soon after, and there has been an economic delay, so to speak, in the last two or three years. The purpose of my trip is to talk to India about the things which we believe are untapped chances and opportunities, which include areas of defence.

In the next two years, we could have an air connectivity arrangement where flights are direct from India to New Zealand.

Is New Zealand open for Indian students and professionals?

Well, we're seriously open...



New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Winston Peters is on a bilateral visit to India. Shubhajit Roy

in Gaza. But like some of the other countries, we cannot stay on standby and say nothing at this slaughter of the innocent.

The Russia-Ukraine war has been going on for two years now. How do you see that?

Some of us who are not anti-Russia think this is actually a tragedy, but it began in Crimea in 2014 when the world did very little, and then moved on now to here. It's a full cycle to over two-year declaration of war by an invader with the worst propaganda to justify what they're doing.

We have been quite disappointed because we believed that a modern Russia could be an enormous positive influence and we're seeing some of the revision of the mentality of former Russian times. But that said, we can defend Ukraine as best as we can, to defend their right to exist.

New Zealand has been part of the Five Eyes alliance and India has been at the receiving end from Canada, alleging an assassination plot, which was shared with all the Five Eyes partners. Was this information shared with New Zealand? Did your country convey its position to India on the murder-for-hire plot?

Well, I wasn't here, it was handled by the previous government. But sometimes when you're hearing Five Eyes information, you're hearing it and saying nothing. You don't know the value or the quality of it, but you're pleased to have it.

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

Kerala CPM, Cong up the ante; BJP says states have no role

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
MARCH 12

THE CENTRE'S notification of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 has prompted Kerala's ruling CPM and Opposition Congress to roll up their sleeves again in the battle for Muslim votes, with resoluteness in fighting the Sangh Parivar being key to winning over the votes even though the BJP is not a significant player in the state.

As per the notification, a Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who entered India before December 31, 2014, can seek Indian citizenship without producing a valid passport of these countries or a valid visa from India.

Since there are no eligible migrants from these countries in Kerala, the CAA notification will not make any impact in Kerala. In 2019, when the Citizenship Amendment Bill was passed in Parliament, Kerala witnessed widespread agitations.

Both the CPM-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF are planning a slew of protests as the issue is set to emerge as a major topic during the Lok Sabha election campaign. Since the candidates of CPM and Congress are already in campaign mode, protests are being held under their aegis.

On Tuesday, Panniyam

Will quit if anyone who didn't apply gets citizenship: Himanta

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, MARCH 12

ON A day on which Opposition parties had called a hartal in Assam to protest against the notification, CPM leader KK Shailja, who is the candidate in Vadakara, is set to lead a night march on Tuesday in Thalassery with the slogan 'CAA in the Arabian sea'. Similar protests in constituencies are in the pipeline from the Left camp.

"Who will go and apply, calling themselves foreigners?" he asked as he insisted that "very few" people would seek citizenship under the CAA in Assam.

"All these days, the protesters have been saying that 20-25 lakh people will come in (because of the law)... Everything will be clear in 45 days because once the applications are done, it will be clearly seen in the online portal... Apart from those who had applied for the NRC, even one new person cannot come to Assam," Sarma said in his first remarks on the matter since the Centre notified rules for implementing CAA. "If even one new person enters, the first to resign will be Himanta Biswa Sarma," he added.

When the final list of the NRC was released in Assam in August 2019, more than 19 lakh out of the 3.3 crore applicants were excluded. At the time, Sarma had told *The Indian Express* that around 5-6 lakh of those excluded had migrated from Bangladesh due to religious persecution before 1971.



Members of All Assam Students' Union take part in a protest march in Guwahati on Tuesday. PTI

Earlier on Tuesday, the Assam Police moved quickly to prevent protests. In the morning, 16 Opposition leaders were served legal notices by Guwahati's Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime), directing them to withdraw their call for the hartal and warning them of legal action if they do not do so. The hartal was called by the United Opposition Forum, which is composed of regional parties and state units of national parties opposed to the BJP.

The 16 leaders were Bhupen Borah of the Congress, Lurinjyoti Gogoi of the Asom Jatiya Parishad, Akhil Gogoi of the Rajo Dal, Bhaben Choudhury of AAP, Ripun Bora of the Trinamool Congress, Swarna Hazarika of the RJD, John Ingoti Kathar of the All Party Hill People's Conference, Charan Deka from the Purbanchaliyo Lok

Parishad, Abdul Aziz of the Samajwadi Party, Parash Barua of NCP (Shardabbari), Ram Narayan Singh of Shiv Sena (UBT), Ajit Bhuiyan of the Jatiya Dal, Pankaj Kumar Das of CPI (ML), Mihir Nandi of the All India Forward Bloc, Kanak Gogoi of CPI, and Suprakash Talukdar of CPI (M).

Barricades were strewn across Guwahati on Tuesday, but it was mostly business as usual in the city. A small protest was held inside the Assam Congress headquarters in Guwahati, where members of the party burned a copy of the CAA. Despite the small scale of the protest, police personnel had been deployed in large numbers outside the office and the gate was completely barricaded by police during the course of the protest.

'Here to discuss untapped chances & opportunities, defence a critical area'

NEW ZEALAND Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister WINSTON PETERS, who is on a bilateral visit to India, said on Tuesday that his country wants to work with India on education, IT, defence, maritime security, among other areas. He also said that New Zealand is open to Indian students and deliberations on their right to work in the country are on. Regarding the information-sharing under the Five Eyes network on the pro-Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's alleged assassination plot, he questioned the evidence and the findings. Peters spoke with SHUBHAJIT ROY. Excerpts:

Why is India important for New Zealand?

There are a number of reasons. Some are historical...we are very proud to be associated with the biggest democracy in the world...it is also a member of the Commonwealth...we believe that we need to be far closer with all our Commonwealth countries, all our past friends. We might have differences, we have to find out areas where we can work together.

India is a thriving democracy, having its elections very shortly. Its economy is heading to be a much better economy within the next 10 years. And we believe that we have had a long, cordial relationship with India...that we've got a lot to offer here. Areas like education and IT and other things that we could be working on.

In a strategic sense...we live in a world where defence and security is of critical importance. And India will be acutely aware of that, and we want to cooperate and do more together.

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In the next two years, we could have an air connectivity arrangement where flights are direct from India to New Zealand.

Is New Zealand open for Indian students and professionals?

Well, we're seriously open...

GLOBAL RANKINGS FOR SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Foundation of India is ranked No 2 on global list

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, MARCH 12

IN THE first global rankings for schools of public health, the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) has secured an impressive second place, surpassing Harvard.

The leading five institutions in the list include the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The rankings are part of a report titled 'A New Model for Ranking Schools of Public Health: The Public Health Academic Ranking' published in the International Journal of Public Health.

"As there is no ranking designed for schools of public health, this project aimed to create one. To our knowledge, the PHFI is the first international bibliometric university ranking system designed for academic public health," lead author Adeline Dugerdil, Margaret Chan

(who has served two terms as director-general of World Health Organization) and others said.

The project was funded by the Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva. The authors of the report said that given the importance of public health, the common use of rankings in the academic world, and the demand for a valid ranking system, a ranking for schools of public health was designed and tested.

"Although two of the top five schools were from the US, the top 10 included institutions from four continents. The presence of schools from India, Thailand, South Africa and Singapore is notable and may reflect the increasing importance of public health research in non-high-income countries," the report said.

Professor K Srinath Reddy, honorary distinguished professor and goodwill ambassador of PHFI for public health partnerships, told *The Indian Express* that this recognition was gratifying.

"Public health is pivotal to national development and global security. PHFI has established six institutes in different regions of India to promote multidisciplinary education and research which can improve and assist multi-sectoral policies and programmes for protecting people's health. It has aimed to be locally relevant, nationally impactful, and globally respected. This recognition is gratifying since it shows we have been on the right path. It is yet another vindication of the respect the world has for Indian science," Reddy said.

Dr Vikram Patel, Chair, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School, told *The Indian Express* that this was a proud day for Indian science. "Rarely has any Indian institution been ranked so high globally. This feat is even more remarkable considering that PHFI was stripped of its FCRA licence in 2017."

"It is interesting that this school (Public Health Foundation of India) ranks exceptionally well not because of the 'productivity' criterion (as might have been felt given the network bringing together numerous schools in the same country) but thanks to the 'quality' criterion, which are all the maximum," the report states.

Dr Ambedkar said during his telephonic conversation with Ramesh Chennithala, the AIIC Maharashtra in-charge, the latter shared concern about the Sena (UBT) being adamant about 18 seats that it won in 2019. He suggested that the Congress and the VBA should discuss the matter.

CAA undermines principle of equality: Muslim bodies

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

VARIOUS MUSLIM organisations on Tuesday condemned the enforcement of the CAA-2019, calling it a "discriminatory" legislation that "undermines the fundamental principles of equality and justice".

In a joint statement, leaders of over half-a-dozen Muslim organisations said, "We vehemently condemn the enforcement of the Citizenship Amendment Act

(CAA) 2019 just before the announcement of general elections."

The statement was signed by Maulana Mahmood Asad Madani, President, Jamiat Ulema Hind; Syed Sadatullah Husaini, President, Jamaat Islami Hind; Maulana Asghar Imam Mehdi Salafi, President, Jamiat Ahle Hadith Hind; Maulana Faisal Wali Rahmani; Ameer, Imaar-e-Sharia; Maulana Aniesur Rahman Qasmi, Vice President All India Milli Council, and other leaders of these organisations.

They said that the Act intro-

duces provisions that sabotage the principles of equality and secularism enshrined in the Indian Constitution. They added that "Article 14 of the Indian Constitution embodies the general principles of equality before the law and prohibits unreasonable discrimination between persons based on religion".

"The insertion of Clause (b) in Section 2 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, establishes biased treatment by mentioning individuals belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, or Christian communities

from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, or Pakistan, who entered the Indian territory before December 31, 2014; shall not be treated as an illegal migrant. The Act sheepishly avoids mentioning Muslims, infringing the fundamental right to equality and secularism guaranteed by the Indian Constitution by selectively granting citizenship based on religious affiliation; thus undermining the principle of equal treatment under the law," they said, adding, "This discriminatory legislation threatens the social fabric of the country eroding

the foundational principles of inclusivity and diversity."

Muslim leaders also said that the timing chosen for the implementation of the Act is also questionable and shows the evident political motive of creating a religious divide in the society for narrow-minded political interests.

"We believe that citizenship

should be granted based on principles of equality, irrespective of religion, caste, or creed. The Act's provisions directly contradict these principles and threaten the secular fabric of nation," they said.

"As there is no ranking de-

signed for schools of public health, this project aimed to create one. To our knowledge, the PHFI is the first international bibliometric university ranking system designed for academic public health," lead author Adeline Dugerdil, Margaret Chan

leaders, the Sena (UBT) proposed to field Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj from Kolhapur but has not yet said yes. "If his candidature is final, it will be on Congress symbol. Now to compensate Kolhapur, the demand for Sangli is being raised without realising that only the Congress can give a tough fight to the BJP in Sangli," said a senior Congress leader. The undivided Sena won Kolhapur and neighbouring Hattangale in 2019. In Hattangale, the MVA is likely to extend support to Raju Shetti. As a result, the Sena (UBT) is pushing to increase its foot-

print in west Maharashtra by demanding Sangli.

Not just Thackeray, the Congress claim on Wardha in the Vidarbha region has faced push-back from the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar). The NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) also wants to contest Bhandara-Gondia, the home constituency of state Congress president Nana Patole. The VBA has staked claim on seats such as Solapur, Akola, and Amaravati, which the Congress wants to contest. Ambedkar wrote to Congress president Mallikarjun

SC Collegium recommends 6 names for Kerala HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE SUPREME Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud Tuesday recommended to the Centre names of six advocates for appointments as judges of the Kerala High Court.

"In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that Abdul Hakkim Mullappally Abdul Aziz, Syam Kumar Vadakke Mudavakkat, Harisankar Vijayan Menon, Manu Sreedharan Nair, Easwaran Subramani and Manoj Palumby Madhavan, advocates, be appointed as judges of the High Court of Kerala," said one of the Collegium resolutions uploaded on the apex court's website.

Regarding one of the recommended names, it said, "The report of the government notes that nothing adverse has come to notice regarding the integrity of the candidate. However, the said input indicates that his professional competence is viewed to be averagely." The Collegium, which said the observation on the professional competence of the candidate is not correct bearing in mind that he has 50 reported judgments to his credit delivered by the High Court, also referred to his professional income.

While recommending one of the names, the Collegium said it has taken note of the inputs provided by Department of Justice. "The above input that the candidate is considered to be a CPI(M) sympathizer is extremely vague. Even otherwise, the mere fact that the candidate has had a political background may not be a sufficient reason in all cases," it said. "For example, in the recent past, an advocate has been appointed as a judge of the high court though she was an office-bearer of a political party prior to her elevation."

It also recommended that five additional judges of the Allahabad High Court be appointed as permanent judges of that high court.

Why does statute not say clearly only Parliament has power to impose tax on minerals, asks SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday asked the Centre as to why the statute does not say in clearer terms that only Parliament has the power to impose tax on minerals and states are denuded of authority to levy such exaction.

An nine-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, whether his contention that the Union fixes taxes on minerals to bring uniformity impinges upon the federal distribution of power enshrined in the Constitution.

"Why does the statute not say that this is the tax that the Union will be charging and to that extent the power of state is denuded or something like that? Why do you have to say this by inference?" the bench, also comprising Justices

Integral part: India dismisses China objection to PM's Arunachal visit

PM speaks to Sunak on FTA progress



China had lodged a protest with India over PM Modi's visit

minister to Arunachal Pradesh," he said. China Monday said it lodged a diplomatic protest with India over Modi's visit to Arunachal Pradesh last week, and reiterated its claim over the region by saying India's moves will "only complicate" the unresolved boundary question.

China, which claims Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet, routinely objects to Indian leaders' visits to the state to highlight its claims. Beijing has also named the area as Zangnam.

Jaiswal said India's objection to such visits will not change the reality that Arunachal Pradesh "was, is, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India".

Indian leaders visit Arunachal Pradesh from time to time, as they visit other States of India. Objecting to such visits or India's developmental projects does not stand to reason," he said, responding to media queries on the Chinese objection.

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In a letter to the President, Aggarwala said that revealing the names of corporates that had contributed to different political parties "would render the corporates vulnerable for victimization".

The possibility of them being singled out by those parties that had received less contribution from them, and harassed cannot be ruled out if the names of corporates and their quantum of contributions to various parties are revealed. This will be renegeing on the promise given to them [anonymity] while accepting their voluntary contributions," he said.

He said that while the Supreme Court is well within its right to hear any dispute or Constitutional question of law, it "should not allow itself to deliver judgments that would create constitutional stalemate, undermine the majesty of the Parliament of India, the collective wisdom of the people's representatives gathered in the Parliament and create a question mark over the very democratic functioning of political parties themselves".

The bar body leader urged Murmu to seek presidential reference in the electoral bonds case so that the entire proceedings could be reheard and complete justice could be done to "Parliament of India, political parties, corporates and the general public".

On February 15, a five-judge Constitution bench had scrapped the controversial scheme that allowed anonymous political funding, and ordered the disclosure of donors, the amount donated by them

and the recipients by March 13.

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The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

BETWEEN THE RULES

In framing CAA Rules, government has paid scant heed to questions asked of it. All eyes are now on Supreme Court

HINDU, SIKH, BUDDHIST, Jain or Parsi migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered the country before December 31, 2014 now have clarity about the procedures and paperwork required to apply for Indian citizenship. Four years after Parliament enacted the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 (CAA), which excludes the Muslims, the Union Home Ministry has issued the Rules to give effect to the law. After the notification, Home Minister Amit Shah posted on X, "The PM has delivered on another commitment." CAA was amongst the key items in BJP's election manifesto of 2019 and the party is indeed right in claiming that the government has ticked another ideological box with the 39-page gazette notification. And, who can have a quarrel with the country opening its doors to vulnerable people from the neighbourhood? Immensely disquieting, however, is that the government has chosen to go ahead with the rules while the Act faces legal challenges. The CAA sparked protests in different parts of the country four years ago. The Rules do nothing to mitigate the Act's discriminatory foundation that is at odds with the constitutional Right to Equality as well as the idea of a plural India, conceived at the time of Independence.

The government has maintained that Muslims have been excluded because Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh are Islamic countries. However, more than 200 petitions have challenged CAA in the SC on the ground that it violates Article 14, which affirms that "the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India". In the Court, the government will not just be tested on whether it cherry-picked the three neighbouring countries to keep Muslims out. The question that it will also have to answer is this: If CAA was born out of concern for the vulnerable, why not extend it to the Rohingya from Myanmar, the Ahmadiyas from Pakistan or even Tamils from Sri Lanka? The government's notifying the Rules before answering the legal challenge could do more harm than good to those it wants to rescue. It could expose a refugee who receives citizenship to another regime of uncertainty.

CAA has further alarmed all those who have stakes in peace and calm in the Northeast. The December 2014 cut-off has created unease in Assam, where migration, identity and citizenship have been fraught issues for more than four decades. A case on the cut-off date for migrants to the state is before the Supreme Court. Moreover, the NRC process has created more faultlines than it has settled in Assam and the issue of who is a "foreigner" continues to fester. Now, the notification of the CAA Rules has, reportedly, ignited another round of protests in the state. In the run-up to an election campaign that portends to be divisive, the government has framed the Rules, paying little heed to questions asked of it. All eyes are now on the Supreme Court.

TRADE GAINS

India-EFTA pact signals greater openness, a willingness to enter into broader and deeper agreements

OVER THE PAST few years, the Narendra Modi government has been actively pursuing trade agreements. It has signed an economic cooperation and trade agreement with Australia and a comprehensive economic partnership agreement with the UAE. Talks are also on with the UK and the EU. And on Sunday, after 16 years of negotiation, the government has signed another trade agreement with the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA), comprising Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. These are welcome developments. They signal greater openness and desire to push through trade agreements and a change from the times when negotiations would be abandoned midway.

As per the newly signed agreement, the EFTA states shall aim to increase FDI into India by \$50 billion within 10 years, and another \$50 billion in the five years thereafter. This could facilitate the generation of one million direct jobs in the country. To provide some perspective – EFTA investment stood at \$10.7 billion in 2022. Switzerland is India's largest trading partner in this bloc of nations, followed by Norway. In fact, India has a trade deficit with Switzerland, largely due to gold imports. After the treaty comes into effect, the EFTA nations will see a reduction in tariffs. As reported in this paper, the agreement will result in the "elimination of duties on most industrial goods exported to India", such as pharmaceutical products, machinery, watches, fertilisers, medicine, chemical products and others. India is offering "82.7 per cent of its tariff lines which cover 95.3 per cent" of the grouping's exports. However, most agricultural items have reportedly been kept outside the purview of this deal. EFTA's "market access offer covers 100 percent of non-agri products". The services sector also forms a vital part of this trade agreement. The agreement would help stimulate services exports in areas such as information technology and facilitate the movement of key skilled personnel.

The Indian government had set an ambitious target of \$2 trillion in exports of goods and services by 2030. Achieving this will require policy action on a range of issues – from lowering tariffs to entering into deeper, more expansive free trade agreements while safeguarding the country's interests. It also calls for ensuring that measures are taken so that the benefits from these trade agreements are fully reaped. At this critical juncture in the country's development trajectory, it must push ahead.

SATWIK-CHIRAG

Their success at French Open, and their consistency, make them contenders for a badminton doubles gold at Paris Olympics

IN ASOMEWHAT unprecedented occurrence in Indian sport, one discipline is nurturing dreams of an Olympic gold, five months before the Paris Games. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have struck the sort of consistency on the year-round circuit that is rare for Indian badminton, not only in terms of the number of titles but also in winning crunch battles. Along with Javelin champion Neeraj Chopra and boxing talent Nikhat Zareen, Satwik-Chirag have kicked off discussions of not just any coloured medal, but if they can win the Paris gold. Such talk used to be a preserve of badminton powerhouses – China, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and Denmark.

It all started with the Thomas Cup team win in 2022, though the unassuming duo had won tour titles before that. India always faltered at team events before that because of weak doubles, but Satwik-Chirag set that score right two summers ago. 2023 though was the genuine breakout phase, of not just hovering in the Top 5 zone, but reaching World No 1 and then guarding that top position. They won the Indonesian title at Istora Stadium, the world's noisiest and most intimidating arena. Satwik-Chirag more importantly nailed the Asian Games gold, which is not only prestigious, but the top KRA of all top Asian badminton nations. Since December, the duo have made four tournament finals displaying unreal consistency, which makes them bona-fide gold contenders at Paris.

There isn't a single pairing on the tour that Satwik-Chirag hasn't beaten. While the two have won both on the pro circuit and in important majors, they are still without a World Championship title, though they have a bronze from 2022. At the last edition, they faltered before ensuring a podium. Despite badminton's popularity and Satwik-Chirag's consistency, they are not yet in the popularity stratosphere like Saina Nehwal or PV Sindhu. Their French Open title on Sunday didn't even figure on television, with producers preferring women's cricket and football. Maybe, it will take an Olympic medal to carve their legacy.



INDIRA JAISING

WHILE SOME PEOPLE associated with the ruling party and government have announced that once the magic figure of 400 MPs is reached the Constitution will be amended, others have denied it. Regardless of this agenda, the dramatic pre-election announcement of the Rules under the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 as the fulfilment of a poll promise furthers the resolve of the government to undermine India's constitutional secularism. Four years after the enactment of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, on the cusp of the announcement of the Lok Sabha polls, the Union government on Monday notified the Rules framed thereunder laying down the procedure for granting of citizenship under the Act.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024, have given rise to celebrations on the one hand and calls for a stay of the implementation of the CAA 2019, pending the Supreme Court's decision, on the other. Wisdom lies in staying the implementation of the Act since once citizenship is granted it is difficult to restore the status quo ante. Citizenship, after all, is the right to have rights – including the right to vote – which will have been exercised.

The CAA 2019 enables the grant of citizenship to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian "illegal immigrants" from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before December 31, 2014. The Act excludes Muslims from its purview and thus discriminates against them based on their religion alone. It has been alleged in the public domain by the government that the Act is based on giving fast-track citizenship to persecuted persons, but there is no mention of persecution in the statute or Rules, nor is any proof of persecution called for by the Rules prior to conferment of citizenship.

The Constitution confers citizenship by way of birth, descent and migration, regardless of religion. The provisions are codified in Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. These Articles reflect the secular nature – a basic feature – of the Constitution. The Citizenship Act (1955) was enacted by Parliament to regulate the grant and termination of citizenship. The 1955 Act also does not make religion a criterion for the grant of citizenship. With the amendment

Welcome all

Instead of CAA, government would do better to sign Geneva Convention on Refugees

and Rules, citizenship will be granted by naturalisation based on religion alone.

The Rules which have been notified list out a total of nine documents which can be submitted with the application to prove that the applicant is a national of Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan. There is no need to prove persecution, it is presumed! Entry 5 in Schedule IA says, "identity document of any kind issued by the Government of Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan or any other government authorities or government agencies in these countries would also suffice to prove nationality."

Schedule IB lists a total of 20 documents to prove that the applicant has entered India on or before December 31, 2014. Any one of these will suffice to prove the claim. These include a copy of the visa and immigration stamp on arrival in India; registration certificate or residential permit issued by the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRO) or Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) in India; slip issued by the Census enumerators in India; government-issued licence or certificate or permit in India (including driving licence, Aadhaar card, etc.); ration card of the applicant issued in India; any letter issued by the government or court to the applicant with official stamp; birth certificate of the applicant issued in India; marriage certificate, etc. One wonders whether the same liberal approach to proof of residence would be used for persons claiming to be Indian citizens when the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is prepared.

Apart from presuming persecution and liberalising proof of origin, the federal structure of administration has been centralised. Prior to these Rules, an application seeking citizenship was to be made to the district collector concerned. Now, the application of those seeking the benefit of the CAA is to be made to the empowered committee formed by the Union government.

The pending challenges to the CAA have pointed out that the Act violates Article 14 in that it denies equality before the law and equal protection of laws. It is worth recalling that Article 14 applies not just to citizens but to all persons. The CAA denies equal benefit of

fast-track citizenship by registration or naturalisation to similarly placed Muslims. It also leaves out of consideration persons of nations other than those mentioned in the Act. The ostensible object of the CAA – to give benefits of citizenship to persecuted minorities in these three countries – seems like nothing more than a cover to favour Hindus since it is a known fact that in those very countries, Muslims belonging to different sects are persecuted. There can be no presumption that the majority community will not persecute members of its own who dissent from the mainstream of politics. It is well known that the Ahmadiyya Muslims in Pakistan are one of the most persecuted minorities. Others have pointed out that the CAA 2019 does not extend the benefit of fast-track citizenship to persecuted minorities in neighbouring countries such as Myanmar and Sri Lanka, where the Rohingya and Tamils are persecuted minorities, respectively.

Protesters in Assam point out the internal contradictions in the law. For example, Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, grants citizenship to those who have migrated to Assam prior to March 24, 1971. With CAA, even those who came after 1971 but before December 2014 will be granted citizenship. It's hugely ironic that as recently as January this year, the central government defended Section 6A in the Supreme Court while some local groups stoutly opposed it. Perhaps this was done in the mistaken belief that if the 1971 cut-off date is upheld, so will the 2014 date. But the cut-off of 1971 did not discriminate based on religion whereas the 2014 date does.

While the policy of protecting persecuted persons is more than welcome, the solution is to grant them all refugee status, regardless of which religion they belong to. India must sign the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees 1961 to demonstrate its commitment to the persecuted and stop persecuting its own minorities. Failing this, the CAA will be seen as a project to establish a Hindu nation.

The writer is a former Additional Solicitor General of India



SANDIP ROY

WHEN I WAS a child, I came across a copy of Dale Carnegie's *How to Win Friends and Influence People* among my father's books. Ours was certainly not the only Indian home to have the book. I didn't realise it at the time, but I had stumbled upon my very first self-help book. That book was originally written in 1936 in the middle of the Great Depression. In hindsight, one can see its appeal in an America in the grip of a terrible economic downturn. It sold the idea that you could somehow bootstrap your way out of the mess. Self-help books promise a secret formula to individual success, an irresistible lure for those who feel powerless against huge economic forces. But they also need a charismatic salesperson with a great life story, preferably one that follows the rags-to-riches pipeline.

Self-help megastar Jay Shetty is now being accused of having fabricated or exaggerated parts of his life story. The story as put out by Shetty is that he grew up in the UK, went to a lecture by the monk Gauranga Das because his friend promised to take him to a bar afterwards, saw the light and lived several years in an ashram in India. Then he decided that instead of becoming a monk, his mission was to share that wisdom far and wide. The likes of Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey appeared on his podcast *On Purpose*, one of the 10 most-subscribed-to podcasts in the US last year. Jennifer Lopez was so impressed by him she had him officiate her wedding with Ben Affleck. No wonder people pay thousands of

BIG LITTLE LIES

Self-help gurus exploit our relentless anxiety to upgrade ourselves

The real appeal of a self-help book is the agency it pretends to confer upon you. Self-help gurus do that by claiming they have a step-by-step guide to whatever you need. It might be a slimmer you, a richer you, a more confident you or a you that lasts longer in bed. In short, a happier you. It also promises the way to that person who is there inside you. You just need the guru's secret key to unlock it. As a boy, I wanted to be a taller me. I wrote to some address in Karol Bagh, New Delhi for a self-help guide on how to grow taller in six months. I got a sheaf of xeroxed exercises in the mail. They didn't work.

dollars to attend the Jay Shetty Certification School's online course. Who would not want to have a Shetty life?

Now, an exposé in *The Guardian* notes Shetty didn't quite stumble upon Eastern mysticism. He grew up in a Hare Krishna family. He has been accused of plagiarism and using people's content without attribution. *The Guardian* says that most of the time he says he spent at an ashram in India was actually in Bhaktivedanta Manor, a Tudor estate outside London, making YouTube videos. Shetty's lawyers are trying to refute these allegations. But there is no evidence yet that his most high-profile followers have dumped him. Whether Shetty's life story had a lot of holes in it or not, it does not mean people don't want the life he created for himself.

The real appeal of a self-help book is the agency it pretends to confer upon you. Self-help gurus do that by claiming they have a step-by-step guide to whatever you need. It might be a slimmer you, a richer you, a more confident you or a you that lasts longer in bed. In short, a happier you. It also promises the way to that person who is there inside you. You just need the guru's secret key to unlock it. As a boy, I wanted to be a taller me. I wrote to some address in Karol Bagh, New Delhi for a self-help guide on how to grow taller in six months. I got a sheaf of xeroxed exercises in the mail. They didn't work.

However, the lure remains. Shetty had an added advantage – his cultural origin. For long, the West has preached the mantra of in-

dividualism to the East. Indians have swallowed that hook, line and Dale Carnegie. Then disaffected Westerners, fed up with the relentless pursuit of materialism, came looking for the meaning of life in the East. Now, we have the Jay Shettys who have turned that Eastern spirituality into a self-help commodity which they peddle back to the West, for example, through his latest bestseller, *8 Rules of Love* (2023), which explores four "Vedic" stages of love (with simple exercises).

The irony is that self-help is predicated on a firm belief in individualism. But the guru promises that each of us can become like him or her if we follow their course, no matter how different we are as individuals. We can all become Smarter, Better, Faster and eventually Superbetter once we know *The Secret*. But it's the self-help gurus who know the real secret about us. They understand that behind the constant pressure to upgrade our phones and gadgets lies a relentless anxiety that we are the ones who need to really upgrade. We may snicker at Shetty but that does not change our basic fear of inadequacy, and the hope that we can fix it somehow with a simple life hack.

In 1936, Dale Carnegie was teaching us how to win friends and influence people. In 2024, when every other person wants to be a social media influencer, nothing has really changed. Except now we are really looking to win not friends but followers.

Roy is a novelist and the author of *Don't Let Him Know*



MARCH 13, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

CM'S CORRUPTION CASE

IN A DRAMATIC development, the Congress (I) high command reversed its earlier decision to save former chief minister A R Antulay from the Prevention of Corruption Act of Maharashtra. Only a few hours before that, the Maharashtra Congress (I) legislature party had unanimously endorsed the party high command's directive to amend the Act. CM Vasantrao Patil explained that PM Gandhi had favoured the amendment.

UP PARLIAMENT CHAOS

BOTH HOUSES OF the UP state legislature had

to be adjourned twice. Vidhan Parishad for two-and-a-half hours following the suspension of two members and Vidhan Sabha for half an hour upon the suspension of a Janata Party member. Almost the entire opposition stormed into the well, shouting slogans when Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Ammar Rizvi moved a resolution for suspension.

FARMERS' PROTEST

THOUSANDS OF FARMERS began indefinite picketing outside Punjab Raj Bhavan to protest against the "failure" of the government, both at the Centre and in the state, to ensure remunerative prices for their produce, besides "un-

called for" increase in the power rates and the market fee. The heavily barricaded Raj Bhavan has been surrounded by the farmers who came for their "final battle".

RAIL TRACK EXPLOSION

A PASSENGER TRAIN had a narrow escape when a bomb exploded between Kalinwali and Ram Mandi in Haryana on the Hisar-Bhatinda section of the Northern Railway, minutes after the train had passed the spot on its way to Bhatinda in Punjab. A portion of the railway track was ripped off by the explosion suspected to be engineered by terrorists from Punjab.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Bracing for Trump

His possible presidency is worrying US allies. New Delhi is well-poised on the security front but may need a new framework for economic and trade cooperation



RAJA MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

A RECENT HEADLINE in *Nikkei Asia*, a leading English-language publication from Japan, said America's allies in the Indo-Pacific "tremble at the prospect of Trump's return". The mood is even grimmer in Europe. A few days ago, Donald Trump warned Europeans that he would let Russia invade allies who do not pay their share of the defence burden in NATO. Whether he was serious or not, there is no denying Trump's visceral hostility to allies in Asia and Europe — he sees them as free-riding on America's shoulders.

As the chances of Donald Trump winning the grudge match against President Joe Biden brighten, the apprehensions of US allies in Europe and Asia are getting darker. Even if Trump does not win, his Republican Party's growing opposition to foreign commitments and a deepening sense of "America First" promise to produce major changes in Eurasian geopolitics. On the face of it, this does not look too threatening to India. After all, India is not an "ally" of the US and does not depend on its military forces for its security. A closer look, however, points to more complex consequences of Trump's "America First" policies. Any American military retraction from Eurasia will dramatically alter the balance of power in this region and produce outcomes that are patently unfavourable to India.

Eurasia without America will be a dream come true for those strategists in Moscow and Beijing who fancy their chances of building a new regional order dominated by them. It's a nightmare for the neighbours of Russia and China. Although Moscow and Beijing have no love for Trump, they relish the prospect of exploiting the divisions that Trump might sharpen among the US and its allies.

Although India rarely debates the consequences of a Europe without America, it is acutely conscious of the dangers of a unipolar Asia dominated by China. It is possible to see that without American presence, Asia could easily slip into the Chinese orbit. As a maritime power, Delhi's natural preference is for a multipolar order in Eurasia that is not dominated by one power or an axis of continental powers. Yet, Delhi must prepare for major changes in Eurasia amidst the current volatility in US domestic politics and its inevitable global impact.

But first, we must note the contradiction between the allied apprehensions about Trump and his record in office during 2017-21. It was indeed during his presidency that the US National Security Strategy moved Washington away from wasting its energies battling insurgencies in the badlands of the Greater Middle East to dealing with the challenges presented by an increasingly assertive Russia and China.

For all the accusations that Trump was putty in the hands of the Russian leader Vladimir Putin, his administration ramped up the pressures against Moscow. More consequently, the Trump Administration began the bold reversal of four decades of Washington's strategy to befriend Beijing and expand the US economic interdependence with China. Trump imposed new tariffs on China, began an effort to reduce eco-



nomic exposure to Beijing, and revived the Quadrilateral Forum as part of a new Indo-Pacific strategy to balance China. Biden has built on the decisive Asian strategy articulated by Trump.

If Trump's record is so impressive, why are many of America's friends worried about his return to the White House? Three factors stand out. First, many chancelleries around the world believe that the "adults in the room" and the American "deep state" restrained Trump from pursuing his convictions on allies as free riders during his presidency. In both Europe and Asia, Trump came close to taking radical steps against allies, such as withdrawing US troops, but held back. This time, America's allies worry that Trump will be less restrained. They also fear that Trump's impulsive character and transnational approach will be more on display and do irreparable damage to long-standing US alliances.

Second, despite the widespread Trump-bashing in the US and allied foreign policy establishments, the former president is making an important political point. US allies can't expect the American taxpayer to spend blood and treasure forever defending their partners who are unwilling to do their bit. The traditional internationalists — both liberal and conservative — believe it is a price worth paying to sustain American leadership of the international system and the benefits that accrue from it. For Trump and a significant section of the Republican Party, the entrenched "globalism" of the US foreign policy elite is an important part of the problem. It is a view with some resonance on the left of the US political spectrum that equates American globalism with a disastrous penchant for empire.

Third, Trump rejects the long-standing assumption in the American establishment that generous non-reciprocal access to the US market should be granted in return for

On the security front, India's outlook is positive. The US search for capable partners who are willing to contribute to regional security in Eurasia fits nicely with Delhi's own great power ambitions. The quicker India moves on building its military capabilities and the greater its willingness to deploy it for collective defence with its partners, the faster its rise in the Eurasian security hierarchy will be. On the economic front, though, Delhi has a challenge. That India is the 'tariff king' is stuck in Trump's head, and he frequently lashed out at India's protectionism.

geopolitical favours from allies. This seemed a good deal for the US when it was an economic colossus towering over the ruins of post-war Eurasia, and it needed to win strong military allies in the war against global communism. Trump and the anti-globalist tribe argue that the American people and its economy have paid a huge price — in terms of lost manufacturing jobs — for this grand bargain. They are no longer willing to trade the US market for geopolitical gains. In his first term, Trump not only targeted China with tariffs but also allies in Europe and Asia. Trump is now threatening to impose an across-the-board tariff of 10 per cent on all imports into the US. He also promises to slap tariffs up to 60 per cent on imports from China.

Where does all this leave India?

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On the economic front, though, Delhi has a challenge. That India is the "tariff king" is stuck in Trump's head, and he frequently lashed out at India's protectionism.

The writer is a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

Seven lessons from my guru

Fali Nariman taught me value of forgiveness, integrity and a lifelong love for learning



SUBHASH SHARMA

OUR MOST REVERED Fali S Nariman, who died last month, had the prophetic ability to foresee events with wisdom, clarity, intuition and a deep understanding of human nature. His writings and actions will continue to inspire and guide us. I joined him in 1986, through the Bar Council of India placement, for one year. He had a great love for learning till the end. His thoughts were like a cascading waterfall, always moving, never stopping. At first, I did not understand his fast-thinking, hurried approach. But when I stayed with him and his compassionate wife Bapsi, I felt their peace and love. I started aligning myself with their good habits and values. A silent agreement between a great mentor and a seeker who wanted to learn was thus made.

In chapter five of his autobiography, *Before Memory Fades*, he shares 28 rules for young lawyers. I wish to talk about how he thought and what he valued. I learnt from him in his "chamber of hard knocks" and wish to talk about his habits of conserving energy and always channelling it in the right direction.

One: How did he think? He neither emulated his mind like a monk nor did yoga. He let thoughts flow without judgement or attachment. He stayed calm and focused on those thoughts, even in his subconscious mind and when asleep. He would get up at odd hours of the night and call me to discuss new

thoughts on a subject. His way of deeper thinking is hard to understand. It's like a compass that helps us find direction. To learn from him, I had to be silent and focused, with my ears open. I had to read and reflect more. His guidance helped me to understand him better. I learned to maintain equipoise in my thoughts and find stillness around his dynamism at home and in the courts. It wasn't just a goal, but a silent journey that we went on together for decades. Ours was not just a *guru-shishya* relationship — it went beyond that.

Two: He knew how to master his thoughts and could remain focused on multiple things even amidst the noise. While working on a case, he wrote articles, prepared speeches and settled other petitions with ease. He cared for minor details, once telling me, "God is there". Look sharp, he told me. He valued time. He read a lot and wrote down all his ideas and concepts on small slips that he would keep in his pocket, like valuables, and which he would later develop. I picked up this habit too — it helped me evolve with him. Whenever we had free time in court, we would visit the magnificent Judges Library, like students seeking more knowledge, especially the gold mine that is the collection of foreign journals.

Three: Forgiveness is a divine virtue, one that very few people have. It was his hallmark. If someone was mean or ridiculed him, he would laugh and let it go or ignore it. He often said, don't hold onto bad feelings and try to be forgiving, otherwise your perceptions and outlook of life will be affected. Focus on what makes you happy and don't compare yourself with others — the competition is with your own self. He always said God and goodness are everywhere.

Four: He knew how to keep away from bad influences and ignore unkind people. He chose a smart way to make choices by diverting his energy towards what he believed in. He focused on doing his best in life and listening to his heart. He did not take either praise or criticism seriously because both can upset the balance of the mind. He said to me that an individual's charm depends on his will power and how much awareness he has developed. To remain happy, make your life easy and simple.

Five: He always loved truthfulness, no matter how inconvenient it may be. He stayed true to his own integrity, like the needle of a compass, and ignored manipulators and liars. He never gave legal opinions that he was not convinced of. Human rights and independence of the judiciary were issues that were close to his heart.

Six: In any matter, he would reflect carefully and did not mix his subjective feelings with the objective facts. His mantra for clear

thinking was: "Don't subjectify the object and don't objectify the subject." He didn't let his strong personality get in the way of clear thinking. He remained detached in order to think better. When working on a case, he explored all angles and prepared well from the other side's perspective as well. He was a creative genius in court and nobody could ever guess his next strategic move! Even at the end of his life, at the age of 95, his memory never faded and his legal acumen and clarity of mind remained outstanding.

Seven: When preparing any case, we would, after going over the facts, hunt for materials and cases from across the world. Long-haul conferences brought objectivity and excellence. This grinding process of rewriting, recycling and polishing continued for days until perfection was attained. He would then pick out points and argue them before the court. He never crossed his *Lakshman Rekha* and respected the judges.

Two days before he died, he spoke to me about his two great law teachers, Yeshwant Chandrachud and Nani Palkhivala, and how they inculcated the love of law in him.

It was a great joy working with my prophet. He taught me not only what to see but how to see it consciously. May his grace and wisdom shine on all of us forever.

The writer is an advocate

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"A kind of politics is taking root where everything is justified to stay in power, including pardoning convicts to get their support to prop up ruling coalitions.. It is about time our ruling class realised that the rule of law is above and beyond their petty political calculations."

— THE KATHMANDU POST

A long-awaited ghar wapsi

Citizenship (Amendment) Act undoes decades of injustice on marginalised people. Opposition's resistance to it is disappointing



GURU PRAKASH

IN HIS LETTER of resignation, recalling one of the many state-sponsored atrocities on the Scheduled Castes in East Pakistan, Jogendra Nath Mandal, one of the key architects of Pakistan, who served as its first Minister of Law and Labour, observed, "The armed police came and the local Muslims also joined them. They not only raided some houses of the Namasudras but mercilessly beat both men and women, destroyed their properties and took away valuables. The merciless beating of a pregnant woman resulted in abortion on the spot. This brutal action on the part of the local authority created panic over a large area." Subsequent massacres of Dalits in Marchjhapi, Sundarbans, in 1979, and in Sandeshkhali in 2024 are an indication of the systemic rot against socially vulnerable communities in this region. One of the alleged culprits in Sandeshkhali, Shahjahan Sheikh, is also accused of unleashing violence on women from the SC/ST communities under the patronage of the ruling party in the state. Therefore, the politics of Dalit-Muslim unity often ignited by stakeholders for the pursuit of power has no historical resonance. There must be an academic interrogation of the treatment of Dalits and other marginalised sections in the Indian Subcontinent.

The Ministry of Home Affairs' decision to notify the rules for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 must be viewed from a historical perspective. In 1947, when India was partitioned, the Hindu population in Pakistan was about 24 per cent. Today, it is not even 1 per cent. In 1947, Hindu population in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) was 30 per cent. Today, it is about 7 per cent. Where did they disappear? The complete absence of any human-rights discourse (international and domestic) around the persecuted minorities of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh is appalling. As per a report by the Hindu American Foundation, "Abduction and forced conversion of Hindu girls is rampant (Approx 1,000 Hindu and Christian girls in Pakistan are abducted and converted to Islam annually. Between 2004-18, there were 7,430 reported cases of kidnappings of Hindu girls in the Sindh province alone, while the actual number of cases is much higher.)"

Dalits and tribal communities have finally become a factor in the domestic political narrative for the right reasons but the canvas of politics around them needs a broader discussion. The CAA rules are intended to provide refuge to the thousands of people who have become stateless over the decades and have moved from across the border, predominantly owing to Islamic

fundamentalism and sectarian violence. In a report by a leading Indian newspaper, it was found that "of the 5,764 eligible families that have applied for citizenship, 70 per cent of them are Dalits". It is shocking to see the Congress party and its senior leadership opposing a law that is a step in the direction of the fulfilment of our constitutional obligation. Noted thinker on Dalits and senior advocate Nitin Meshram welcomed the decision on X: "People from Bengal who elected Babasaheb Ambedkar and sent him to the Constituent Assembly to uplift the marginalised sections will finally get the Indian citizenship after waiting for almost 75 years. Nothing can be better news than this for the Bahujan community in India."

There are similar examples from Western democracies like the US and the UK where preferential treatment for citizenship was extended to persecuted minorities. US Senator Frank Lautenberg in 1989-90 led a similar campaign for persecuted minorities in the Soviet Union and Iran. Under this amendment, persons from minority communities such as Christians, Bahais and Jewish people from Iran were given refuge and citizenship eventually, primarily on the ground of being persecuted. The Nationality and Borders Act of the United Kingdom also offered nationality, asylum, and immigration, including to victims of slavery and human trafficking. Where will the Hindus suffering from institutional oppression go for protection? India is a natural home to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and people following multiple other faiths.

The age of suspended disbelief for Opposition parties is sadly continuing on this affirmative legislation. As a student of law and a researcher, I have yet to find a provision in this Act that disallows a person from the Muslim community to apply for citizenship. On the contrary, anyone who has come to India after the cut-off date in December 2014, regardless of their faith, will be treated at par. Rahul Gandhi will ask mediapersons about their caste in an open press conference but will not be mindful of the caste of the people belonging to persecuted minorities in Pakistan. This is opposition for the sake of opposition. Lalith Prasad and Akhilesh Yadav will speak about backward communities but will rarely go beyond the political interest of their families. Women from the Matua (Dalit) community in Bengal were seen celebrating after the notification of the rules by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

This Act undoes decades of injustice on Dalits from Pakistan and Bangladesh. Nothing can be a more fitting tribute to Savitribai Phule, BR Ambedkar and Jogendra Nath Mandal than to pave the way for a genuine *ghar wapsi* of people. It is an emotional moment for the millions of Dalits not only from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh but also across India who are cherishing the return of their people after an endless wait.

The writer is assistant professor at Patna University and adviser to the Dalit Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUBLIC INFORMATION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Who paid whom' (IE, March 12). The data from SBI ledgers on electoral bonds may turn out to be a letdown if one is looking for a straight line connecting the real donor to a specific party. KYC notwithstanding, the purchaser of the bond could well be masked. It will take a lot of time to probe the real donor through digital forensics. We already know the amount received by each party from the bonds. In the meantime, parties will no doubt push through inspired posts of the presumed nexus, using digital media overreach all through the election campaign, against each other. The electorate will be no wiser until a clear picture of donor-party conjunction emerges, far later. But then public memory being short, the data will reside only in record books.

R Narayanan, Mumbai

RIGHT TO DISSENT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Let them speak' (IE, March 11). It is disappointing that the SC had to issue a directive to educate police on the freedom of speech. If a citizen can't question the establishment, can't doubt the set rules and accepts almost everything remaining silent, it reflects a moribund state. Our law needs to be dynamic in an ever-changing society. Suppressing dissent, in the words of the late Justice Fali Nariman has "a chilling effect" on the freedom of speech. The right to dissent is core and is implicit in the concept of freedom of speech. But that can also not mean free rein to protest everything. A forward-looking and educated society must welcome rationality.

Madhusree Guha, Kolkata

BIG SCREEN SPECTACLE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Nolan's world' (IE, March 12). The Supreme Court's order for the SBI to disclose information under the electoral bonds scheme is welcome as it will expose the nexus of the political parties and the moneybags. Voters must know who the unscrupulous donors and corrupt recipients are. The electoral process is at the heart of the success of India as a democracy. It is common knowledge that huge amounts of black money are infused in the electoral exercise. This is an injustice to the smaller political parties in our multi-party democracy. Also, voters have a right to know about the corrupt underbelly of campaign financing so that they can make informed decisions.

Atul Thakre, Nagpur

Dattatray S Giri, Thane



SUBHASH SHARMA

OUR MOST REVERED Fali S Nariman, who died last month, had the prophetic ability to foresee events with wisdom, clarity, intuition and a deep understanding of human nature. His writings and actions will continue to inspire and guide us. I joined him in 1986, through the Bar Council of India placement, for one year. He had a great love for learning till the end. His thoughts were like a cascading waterfall, always moving, never stopping. At first, I did not understand his fast-thinking, hurried approach. But when I stayed with him and his compassionate wife Bapsi, I felt their peace and love. I started aligning myself with their good habits and values. A silent agreement between a great mentor and a seeker who wanted to learn was thus made.

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Mukhtar Ansari convicted in 1990 arms licence case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, MARCH 12

ALLOTMENT OF HOUSES MEANT FOR SLUM-DWELLERS

Rajkot civic body cancels allocation of 23 houses to 2 BJP corporators' kin

BJP issues show-cause notices to corporators Devu Jadav and Vaji Goltar

GOPAL KATESHIYA
RAJKOT, MARCH 12

IN YET another conviction for strongman-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, a court in Varanasi on Tuesday convicted him in a case for obtaining an arms licence by use of forged documents in 1990. The case was registered at Mohammadabad police station in Ghazipur, and the former MLA was held guilty by a special MP/MLA court in Varanasi on Tuesday. The court is likely to announce the quantum of punishment on Wednesday.

Additional District Government Counsel (Crime) Manish Kumar said on Tuesday, "The allegation against Mukhtar and one other person was that they conspired to obtain an arms licence for Ansari with forged signatures of their district magistrate and superintendent of police for the district (Ghazipur). The second accused in the case, Gauri Shankar Lal Srivastava, was posted as an arms clerk in the district at the time. He died during the course of the trial."

"We have decided to cancel allocation of houses to 23 applicants after an inquiry concluded that these applicants, who are related to the two corporators, own properties elsewhere and hence, are ineligible to get houses from RMC," Rajkot municipal commissioner Anand Patel told The Indian Express.

Patel had constituted a committee headed by a deputy municipal commissioner for conducting an inquiry after Congress leaders last week alleged corruption in allocation of houses free of cost to families in lieu of their huts in the slum pockets of Sagarnagar, Manchhanagar and Kabir Tekari.

The committee has submitted its report stating 23 of the applicants allotted houses are ineligible. Based on the report, we have also decided to withhold allocation of houses to 14 other applicants as we need to verify their details further, though it has been established that they do not own any property else-

where," the municipal commissioner stated.

Sagarnagar, Manchhanagar and Kabir Tekari are on the western bank of Randarda and Lalpari lakes. RMC wants to develop these lakes and has therefore declared these untenable slums. According to a government policy for slum rehabilitation, RMC has decided to demolish their huts and kutchha houses in these three slum pockets and allocate them 1BHK flats free of cost.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel had virtually overseen a draw of lots for allocating alternate houses in Gokul Nagar and Ambavadi to 193 applicants from these slums on March 7. However,

Congress alleged that the beneficiaries included Devu Jadav's husband Mansukh Jadav and his close relatives as well as kin of Goltar claiming they were not eligible as they already owned houses elsewhere in the city.

On Tuesday, Rajkot city BJP president Mukesh Doshi said his party has served show-cause no-

tices on Jadav and Goltar. "Prima facie, they are liable to face disciplinary action for their behaviour.

While the primary allegations are against their husbands Mansukh Jadav and Kava Goltar respectively, the two corporators should not have allowed their husbands to function in the manner they did. But following the principle of natural justice, we need to give the twin corporators an opportunity to be heard before disciplinary action is taken against them. Therefore, we have served them show-cause notices, asking them to respond within 48 hours," Doshi told The Indian Express.

Meanwhile, a purported video has surfaced on social media showing Mansukh sitting in what looks like a chamber in the RMC headquarters and talking about the transfer of an employee. "We have taken cognisance of that video also. Both Mansukh Jadav and Kava Goltar are also BJP workers and due action will be taken against them, too," said Doshi.

Justice Kant told Attorney General R Venkataramani and Additional Solicitor General N Venkataraman, who appeared for

Consider 'one-time package' for Kerala, SC suggests Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE SUPREME Court Tuesday asked the Centre to consider allowing the Kerala government a "one-time package" in the present financial year to help it tide over funds shortage while the central government could simultaneously impose more stringent conditions for the next financial year.

After the Kerala government filed a suit against the Centre over borrowing limit cap, the Supreme Court last week called upon both sides to sort out their differences over financial issues.

On Tuesday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Kerala government, informed the bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan that there has been no headway in the negotiations as the Centre declined its demand for sanction to borrow an additional Rs 19,351 crore.

Justice Kant told Attorney General R Venkataramani and Additional Solicitor General N Venkataraman, who appeared for

the Centre, "What we are trying to impress upon you is, do something as a special measure."

The ASG conveyed that the Centre has already declined a demand of Rs 25,000 crore by another state. Justice Kant said the Centre could try to be "slightly liberal" in the case.

"Find a way out...what you can do...as of now, before March 31, you can be slightly liberal in relaxing your certain norms as a one-time package as a special case, subject to more rigid conditions the next financial year."

However, the ASG said, "What will happen is that some states come to the court and get this. Some other States agree on our decline letter. So we will be divided into states which come to court and which don't. These are the problems which the Union will face".

Justice Kant remarked, "Let the experts explore. What they can do is, whatever you can say before 31st March, you can defer it by the first quarter of the next year..."

The ASG agreed to consider the court's suggestion and get back Wednesday.

Foreign Secretary Mohan Kwatra's tenure extended by six months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE GOVERNMENT Tuesday granted a six-month extension in service tenure of Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, who was scheduled to retire at the end of next month, according to an official order.

The decision was taken by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Kwatra, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, took charge as the foreign secretary on April 30, 2022.

Kwatra, a career diplomat with over 34 years of experience, served as the Ambassador of India to France from August 2017 to February 2020, before diplomatic posting to Nepal.

He also held the position of a Joint Secretary in the PMO for two years between October 2015 and August 2017. Kwatra headed the policy planning and research division of the MEA between July 2013 and October 2015 and later served as the head of the Americas Division in the Foreign Ministry.

DD to telecast live 'aarti' from Ayodhya

DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

LESS THAN two months after the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, and just ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, national broadcaster Doordarshan has announced that it would live telecast morning prayers offered to the Ram Lalla idol everyday.

In a post on X on Monday, Doordarshan said DD National would live telecast the 'aarti' offered to Ram Lalla every morning from 6.30 am.

Later on Tuesday evening, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the "facility" has been mooted "keeping in mind the immense faith of the devotees of Lord Ram". "Now, you will be able to have the divine darshan of Shri Ram Lalla from your home every day," Thakur posted on X, adding,

"Keeping in view the immense faith of Ram devotees in Lord Shri Ram, Prasar Bharati has started this big facility."

Speaking to *The Indian Express* on the rationale behind the national broadcaster airing a religious programme on a daily basis, Gaurav Dwivedi, CEO of Prasar Bharati, said: "From time to time, spiritual programmes are run on Doordarshan, depending on the cultural calendar and time of the year."

"In fact, many years ago, Christmas mass from the Vatican was also telecast live on Doordarshan," he said, adding the content is decided on the basis of perceived audience interest, besides catering to cultural calendar.

Guidelines to curb unethical pharma sector practices out

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 13

IN ITS latest guidelines to prevent unethical pharma industry practices that can influence healthcare professionals, the Union government has allowed firms to arrange medical education workshops and provide research grants for healthcare professionals, provided these are done in a transparent manner.

"...Conference, seminar, workshop, etc. should only be allowed through a well-defined, transparent, and verifiable set of guidelines," says the Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP-2024) that was sent to all pharmaceutical associations on Tuesday.

The guidelines prohibit companies from conducting continued medical education (CME) workshops in foreign countries. Companies must also share details of such workshops on their website, including the expenditure they incurred. The firms "may be subject to independent, random, or risk-based audit".

The organisers must also share the process to select participants and speakers, and all involved must comply with income tax

provisions. The guidelines allow the industry to support research for studies authorised by bodies such as the Indian Council for Medical Research or the Drug Controller General of India.

But in such cases, healthcare professionals should also have been engaged as a consultant or advisor on a honorarium subject to tax provisions. All expenditures by the company must also comply with tax provisions.

The new set of guidelines maintains a range of restrictions from the previous version in operation since 2015. Pharma firms are still barred from giving various forms of gifts to healthcare workers and their families — such as travel, accommodation and monetary grants. "All associations are requested to constitute an Ethics Committee for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices, set up a dedicated UCPMP portal on their website, and take necessary steps towards implementation of this Code," the guidelines say.

"In cases where disciplinary, penal, or remedial action lies within the domain of any agency or authority of the Government in accordance with the statute, the Committee may send its recommendations to such agency or authority," they say.

Vanchiton ko Variyata Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee



"Today, the most deprived and the most backward people are the first priority in our government. We gave the last section in the society the first status in development."

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Launch of Pradhanmantri Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ)- A National Portal

Distribution of 1 lakh loans for employment business to the beneficiaries of deprived groups

Empowerment of beneficiaries through Venture Capital Fund, ASIIM and NAMASTE schemes

Encouragement of new business opportunities

Launch of distribution of 1 lakh PPE kits and NAMASTE Ayushman Health Cards

By Sh. Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister

(Through Video Conferencing)

Wednesday, 13 March 2024 | 4:00 pm

In the August Presence of

Dr. Virendra Kumar
Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment,
Government of India

Ramdas Athawale
Hon'ble Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment,
Government of India

A Narayanaswamy
Hon'ble Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment,
Government of India

Pratima Bhousik
Hon'ble Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment,
Government of India

10 Years of Welfare for the Underprivileged

- 25 crore people were lifted out of poverty in the last 10 years
- 4 crore houses, more than 14 crore tap water connections, 10 crore Ujjwala connections and more than 12 crore toilets made the lives of poor easier
- Over 23 lakh crore sanctioned in 41 crore loan accounts under Mudra Scheme, of which 51% beneficiaries are entrepreneurs from SC/ST and OBC categories
- Under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes, budget allocation has increased from 41,500 crore in 2014 to 1,42,000 crore
- Scholarship worth more than 47,500 crore to about 19 crore SC, EBC and OBC students
- Assistance of 11,700 crore to over 25 lakh beneficiaries to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Sanitation Workers
- Development of Dr. Ambedkar International Centre promoting Buddhist studies and Panchteerth scheme
- Constitution of Development and Welfare Board for De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities

cbc 38/10/13/0075/2324

Visit PM-SURAJ portal pmsuraj.dosje.gov.in for more information

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NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister



DR. MOHAN YADAV
Chief Minister Madhya Pradesh

Pilot drone didis gear up to push forward MP's farm economy

Drone operating rural women symbolize technological empowerment

The rural women from humble economic background trained in operating drone are now gearing up to positively change the prevailing farm scenario in Madhya Pradesh. Farmers will find an army of lady drone pilots to help them in spraying fertilizers and monitoring crops in sizeable fields. Rural women are flying drones now. Rural women members of Self Help Groups efficiently operating drone remote symbolize technological empowerment of women in rural Madhya Pradesh. Armed with technological knowledge, their confidence level has gone high. They have proved that with a little support from the Government they can do wonders.

Bhagwati Ahiwar of Basai village of Datia district is a member of Suhani Self-Help Group. She is working with the group since 2021. This group makes organic fertilizers. Bhagwati learned to fly drone from MITS Gwalior. She first heard about drones from the Rural Livelihood Mission team members. When she came to know that it is useful in farming, she expressed her keenness to learn it and increase the use of



technology in farming while making farmers aware of the benefits. Sharing her experience, she says she is more

women aware of socio-economic issues. She got training from MITS Gwalior. She says that drones have now



now confident. Learning and connecting with new technology is a new experience. Earlier we used to consider tractor as a big machine. Now we realize that the drone is going to be even more useful than the tractor. She tells that her husband is very happy to see her flying the drone. The village people are also very happy. About future planning, she says that spraying organic fertilizers through drones will now be a main farm activity. I want to associate more women with this.

Geeta Kushwaha of Pipraua village of Indargarh tehsil of the same district is a member of Maa Ratangarh self-help group since 2016. This group is making

become necessary to reduce the burden of farming and for good production. She says that she is very happy and confidence level has increased manifold. Everyone in the village has been supportive. "Now I have become an inspiration for many youth in my village", she adds.

Khushboo from Dongarpur Lodha village of Morena district has been associated with Kali Self Help Group for the last four years. She says that while working in the group, she learned a lot like doing online transactions and recharge and learned many new technologies. "A call from a staff member of Livelihood Mission in December for drone training changed my perception. I said yes for the training". She was excited to learn drones. Seeing the drone, it felt like flying a kite. After knowing the benefits of the drone, she became even happier. Sharing her experience, she says that after training, she learnt to control drones and how to make videos at the time of take-off and landing. She says

that she can earn well by helping farmers. Family members are fully supporting Khushboo because she has learned a lot at a young age. She has also been able to help the family. Raidi of Ublad village of Jobat tehsil of Alirajpur district has been working in Bad Falya Self Help Group for the last three years. This group runs activities related to farming and household business ventures. She received training from Soaring Aerotech Private Limited, Prestige Organization, Indore. Why was there a need to learn to fly a drone? When asked, she said that it has now become necessary in farming and it will become easier for farmers to spray fertilizers. This can also be helpful to earn livelihoods. While sharing her experience of flying the drone, she says that while flying the drone, it felt like flying a small helicopter. She says that the people of the village were not aware of this technology. But after drone

training, when everyone was told about the new technology, everyone was happy. He hopes that now this small but important work of farming will also fetch good wages. She says that more and more people should join other farming related businesses. Now more people have to be added to the group. Kamla Yadav of Hara Tola Aloni of Amarapur development block of Dindori district has been associated with Jai Maa Bhavani Self Help Group for the last one and a half years.

This group provides support to women for small scale industries at the local level. She has been engaged in farming for 15 years. When she came to know about drones, she came forward and enrolled herself as trainee. She considers drones as a symbol of her technical proficiency and says that women also need to become technically competent. This is not just man's job. She is happy. She

says that now it has become very easy to spray fertilizer in the fields. The village people and all the family members are cooperating. She feels proud of herself when villagers ask about farming and express thanks for the cooperation. We want all women

members in our group to learn operating drones.

Employment prospects

As many as 89 rural women of Madhya Pradesh have received training in flying drones. This is possible in 15 days training. The drone pilot can get an honorarium of up to Rs 15,000 and the co-pilot can get around Rs 10,000. Women's self-help groups will provide services to farmers and empower themselves. It is an initiative to modernize agricultural methods by giving modern technical knowledge to rural women. This will strengthen the agriculture-based rural economy.



Empowering rural women through technological innovation will also provide opportunities for rural women as drone pilots, mechanics and spare-part dealers. This will help in further empowering them with a new role in agriculture-based rural economy.



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women aware of socio-economic issues. She got training from MITS Gwalior. She says that drones have now

Deep-Tech Research and Discovery Campus (DRDC) of IIT Indore inaugurated at Ujjain

Madhya Pradesh has now taken up strategic measures to streamline technological education with greater emphasis on research. The engineering colleges are being developed like Indian Institutes of Technology. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has focused on developing college campuses akin to IITs. Establishment of satellite campus will give a new direction to technical education in Madhya Pradesh after inauguration of the Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship Experiential Learning Center (Deep-Tech Research and Discovery Centre) at the Government Engineering College, Ujjain. Madhya Pradesh is on the path of assuming the status of Hub of Technological Knowledge. Three state-of-the-art labs Astronomy and Space Engineering Heritage and Innovation Centre, Laser Engineering Lab and Maker Space Lab have come up at Engineering College campus of Ujjain.

The DeepTech Research Center of IIT Indore is an example of implementing new education policy in an effective manner. Ujjain will be having a world class research centre in future technologies with support from IIT Indore. Deep-Tech Research and Discovery Campus (DRDC) of IIT Indore will come up at Ujjain. Proposed Cost of the Project is Rs. 474 Crores towards the development of the infrastructure in the new campus at Ujjain. The Deep-Tech Research and Discovery Campus will support conglomerate of Deep-Tech Research laboratories, Discovery Centre for realising new dimensions of research through translation and its application through Lab-to-market Centre involving start-up culture and entrepreneurship. IIT Indore

endeavours to establish a leadership in the advanced domains. The Deep-Tech Research and Discovery Campus proposes to develop and

technologies for the benefit of society. It would involve the help of scientists, industry experts and technology conversion specialists to lead the translational research. The centre activities would involve high-end simulations, packaging, integration of sensors, IoT and semiconductor devices, and communication technologies and instrumentation. The Lab-to-market Centre would involve conversion from lab-scale models to prototypes and to products through up-scaling, integration, testing and field trials. It will further involve expert advice and participation of commercialization experts to evolve business plans for incubators leading to venture creation. To support man-power skilling in the high-tech areas by conducting massive online as well as hybrid programs. Some of the courses that are being planned include bio-medical device development, industrial laser and optics technology and so on.

Deep-Tech Research Laboratories

These include the following FOUR research domains -

A. Astronomy and Space Technology focusing on - Detector technology, Astronomical heritage, Computing and Analytics and Space technology.

B. Lasers and Applied Optics Technology focusing on - Photonics fabrication and quantum optics, Laser Development for Manufacturing, Measurements, and Medicine, Opto-mechatronics System and Laser Communications, Bio-photonics related areas, Advanced imaging and nanophotonic.

C. Semiconductor Fabrication focusing on VLSI chip design and manufacturing, Flexible electronics, IoT, Sensors and Display technologies.

D. Biomedical Instrumentation focusing on Biophotonics, biomedical imaging, bio printing, biomedical instrumentation.



deliver several high-tech technologies and products through its research and discovery processes leading to entrepreneurial ventures in the deep-tech domain. It will build a specific infrastructure to house the Deep-Tech Research and Discovery Campus at Ujjain to take the culture of translational research to next level of delivering deep technology product in the market. The campus will house a Conglomerate of Deep-Tech Research laboratories, Discovery Centre, and Lab-to-Market Centre with the state-of-art equipment and facilities and necessary buildings to house them. Deep-Tech Research Laboratories will undertake high-end research in the cutting-edge areas and develop new technologies and products for the benefit of industry and society that can be taken up further to prototype development and entrepreneurial ventures. The Discovery Centre will involve hand-holding of the research and augmenting as well as adopting it into useful

MP to achieve self-reliance in medical devices

Madhya Pradesh is warming up to take a long jump in medical device sector under the leadership of the Chief Minister Dr. Mohan

providers, pharmaceuticals and healthcare insurance industry. The medical devices constitute a multi-disciplinary sector. Major constituents are

Electronic equipment, Implants, Consumables and Disposables, Surgical instruments and In-Vitro Diagnostic Reagents. The medical devices sector is a sunrise sector and is growing at a fast pace. The market size of the medical devices sector in the country is estimated to be Rs. 90,000 crore. Madhya Pradesh has enormous potential to emerge as hub of medical device

manufacturing. The focus is to achieve universal access to good quality Medical Devices for ensuring quality healthcare services to all at all ages. Secondly, enhancing the domestic manufacturing capacity and capability for newer technologies to make the medical devices affordable. Thirdly, ensuring patient-centric care.

The medical device park on 200 acres is a part of Vikram Udyogpuri, which is located at village Narwar about 8 km far from Ujjain and 12 km far from Dewas and has a total area of 442.3 Ha (109acres). The Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor is going to be a boon for Vikram Udyogpuri Limited and make it easier for achieving the goals of enhancing employment, industrial output and exports from the region, with sectoral objectives of providing quality industrial investments and world-class infrastructure facilities including supporting industrial, physical and social infrastructure.

HC reserves verdict on Cong plea against tax tribunal order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday reserved its verdict on a Congress plea against the March 8 Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) order, dismissing its application to stay the recovery of over Rs 105 crore in outstanding taxes for assessment year 2018-19, while indicating that the order may be pronounced Wednesday.

A division bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Purushandra Kumar Kaurav heard both parties — Congress and the Income Tax department — and orally observed that it did not see any “basic or fundamental infirmity” in the ITAT’s order and that it had taken a “balanced and plausible” view.

“As we read this (ITAT) order, the petitioner has itself to blame. The demand is of 2021... you don’t seem to have made any attempt to offer to securitize... the demand amount.... Somebody in the petitioner’s office went on to sleep right from 2021,” the bench orally observed.

Appearing for Congress, senior advocate Vivek Tankha said this argument was made before the ITAT, stating that like other people who had been put to terms for securitising 20% of the demand amount, the party had urged it can be put to similar terms.

Seeking protection for the party for the time being, Tankha said that with the Lok Sabha election announcement expected soon, the party is under pressure as its accounts have been seized.

Appearing for the I-T department, advocate Zoheb Hossain said although the party was offered to deposit 20% of the demand amount back in October 2021, it was not done.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

94TH ANNIVERSARY OF DANDI MARCH

PM Modi launches ₹1,200 crore Sabarmati redevelopment plan

PARIMAL DABHJI
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 12

A SELF-RELIANT India or Atmanirbhar Bharat was Mahatma Gandhi’s dream, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said as he launched the master plan for the Sabarmati Gandhi Ashram redevelopment project in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. The launch of the master plan coincided with the 94th anniversary of the historic Dandi March, a massive civil disobedience movement against the British rule.

“Bapu had seen the dream of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Now you see, we discuss vocal for local... Basically, it is Gandhi’s spirit. What else is it? Mahatma Gandhi’s vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat is indeed in it,” the Prime Minister said while addressing a public meeting, referring to the Centre’s focus on make-in-India products.

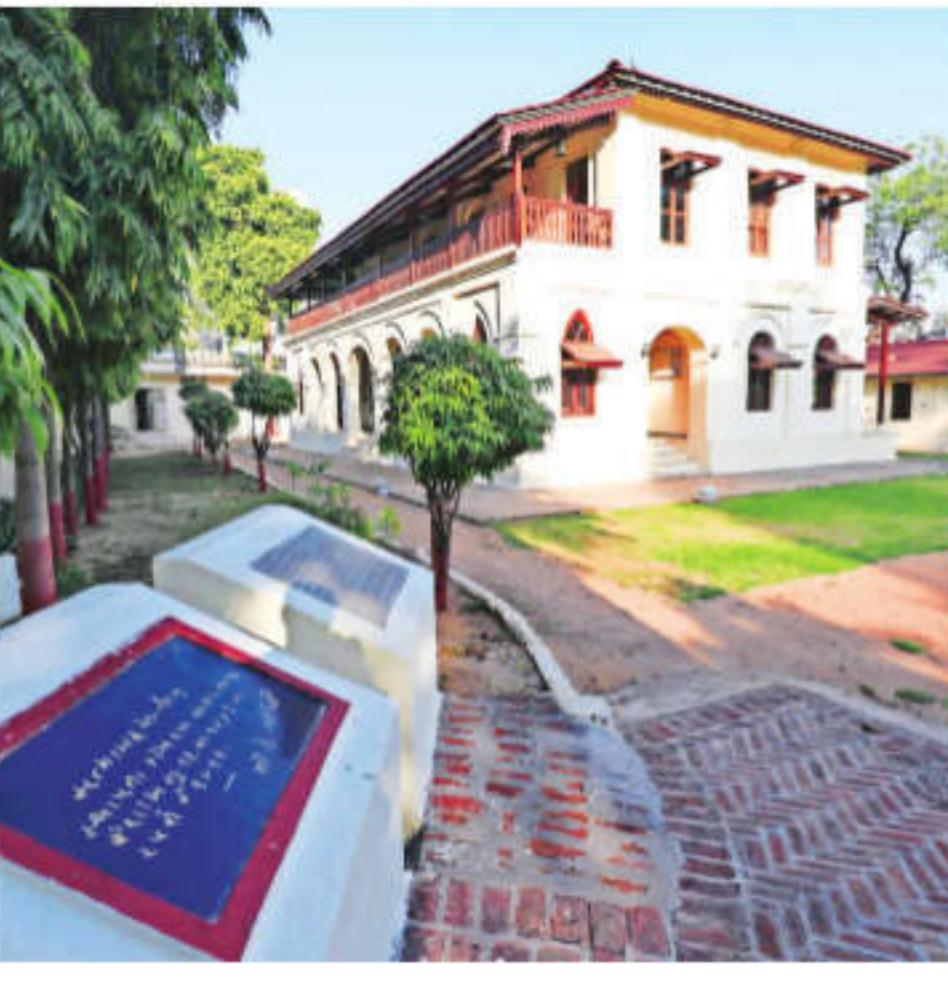
Describing various initiatives of his government as “dedication” towards Gandhi, the Prime Minister asserted, “This is our way of dedication towards (Mahatma) Gandhi. And following the same principles of Gandhiji, our government is giving priority to the welfare of villages and the poor and running the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign. Today, villages are being strengthened. Bapu’s vision of Gram Swaraj is being realised. In our rural economy, women are once again playing a key role... I am happy that today, the number of lakhpatti women in self-help groups has reached one crore. And it is my dream to make three crore lakhpatti didis in my third term (as the Prime Minister).”

The central government and Gujarat government are jointly implementing the Gandhi Ashram Memorial and Precinct Development Project at a cost of around Rs 1,200 crore.

Modi emphasised the importance of the conservation of heritage and said, “A country which cannot conserve its heritage also loses its future.”

This Sabarmati Ashram of Bapu is the heritage not only of India but the entire humankind. But, after Independence, justice could not be done to this heritage too. This Ashram of Bapu was once spread over 120 acres.

With passing time, and due to various reasons, it shrunk to five acres. At one time, there were 63 buildings here. Out of them, now just 36 buildings remain. And out of those 36 buildings, tourists



Redeveloped Kochrab Ashram that was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi, in Ahmedabad. Nirmal Harindran

Chief Minister. A lot of my time was spent in courts because different people were creating new difficulties. The (then Congress-led) Union government was also creating hurdles then. But perhaps with the blessings of God and people, I got free of all those problems and am now realising that dream,” he said, attacking the former Congress-led central government.

Modi said the governments after Independence had neither the idea nor the political will to conserve heritage.

“On the one hand, (they) had the tendency of looking at things from a foreign perspective, and on the other hand, there were compulsions of appeasement. And because of that, our great heritage continued to be destroyed. Encroachment, uncleanliness, and mismanagement—all these tarnished our heritage,” he added.

Modi also referred to his interaction with Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, and said he was told that nine lakh farmers in Gujarat have switched to natural farming, because of which the use of three lakh metric tonnes of urea could be averted.

“This means that the conservation of Mother Earth is being done. If it is not Mahatma Gandhi’s idea... then what is it?” he said.

Modi also cited initiatives of his government to popularise Khadi and “liberate” it from being considered as clothing meant only for politicians.

Earlier in the day, Modi also inaugurated the renovated Kochrab Ashram, which was established in the Paldi area of Ahmedabad by Mahatma Gandhi after returning from South Africa in 1915.

“I had been on it (the redevelopment project) since I was the

Why Bhojshala row has returned to roil Madhya Pradesh politics again

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, MARCH 12

THE MADHYA Pradesh High Court has ordered the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) to conduct a survey of the Bhojshala temple-cum-Karna Mula mosque complex in Dhar district, observing that its nature and character need to be “demystified and freed from the shackles of confusion”.

Since the early 2000s various right wing groups in the state have been seeking the closure of the mosque, a ban on Friday namaz in it and the installation of a Saraswati idol in the Bhojshala complex. In April 2003, the ASI had made an arrangement to find a solution under which Hindus would perform puja on Tuesdays while Muslims would offer namaz there on Fridays.

On May 2, 2022, a PIL was filed by the Hindu Front for Justice challenging the ASI order which restricted daily worship at the Bhojshala for Hindus. The plea cited that the former rulers of Dhar had installed the statue of Saraswati there in 1034 AD and it was taken to London in 1857 by the British.

Willis pointed out that Alois Anton Fuhrer, a German Indologist, who worked for the ASI, travelled to Central India in 1893 and recorded the mosque complex with the term “Bhoja’s school”. However, Fuhrer was dismissed from his position in the ASI after an investigation uncovered an enormous degree of bad scholarship.

In 1902, a small archeological department office was established in Dhar by the British government and Superintendent of State Education, K K Lele was made its in-charge. At the time the British were investing in research to modernise the Indian government and Lele in his enquiry found “two serpentine inscriptions giving the alphabet and grammatical rules of the Sanskrit language.”

The basic conundrum for Lele was that if the mosque at Kamal al-Din was going to be explained away as a reused Hindu building, then some sort of Sanskrit basis had to be found for “Bhoja’s school”, the designation ‘Raja Bhoja ka Madrassa’ being too manifestly Urdu to serve his purpose,” he added.

According to him, the ASI had addressed this problem by inventing the term Bhojshala as the

brated ruler of the Paramara dynasty.

According to the Dhar district website, Raja Bhoj founded a college at Dhar, which subsequently came to be known as Bhojshala.

In his paper titled “Dhar, Bhoja and Saraswati: from Indology to Political Mythology and Back”, Willis noted, “A variety of pillars used in the building, and the number of inscribed tablets still visible in the floor with yet others displayed along the walls, show that the materials for this building were collected from a number of old sites over a wide area.”

How did Bhojshala gain traction?

The mosque has been referred to in the writings of English author John Malcolm in 1822 and William Kincaid in 1844. While they documented popular legends associated with Raja Bhoj, they never identified the Bhojshala.

However, Willis has argued against Ganguly’s theory. “Already in 1943, Lele, who had access to the archival sources, reported that the sculpture had been found in the debris of the old city palace in 1875.... The current location of Saraswati from Dhar remains an interesting mystery seeing that it is not located in the British Museum,” he wrote.

Theories surrounding the idol

Art historian OC Ganguly and then Director-General of the ASI discovered an “inscribed sculpture” in the British Museum and announced that it was “Bhoja’s Saraswati from Dhar”. Over time, many others would back this claim.

However, Willis has argued against Ganguly’s theory. “Already in 1943, Lele, who had access to the archival sources, reported that the sculpture had been found in the debris of the old city palace in 1875.... The current location of Saraswati from Dhar remains an interesting mystery seeing that it is not located in the British Museum,” he wrote.

How did it flare up?

The “liberation” of Bhojshala was one of the major issues in the run-up to the 2003 Assembly polls which saw the ouster of the Digvijaya Singh-led Congress government. The BJP had also accused the Digvijaya government of “creating a communal problem”.

Multiple attempts have been made by the right-wing groups to enter the complex and hoist a saffron flag there. The local police have also imposed curfew several times, most notably in 1997 after the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) threatened to hoist a flag atop the ancient structure leading to the arrest of 40 people.

In 2003, former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who was then the BJP MP from Vidisha, informed the Lok Sabha that “the state government had banned the entry of Hindus in Bhojshala while suppressing their feelings”.

The Chouhan-led BJP government in 2022 promised to bring back the Saraswati idol from the British Museum.

Pak boat with drugs seized, 6 crew members held off Gujarat coast

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 12

THE INDIAN Coast Guard (ICG) apprehended a Pakistani boat with six crew members carrying narcotics worth Rs 480 crore

some 350 kms off the Porbandar coast in the Arabian Sea on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

Almost 80 kg of narcotic drugs was seized from the boat that is being brought to Porbandar for further investiga-

tion, a statement from the ICG said on Tuesday.

The operation was jointly carried out by the ICG, the Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) based on specific intelligence.

According to the ICG, a

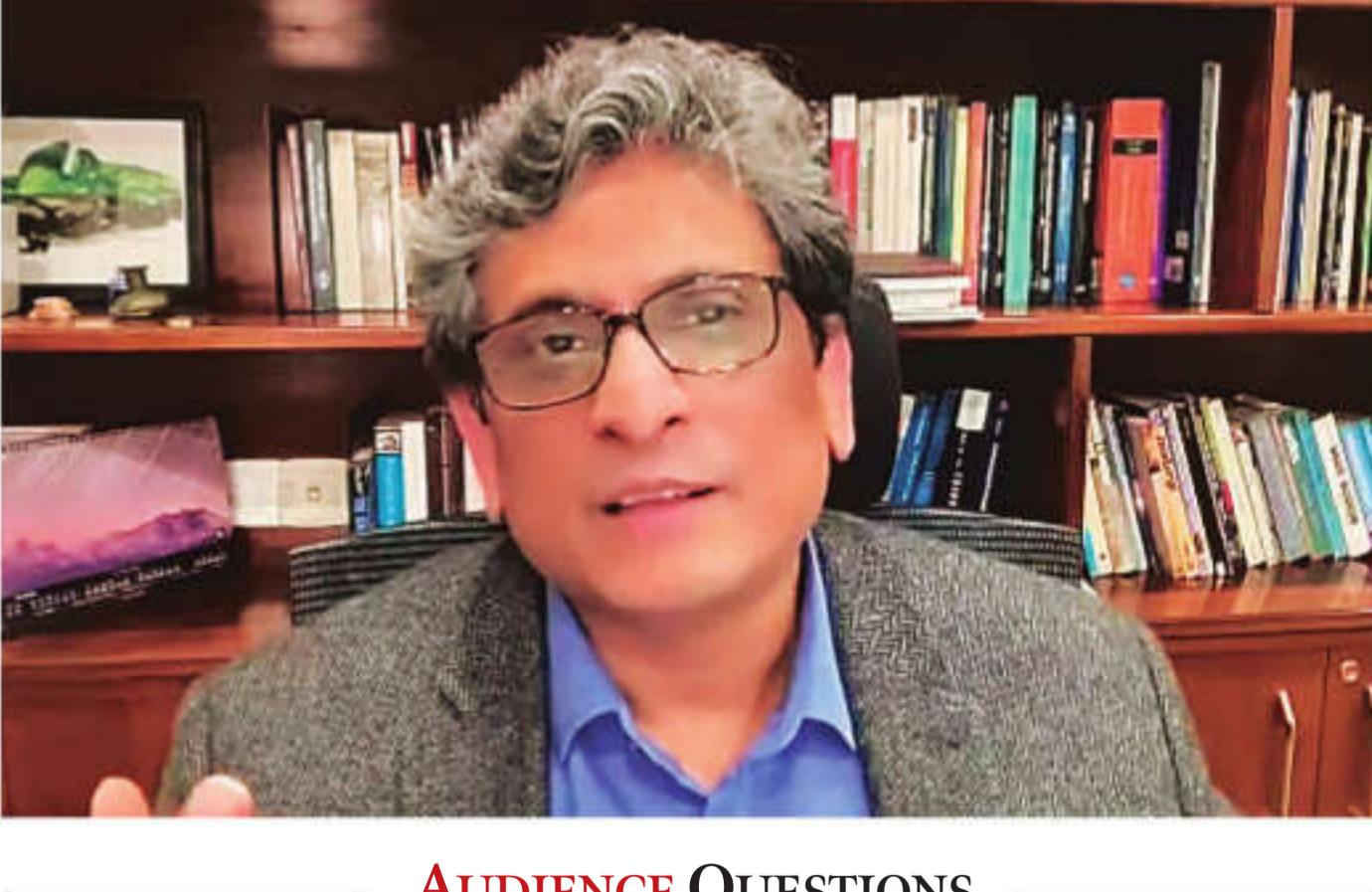
Dornier aircraft was deployed to “scan and locate the boat in likely areas”, following which ICG ships with teams of NCB and ATS Gujarat identified the boat that was “moving suspiciously in the dark”. “On being challenged, the boat started evasive manoeuvring,” the ICG stated, adding, that the boat was chased and forced to stop.

ICG has seized 517 kgs nar-

cotics worth Rs 3,135 crore in similar joint operations with ATS and NCB in the past three years, the statement said.

‘We need our own GPS and space station to become a major player in the aerospace industry’

India’s leading astrophysicist and VC of Ashoka University Dr Somak Raychaudhury on opening up space missions to the private sector, encouraging research and attracting youth to STEM. The session was moderated by Science Editor Amitabh Sinha



(Left) Raychaudhury is former director of Pune’s Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, IUCAA

foam came out of NASA research to keep test pilots cushioned during flights.

On India's space goals for the next 20 years

The international aerospace industry has ballooned to close to a trillion-dollar mark. India has less than five per cent share of the global space industry and it cannot say it is a superpower if it doesn’t become a major player. India also has to set the standards for moving forward and show ways of doing things responsibly. It has to firmly demonstrate how certain scientific missions are unique and has to build its own communication system and GPS.

India has a huge coastal area, which is vulnerable to climate change and changing weather patterns. Here, India has to move into the application of very advanced AI technologies and remote sensing so that the people who inhabit these areas can benefit from forecasts and disaster management.

India’s young population is going to be the largest in the world for some time to come. So our space programmes must inspire young people enough for them to choose STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines.

On the role of private sector in aerospace

We decided to open up the sector, partly be-

cause we realised that if the mission is big enough, then one cannot contain everything in a federal structure. Within a government organisation, there are also certain restrictions, there’s bureaucracy and a certain lack of competitiveness. Complementarity is a very important aspect because there are things that a government organisation cannot do well and the private sector can.

In the future, a lot of essential human activities will be based on space technologies, like communication and remote sensing. Once the volume of work increases, the volume of the requirement of technology and its safety protocol increases, as do ancillary jobs. You can’t do this with a single federal organisation which has its bureaucracy. ISRO will always be very good at developing launch vehicles. But building payloads will slowly come out of ISRO and go into the private sector. Academic institutions, like the IITs and the engineering colleges, have already started pitching for it.

On science and engineering education in India

It is a priority to get kids interested in innovation and scientific studies. To do that, one needs to go into development, entrepreneurship and encourage research. Even our top engineering colleges concentrate on educating students more than fundamental research.

Now, how do you bring in students who think science and mathematics are tough disciplines? Things like the spectacle of Chandrayaan being launched, and landing on the moon, are attractive to young people. It’s because there’s a sense of achievement and actually watching something new happen that they can relate to. This is far more removed than somebody

dreaming of being a molecular chemist at a research lab. When they’re thinking of their career, they don’t know what the impact of that person would be. Somebody needs to show them. And very few people have mentors who show them how attractive that kind of science can be. This is why I think such missions are also great PR for people who are in science. Liberal arts, too, can teach people to think critically and then ask the right questions, rather than answer the questions given by others.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

On ISRO's low cost missions
First, things are cheaper in India and salaries are lower. The components used in making the launch vehicles – the fuel and the payloads – all are bought in India. Indian scientists and engineers know how to be cost-effective; we don’t compromise on quality but we don’t spend much money. Take the case of fuel required for space missions. Any spacecraft needs a certain velocity called the escape velocity to get you away from the Earth. This energy comes from very expensive fuel. If you can break free of the Earth’s gravity, from a place that is very far away from the Earth and very high up, then you don’t use as much fuel and it’s much, much cheaper.

India spent about Rs 600 crore to build and launch Chandrayaan-3. This is one-fourth the price of a Boeing aircraft and is less than an expensive Bollywood film. The advantage is that the money was spent in our own technology space and bolstered our aerospace industry.

Strategically, India needs to develop its own communication system. Take the example of your mobile phone. It sends a signal up every



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Date: 12/03/2024

Name of Work : Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Telecom System at Metro Bhavan, Pune.

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Executive Director, (Procurement & Contract) PMRP-MAHA-METRO

Pune Metro : City's Transport Solution

MILITARY HOSPITAL WELLINGTON

REGISTRATION OF VENDORS FY FROM 2024-25

1. THE COMMANDANT, MILITARY HOSPITAL WELLINGTON INVITES APPLICATIONS FROM PHARMACEUTICAL VENDORS WHO ARE AUTHORISED STOCKISTS / INSTITUTIONAL SUPPLIERS / DISTRIBUTORS OR ORIGINAL MANUFACTURERS OF DRUGS INTERESTED TO SUPPLY DRUGS / SURGICAL / EYE AND ENT CONSUMABLES / HOSPITAL LABORATORY REGENTS / RADIOLOGY / MEDICAL GASES FOR MILITARY HOSPITAL WELLINGTON AND AFFILIATED ECHS POLYCLINICS FOR THE FY 2024-25. VENDORS WILL BE REQUIRED TO REGISTER ON DEFENCE PROCUREMENT PORTAL AS E-PROCUREMENT/GEMIS MANDATORY.

2. APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM DEFENCE E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL <https://www.defproc.gov.in> USING TENDER ID: 2024_ARMY_645169_1 DATED 05 MAR 2024.

3. APPLICATION DULY COMPLETED IN ALL RESPECTS WITH CONNECTED DOCUMENTS BOTH ONLINE AND OFFLINE TO REACH MILITARY HOSPITAL WELLINGTON BY 23 MAR. 2024 AT 09.00 HRS.

Contact Tele No. : 0423-2960338

indianexpress.com

The Indian EXPRESS
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

NEIGRIHMS
NORTH EASTERN INDIRA GANDHI REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES, SHILLONG
(An Autonomous Institute, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India)
OFFICE OF THE DEAN
No. NEIGR/NC/Admin.etc./3/2007/Pt-III

Dated Shillong, the 12th March, 2024

NOTICE

Attention all prospective candidates seeking admission to the B.Sc. Nursing program (2024-2025) at the College of Nursing, NEIGRIHMS, Shillong.

Admission to the B.Sc. Nursing course for the academic year 2024-2025 will be facilitated through the NEET-UG entrance examination conducted by the National Testing Agency, 2024. Merit-based admission will be determined by NEET-UG scores, aligning with the standard admission procedure practiced across Central Government Institutes. Notably, there will be no separate entrance examination conducted.

Ensure your eligibility by sitting for the NEET-UG exam, paving your path to pursuing B.Sc. Nursing at NEIGRIHMS. Embrace this opportunity and mark your calendars for the upcoming NEET-UG examination.

This issue with the approval of the Director, NEIGRIHMS.

Sd/-
Dean (Academics)
NEIGRIHMS
Shillong

MADHYA PRADESH METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India and Govt. of Madhya Pradesh)

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An Institute of Army Welfare Education Society (AWES)

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SELECTION COMMITTEE INTERVIEW

Applications from eligible candidates are invited for below mentioned Full Time faculty posts (in existing vacant posts for BBA LL.B and proposed BA LL.B in Academic Year 2024-25):-

S. No	Post	No. of Vacancies	Qualification
1	Assistant Professor (Economics)	01 Post (Open to all)	MA (Economics)/ NET or SET or PhD in Economics
2	Assistant Professor (Political Science)	01 Post (Open to all)	MA (Political Science), NET or SET or PhD in Political Science
3	Assistant Professor (Sociology)	01 Post (Open to all)	MA (Sociology), NET or SET or PhD in Sociology
4	Assistant Professor (English)	01 Post (Open to all)	MA (English), NET or SET or PhD in English
5	Assistant Professor (Law)	01 Post (Open to all)	LLM, NET or SET or PhD in Law
6	College Librarian	01 Post (Open to all)	M Lib, NET or SET or PhD

Eligibility requirements prescribed by UGC, SPPU and BCI shall apply. Candidates shall send applications along with Biocards and scanned copies of documents related to qualification/work experience by email at armylawcollegeepu@gmail.com by 15 May 2024.

Service conditions and pay shall be as per the UGC norms. Candidate should carry all relevant original documents with 2 passport size photos. Date of interview will be communicated separately to the shortlisted candidates. No TA/DA is admissible for attending the interview.

(Mr.Ganeshappa Deshmukh)
Principal-in-Charge

Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML)

Teen Murti House, New Delhi- 110011

Development of Cafeteria and Redevelopment of Canteen Request for Qualification cum Proposal (RFQP)

Proposals are invited in accordance with RFQP from eligible business entities for Development of Cafeteria and Redevelopment of Canteen at PMML (the "Project").

The RFQP document can be viewed/ downloaded through the PMML website: <http://www.pmmi.nic.in> & <http://www.nmml.ewizard.in>. Alternately, the RFP can be procured from the office of Director, PMML upon payment of Rs. 10,000/- including GST in the form of a demand draft/banker's cheque. All subsequent, notification changes and amendments would be posted only on the aforesaid website.**The Proposal must be submitted physically with Last Date of Submission as 29/04/2024 upto 15:00 hrs IST.**For Queries/ technical support, please contact aao.nmml@gov.in, 011-23014504

Please note that the PMML reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the Proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-



GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board

FC-18, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110092

<https://dssbonline.nic.in>

F.No.1 (256)/P&P-I/DSSSB/2024/Advt./5303

Dated: 12.03.2024

VACANCY NOTICE / ADVERTISEMENT NO. 08/2024
COMBINED EXAMINATION, 2024 FOR PROCESS SERVER &
PEON/ORDERLY/DAK PEON

The opening date and closing date for receipt of online applications are as below:-

Opening Date of Application: 20/03/2024 (20th March, 2024) (From 12.00 PM)

Closing Date of Application: 18/04/2024 (18th April, 2024) (Till 11:00 PM)

Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) invites online applications on behalf of Delhi District Courts and Family Courts from eligible candidates from Indian Nationals (citizens of India as defined in the Constitution of India or under any law made by the Parliament to regulate the rights for citizenship) for recruitment to the posts of Process Server & Peon/Orderly/Dak Peon against vacancies in District & Sessions Courts and Family Courts as per details given below:-

PROCESS SERVER, PEON/ORDERLY/DAK PEON

Vacancy* (Incl. Backlog Vacancies)												
S. No	Post Code	Name of the Post	Name of Department	Pay Level	UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total	PwBD	ExSM
1	821/24	Process Server	District & Sessions Courts (Family Courts)	4	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
		Process Server	District & Sessions Courts (Family Courts)	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1	822/24	Peon/Orderly /Dak Peon	District & Sessions Courts (Family Courts)	3	4	2	0	0	1	7	0	1
		Peon/Orderly /Dak Peon	District & Sessions Courts (Family Courts)	3	39	27	8	9	9	92	7	24
TOTAL VACANCIES				45	30	8	9	10	102	7	25	

*The above vacancies are tentative and based on inputs of the indenting Departments.

Candidates must apply online through the website <https://dssbonline.nic.in>. The closing date for submission of online application is up to 18/04/2024 (till 11:00 PM) after which the link will be disabled.DSSSB will conduct examinations for making recruitment against the vacancies notified above. The date of conduct of examinations / interviews as per examination schemes will be intimated in due course only through the website of the Board / District and Sessions Courts. The applicants are advised to visit DSSSB's website i.e <https://dssbonline.nic.in> to check the detailed advertisement and confirm their eligibility for the above vacancies based on the Recruitment Rules of the indenting departments.**IMPORTANT NOTE:- Only online applications will be accepted. Applications received by post/by hand/by mail etc. will not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. No correspondence will be entertained in this regard.**

Sd/-

Deputy Secretary (P&P-I)/L.O.
DSSSB

DIP-SHABDARTH-CLASSIFIED-0386-23-24



GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board

FC-18, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110092

Website: <https://dsssb.delhi.gov.in>

Dated: 12/03/2024

VACANCY NOTICE /
ADVERTISEMENT NO. 07/2024**IMPORTANT NOTE:- Only online applications will be accepted. Applications received through any other mode shall stand summarily rejected. No correspondence will be entertained in this regard.**

The opening date and closing date for receipt of online applications are as below:-

Opening Date for Submission of Online Applications:-

20/03/2024 (20th March, 2024) (From 12.00 PM)

Closing Date for Submission of Online Applications :-

18/04/2024 (18th April, 2024) (Till 11.00 PM)

Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) invites online applications on behalf of Delhi District Courts from eligible candidates from Indian Nationals (citizens of India as defined in the Constitution of India or under any law made by the Parliament to regulate the rights for citizenship) for recruitment to the various posts in District & Sessions Courts as per details given below:

S. No	Post Code	Name of the Post	Name of Department	Group	UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total	PwBD (incl.)	ExSM (incl.)
1	73/24	Book Binder	District & Session Courts	C	01	00	00	00	01	00	00	00
2	74/24	Data entry operator Grade-A	District & Session Courts	C	02							

19-year-old gangraped in car, two held:
Kolkata Police

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, MARCH 12

TWO PERSONS have been arrested for allegedly gangraping a 19-year-old woman inside a stationary car in Kolkata, police said on Tuesday. Police said that on March 11, a case was registered against three persons under IPC section 376 D (gangrape) after the woman filed a complaint.

A search is on for another accused, a police officer said. "The two accused admitted to the crime during interrogation," claimed the officer. The arrested accused were produced in a court that sent them to police custody till March 22. The woman was sent for a medical examination, police said. According to the police, the woman and the accused knew each other and she accompanied them for tea on March 10. She alleged the three accused raped her in an empty, stationary vehicle, police said. A senior officer in the intelligence department of the Kolkata Police said, "The vehicle has been seized and a forensic examination of it will be done."

Govt: Lab to monitor sea water quality and testbed to track monsoon systems inaugurated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, MARCH 12

Research (NCCR) will host and coordinate activities at CRL.

INDIA ON Tuesday commissioned the atmospheric testbed facility near Bhopal. The testbed, works of which began in early 2018, is equipped with high-end instruments to record several vital parameters that will be fed into improving the weather models besides facilitating advanced studies on the Indian monsoons.

Kiren Rijiju, Minister, Earth Sciences, on Tuesday virtually inaugurated the first phase of the Atmospheric Research Testbed in Central India (ART-CI) in Sehore district, located about 50 km northwest of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. He also inaugurated the Coastal Research Laboratory (CRL) established in Visakhapatnam's Dolphin's Nose area.

Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) is spearheading the research activities at this first-of-its-kind testbed facility built at a cost of Rs 125 crore, whereas Chennai-based National Centre for Coastal

been becoming erratic. Data obtained from the testbed facility will be assimilated and used to improve the forecasts," said R Krishnan, director, IITM.

Nearly 25 high-end instruments like the aethalometer for aerosol studies, cloud condensation nuclei counter, laser ceilometer to measure cloud sizes, micro rain radar to calculate raindrop size and its distribution have been installed. A Ka-band cloud radar and a C-band doppler weather radar will also help track the movement of rain-bearing systems over this zone.

"Blue economy and climate change are becoming hot topics. Indian scientists are breaking new grounds and for a large country like India, such centres are critical," Rijiju said.

At the inauguration of the lab, MoES Secretary M Ravichandran said: "Water quality monitoring is key in tracking the health of the seas. With India's Blue Economy taking shape, CRL will have a key role to play in future. CRL should have nodes in each of the coastal states of India..."

Cops: Woman strangled to death by house-help in posh Mumbai flat

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, MARCH 12

A 63-YEAR-OLD woman was allegedly strangled to death inside her upscale Nepean Sea Road apartment on Tuesday afternoon. The Malabar Hill police, who have registered a case of murder, suspect that their newly recruited house-help has committed the crime as he is missing since the time of the incident.

According to the police officials, the deceased woman has been identified as Jyoti Shah and she stayed with her husband Mukesh on the 20th floor of Tahnee Heights in Malabar Hill. Mukesh owns a jewellery showroom in south Mumbai.

An officer said, "As usual, Mukesh left his apartment at around 12 noon for work. However, at around 3 pm, he tried calling his wife for some work and as she was not answering the calls, he sensed something amiss due to which he left everything and went back home."

On reaching his apartment, he found his wife lying motionless in the bedroom. He rushed her to hospital where she was declared dead before admission. The police said the woman was strangled. The Malabar Hill police were subsequently informed after which a team was sent to the spot and a case of murder was registered late on Tuesday.

'Smuggled weapons from Pak': NIA raids 30 places in terrorist-gangster nexus case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday carried out searches in four states and a Union Territory as part of its probe into the terrorist-gangster nexus case.

"Extensive searches were carried out at 30 locations in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and the UT of Chandigarh in connection with the case relating to individual designated terrorist Arshdeep Singh alias Arsh Dala and other suspects of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF)," a spokesperson of the federal agency said.



MURMU IN MAURITIUS

President Droupadi Murmu pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Moka, Mauritius, Tuesday. Murmu, who is on a three-day visit to Mauritius, was the Chief Guest during the 56th National Day Celebrations, underscoring the longstanding and enduring ties between the two countries. She was present at the event along with President Prithviraj Singh Roopun and PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth of Mauritius. PTI

Centre bans JKNF for 5 yrs under UAPA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE CENTRE on Tuesday imposed a five-year ban on the Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF), a constituent of the hardline Hurriyat Conference, under the stringent anti-terror law for sowing seeds of disaffection among people and engaging in activities detrimental to the country's security and sovereignty.

In an order, the MoHA declared the JKNF headed by Naseem Ahmad Khan an unlawful association with immediate effect under the UAPA. The order will have effect for a period of five years.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on X, "The outfit was found carrying out secessionist activities to sever J&K from Bharat and supporting terrorism, challenging the sovereignty, security, and integrity of the nation... We are committed to uprooting terror forces to ensure the security of the people of Bharat."

The government said in the order that JKNF members have remained involved in supporting terrorist activities and anti-India propaganda for fuelling secessionism in J&K and providing logistic support to terrorists in the UT.

Rs 20L for kin of Andhra woman who killed self over trolls: CM

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday sanctioned an ex gratia payment of Rs 20 lakh to the family of a woman who died by suicide after she was trolled on social media for praising the YSRCP government.

Gitanjali, a homemaker, jumped in front of a running train at Tenali railway station in Guntur district on March 7 and suffered grievous injuries. She died at a hospital later. According to an official statement, "The CM expressed shock over the suicide of Tenali housewife Gitanjali. He sanctioned an ex gratia of Rs 20 lakh for her family."

PTI

lence and terror in the country at the behest of the KTF.

"These associates were also part of an extortion racket for raising funds for the banned outfit. They used to identify extortion targets, including businessmen, and then threaten them into parting with huge amounts," the spokesperson added.

An NIA spokesperson had earlier said that as part of its efforts to disrupt and dismantle such terror and mafia networks and their support infrastructure, the agency has adopted several targeted strategies in recent months, including attachment and seizure of properties derived from proceeds of terrorism.

"The premises raided during the day were linked to various suspected associates of Dala, as well as Baljeet Maur and Australia-based Gurjant Singh, leading to the recovery of incriminating material, including digital devices. The case, registered on February 13, relates to nefarious criminal activities of the KTF and other terror outfits, including smuggling of dangerous hardware, such as arms, ammunition, explosives, improvised explosive devices and narcotics across international borders," according to the spokesperson.

According to NIA investigations, the smuggled items were meant for use by the operatives of terror outfits and organised

criminal gangs operating in various parts of the country for carrying out various terrorist acts, such as extortions to raise funds for KTF, targeted killings, recruitment of vulnerable youth, smuggling of arms and narcotics to India.

"Investigations have further revealed that Dala, Maur and Singh had conspired to carry out such activities for furthering their terror agenda," the spokesperson said.

The NIA said the suspects whose premises were raided had been working for these three men to promote violent criminal activities, and had been involved in smuggling weapons from Pakistan and recruitment of youth to carry out acts of violence.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Shakti Singh** S/o **Kundan Singh** R/o **RZ-C-123, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 231/2019 U/s 33/38 DE Act, P.S. **Nihal Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Shakti Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Shakti Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shakti Singh** of case FIR No. 231/2019 U/s 33/38 DE Act, P.S. **Nihal Vihar, Delhi**, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.04.2024.

By Order

Sh. P Bhargav Rao
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate-03
Room No. 292, 2nd Floor,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/2779/OD/2024(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that one accused **Gomti Devi** W/o Ram Babu, R/o H.No. 43, Khasra No. 14/12, Near Delhi Jal Board, Qamruddin Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi have Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 652/2016 u/s 419/420/467/471/ 120B/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. **Nihal Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Gomti Devi** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Gomti Devi** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Gomti Devi** of FIR No. 652/2016 u/s 419/420/467/471/ 120B/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. **Nihal Vihar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 19.04.2024.

By Order

Sh. P. Bhargav Rao
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate-03,
West District, Room No.292,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/2945/OD/2024 (Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male person namely **Dinesh S/o Unknown R/o Vagabond, Aged: 50 years, Height: 5'9", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Fatty, ID Mark: Old Scar mark on chin, Black Eyes, Black & White Hair, was wearing Black T-shirt, Black Jeans Pant and Slippers in feet, was found in Vakil Lane, New Delhi and admitted in RML Hospital on 02.03.2024 and expired during the treatment on 08.03.2024. In this regard a DD No. 77A, dated 08.03.2024, has been lodged at P.S. **Barakhamba Road, Delhi.****

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

P.S. Barakhamba Road, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23413999, 8750870527

DP/2854/DD/2024

SHO

SH. P. Barakhamba Road, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23413999, 8750870527

DP/2698/SW/2024

SHO

Ms. Ishika Singh, MM-03, Room No.18,
Main Building Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

DP/2698/SW/2024

SHO

Ms. Ishika Singh, MM-03, Room No.18,
Main Building Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

DP/2698/SW/2024

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Main Building Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

DP/2698/SW/2024

SHO

Ms. Ishika Singh, MM-03, Room No.18,
Main Building Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

DP/2698/SW/2024

SHO

Ms. Ishika Singh, MM-03, Room No.1

Pant declared fit for IPL, brightens hopes of making T20 WC squad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MARCH 12

RISHABH PANT has been declared fit for the upcoming Indian Premier League season, after being out of action for nearly 15 months due to a horrific car accident. This announcement, from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), gives the wicketkeeper-batsman a chance to make the squad for the T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the United States in the summer.

The IPL begins on March 22 and Pant is the designated captain for Delhi Capitals. He hasn't played any competitive cricket since suffering the mishap soon after the Bangladesh series in December 2022.

"After undergoing an extensive 14-month rehab and recovery process, following a life-threatening road mishap on December 30th, 2022, near Roorkee, Uttarakhand,

Rishabh Pant has now been declared fit as a wicket-keeper batsman for the upcoming IPL 2024," read the BCCI statement released on Tuesday.

Pant played some practice games and will be available for Delhi Capitals opening match against Punjab Kings in Mohali on March 23. "If he can play the T20 World Cup for India, that will be a big thing for us. He is a big asset for us," BCCI secretary Jay Shah had said during an interaction on the sidelines of the fifth India-England Test in Dharamsala.

If Pant has a good IPL and doesn't have any fitness concerns either, he could be a valuable member of the Indian squad in the T20 showpiece. Ishan Kishan has been out of favour of late while KL Rahul has also had a chequered fitness record.

Shami, Prasidh ruled out

However, veteran pace bowler Mohammed Shami – the highest wicket-taker in last year's 50-over World Cup – and fellow seamer Prasidh Krishna will not feature in the 2024 edition of the IPL.

Shami, who took 24 wickets in that tournament, underwent surgery in February to deal with a heel injury and has not played since the World Cup final on November 19.

"The fast bowler successfully underwent surgery on February 26th, 2024, for his right heel problem. He is currently being monitored by the BCCI medical team and is ruled out of the upcoming IPL 2024," BCCI said.

Krishna, who sustained a quadriceps injury while playing for Karnataka in their Ranji Trophy match against Gujarat in Ahmedabad, also underwent a surgery and will miss the IPL. "The fast bowler underwent surgery on February 23rd, 2024, on his left proximal quadriceps tendon. He is currently being monitored by the BCCI Medical Team and will resume rehab at the National Cricket Academy soon. He will not be able to take part in the upcoming IPL 2024," the release said.

If Pant has a good IPL and doesn't have any fitness concerns either, he could be a valuable member of the Indian squad in the T20 showpiece. Ishan Kishan has been out of favour of late while KL Rahul has also had a chequered fitness record.

Shooters win team gold in Para World Cup



New Delhi: India added a second gold medal to its tally in the Para Shooting World Cup with the Mixed 10m Air Pistol Standard (SH1) team clinching the top podium finish on day four of the competition here on Tuesday. The team of **Rudrash Khandelwal** (364), Akash (346) and Sandeep Kumar (340) aggregated 1050 to finish ahead of South Korea (1037), while China (1019) ended up third. In the individual section of the same category, Rudrash had to settle for the silver medal after being tied with Korea's Kim Jungnam, who both scored 364. But the Korean won on the basis of more 'inner 10s' (closest to bullseye). While Kim had nine 'inner 10s', Khandelwal had 2. The two medals on Tuesday, took Khandelwal's tally to four (one gold, three silver).

PTI

Austria drop 3 players for homophobic chants

Vienna: Austria coach Ralf Rangnick has dropped three players from the national team squad for upcoming friendly games because they took part in homophobic chants after the Vienna derby last month. Rapid Vienna players Marco Grüll, **Guido Burgstaller** and goalkeeper Niklas Hedi were not included in Rangnick's team for games against Slovakia and Turkey after they were filmed taking part in the chanting following a 3-0 win against Austria Vienna on Feb. 25. "This is something that I will not tolerate in a team where I am a coach, whether in a club or here with the national team," coach Rangnick said when he made his squad announcement Monday evening.



REUTERS

Ronaldo's Al-Nassr exit Asian Champions League

Riyadh: Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr crashed out of the Asian Champions League in the quarter-finals after the Saudi Pro League side lost 3-1 on penalties to Al-Ain in a pulsating game on Monday. Al-Nassr overcame a 1-0 first leg deficit to win 4-3 on Monday but with the contest ending 4-4 on aggregate, the players headed into a shootout from which Al-Ain prevailed. Al-Nassr's foreign imports Miroslav Brozovic, Alex Telles and Otavio all failed to score from the spot as the side from the United Arab Emirates advanced to the semi-finals, where they will face either Al-Hilal or Al-Ittihad -- both from Saudi Arabia -- next month. Al-Ain goalkeeper Khalid Eisa made amends for a disappointing display when he saved Brozovic's opening penalty and, with Soufiane Rahimi, Kaku and Sultan Al Shamsi all converting, Otavio's miss meant Al-



Nassr were eliminated. The shootout brought a dramatic end to a thrilling clash at Al-Awwal Park that featured seven goals and a red card, with Al-Ain building on their first leg lead during the opening 45 minutes. Rahimi, scorer of Al-Ain's first leg winner, put the visitors in control with goals in the 28th and 45th minutes but Abdulrahman Ghareeb's strike five minutes into injury time kept Al-Nassr's hopes alive. REUTERS

SPORT SPNIPPETS

McDonald backs Marsh for T20 WC captaincy

Melbourne: Australia head coach **Andrew McDonald** has backed Mitch Marsh over Pat Cummins to captain the team in the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and USA. Marsh has been leading the T20 side on an unofficial basis since Aaron Finch's retirement with Cummins doing the leadership duty in Tests and ODIs, and McDonald is set to recommend the star all-rounder's name to the Cricket Australia (CA) board. McDonald wants a formal handover of the reins to the 32-year-old Marsh. "I think all roads will lead to Mitch, so just got to get that ticked off in certain areas," McDonald was quoted as saying on cricket.com.au. "We're happy and comfortable with the way he's been able to operate with that T20 team." REUTERS

Indian boxers draw a blank at Oly qualifiers

Busto Arsizio: **Nishant Dev** missed out on a Paris Olympic quota by a whisker, suffering a heartbreaking loss in the 71kg quarterfinals as all Indian boxers returned empty-handed from the first World Olympic Boxing Qualifier. Dev went down 1-4 to USA's Omari Jones, the 2021 World Championships silver medallist, in a closely-contested light middleweight quarterfinal late on Monday. A win in the last eight stage would have fetched the 2023 World Championships bronze medallist an Olympic quota. None of the nine boxers competing here were able to add to India's tally of four quotas in boxing. After two qualification events – the Asian Games and the first World Olympic Boxing Qualifier – not one Indian male pugilist has been able to book a place for the Olympics. PTI

When West Indies do well, there's a buzz. You saw Shamar Joseph's exploits in Australia and how it created a buzz in the Caribbean. So for us, and for me as a coach, to lift the silverware, it will mean everything."

DAREN SAMMY

WEST INDIES HEAD COACH ON THEIR T20 WORLD CUP PROSPECTS

Rohit, Sachin in attendance at Wankhede

Mumbai: India captain and home boy **Rohit Sharma**, three days after wrapping up a 4-1 series win over England, landed at the Wankhede



Tendulkar who had come to watch the proceedings. "He (Rohit) came and met players during the Ranji Trophy finals and spent 20 minutes with them. The MCA had taken permission from the anti-corruption officer and he was allowed to meet the Mumbai players," MCA honorary secretary Ajinkya Naik told The Indian Express.

Over the last few days, a host of Mumbai stalwarts, including Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar had come to watch the game unfold. The record champions have been on a trophy drought, having last won the premier domestic tournament title in the 2015-16 season. Since then, they have lost twice in the final. But this time around, they are in the driver's seat to claim their 42nd title, having set Vidarbha an impossible total of 538 runs.

Praise for Musheer, Iyer

On Tuesday, Tendulkar heaped praises on Musheer Khan and Shreyas Iyer as well as Mumbai skipper Ajinkya Rahane for playing their parts in helping Mumbai dominate Vidarbha in the final. "Mumbai displayed a lot more discipline, patience and commitment in the second innings. First, a crucial partnership between @ajinkyarahane88 and Musheer Khan put Mumbai in a solid position. Then, Musheer's stand with @ShreyasIyer15 has taken the game further away from Vidarbha. Had a good time watching the game today with my friends and colleagues. @MumbaiCricAssoc," the master blaster posted on X.

DEVENDRA PANDEY

RANJI TROPHY

Iyer misses statement century

With a point to prove after being dropped from the Test team, middle-order batsman scores 95 in final

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, MARCH 12

STANDING AT slip, Shreyas Iyer takes a mock guard between deliveries and shadow-bats. A block, a drive, a pull.

The rest walk towards the drinks during a break. But Iyer races towards the batting crease. He shadow-bats. Pull, punch, repeat.

Musheer Khan and Ajinkya Rahane are grinding it out. Iyer, the next batsman, is in the dugout. Shadow-batting, bouncing the ball on his bat, checking his defense.

When he finally gets a chance, Iyer doesn't walk in to bat. He sprints to the middle. He bats like a man in a tearing hurry. It doesn't go with the innings' flow; Musheer Khan bats 474 minutes for his 136 runs (326 balls). Iyer's break-neck innings is among the more assured ones he's played in a while. But when he is on 95, seemingly destined for a statement century, Iyer does the peak Iyer thing: going for a needless glory shot, mishting it and getting caught at long off.

One wonders what India captain Rohit Sharma and chief selector Ajit Agarkar, watching from the stands right behind Iyer, make of it.

Roger Federer once talked about the importance of grabbing the chances that come an athlete's way. "Because there aren't many," the tennis legend had forewarned. Since he was dropped – first from India's Test squad and then from BCCI's annual contract list – Iyer has got three chances in the two Ranji Trophy matches he's played.

In the first two, he failed. Against Tamil Nadu in the semifinals and the first innings of the final against Vidarbha. There couldn't have been a better platform for him to give a fitting reply to the selection snub.

The wicket appeared flatter than the just-opened Coastal Road. Mumbai's lead was so healthy that Vidarbha already seemed to have given up. And the bowling attack looked like having lost their will after being run ragged by Khan, who broke Sachin Tendulkar's record to become the youngest Mumbai batsman to score a century in the Ranji final, and Ajinkya Rahane (73 off 143 balls in 221 minutes).

Together, the two batted for nearly 50 overs and by the time Rahane was caught behind off Harsh Dubey, Vidarbha had barely any energy left to even celebrate.

There wasn't a lot for them to rejoice, either. By stumps on Day 3 of the Ranji final, the chances of Vidarbha winning their third title had all but gone with Mumbai virtually batting them out of the game. Needing 528 in



Shreyas Iyer cheers on Musheer Khan after his Mumbai teammate reached his century. Pradip Das

the fourth innings to win, Vidarbha were 10/0.

At different stages, this looked to be a match which the Mumbai top order, struggling for most of the season, used to get back among runs. Bhupen Lalwani and Prithvi Shaw in the first innings. Rahane in the second. It was natural that the focus shifted to Iyer once the Mumbai captain was dismissed.

In the spotlight

In his previous two innings, Iyer looked edgy and unsure; his footwork was all over the place. The man who was so self-assured and confident, to the point of being taken as cocky, was now battling his doubts, insecurities even.

It must be difficult to be in Iyer's shoes. One moment, you are one of the pillars of India's transitioning batting line-up. The next, you are a discard not just from the Test and white-ball teams but also from the list of 30 cricketers who are on the cricket board's hefty retainer.

Although he's not spoken since or shown

any emotions, Iyer has come across as a man with a lot going on in his head during the semifinal and final after the sudden change in fortunes.

It's reflected in the way he has batted as well. On Tuesday, Iyer started his innings as he did the previous two – caught on the crease and getting beaten. But unlike those occasions, he didn't let the ripper from Harsh Dubey affect him.

After restraining himself for a dozen balls, Iyer lofted medium pacer Aditya Thakare over mid-off for a six. It was an authoritative shot, and runs began to flow from his bat. Almost immediately, Vidarbha's response was to resort to short-pitched bowling, as if they were trying to goad him into playing a rash shot or mock his perceived weakness.

But in doing so, they underestimated the workload their bowlers had already gone through. The short balls lacked sting and Iyer dealt with most of them with authority.

The pull, a shot he shadow-practised many times while fielding, was his most pro-

ductive, in fact.

For a moment, it felt like Iyer would beat Khan to a century. But the teenager showed moderation and patience that his senior partner cast aside.

With only five runs needed for the ton, Iyer did something he hadn't done the whole innings, playing a reckless shot. Thakare set him up by pitching the ball just outside off. Early in his innings, Iyer didn't fall into the trap. This time, he played and missed the first ball, edged the second which fell just short of the slip fielder.

It didn't stop him from going for it a third time – the same lofted shot he played at the start of the innings. But this time, he couldn't connect well and was caught by Aman Mokhade at long-off. Iyer trudged back to the dressing room, his shoulders hunched and head bowed. It was the sight of a man desperate to catch a break.

Brief scores: Mumbai 224 and 418 (Musheer Khan 136, Shreyas Iyer 95, Ajinkya Rahane 73; Harsh Dubey 5/144) lead Vidarbha 105 & 10/0 by 528 runs.

length. This was around middle-of-the-stump height. Next ball, Harmanpreet Kaur, who played one of the best innings in the WPL in the last match, realised that the game can be a great leveller as she played on a delivery from around the fifth-stump line.

The hat-trick ball was also zoned in at the stumps but Amelia Kerr kept it out. Not for long though, as the first ball of the next over, Kerr came down the pitch but was beaten on the inside edge by one that angled in. The not-out decision was reviewed and the New Zealand allrounder found plumb in front.

Amanjot Kaur walked in and played a swagger-filled pull shot for four first ball, but Perry was having none of it. Another nip-backer from length immediately followed and Perry's sequence of wickets read: W-W-W-4-W. Not for the first time on the night, Perry would once again bounce back from being hit for a four to take a wicket next ball. And once again, it was a heat-seeking missile targeting the top of off-stump as Pooja Vastrakar perished. Then, for her final act, she dismissed Nat Sciver-Brunt, trapped in front by another perfect delivery.

"The match was very important for us.

For someone like her to step up and deliver today, I was at mid-off and I was like 'wow', it was a pretty sight to watch," CB captain Smriti Mandhana said after the match.

"Sometimes it just goes your way, doesn't it? Sometimes, I am just getting walloped all around the ground, then some days it is like this. I really enjoyed bowling tonight, been working on it a little bit. Felt like it was suitable conditions for me, it did a little bit off the wicket. It went my way," Perry remarked casually.

Mandhana started the night on a defiant note. 'One run doesn't define us,' she said, referring to the last-ball heartbreak against Delhi Capitals. RCB head coach Luke Williams addressed a sombre dressing room that night, saying "I still think our best games are in front of us. I know that and I just hope that we really believe that."

On a night when they simply had to deliver, a very elite Perry delivered and how.

Brief scores: Mumbai Indians 113 all out in 19 overs (Sajana Sajeewan 30; Elyse Perry 6/15) lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore 115/3 in 16 overs (Elyse Perry 40 not out, Richa Ghosh 36 not out) by 7 wickets

Palmer stars as Chelsea beat Newcastle 3-2

REUTERS
LONDON, MARCH 12

CHELSEA EASED some of the pressure on coach Mauricio Pochettino with a 3-2 home win over fellow mid-table side Newcastle United in the Premier League on Monday with Cole Palmer, the Blues' best player this season, creating one goal and scoring another.

Chelsea's Senegal striker Nicolas Jackson diverted a Palmer shot past goalkeeper Martin Dubravka in the sixth minute before the hosts allowed Newcastle to get an equaliser in the 43rd when Alexander Isak curled a shot beyond the diving Djordje Petrovic.

Chelsea, urged on by their fans after some had turned on Pochettino and the club's U.S. owners in a 2-2 draw at Brentford nine days ago, restored their lead in the 57th when Palmer, the Blues' top scorer this season who is in contention to go to the Euros with England this year, scored from outside the box.

Substitute Mykhailo Mudryk made it 3-1 in the 76th minute when the Ukrainian danced through Newcastle's defence, rounded Dubravka and slotted home. A fierce shot by Jacob Murphy gave the visitors hope in the 90th minute but Chelsea held on.

The win left Chelsea in 11th position, a point and one place behind Newcastle but with a game in hand. Another 3 points would push the Blues up to eighth and within sight of qualifying for the Europa League or the Europa League Conference.



Cole Palmer scored on Monday. Reuters

Aakarshi bows out without a flutter

India's No. 2 women's shuttler struggles to raise her game, loses tamely in opening round of All England

SHIVANI NAIK
MARCH 12

AAKARSHI KASHYAP thought she was in the game till 13-14 in her first round against Pai Yu Po. Then on the most prestigious stage of the All England, came the most predictable ending - a 21-16, 21-11 loss in 37 minutes. The World No 43, technically India's No 2 in women's singles, knew how the 37 minutes looked - forgettable. "People see us only on court. They don't know how tough it is before and after the match," she says about the struggle to raise her game to match the biggest competitive stages and most scorching spotlights.

The new grey courts of the All England get a fine mauve hue, looking quite fetching. The winning performances and splash of colour of international stars gleams in stark relief. PV Sindhu hurried through a first set win before Yvonne Li conceded at 21-10. HS Prannoy got followers worried about yet another early exit, going down 21-14, 13-21, 13-21 to Su Li Yang. Though progress on his gut issues and how he regains court-speed will be minutely followed as he travels to the Olympics in coming months. But like Aakarshi reminds, her briefest of All England outings will simply get forgotten beyond the court and her career will remain unseen.

It's been the story of India's women's singles players since PV Sindhu, who reached dizzy heights of success to become India's greatest shuttler, despite not courting All England glory. It's also been the country's collective failing that an earnest, hard-working shuttler like Aakarshi, just couldn't break through like her predecessors.

"Maybe because I don't win much on the international circuit, there's this feeling that I'm lacking in strength. But I can hit from my rear court to the opposite corner," she says, disappointed with her loss, but not from want of effort.

Her strength has been found lacking, and the speed diminishes as the match progresses, with most of her returns limping into



Aakarshi Kashyap lost 21-16, 21-16 in her first round against Taiwan's Pai Yu Po. File

the net when pushed to the back by the Taiwanese. "Most of us start strength training in our 20s," she says, of a critical factor that is seeing an entire generation fall through the cracks.

But there's the whole unsee support system that is lacking. "Our biggest challenge has been not getting the facilities that Sindhu or Saina did not have. We don't have our own physios, sparring partners and coaches even. DK Sen sat for my match, and he's a very good coach. But he doesn't train me regularly. So the connect is not there suddenly in big matches. Sometimes there's no coach," she explains.

Maybe we had the capacity to beat top names, but the exposure, self belief and confidence has just never been there," she adds.

Aakarshi's ranking allowed her to get into the main draw at All England, but she's unsure of what she'll play next. "If I'm picked for the Asian Championship then I'll go. Otherwise I don't know," she says, sounding a little lost.

At 25, she's not likely to find many backers. Aakarshi had her moments on the circuit - she often played defiantly, pushing herself in long retrieving rallies without a visible kill weapon. "I'm good at strength. But not very good at how to apply the strength in a match. I do well in practice, but in a match I forget a few things. Especially in finishing a game," she says.

"From 13 to the end of the first set I made some errors," she says. The wide-opening

adds.

Though she fights on gamely.

gap after the 13-14 juncture, was an example of how tough it gets to finish.

It didn't start too swell either, even though it was her second All England post 2022. "Actually the stadium has great height. The arena's quite big. I wasn't able to judge the shuttle and couldn't connect. It kept going to mid-court," she explains.

There was also decent drift, and faster shuttles at the All England unlike usually in European courts. "Compared to other colder places, this one surprisingly had fast shuttles. And I didn't get much time to practice. Just 20 minutes after all the top players finished," she says. "That made a difference." she said of the typical struggles of a fringe player, from a country that's fielding title contenders or those that'll go deep in most categories - big, tall names who don't struggle with self-belief.

"That self confidence matters in the whole match. But especially in the last moments, few crucial points."

Aakarshi has been training in Bhilai since 2020. "The halls we play in, in Chhattisgarh are not very big. We don't have a variety of players to spar with. It's limited," she says. Outside of India's top 2 academies in Hyderabad and Bangalore, and now the National centre, life can be pretty tough, before shuttlers can break out on the international circuit. Her game has stagnated, though she fights on gamely.

There were two tearful exits from the National Championships after her win in 2022, while India moved on to build hopes around Anupama Upadhyaya and Anmol Kharb.

"I took unnecessary pressure at Nationals. And playing back to back domestic events meant many suffered in reserving their best," she says. The grind is inescapable to earn ranking points, and earn the right to be on the international circuit. Aakarshi always worked hard, but just couldn't crack the elite ranking bracket, missing milestones. She bowed out of the All England without a flutter.

Beyond the lit grey courts was a walk back to obscurity.

What I can tell you is that they all remain subject to testing," he said.

Speaking at the WADA Annual Symposium in Lausanne, WADA President Witold Banka said he had received many questions from concerned athletes regarding the Russians who could be competing in Paris.

"What I can tell you is that they all remain subject to testing," he said.

Banka explained that the International Testing Agency (ITA) and the various international sports federations were collecting samples from athletes within Russia, as well as those training or competing overseas.

"Despite this and given the history, WADA remains deeply sceptical and worried when it comes to Russia," Banka said.

"We must remain vigilant and leave no stone unturned to ensure that all the proper education and testing has taken place in advance of Paris."

Russia has for years been embroiled in doping scandals that have forced its athletes to be barred from competing under their flag and national colours.

Although Russia has acknowledged some shortcomings in its anti-doping set up, it denies running a state-sponsored doping scheme.

"You cannot be 100% sure and give the guarantee that this case will never happen again," Banka said, referring to Russia's doping scandal.

"But I can assure you that we are much stronger equipped when it comes to how to react better to such situation."

Kasparov, chess great & rebel who challenged authority at every step

AMIT KAMATH

IN NOVEMBER 2007, when Garry Kasparov was serving a five-day prison sentence at a Moscow detention centre for leading protests against President Vladimir Putin, he received a magazine from an old adversary, Anatoly Karpov.

It was an odd gift to receive behind bars. But for Kasparov, it meant a lot. As he recollects in a Timeline documentary later on, the magazine was a 'gesture of solidarity between world champions' that put them above their political differences.

One wonders what Karpov would make of the news that Russia had designated Kasparov as a terrorist on Wednesday. It was just the latest consequence of Kasparov's vocal criticism of the powers that be in his native country. He was added to a list of "foreign agents" in May 2022, and has been detained at least twice for his role in anti-government protests.

During their playing career – during which the Russian grandmasters had duelled for the fate of the world chess championship multiple times – Kasparov and Karpov were not known for acts of generosity.

ity towards each other.

They were as different as two players could be on the board: Karpov, the good, obedient Communist, played chess like a boa constrictor, squeezing the opponent out of breathing space on the board. Kasparov, the rebel with a mind of his own, liked to play an aggressive style of chess.

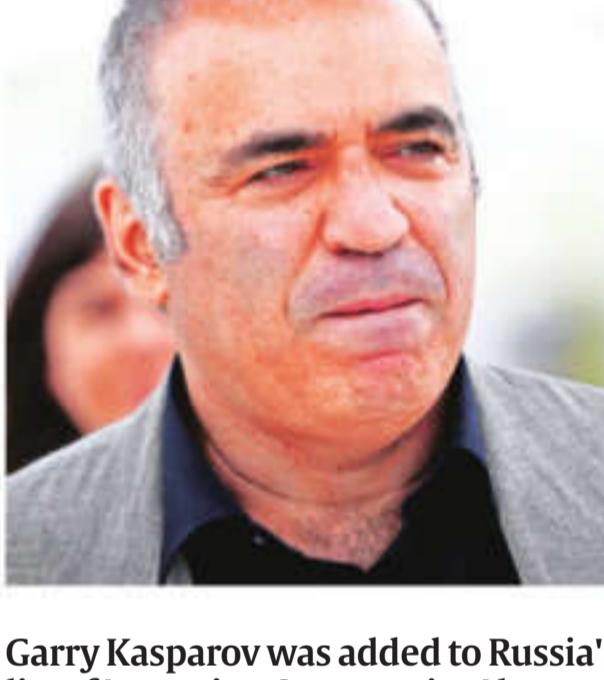
After retirement, Kasparov had become a world-renowned anti-regime dissident; Karpov was a member of the Russian Public Chamber (a collective government oversight body), and was a vocal supporter of Putin.

But seeing his one-time opponent behind bars stirred emotion even in Karpov's mind.

"That was a bitter episode for me... not a pleasant one for Russia. We shouldn't act like this. His offence wasn't serious enough to put a world champion in jail," he told Timeline.

The former world champion has been under threat of even more severe consequences of his anti-regime opposition. A former KGB general Oleg Kalugin told Foreign Policy magazine in 2007 that Putin's "targeted killings would one day reach Kasparov."

Kasparov, who founded the United Civil



Garry Kasparov was added to Russia's list of 'terrorists & extremists' last week. Reuters

Front besides many other pro-democracy initiatives, eventually left Russia. He chose to live in exile in New York, a move that came at a massive personal cost as his aging mother, Klara Shaghenova Gasparian, lived by herself in Moscow until her death.

Kasparov, though, was never one to stick

to convention. Well-behaved, dogma-following kings rarely make history. A world champion by the delicate age of 22, Kasparov always aspired for more.

There have not been too many world champions in the sport, but it is indicative of what they have been away from the narrow pathways of the chess board. Magnus Carlsen lost interest. Vladimir Kramnik spends his time in paranoia, pointing fingers at players he believes are cheats. Wilhelm Steinitz had to be admitted to an asylum.

Bobby Fischer isolated himself from the world with his controversial, anti-Semitic world views.

But Kasparov was always a rebel. He famously fell out with his mentor Mikhail Botvinnik, who was the patriarch of the Soviet School of Chess (which molded the careers of Kasparov, Kramnik and Karpov among others) over political issues. As a player in the 90s, he engineered a breakaway from FIDE and helped create a parallel World Championship series. In 2014, he ran – and lost – in the presidential elections for FIDE against Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, who had a reputation for being a tyrant as the ruler of Republic of Kalmykia.

Making history came easy to him. But it

was legacy that he has always been chasing. That's what inspired him to become one of the most high-profile chess players to face off against computers.

He defeated Deep Blue in the first encounter, before losing in the second in what was his first ever defeat (in a series not a single game). He's spoken time and again about the shallowness of comparisons between players of different eras. His quest was always to be a trailblazer.

Like his king against Topalov in that immortal 1999 game, Kasparov isn't daunted by the strength of the opposition that stands between him and victory.

He was once asked in a podcast by Lex Friedman if fear enters his mind and heart.

"I grew up in a family which taught me the wisdom of Soviet dissidents: do what you must! I cannot stop doing what I have been doing for a long time. It's the right thing to do," he said.

On Thursday, after learning about Russia designating him as a terrorist, he scoffed. "That's an honour that says more about Putin's fascist regime than about me," he was quoted as saying by Politico. Kasparov's words also said a lot about his unwavering stand.

Lucky loser Nardi stuns Djokovic at Indian Wells

REUTERS

INDIAN WELLS, MARCH 12

WORLD NUMBER one Novak Djokovic was stunned 6-4 3-6 6-3 by lucky loser Luca Nardi in the third round of Indian Wells on Monday, a victory which the 20-year-old Italian described as a "miracle".

Nardi, who grew up idolizing Djokovic and is ranked 123rd in the world, played the match of his life to defeat the Serbian, dropping his racket and putting his hands over his face after firing an ace out wide to seal the win. The defeat ends Djokovic's bid for a record sixth title at the tournament in the California desert.

"This is a miracle," said Nardi, who lost to David Goffin in qualifiers on Tuesday and only got into the main draw after Tomas Etcheverry withdrew due to injury. "I'm a 20-year-old guy, 100 in the world and I beat Novak. Crazy, just crazy."

Nardi came out flying under the lights on centre court, drawing Djokovic to the net with a short ball and then rifling a forehand past him for an early break and a 3-2 lead.

The defeat ends Djokovic's bid for a record sixth title at the tournament in the California desert. "This is a miracle," said Nardi, who lost to David Goffin in qualifiers on Tuesday and only got into the main draw after Tomas Etcheverry withdrew due to injury.

"I'm a 20-year-old guy, 100 in the world and I beat Novak. Crazy, just crazy."

Nardi came out flying under the lights on centre court, drawing Djokovic to the net with a short ball and then rifling a forehand past him for an early break and a 3-2 lead. Djokovic was well short of his best and a service return from the 24-times Grand Slam champion found the net to hand Nardi the first set. The top seed broke Nardi twice in the second set and held at love to level the contest but his opponent, who had a poster of Djokovic on his wall growing up, refused to back down.

Nardi hit a backhand that Djokovic could not back in play for a crucial break and a 4-2 advantage in the decider before pulling off the upset. Nardi will next face American Tommy Paul.

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SENSEX: 73,667.96 ▲ 165.32 (0.22%) NIFTY: 22,335.70 ▲ 3.05 (0.01%) NIKKEI: 38,797.51 ▼ 22.98 HANG SENG: 17,093.50 ▲ 505.93 FTSE: 7,753.12 ▲ 83.89 DAX: 17,877.76 ▲ 131.49



GOLD

₹66,350



USD RATE

₹82.77



OIL

\$82.53



SILVER

₹75,900

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of March 9

International market data till 1900 IST

EFTA pact: India can withdraw tariff concessions 'temporarily', 9.5% growth rider on investment

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE \$100-BILLION investment commitment by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) hinges on multiple factors, including a projection that India's annual nominal GDP growth clocks a 9.5% rate in dollar terms over the next 15 years, according to the fine print of the deal.

The text of the deal, with the bloc of Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein, says India can rebalance concessions if the committed foreign direct investments do not come in, but only "temporarily". The rebalancing on tariffs can also only happen after 18 years following multiple levels of consultations.

Trade experts said the remedial measure of withdrawing tariff concessions could be difficult to

implement since it's the private sector from the four-nation bloc, not the government, that will invest in India and there is no concrete legal obligation on what qualifies as investment promotion. "Purely from a conceptual standpoint, linking of trade preferences (tariff concessions), to the realisation of projected investments, is a good starting point. It has as its basis the fundamental question – has this trade agreement lived up to its stated objective? But, the nitty-gritties of the legal text are open-ended and broadly worded, and hedged with several caveats. From a practical standpoint, enforcement of obligations under such a chapter would be difficult," said R V Anuradha, Partner at Clarus Law Associates.

Queried sent to the Department of Commerce and Industries remained unanswered till press time. A government official, request-



The signing of the agreement in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

ing anonymity, said EFTA "is reaching out to companies" and that they had "extensive consultations with the private companies before arriving at the investment amount". The investment cannot come in without tariff certainty. Commitment is for foreign direct investment and not from sovereign wealth fund, which falls under foreign portfolio investment. Portfolio investment is fickle in nature but not FDI," the official said.

The fine print of the deal stated that India has agreed to give tariff concessions to about 95% of the goods coming in from the EFTA countries in a staggered manner including a marginal concession on gold, the biggest import item from EFTA. There will be a longer duration for elimination of tariffs in sectors where India has a production-linked incentive scheme in place.

The 'Remedial Measures' Article 7.8 in the pact states that India can undertake "temporary" and proportionate remedial measures to "rebalance the concessions" given to the EFTA countries in the Schedule of Commitments under the Chapter on Trade in Goods. But the measures can be taken only after the grace period which is defined as "additional 3 years". The grace period begins after 15 years of the deal coming into effect.

The footnotes in the chapter on cooperation also clarify that sovereign wealth funds are excluded from the promotion obligations undertaken by the EFTA countries and that "technology collaboration" does not require "technology transfer".

The \$100-billion investment commitment is an oversell because investments in the last two decades from EFTA countries come in at \$10 billion dollars. So how will the projected invest-

DGFT steps in with QCO exemptions following concerns raised by industry

AGGAM WALIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE DIRECTORATE General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has exempted the import of certain goods – including viscose staple fibre and numerous steel items – from quality control orders (QCOs) under the advance authorisation scheme which allows the duty-free import of input goods that are physically incorporated in an export product. In other words, exemption from specified QCOs on the import of input goods has been granted only for the use of those goods in exports and not in products manufactured for the domestic market.

In a first such instance since the January 10 meeting, the recent notification exempts the import of input goods from QCOs, specifically those published by the steel ministry, DPIT, and the textiles ministry, only if imported under the advance authorisation scheme. In other words, the exemption is granted on a pre-import condition, which requires the imported input goods to be used only for the manufacturing of products that are exported. Additionally, exemption is also granted to export-oriented units and units in Special Economic Zones under the same pre-import condition.

The exemption is set to provide relief to exporters who were earlier facing issues with the availability of inputs from specific suppliers.

"In many of the export shipments, the buyers also prescribe from where you have to import the material. For example, if you want to export a shirt, the buyer will sometimes tell you to source the fabric from a specific supplier. In that case, the exporter hardly has a choice. From the perspective of the supplier, if they are not regularly supplying to India on a large scale, they are not interested in going through the QCO process because it can take time. As a result, exporters were losing orders as they were not able to import materials from specific suppliers," explained Ajay Sahai, Director General of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

"Exemption to QCOs is done in consultation with the concerned line Ministry & Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) with clear safeguards like mandatory pre-import condition, non-diversion to domestic tariff area (DTA), heavy penalties in case of default etc.," DGFT said in response to an email query sent by The Indian Express. "Any future coverage will depend on industry requirements and line Ministry views," it added.

Govt panel moots ex-ante competition regulations for Big Tech

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

A GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED panel has proposed ex-ante regulations for large digital enterprises to curb any possible anti-competitive business practices.

The Committee on Digital Competition Law (CDCL) came out with its report and draft legislation on Tuesday and has sought public comments.

The panel was set up in February last year following a Parliamentary panel proposing to have a new digital competition law to curb anti-competitive practices in the digital markets.

Among others, the committee has suggested an agile and principle-based framework for ex-ante obligations under the draft competition bill.

Vaibhav Choukse, Partner at JSA Advocates & Solicitors, said the committee has recommended the "ex-ante" legislation for pre-identified large digital enterprise i.e. big techs, with significant presence to proactively monitor their behaviour in the market".

The third-party application provider license will allow cus-

BAT to sell 3.5% stake in ITC worth ₹16,775 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, MARCH 12

UK-BASED BRITISH American Tobacco (BAT) Tuesday said its wholly-owned subsidiary Tobacco Manufacturers (India) has decided to sell part of its stake worth Rs 16,775 crore (around \$2,027 billion) in ITC Ltd.

It will sell up to 43.68 crore shares in ITC to institutional investors by way of an accelerated bookbuild process, subject to customary closing conditions.

The block trade shares represent up to 3.5 per cent of ITC's issued ordinary share capital, BAT said.

After the sale, BAT will still own a 25.5 per cent stake in ITC.

"ITC is a valued associate of BAT in an attractive market with long-term growth potential where BAT benefits from exposure to the world's most populous

market," BAT said. BAT's initial investment in ITC dates back to the early 1900s and the two companies have a longstanding, mutually beneficial relationship, it said.

The block deal price band ranges from ₹384 to ₹402.50. ITC shares closed 1.26 per cent lower at ₹404.25 on the BSE Tuesday.

As one of India's leading FMCG enterprises, ITC has delivered significant value for its shareholders and BAT continues to be fully supportive of ITC's management team, performance and strategy, BAT said.

BAT intends to use the net proceeds of the block trade to buy back BAT shares over a period ending December 2025, starting with 700 million pounds in 2024. "We will continue to allocate operating cash flow to fund investment in our transformation and to further deleverage," it said.

Paytm may get TPAP licence this week

Mumbai: The National Payments Corp of India (NPCI) is likely to approve a third-party application provider (TPAP) license for Paytm, formally known as One 97 Communications, by March 15, three sources directly aware of the development said Tuesday.

"The (TPAP) license approval will come before March 15 and most checks have been completed," a source said. REUTERS

tomers to continue using the Paytm app for payments through the UPI, even as Paytm Payments Bank ceases operations by March 15, following regulatory action due to issues of non-compliance.

The latest inflation print is largely in line with the consensus estimate. An FICCI poll of 17 economists last week projected the headline figure to come in at 5%.

Despite easing price pressures, economists do not expect

PM inaugurates Maruti Suzuki's in-plant railway siding in Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 12

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project of Maruti Suzuki (MSIL) at its plant at Hansalsur in Gujarat's Mehsana district virtually from a function here.

PM Modi, who visited Gujarat on Tuesday, inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of ₹85,000 crore railway projects, including the launch of 10 new Vande Bharat trains, from Sabarmati area of Ahmedabad in Gujarat after visiting the Dedicated Freight Corridor's (DFC) Operation Control Centre here.

The MSIL's in-plant railway siding project was also inaugurated during the event.

The project has been developed under the Centre's PM Gati Shakti mission in partnership with the Gujarat government, Indian Railways and MSIL at a cost of ₹976 crore, MSIL's Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs, Rahul Bharti said.

The MSIL's in-plant railway siding project was also inaugurated during the event.

The project has been developed under the Centre's PM Gati Shakti mission in partnership with the Gujarat government, Indian Railways and MSIL at a cost of ₹976 crore, MSIL's Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs, Rahul Bharti said.

NCLAT upholds transfer of Jet ownership to JKC

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

The tribunal has directed the Jet Airways monitoring panel to complete transfer of ownership within 90 days

monitoring committee shall be adjusted towards the first tranche payment of ₹350 crore as ₹200 crore has already been paid by the successful resolution applicant," NCLAT said.

Jet Airways in a statement said: "NCLAT has approved the implementation of the resolution plan as originally approved without any deviations and has given directions to lenders for specific and immediate implementation. Jet Airways can start business and operations, subject to regulatory approvals, after

handover to successful resolution applicant."

JKC had deposited ₹200 crore in two tranches by September last year. The lenders had argued that JKC hadn't complied with the conditions of the resolution plan, ranging from payment of airport dues to payment of the first tranche.

JKC and the lenders of Jet Airways have been engaged in a legal tussle over the transfer of ownership of the airline to the successful bidder for over a year. In January, the Supreme Court, while refusing to interfere in other issues, had set aside the order of the NCLAT permitting JKC to adjust ₹150 crore from its bank guarantee.

Jet Airways was grounded in 2019 amid mounting financial woes. State Bank of India, its largest lender, had initiated insolvency proceedings against the company before NCLT Mumbai, and the company was subsequently admitted to the resolution process. In 2021, JKC emerged as the successful resolution applicant to re-commence the operations of the airline. FE

holding while Vedanta stopped paying dividend citing the dispute.

The UK firm approached Sebi over stopping the dividend payment even as it contested the tax demand. Sebi in its order said Vedanta violated the law by withholding dividends that should have been paid to the UK firm between January 2014 and June 2017.

PTI

New Delhi: Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Tuesday ordered mining mogul Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd to pay ₹77,62 crore to Scottish explorer Cairn for a delay in the payment of dividends.

It barred the firm's entire board, including his brother Navin and daughter Priya, from accessing the capital market.

Sebi said Vedanta must make the payment within 45 days or face further action.

Vedanta said in a stock exchange filing: "The company is in the process of taking appropriate legal steps in respect of the same."

Vedanta had in 2011 bought Cairn Energy PLC's majority stake in its Indian arm, Cairn

India Ltd. Cairn continued to hold a minority stake in Cairn India, which was subsequently merged into its parent and Mumbai-listed Vedanta Ltd.

In 2014, the Income Tax department slapped a ₹10,247 crore tax demand on the Scottish explorer over a 2006 reorganisation and listing of Cairn India. It attached Cairn Energy's residual

PTI

SBI
Marketing & Communication Department, 9th Floor,
State Bank Bhavan, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai - 400021

CORRIGENDUM

Please refer to RFP No. SBI/M&C/2023-24/04 Dated: 20.02.2024 for Empanelment as Research Agencies for SBI. Please visit 'Procurement News' at <https://www.sbi.co.in> or <https://bank.sbi> for Corrigendum 01 issued on dated 12.03.2024.

Revised Last date and time for submission of bids: 18.03.2024 up to 15:00 hrs.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 12.03.2024

-Sd-
Deputy General Manager (M&C)

COEP Technological University
Unitary Public University of Government of Maharashtra
w.e.f. 21st June 2022
(Formerly College of Engineering Pune)
Wellesley Road, Shivajinagar, Pune - 411 005, (MH) INDIA

Phone : +91-020-25507009
Website: www.coep.org.in

TENDER NOTICE

COEP Technological University, Pune, invites online tenders for electrical installations at their Chikhali Campus by 14.00 hours on April 1, 2024. The details of tenders, terms and conditions are available on the Maharashtra Government Website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

Pune
Registrar
COEP Technological University, Pune

TELANGANA STATE MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Director of Health Campus, Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad-95,
Telangana State
(An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Organization)

1. Tender Notice No.4/2023/DIAG/TSMSIDC, DT.11.03.2024
2. Tender Notice No.6/2023/EQU/TSMSIDC, DT.11.03.2024
3. Tender Notice No.16/2023/Medicine/TSMSIDC, DT.11.03.2024
4. Tender Notice No.17/2023/Surgical/TSMSIDC, DT.11.03.2024

Above mentioned tenders are invited through e-procurement platform (online) for Procurement, supply of following under Rate contract for a period of Two Years:-
T- No.4 - Diagnostic Equipment and Kits & Reagents,
T- No.6 - Equipments,
T- No.17 - Materials & Supplies (Surgical)

and any other Miscellaneous items, Managing Director, TSMSIDC reserves the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reason. For complete details, please visit Web Site: <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> from 20.03.2024 onwards

DIPR No. 1038-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/I/2023-24
Sd/- Managing Director

महाबलेश्वर गिरिस्थान नगरपालिका
महाबलेश्वर, जि. सातारा

ई-निविदा नोटीस क्र. १, सन २०२३-२०२४
महाबलेश्वर गिरिस्थान नगरपालिका, परिवर्तन विभ

MORADABAD SMART CITY LIMITED
 Office of the CEO / Municipal Commissioner,
 Water Works Compound, Peeli Kothi, Civil Lines, Moradabad-244001
 Contact No. : 0591-2971001
 E-Mail: moradabadsmartcitylimited@gmail.com
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

Open Tender: 2790/MSCL/2024 Dated: 11.03.2024
 The C.E.O. of Moradabad Smart City Limited (MSCL) invites e-tenders for the following works:
1) Name of the Work: Supply, Installation Testing and Commissioning of Aqua Screen based Projection Mapping show at water body in shahpur Tigri Pond District Moradabad under Smart City Mission with 05 Year O&M. (NIT No.: 2790/MSCL/2024).

Tender Fee Non-refundable fee of INR 11,800/- incl. tax/GST etc. (Rs. Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Only)-

Start Date and time for downloading of bid 12/03/2024 at 16.00 Hrs.

Period of Last date and time for submission of bid 12/04/2024 at 16:00 Hrs.

Opening of bid 13/04/2024 at 17:00 Hrs.

The bid forms and other details are available on website <https://etender.up.nic.in/> and can only be submitted through <https://etender.up.nic.in/>. Any corrigendum regarding this would be published only on the above mentioned website.

Additional C.E.O.
Moradabad Smart City Limited

**HARYANA GOVERNMENT
HERITAGE AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT**
Notification

The 12th March, 2024

No. 12/249/2021-Pura-926-33 Whereas the Governor of Haryana is of the opinion that archaeological sites and remains, ancient and historical monuments specified in column I of the Schedule given below requires protection under the Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964 (Punjab Act 20 of 1964);

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964 (Punjab Act 20 of 1964) the Governor of Haryana hereby proposes to declare the ancient and historical monuments specified in column I of Schedule given below, to be a protected archaeological site and remains as specified in columns 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the said Schedule.

Notice is hereby given that the proposal shall be taken into consideration by the Government on or after the expiry of a period of two months from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, together with objections or suggestions, if any, from any person with respect to the proposal which may be received by the Principal Secretary to Government, Haryana, Heritage and Tourism Department, Chandigarh before the expiry of the period so specified:-

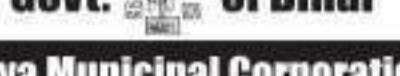
SCHEDULE

Name of ancient and historical monuments	Name of archaeological sites and remains	Name of village/ city	Name of tehsil/ district	Revenue Khasra Kila number under protection	Area to be protected	Ownership Kanal-Mari	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Medieval Tomb	Medieval Tomb	Ampur	Palwal	278/323-38	2 Kanal	Gram 4 Marla	Panchayat

Sd/- Superintendent
Archaeology & Museums Deptt, Haryana,
Chandigarh, DDO Code 2306

25789

Sd/- M.D Sinha
Principal Secretary to Government, Haryana,
Heritage and Tourism Department.


**Gaya Municipal Corporation
Near Kedarnath Market, Gaya- 823001**

E-mail- mc.gayamc@gmail.com

NIT No.- 18/2023-24

Important Notice for Bidder regarding E-Auction

(Through e-Procurement mode over
<http://https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in/eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

अल्पालीन संसारों की बन्दोवस्ती हेतु आम सुचना

संसाराणण को सुचित किया जाता है कि गया नगर निगम के अधिन निम्नालिखित संसारों की बदोवस्ती विधि वर्ष 2023-24 हेतु प्रतिस्पर्द्ध के आधार पर <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/पेचासाईट> से इ-ऑफर्स निम्नालिखित विधियों के अनुसार की जायेंगी:-

S.N.	Information	Details
1	Name of Assignment	वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए गया नगर निगम अंतर्गत विभिन्न संसारों की बन्दोवस्ती
2	E-auction Processing Fee/Cost (Non-Refundable)	INR (As per Eproc 2.0) (Inclusive of GST) Payable online through e-payment mode i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card on following website: https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/
3	E-auction Fee/Cost (Non-Refundable)	As per NIT
4	Date of Issue of Notice Inviting E-auction	12.03.2024
5	Period of submission of necessary documents	19.03.2024 to 23.03.2024
6	Date of scrutiny of documents submitted by registered applications.	25.03.2024
7	E-auction schedule	तकनीकी बीड़ निष्पादन के बाद इ-ऑफर्न की विधि एवं समय निर्धारित की जायेंगी।
8	Contact person of queries	Sri Shailendra Kumar Sinha, Mob. No.- 9471893041

1. Details description of the item and instruction for submitting offer can be downloaded from e-tender website (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>).
2. For support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at "eproc 2.0 Help Desk Address: Mjunction services limited, R.J. Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajpura, Ashiyana Road, P.S.- Shastrinagar, Patna- 800014, Bihar. Toll Free Number- 1800 572 671 or <http://https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in/eproc2.bihar.gov.in>.
3. Bidder should be registered on e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>) and have the Class III Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) with signing + Encryption and User ID of the e-Procurement website (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>) before participating in the e-Tendering process.
4. The Municipal Commissioner, Gaya Municipal Corporation, Gaya reserve the right to reject or cancel the auction or any part at any stage thereof without assigning any reasons.
5. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any will be published on the website of the e-Procurement, Bihar (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>)

ग्रुप संख्या	संसार का नाम	सुरक्षित जमा राशि	अग्रणी की राशि	बीओप्यू	बीड़ प्रोसेसिंग यूल्क	ई-ऑफर्न की विधि एवं समय
1	केंद्रानाथ मार्केट गाडण्ड रेट	14851371	1485137	10000	3000+Tax	तकनीकी बीड़ निष्पादन के बाद
2	बस स्टैण्ड रिकडिया बोड	3083540	308354	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बीड़ निष्पादन के बाद
3	बस ट्रैक्टरहेल्ड	4496500	449650	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बीड़ निष्पादन के बाद
4	गोपालगंग रोड ग्रृटउड रेट	4654000	465400	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बीड़ निष्पादन के बाद
5	जिला स्कूल पूर्णे गेट टेम्पु स्टैण्ड	2400000	240000	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बीड़ निष्पादन के बाद
6	चौक टैम्पु स्टैण्ड	5501900	550190	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बीड़ निष्पादन के बाद
7	निगम ट्रैक में होर्डिंग	2685280	268528	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बीड़ निष्पादन के बाद
8	निगम ट्रैक में विद्युत पाल पर प्रचार पट	577700	57770	1250	500+Tax	तकनीकी बीड़ निष्पादन के बाद
9	बस स्टैण्ड पर्चारी अमरवाड़ा	1157000	115700	2500	500+Tax	तकनीकी बीड़ निष्पादन के बाद
10	कठोर तालाब ग्राउंड रेट	2936500	293650	5000	500+Tax	तकनीकी बीड़ निष्पादन के बाद
11	शहीद रोड पार्किंग	1026000	102600	2500	500+Tax	तकनीकी बीड़ निष्पादन के बाद

विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखी जा सकती है।

नगर आयुक्त गया नगर निगम

PR-19597 (B & C) 2023-24

विहार में शास्त्र का व्यापार, विद्या एवं सेवन अवैध है।

संवित शिवाय इस नियम पर वर्त्त करें आपकी जानकारी गुरु रक्षी जाएगी।

टॉल फ्री नं- 15545 या 1800 345 6268

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
E-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the President of Republic of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction-II), North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E-Tender for the following work upto 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date, (1) Tender No.: EL/C/JP/RDSO/TOSR/23 (2) Name of work: Electrical work of station building, OC building, Hostel, Switching Stations, Power House, ORH etc in connection with new line of RDSO test track project. (3) Approximate cost of the work: ₹25447003/- (4) Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹277200/- (5) Date & Time of closing E-Tender: 04.04.2024 upto 15.00 Hrs., 04.04.2024 upto 15.00 Hrs. (6) The Details of above E-Tender are available on Website: www.reps.gov.in/ 334-DP/24

Follow us at

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice For E-Auction

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction (www.reps.gov.in/) for the contract of Packing of Two-Wheeler and Other Parcel packages services for 5 stations i.e. NDLS, DLI, NZM, DEE and ANVT for the period of 3 (three) years as per detail and schedule given below:-

S.No.	Date & time of e-Auction	Assets to be auctioned
1.	27.03.2024 at 10:30 am	The contract of Packing of Two-Wheeler and Other Parcel packages services for 5 stations i.e. NDLS, DLI, NZM, DEE and ANVT for 3 (Three) years.

Important notes:

1. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit https://www.reps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html (E-Auction leasing section).

2. **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):** 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit.

3. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the situations.

78/2024

Serving Customers With A Smile

78/2024

78/2024

78/2024

78/2024

78/2024

Computer No. 180333
GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF LAND MANAGEMENT, ITANAGAR
File No. LMD-12016/12/2024
SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Dated Itanagar, the 09/03/2024

The Department of Land Management, Government of Arunachal Pradesh invites sealed quotation from amongst the Empowered Agencies for implementing of DILRMP project in Arunachal Pradesh.

The sealed quotation should reach the office of the Director of Land Management, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar or before 16/03/2024 at 1400 hrs and the same will be opened on 18/03/2024 at 1030 hrs in the office chamber of the Director of Land Management, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar or immediate next day, if the scheduled day happen to be a state holiday.

Interested firms may download Tender Document/Request for Proposal (RFP) from the official website of the Department www.arunachalpradesh.gov.in of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh. The last date for submission of the bids is 16 March 2024 till 1400 hrs. No bids shall be accepted after the due date and time. Query if any can be sent to the Director of Land Management through mail: dlmarn012@gmail.com.

Sd/-
(A.K.Singh) IAS
Secretary(Land Management)
Government of Arunachal Pradesh

DIPR/ARN/10712-13

Save Energy for the benefit of self and nation
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD.
(A State Government Undertaking)

PRESS TENDER NOTICE*

(e-Tendering Mode Only)

ONLINE TENDERS are hereby invited on partial turnkey basis (two part bid) by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4, from the Bidders / Joint venture firms having A-Class Electrical contractor license from Chief Electrical Inspector, for the following work:-

Tender No. CEO/M&C/T No. 22/33/11 KV S/St. Gaura/2023-24

Name of Work Tender for C/O 33/11 KV 1x6.3 MVA S/St i/c allied civil works for providing SOP to WSSS Dharampur to various villages in Kasauli Constituency from Gir River under ESD Narag i/o ED Rajgarh on Turnkey Basis Under operation circle HPSEBL Nahan

Estimated Cost ₹3,72,35,456/-

Earnest Money ₹3,72,355/-

Cost of Tender Documents inclusive GST(Non-refundable) ₹2360/-

Completion period 18 Months

Key Dates:-

1. Date of online publication 16.03.2024, 11:30 AM

2. Start date and time of bid submission 16.03.2024, 11:30 AM

3. End date and time of bid submission 04.04.2024, 11:30 AM

4. Date and time of opening of technico comm. bid 05.04.2024, 11:30 AM

The bid document is available online and bid shall be submitted online on website <https://www.hptenders.gov.in>. Bidders would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidders are required to have digital signature certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying authority (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPSEBL may obtain the same from the website <https://www.hptenders.gov.in>. DSC is mandatory to participate in e-tendering. Bidders already possessing valid DSC issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

(Er. Rakesh Kumar) Chief Engineer (OP)
HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-Zone.**ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT 2024-25**
(Under Graduate Programmes)**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB**

(A Central University Established by Act of Parliament)

Accredited by NAAC with 'A+' Grade

100th Position (University Category) in NIRF India 2023

Advt. Number: CUPB/23-24/019 Date: 12/03/2024

University Highlights:

1. Ultramodern Wi-Fi Campus spread in 500 Acres
2. High End Research Laboratories
3. Active Training & Placement Cell
4. Coaching Facility for various competitive exams
5. Meritorious faculty with international experience

UG Programmes Offered

❖ B.Sc. B.Ed. ❖ B. Pharmacy * ❖ B.A. LL.B. *

❖ B.A. B.Ed. ❖ B.Tech. Computer Sci. & Engg. *

NOTE: The Programmes marked with Star (*) are under approval stage and admissions will be offered subject to approval of regulating body.

Admissions will be done through

COMMON UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE TEST (UG) 2024

(To be conducted by NTA for Academic Session 2024-25)

Last Date of Online Submission of Application Form is

26 March 2024 (Up to 11:50 P.M.)

General Information:

1. Details of information about CUET (UG) 2024 i.e. eligibility, scheme of exam, procedure for applying etc. are contained on NTA website <https://exams.nta.ac.in/CUET-UG/> and <https://nta.ac.in/>

2. The candidates who have passed the class 12 /equivalent examination or are appearing in the same in 2024 can appear in the CUET (UG) - 2024 examination

3. Details of Programmes, eligibility and prospectus are available on university website: <https://cup.edu.in/>For Query Email: admissions@cup.edu.in; Mobile: 9464269330
Address: VPO. Ghudda, Dist. Bathinda, Punjab - 151401**NOTICE INVITING BID**

Request for Proposal for Selection of Consultant for "Preparation of Alternative Analysis Report (AAR) and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Navi Mumbai Metro line 2 connecting Eastern side of Navi Mumbai International Airport and Extension to NAINA through Panvel"

CIDCO of Maharashtra Limited through the process of e-tendering invites "On-line" Request for Proposal (RFP) comprising Technical and Financial from internationally experienced and reputed single business entities or consortia (Not more than 2), who deem themselves qualified based on the criteria for eligibility and are bidding for this assignment, for the appointment of a consultancy firm for "Preparation of Alternative Analysis Report (AAR) and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Navi Mumbai Metro line 2 connecting Eastern side of Navi Mumbai International Airport and Extension to NAINA through Panvel"

1) Name of Work: Request for Proposal for Selection of Consultant for "Preparation of Alternative Analysis Report (AAR) and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Navi Mumbai Metro line 2 connecting Eastern side of Navi Mumbai International Airport and Extension to NAINA through Panvel" 2) C.A. No.: 01/CGM(T/A)/TE(HQ, P/K)/23-24 3) E.M.D.: ₹3,00,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Only) 4) Consultancy Period: Seven (7) Months 5) Method of Selection: Quality cum Cost Based Selection (QCBS) 6) Tender Processing Fee: INR 11,800/- (Indian Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Only) - including GST @ 18%, non-refundable, to be paid via online payment gateway mode only. This RFP document is non-transferable.

The Bidding Schedule and Bidding documents will be available on the official e-tendering website of CIDCO Ltd. i.e. mahatenders.gov.in from 14/03/2024 after 17:00 hrs.

Chief General Manager
(Transport & Airport)
CIDCO/PR/681/2023-24

CIN - U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574
[www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in](http://cidco.maharashtra.gov.in)

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)																						
Telephone No. 01894-230566. E-mail:- hp-kan3@nic.in																						
The Superintending Engineer HPPWD 5th Circle Palampur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the percentage rate bids, in the electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.																						
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sr. No</th> <th>Name of Division</th> <th>Name of work.</th> <th>Estimated Cost (In lacs).</th> <th>Starting date for download Bid.</th> <th>Earnest Money (In lacs).</th> <th>Deadline for submission of Bid.</th> <th>Eligible Contractor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Shahpur</td> <td>Construction of road from Thulha Basti km. 0.00 to 5.715 including 5000 meter span bridge in District Kangra (H.P.) Sub Head:- Formation cutting, Passing Places, Ramps, C.D. works, G.WB-IL, WBW-III, Tarring work, Side Drains, Parapets including 50 meter span bridge including routine maintenance for five years after completion of construction work under (NABARD RIDF-XXIX).</td> <td>696.47</td> <td>20.03.2022 4:10:00 A.M.</td> <td>13.12</td> <td>04-04-2024 (5.00 PM)</td> <td>'A' Class.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							Sr. No	Name of Division	Name of work.	Estimated Cost (In lacs).	Starting date for download Bid.	Earnest Money (In lacs).	Deadline for submission of Bid.	Eligible Contractor	1	Shahpur	Construction of road from Thulha Basti km. 0.00 to 5.715 including 5000 meter span bridge in District Kangra (H.P.) Sub Head:- Formation cutting, Passing Places, Ramps, C.D. works, G.WB-IL, WBW-III, Tarring work, Side Drains, Parapets including 50 meter span bridge including routine maintenance for five years after completion of construction work under (NABARD RIDF-XXIX).	696.47	20.03.2022 4:10:00 A.M.	13.12	04-04-2024 (5.00 PM)	'A' Class.
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The bidders are advised to note other details of tender from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in . Date of Opening of tender is 05-04-2024 at 11:00 AM.																						
<p style="text-align: right;">Superintending Engineer, 5th Circle, HP.PWD, Palampur. Pin No. 176061 Tel. No. 01894-230566 e-mail: hp-kan3@nic.in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh</p>																						

HIMLOK SAMPAK. 6869/HP

E-Procurement Notice GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP) REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

National Open Competitive Procurement

Date: March 12, 2024

The Director (Projects) , HPRIDCL, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh, India on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites online bids for the construction of the work detailed in the table:-

Name of Work	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of Document (Rs.) incl. GST	Period of Completion	Estimated Cost (INR)	Date of availability of Documents	Last date & Time for submission of Bids
Construction of Balance Cantilever Bridge at Garkhal on Lump sum Basis.	Bid Security INR 64,95,130/-	Rs. 5,900	24 months	25.98 Cr. Incl. 18% GST	March 20, 2024	April 10, 2024

The detailed Request for Bids (RFB) Notice, Bidding Document alongwith other necessary information will be available on <https://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html> & <https://hptenders.gov.in/> link.

Note:- Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Bids (RFB) Notice shall be available to all interested bidders on official web site of HPRIDCL under <https://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html> & <https://hptenders.gov.in/> link.

Director (Projects)
HPRIDCL, Nirman Bhawan
Nigam Vihar Shimla-171002

1421/HP

PUBLIC NOTICE
GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF STATE TAXES AND EXCISE

NOTICE FOR ALLOTMENT OF RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES IN FORM L-2,L-14, L-14A & L-20B THROUGH AUCTION-CUM-TENDER PROCESS FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.

In continuation to the Public Notice No. 7-232/2024-EXN-5428-5455 dated 02-03-2024 published on 03-03-2024, even No. 5493-5520 dated 03-03-2024 published on 04-03-2024, 5933-961 dated 06-03-2024 published on 07-03-2024, 6028-58 dated 07-03-2024 published on 08-03-2024 and 6119-6145 dated 10-03-2024, it further notified for the information of general public that sealed tender applications for allotment of retail Units in Form L-2, L-14, L-14A and L-20B for the unsold retail sale licensed outlets of Country Liquor (L-14/L-14A), retail sale licensed outlets of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (L-2) and retail sale of Country Fermented Liquor (L-20B) in following Districts of State of Himachal Pradesh is fixed as under :-

1. The date of receiving applications and opening of tender alongwith venue is also given in the schedule below :-

Name of District	Venue	Date and Time for submission of tender applications (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM)	Date of bidding-cum-opening of tender
Chamba	Bachat Bhawan, Chamba		
Una	DRDA Hall Una, District Una	13-03-2024	14-03-2024 at 11:00 AM onwards
Kangra	Lions Club, Dharamshala, District Kangra		

Note: The tender application forms can be received and tenders can also be filed on the day of opening of tenders as per the time allowed by the Chairman of the Allotment Committee of the District.

2. The Auction-cum-Tender process will be subject to approval by the Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise, Himachal Pradesh who reserves the right to reject the same without assigning any reason.

3. Other terms and conditions shall remain same as mentioned in the Public Notice dated 02-03-2024.

4. The Announcements for the allotment of Retail Excise Vends by Auction-cum-Tender for the financial year 2024-25 is also available on the official website of the department i.e. www.hptax.gov.in.

Sd/-
Dr. Yunus (IAS)
Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise
Himachal Pradesh

1423/HP

PUBLIC NOTICE
GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF STATE TAXES AND EXCISE</p

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)						
The Executive Engineer Bilaspur Division No.2, HP-PWD, Bilaspur on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.						
Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest money	Deadline for submission of Bid	Time Period
1	Periodic Maintenance on Dhalet to Jhandri road Km. 0/0 to 11/51 (L-112) PMGSY road under performance incentive (SH)- Rectification of existing damaged paved surface, providing V-shape drain, U-shape drain and providing and laying periodic renewal using mix seal surfacing and including five years routine maintenance in Km. 0/0 to 10/300)	Rs. 1,51,31,894/-	14.03.2024	3,03,000/-	19.03.2024	One year

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in

6876/HP

Executive Engineer
Bilaspur Div. No. II,
HP-PWD, Bilaspur
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Tel: 01978-222551 e-mail:-ccs-hp@hpnic.in

**Government of Jharkhand
Commercial Taxes Department****NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**

For Selection of agency for "IT Operation, Maintenance & Up-gradation of Jharkhand VAT application and GST State Operations "under CT-MIS project for Department of Commercial Taxes, Government of Jharkhand Ref No. COMTAX/RFP/CTMIS-01/2024

Dated: 12-March-2024

Dept of Commercial taxes, Government of Jharkhand invites technical and financial proposals from reputed firms of national and international repute in related field, for Selection of agency for "IT Operation, Maintenance & Up-gradation of Jharkhand VAT application and GST State Operations "under CT-MIS project for Department of Commercial Taxes, Government of Jharkhand, as detailed in the Scope of Work in this RFP.

The document can be downloaded from the website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and <https://jharkhand.gov.in> in response to this tender shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of this document with full understanding of its implications. This section provides general information about the Issuer, important dates and addresses and the overall eligibility criteria for the bidders. The tender document cost of Rs.25,000/- (Rs. Twenty-Five Thousand only) is to be submitted online as per Jharkhand e-Procurement guidelines.

Issuer / Address for Correspondence:-

Department of Commercial Taxes, Government of Jharkhand, 3rd Floor,

Sd-

Joint Commissioner of State Tax,

PR 322392 Commercial Taxes(23-24)#D Commercial Taxes Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन विभाग (जल), नगर निगम, जबलपुर

क्रमांक/का.यं/नि.नि./जल/2023-24/PRO-728 जबलपुर, दिनांक 12.03.2024

- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना :-

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंचायत उमेरदारों से आईटम दर आधार पर अम लाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्र.	टेंडर क्रमांक जारी दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की सम्याचारी एवं लागत	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य एवं EMD	निविदा की अंतिम तिथि
01.	PRO-728 12.03.2024	Annual Rates : Contract for maintenance under JMC for City Water Supply.	01 वर्ष एवं 9,00,00,000/-	20,000/- एवं 4,50,000/-	23.04.2024

नोट :- निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन का प्रकाशन अन्त-लाइन <https://mptenders.gov.in> की वेबसाइट पर ही किया जावेगा, युक्त से सम्बन्धित पर्व में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

कार्यपालन विभाग (जल)

नगर निगम, जबलपुर



LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

2nd Floor Biscouman Tower, Gandhi Maidan (West), Patna - 800001, Tel. No. - 0612 - 2332129

[Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (second) Ordinance 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices on following date calling upon the following loanee under below mentioned loan A/c to repay the below mentioned amount within 60 days from the dates of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules on the following date

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD for below mentioned amount.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of Sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name & Address of Borrower & A/c No.	Date of Demand Notice / A/c No. / Amount Dues / Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
Mr. / Ms. Rakesh Kumar, S/o Ramandan Thakur, At - Rudauli Anchal, Bajpuri, P.O - H u m a y o o n p u r, Sitamarhi, Bihar-843314	18.12.2023 A/c No. - 212100001173 Rs. 7,07,542.13 + Sarfaesi + Other Charges	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Sale Deed No. - 9217, Dated - 18.05.2013, Unit No. - SE-12, (Simplex Bunglow), Vastu Vihar, Khesra No. - 33, Thana - Malkaunia, Circle - Motihari, DSRO - Motihari, East Champaran, Bihar, in the name of Sri Rakesh Kumar, Boundary - North - Nij, South - Nij, East - Nij, West - Nij
Mr./Ms. Sunil Kumar / Madhu Kumar, S/o Daragan Prasad Yadav, Chakia, Bara Chakia, Professor Colony, Ward N o . - 10 , E ast Champaran, Bihar - 845412	08.11.2023 A/c No. - 212100004340 Rs. 16,69,288.94 + Sarfaesi + Other Charges	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Sale Deed No. - 3690, Dated - 18.06.1987, Khata No. - 17, Khesra No. - 1207 M, Rakba - 2300 sft, Thana - Pipra, Mauza - Chakiya, Circle - Chakiya, Motihari, DSRO / SRO - Chakiya, Motihari, East - Champaran, Bihar, in the name of Sri Sunil Kumar, Boundary - North - Nij, South - Hal Baird, Matti Devi, East - Krishna Kumar Singh, West - Sadak 10"
Mr./Ms. Rambha Devi / Bir Balai Ram, S/o Ram Prasad Ram, Amar Chhattauni, Thana - Motihari, Anchal - Motihari , E ast Champaran, Bihar - 845401	08.11.2023 A/c No. - 212100004425 Rs. 16,70,838.96 + Sarfaesi + Other Charges	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Sale Deed No. - 6998, Dated - 14.07.2017, Khata No. - 80, Plot No. - 120, Rakba - 2.00 Decimal, Thana - 221, Chhattauni Amar, Circle - Motihari, DSRO / SRO - Motihari, East Champaran, Bihar, in the name of Smt. Rambha Devi, Boundary - North - Rasta 14" Chaura, South - Rajendra Rai, East - Nij Lekhyakari, West - Pamal Pandit
Mr./Ms. Suraj Kumar, S/o Shyamal Prasad, Turkauli Bazar, East Champaran, Bihar - 845485	18.12.2023 A/c No. - 212100004779 Rs. 19,69,400.70 + Sarfaesi + Other Charges	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Sale Deed No. - 1277, Dated - 21.02.2017, Khata No. - 335, Plot No. - 2042, Rakba - 6.20 Decimal, Thana - 100, Turkauli, Circle - Turkauliya, DSRO / SRO - Motihari, East Champaran, Bihar, in the name of Sri. Suraj Kumar, Boundary - North - Nij Lekhyakari, South - Sadak 12", East - Jangbadur Sah, West - Nij Lekhyakari
Jai Prakash Sharma, S/o Sipahi Sharma, At - Bhumiha, PO - Harpur Karah, PS - Baniyapur, District - Saran, State - Bihar, Pin Code-841403	31.07.2021 Rs. 17,63,015.39 + Sarfaesi + Other Charges	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land & Building Serial No. - 7361, Sale Deed No. - 7086, Date - 24.07.2018, Khata No. - 09, Khesra No. - 366, Thana No. - 274, Tauz No. - 3550, Total Area - 14.504 Decimal, Mauze - Musehari, Sub Registry Office - Chhapra, Anchal - Chhapra Sadar, P.S - Chhapra Musehari, District - Saran, State - Bihar, in the name of Jai Prakash Sharma, S/o Sri Sipahi Sharma, Boundary - North - Jhaman Mahto, South - Private Road 10ft & Others, East - Bulaki Lal, West - Gramin Road.
	06.03.2024	Authorized Officer (LIC Housing Finance Limited)

Invitation for Bids
Procurement of Works
(Two-Envelope Bidding Process without Prequalification)

No. and Date:	CE/ARNIP/20/2022/4, March 12, 2024
Loan No.:	4265-IND
Loan Title:	Assam South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Corridor Connectivity Improvement Project (ASCCIP)
Contract Title:	Improvement, upgradation and 5-year performance-based maintenance works of Road A23 3 from Haflong Tiniali Dehangi Lower Haflong (Thanalambra to Lower Haflong) (Length: 29.90 km)
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	April 26, 2024, till 2:00 PM IST

1. The Government of Assam has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Assam South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Corridor Connectivity Improvement Project (ASCCIP). Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

2. The Public Works Roads Department, Government of Assam ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the following work

Package No.	Package Name	Estimated cost of work (INR, crore)	Completion Time (Months)	Bid (INR) Security
ARNIP/A/RI-SA	Improvement, upgradation and 5-year performance-based maintenance works of Road A23 3 from Haflong Tiniali Dehangi Lower Haflong (Thanalambra to Lower Haflong) (Length: 29.90 km)	248.54	Execution = 36, post construction performance- based maintenance = 60	4,97,00,000.00 using instruments the specified in ITB 19.3

3. Open competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries and with following key qualifications:

Package No.	Road	Minimum Average Annual Turnover	Contracts of similar size and nature
ARNIP/A/RI/8A	A23_3	INR 165.70 crore	Participation in at least one contract with a value of INR 198.80 crore or two contracts with a value of at least INR 149.10 crore in each contract within 5 years.

More details of qualification requirements are mentioned in the Bidding Documents

4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications defined in the Bidding Document may participate in this bidding

5. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:

Office of the Chief Engineer (EAP), PWRD Assam

Address: Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati-781025, India, Email: as-ce.arnip@assam.gov.in

6. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders should

• Download the Bidding Documents which would be available online on the e-tendering System <https://assamtenders.gov.in> from March 15, 2024 (from 05:00 PM) onwards, till April 26, 2024, 2:00 PM.

• pay a nonrefundable fee of INR 30,000 to be paid online through e-tendering system

7. Deliver your bid through electronic submission in the e-tendering system <https://assamtenders.gov.in>:

• in the e-tendering system <https://assamtenders.gov.in> on or before the deadline April 26, 2024 upto 2.00 PM, Indian Standard Time.

• together with a Bid Security and tender processing fee as described in the Bidding Document.

8. Bids will be opened on April 26, 2024 at 3.15 PM IST, after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

Sd/-

Chief Engineer (EAP), PWRD Assam

Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati - 781025

JANASANYOG/CF/6508/23/13-Mar-24

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
 (A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
 "Metro Bhavan", VIP Road, Near Dikshabhoomi, Ramdaspeth,
 Nagpur-440010. E-mail: md.nmrc.tenders@gmail.com

Tender Notice No. N2-038/TL-01/2024 Dt. 07.03.2024

Name of work : Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Telecommunication System for Nagpur Metro Rail Project Phase-2.

Cost of Documents : INR 88,500/- (inclusive of GST).

Interested Bidders may visit www.metrorailnagpur.com or CPP Website : <https://eprocure.gov.in> for NIT. Bid documents can be downloaded from <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from 16.00 Hrs on 22.03.2024.

Executive Director/ Procurement
Maha-Metro

Nagpur Metro : City's Transport Solution

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.



दी अम्बाला जिला दुध उत्पादक सहकारी संघ ति. अम्बाला शुद्धिपत्र

हमारे अल्पावधि ऋण रु 65 करोड़ की निविदा के सरदर्भ में आपको सूचित किया जाता है कि मोर्हबद कोटेशन जमा करने हेतु अंतिम तिथि 11.03.2024 प्रातः 11.00 बजे तक थी। जिसे दिनांक 18.03.2024 प्रातः 11.00 बजे तक बढ़ाया जाता है एवं दिनांक 18.03.2024 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे खोले जाएंगे। अन्य नियम व शर्तें वही रहेंगी।

हस्ता,-
मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी,
दुध संघ, अम्बाला

25812/PB

GSPC
SETU
TENDER NOTICE
 Inviting Tenders for Construction of 625 Anganwadi Centres across the State of Gujarat by using Light Gauge Steel Framing (LGSF) Technology

Online tenders are invited by SETU for Design, Supply, Construct, Erection and Commissioning of Modular Structure through Light Gauge Steel Framing (LGSF) Technology for Anganwadi Centres (Nandghar) at various locations in the State of Gujarat.

The detailed schedule of Notice Inviting Tender is available at www.gspcgroup.com from 13/03/2024 and Tender document will be available on www.tender.nprocure.com from 18/03/2024.

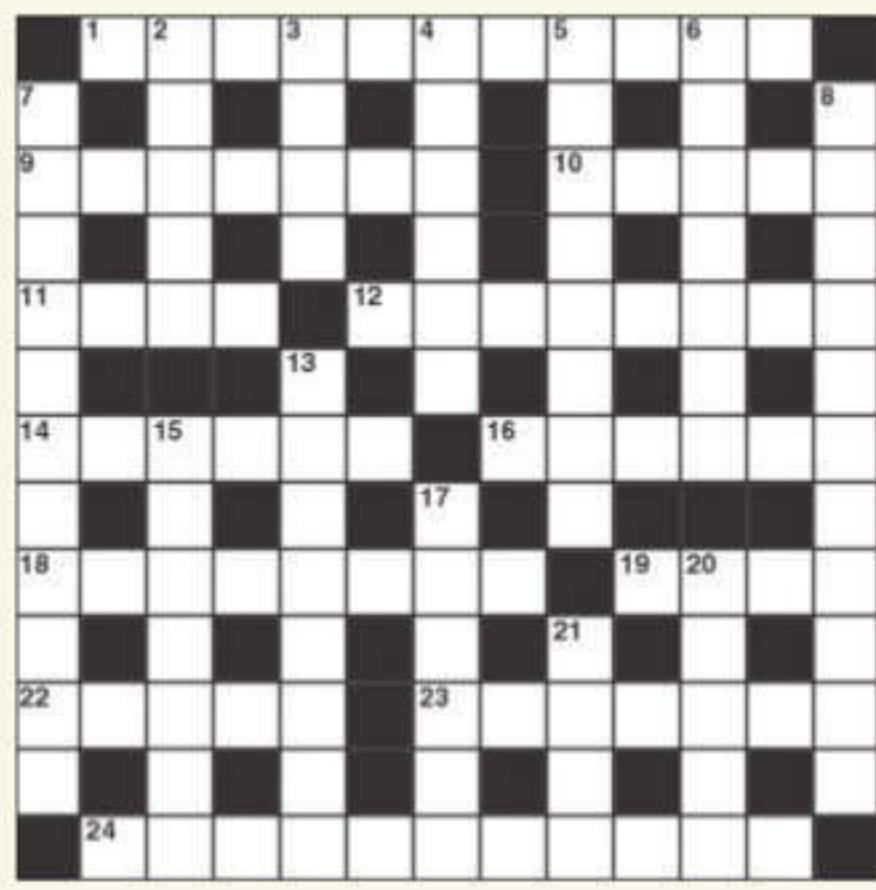
Querries for the Tender document can be addressed at : setu@gspc.in

Last date of submission of bids (Online) : 09/04/24, 18:00 Hrs.

Socio Economical Transformation and Upliftment Society (SETU)

GUJARAT STATE PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED
 (A Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking)
 GSPC Bhavan, Sector-11, Gandhinagar-382010, Gujarat,

CROSSWORD 5311



ACROSS

- 1 Blow up an extension (11)
9 Particle would turn one off (7)
10 One may be dressed up to them - by numbers? (5)
11 Start work in French (4)
12 One drink refreshes. Another is a different matter (3,2,3)
14 Times of enchantment (6)
16 Unpretentious old medicine (6)
18 Reg and Maria joined in wedlock (8)
19 Came out top (4)
22 Dark disturbing thing (5)
23 This speaker keeps his topic to himself (7)
24 Is an orator lost and speechless without it? (7,4)

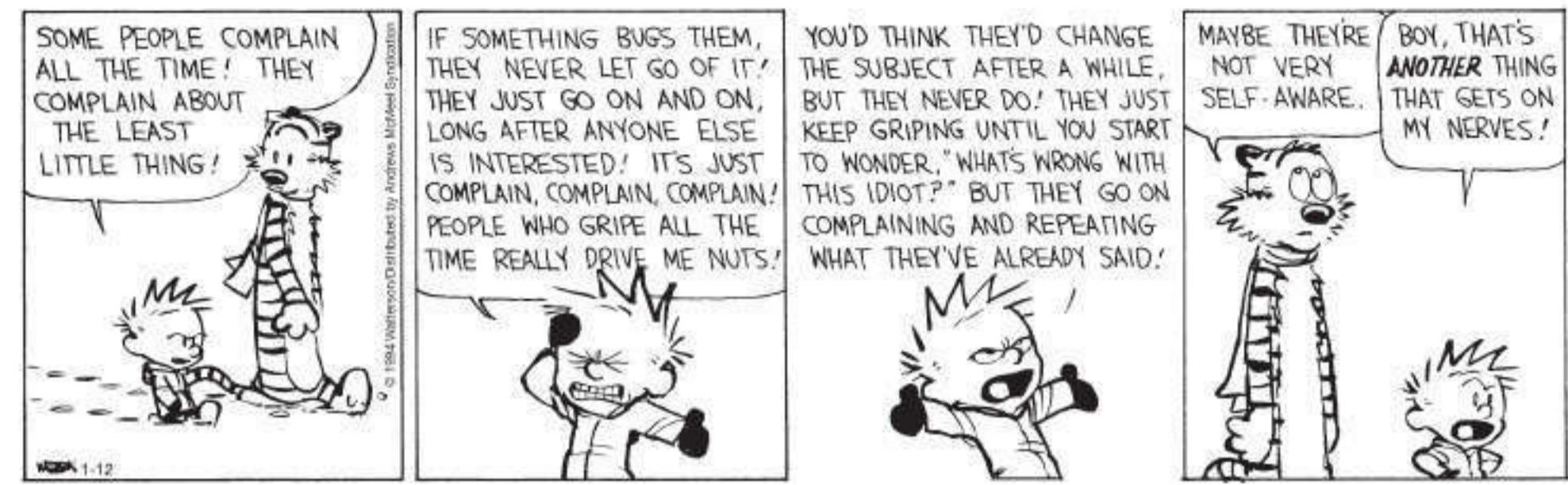
- DOWN
2 Hopeless - lacking purpose (2,3)
3 Looks composed (4)
4 One in the biology class is very bright (6)
5 Unusual gloom in a remote part of Asia (8)
6 Journey on such a train can have only one end (7)
7 Clause in insurance policy gets approval (11)
8 Manage to avoid the final conclusion (6,5)
13 Strange relics to be found in the cathedral (8)
15 Badly angered and remaining furious (7)
17 Consents but will be a long time coming round again (6)
20 Company about to promote foreign capital (5)
21 Search for a company doctor (4)

Solutions Crossword 5310 Across: 1 Infirm, 4 Adorable, 9 Sharps, 10 Steadily, 12 Ruhr, 13 Moths, 14 Shoe, 17 Narrow squeak, 20 Deerstalkers, 23 Apse, 24 Scoop, 25 Idea, 28 Climatic, 29 Varies, 30 Sweeping, 31 Lead-in Down: 1 Insuring, 2 Feathers, 3 Rapt, 5 Dutch auction, 6 Road, 7 Blight, 8 Elysee, 11 Construction, 15 Loves, 16 Malls, 18 Headwind, 19 Assassin, 21 Dances, 22 Aspire, 26 Wasp, 27 Rate

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLE WORDS

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

Every uneducated person is a ___ of himself. - Karl Wilhelm Friedrich Schlegel (10)

CPAAE

BELRTU

AFIRR

ENOSCC

- Karin Wilhelm Friedrich Schlegel
Answer: AFIRRAUTER, BELIEUTER, SCONGE

SUDOKU 5500

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.



SOLUTION SUDOKU 5499



INAUGURATION—OIL INDIA

Oil India witnessed a momentous occasion as the PM of India, Modi inaugurated two flagship pipeline projects of the company in an august ceremony held at Jorhat, Assam. OilI upgraded the pumping capacity of 756 km Barauni-Bongaigaon-Guwahati sector of its 1157 km long Naharkatiya-Barauni Crude Oil Pipeline up to 3 MMTPA, which would help in meeting supply of imported crude oil at Bongaigaon & Guwahati refinery.



DIVIDEND—POWERGRID

POWERGRID paid Rs 2067.68,20,860 as 2nd interim dividend for FY 23-24 to Gol at the M/o Power, ND. A cheque was presented to Cabinet M/o Power, New & Renewable Energy, RK Singh in the presence of P Agarwal, Secy. (Power), Gol, RK Tyagi, CMD, G. Ravisankar, Dir. (Fin.), Abhay Choudhary, Dir. (Projects), Dr. Y Dwivedi, Dir. (Pers.), CB Kankariya, Independent Dir., Ram Naresh Tiwari, Independent Dir. & POWERGRID's EDs.



FOUNDATION DAY—CWC

CWC celebrated its 68th Foundation Day recently, enumerating the achievements of the past 7 decades & presenting the picture of the future leading to Amit Kal of CWC. The Chief Guest, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, MoSCAF&PD, graced the occasion. In her address, she praised the importance of storage & the extraordinary work undertaken during the COVID period.



BRANCH OPENING — PSB

PSB opened a new branch in Nagaland's Dimapur. Swarup Kumar Saha, MD & CEO of PSB, informed the esteemed gathering that the bank's vision is to expand its footprint in the northeastern region. The bank has inaugurated its 32nd branch in the northeastern region, with plans to open four additional branches in the near future.



INAUGURATION—INDIAN COAST GUARD

Raksha Rajya Mantri, Ajay Bhattacharya inaugurated the Indian Coast Guard Jetty Vadinar recently. The jetty construction was undertaken by Deendayal Port Authority as a deposit work at a cost of Rs 74 crores. Raksha Rajya Mantri lauded the role played by the ICG, in safeguarding national maritime interests in its areas of responsibility.



INAUGURATION—WAPCOS

Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated "CITRA HEIGHTS" Residential Apartments in New Delhi's Dwarka for CBIC officials, constructed by NPCC a subsidiary of WAPCOS, in the presence of Vivek Joshi, Secy., DFS; Sanjay Malhotra, Revenue Secy. & Sanjay Agarwal, Chairman, CBIC.



WOMEN's DAY—HUDCO

The HUDCO family commemorated Women's Day 2024 across its offices recently. The event witnessed a remarkable gathering of women employees at the corporate office, underscoring the significance of gender equality, free from biases, stereotypes, & discrimination. The celebration emphasised the importance of a barrier-free world, advocating for gender equality and inclusivity.



CSR—MUTHOOT GROUP

The Muthoot Group paid a humble tribute to its visionary leader, Late MG Muthoot, Former Group Chairman, on his 3rd memorial anniversary. To commemorate the 3rd memorial anniversary of MG George Muthoot, a mega CSR event was executed recently in Paul George Global School to benefit thousands of underprivileged & needy beneficiaries. R Hiblu (IPS), Special Commissioner of Delhi Police & ADG of Police was the Chief Guest.



CORPORATE BRIEFS

FUNCTION—GAIL

Taking a significant step towards building a Natural Gas-based economy as envisioned by PM Modi, Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas & Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri dedicated to the nation 201 Compressed Natural Gas stations across 17 states & India's first small-scale LNG unit at Vijaipur (MP). This was done through video conferencing at a function in the presence of Union M/oS, Petroleum & Natural Gas & Labour & Employment Rameshwar Teli, Secy., MoPNG Pankaj Jain, CMD, GAIL, SK Gupta, Additional Secy., MoPNG PM Khanooja, GAIL Dir. (Fin.), RK Jain, Dir. (Projs.), DGupta, Dir. (Marketing), Sanjay Kumar, Dir. (Business Development), RK Singhal & senior officials of oil & gas sector companies including CGD entities.



NATIONAL MEET ON RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT—SCOPE

Bringing its capacity-building endeavor to the Northeastern region of the country, SCOPE organized its 'National Meet on Right To Information Act' in Meghalaya's Shillong. The meet, attended by over 80 participants from 34 PSEs, was addressed by Heeral Samariya, Chief Information Commissioner, CIC; H. Nongpluh, State Chief Information Commissioner, Meghalaya; Atul Sobti DG, SCOPE & Senior Officials of Meghalaya Govt., Gol & PSEs. Heeral Samariya interacted with the participants & said that the intention of the Right to Information Act is to foster transparency and accountability in governance. Commending the large participation in SCOPE's workshop, he asserted that though RTI is a small Act, it is the most powerful Act.



SPRING WATER SUMMIT

The 2nd edition of SPRING Water Summit was organised by Indo Nordic Water Forum, a joint stakeholder platform for Indian and Nordic water sectors was held recently at Hotel Taj Ambassador. The keynote address was given by Summit Chief Guest Bharat Lal Sekhri, Gen. National Human Rights Commission, India & the special address was delivered by Kimmo Lahdevirta, Ambassador of Finland, Jan Thesleff, Ambassador of Sweden, Freddy Svane, Ambassador of Denmark & Martine Botteman, DCM of Norway in India.



MoU—GAIL

GAIL, ONGC & SEI Private Limited signed a tripartite MoU to explore opportunities for import of ethane & other hydrocarbons & development of evacuation infrastructure at Shell Energy Terminal, Hazira. Earlier, GAIL had entered into a bilateral MoU with SEI for scouting opportunities in different facets of energy cooperation, wherein a feasibility study was conducted by a reputed consultant on developing ethane import infrastructure in the existing SEI terminal at Hazira. ONGC has a bilateral MoU with GAIL for, inter alia, importing & handling of hydrocarbon. In view of the emergence of ethane requirement in India & proposed development of ethane infrastructure, the three parties ONGC, GAIL & SEI have joined hands.



WOMEN's DAY—PNB

On International Women's Day, PNB, nation's leading public sector bank, reaffirmed its commitment to gender equality, diversity, & inclusion as well as honoured the invaluable contributions made by women to both the organisation & society as a whole. The celebration took place at PNB's Corporate Office in New Delhi & was graced by Chief Guest RK Dharmshaktu, the first Indian woman to ski from coast of Antarctica to South Pole.



WOMEN's DAY—SCOPE

SCOPE observed the International Women's Day at SCOPE Complex, New Delhi. Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE calling women 'multifaceted' & the 'embodiment of strength & exuberance', exhorted them to give their best and transcend to newer heights of success. The celebrations were joined by International delegates from 25 countries as part of VVGNI program.



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The Moon is in a sympathetic sector, at least for part of the day, encouraging you to make the most of your fiery impulses. It's a perfect moment to take the lead in terms of generous and flamboyant gestures. Don't hold yourself back, at least not today.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Recent emotional tiffs have stirred up undercurrents. They have made you see that partners are not going to let you off the hook so easily. You are adept at playing the games demanded by a relationship and will never be caught out.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

The Sun is steadily moving towards a confrontation with Pluto, a celestial body of no little significance for all you Scorpios. May I take this opportunity to advise you to be one hundred percent straight and open in all your dealings? Oh, and never bend the rules.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The combination of lunar emotion with Sagittarian energy is one which is bound to galvanise your soul. Overseas contacts and foreign travel are so well indicated that there can be no better way to use your time than to plan your next major expedition.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Although you may be in peak condition, the Moon has knocked the stuffing out of you emotionally in the past. Now you are facing entirely more routine considerations, the chief of which is money. You'll find that older partners and people you've known for a long time will be the most reliable.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

The distant rumblings you hear over financial matters must make you realise that decisions cannot be delayed much longer. In a sense your dilemma is that even while the information you have to work with is still uncertain, firm action is required. Get partners on your side now and they won't be able to criticise you later.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

MUCH

depends on how you cope with provocative actions or statements by people in authority. The last thing you want to do is irritate someone unnecessarily.

If you've kept your cool until now, you should get through with a minimum of fuss or disruption.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Your intuition is quite remarkable at the moment with the result that you have a much better idea of what is really going on than anyone else.

All the better to deal with the questions raised by an important emotional tie, and to begin to heal an old scar.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Held meetings and interviews by all means, and do continue to discuss personal matters. However, please understand that all that can take place now is a frank exchange of views, with absolutely no requirement to reach a firm settlement. That can come next week.

INAUGURATED — POWERGRID

PM inaugurated seven projects of POWERGRID, collectively representing an investment of approximately Rs.4000 crs & also laid the foundation stone for one upcoming project, with an investment of around Rs 3500 crs. These projects play a crucial role in strengthening the National Grid, aligning seamlessly with the GoI's vision of "One Nation, One Grid, One Frequency" & ensuring uninterrupted 24x7 power to all.



APPOINTMENT

NHPC

Rajendra Prasad Goyal, Dir. (Fin.), NHPC has taken over the additional charge of the post of CMD of NHPC. Goyal, a member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India, joined NHPC on 18 Nov. 1988 as a finance professional. He holds a Master's Degree in Commerce from the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur & has a vast experience of more than 35 yrs in NHPC in the core areas of finance, coupled with an in-depth understanding of Financial, Contractual & Regulatory issues involved in the construction & operation of hydropower projects.



WOMEN'S DAY — RAILTEL

RailTel celebrated International Women's Day with grandeur & fervor. On the eve of Women's Day, an interactive session with all women employees, management & senior officials were organized at corporate office & all regional offices. The session was chaired by Sanjay Kumar, CMD/RailTel & was joined by Dir./POM, CVO, PEDs, GGMs & senior officials across RailTel. RailTel went beyond recognizing the achievement of women employees of RailTel & organized a virtual meet of women leaders of partner companies.



BSNL has launched an enhanced BSNL Selfcare Mobile app, aiming to make customer service easier. The new unified app to customers will be single integrated app for Landline/FTTH & mobile services. The updated app brings a range of new features which include Easy Recharge & Bill Payment, Manage multiple numbers under one account for added convenience & Interactive Dashboards to get real-time insights into usage & account details. BSNL is committed to further enhancing the app with lifestyle services like OTT content & educational resources.

ITPO The 38th edition of AAHAR – the International Food & Hospitality Fair is an event organized by ITPO & supported by the M/o Food Processing Industries, Gol, Agriculture & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority & APEX Industry bodies from March 7-11, 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The show has grown by leaps & bounds in the recent yrs & has become the ultimate destination for global vendors & sourcing professionals. Apart from opening new opportunities for business, the fair also offers technology innovation, skill development & collaborations.

IRCTC The IRCTC, a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the M/o Railways, Gol, has taken a significant step to enhance the convenience & ease of travel for passengers. IRCTC has entered into a MoU with Swiggy Foods for the supply & delivery of pre-ordered meals through the IRCTC e-catering portal. This partnership is being implemented as a Proof of Concept in the first phase at four railway stations: Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Vijayawada, & Visakhapatnam. The service will subsequently be expanded to 59 stations in the coming months. Under this partnership, provision of food delivery services to passengers will add to the travel experience, by giving them an opportunity to pre-order meals, have a wider choice in terms of cuisine and price points, & to customize their orders.