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8 March
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Chalo Himachal

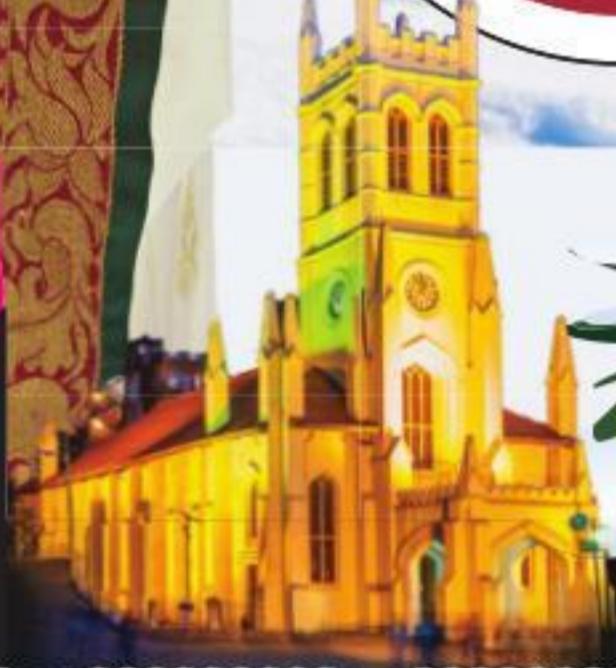
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Winter is here, and summer vacations are knocking at our door. India is looking beautiful as ever, and it's the perfect time to explore! Are you ready to celebrate life across the length and breadth of our beloved country? Come, let's experience the cool Himalayas, make memories by the endless sea, rejuvenate amidst nature's greens, witness the dramatic sunset in the desert, delve into our glorious heritage, and indulge in all things royal. You just can't get enough of it, and indeed, Yeh Dil Maange More! With Veena World by your side, you focus solely on celebrating life while we handle the rest. Come, let's fall in love with India all over again! Chalo, Bag Bharo, Nikal Pado!

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Australia America Africa Asia

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THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Mudslides in Los Angeles, Tuesday. AP

UNITED STATES

Los Angeles gets half its seasonal rainfall in 2 days

Los Angeles: Rainfall from one of the wettest storms in Southern California history was easing Tuesday after Los Angeles was bombarded with nearly half of its seasonal rainfall in just two days, but forecasters warned of a continuing threat for potentially deadly landslides on super-soaked ground. The slow-moving storm that parked itself over the region on Monday, dumping record amount of rain on parts of Los Angeles, could linger into Wednesday, the National Weather Service said. Scattered showers and some possible thunderstorms would bring light to moderate rain. AP

TURKEY

2 assailants, 1 civilian killed in court shooting

Istanbul: One person died and two assailants were fatally shot in an attack on a courthouse in Istanbul on Tuesday, Turkish officials said. The attackers, a man and woman, were killed during an "attempt to attack" a security checkpoint at the Caglayan courthouse, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya posted on social media. He said six people were wounded, including three police officers. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan later said one of the civilians died. Caglayan, which is also known as the Istanbul Justice Palace, is a huge court complex in the Kagitthane district on the city's European side. AP

RUSSIA

Ukraine support: Court charges bestseller author

Moscow: A Moscow court ordered the arrest Tuesday of a bestselling detective novelist and dissident on charges of "justifying terrorism," two months after he was pranked by two pro-Kremlin activists into expressing support for Ukraine on a phone call. Moscow's Basmanny District Court ordered Grigory Chkhartishvili, who is known under the pen name Boris Akunin and lives abroad, to be taken into custody once he's detained. AP

BRAZIL

Rio declares dengue crisis before carnival

Rio de Janeiro: Rio de Janeiro on Monday has declared a public health emergency because of an outbreak of mosquito-borne dengue fever, the city announced Monday, just days before Carnival celebrations kick off across Brazil. The outbreak wasn't expected to derail Carnival, which officially starts Friday evening and runs until Feb. 14, but it has prompted a slew of special measures by the city in hopes of containing the illness. Rio City Hall announced the opening of 10 care centers, the creation of an emergency operations center and the allocation of hospital beds for dengue patients. AP

BLINKEN SAYS WILL BRIEF ISRAEL LEADERS WEDNESDAY

Qatar PM says Hamas has 'generally positive' response to Gaza truce deal

Rafah concern rising, US Secy meets Egypt's Sisi

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DOHA, FEBRUARY 6

QATAR'S PRIME minister said Tuesday that Hamas' reaction to the latest plan for a cease-fire in Gaza and the release of hostages was "generally positive" as he met with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who was making his latest visit to the Middle East.

Qatar, which has long mediated with Hamas, has been working with the US and Egypt to broker a truce that would involve an extended halt in fighting and the release of the over 100 hostages still held by Hamas.

Sheikh Mohd bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani did not provide any details on Hamas' response. Blinken confirmed that they received Hamas' response and said he would brief Israeli leaders when he visits them Wednesday.

Blinken, met with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi in Cairo early on Tuesday.

His visit comes amid growing concerns in Egypt about Israel's intentions to expand combat to Rafah on Egypt border, crammed with displaced Palestinians.



Displaced Palestinians sheltered near a cemetery in South Gaza's Rafah. Reuters

Gaza families seek shelter in cemetery

REUTERS
RAFAH, FEBRUARY 6

DISPLACED AGAIN and again by Israel's military offensive on Gaza, Mahmoud Amer and his family have now pitched their tent close to gravestones in a cemetery in Rafah, the last place of relative safety in the ruined strip of land.

The family are among dozens camping in the cemetery, a sandy expanse with a view of the Mediterranean Sea on the horizon, because they feel less at risk there from Israeli bombardments.

"People were forced to come here to this safe place, which is the cemetery among the dead," said Amer, who is displaced from Al-Shati refugee camp in northern Gaza with 11 family members including children and grandchildren.

Israel has threatened to storm the area with tanks when it finishes a battle in Khan Younis just north of it.

"It's better than living in residential areas where the houses could collapse on our heads," said Amer, who spent weeks in other locations as the family gradually made their way southwards, fleeing Israel's advance.

More than half of Gaza's 2.3 million people are now hemmed into Rafah, on the southern edge of the enclave by the fence separating it from Egypt.

In Lahore, Sharif, 74, a three-time former premier, is contesting on NA-130 against PTI-backed strong candidate Dr Yasmin Rashid. However, Rashid was indicted by an Anti-Terrorism Court on Tuesday in a case related to attacking a police station in Lahore on May 9 violence that had erupted after the arrest of Khan.

Dozens of military and state buildings were torched and vandalised by many PTI activists during the unprecedented violence that broke out after Khan's arrest.

Rashid has been in jail since May last and her party supporters are doing campaigning. PTI leaders see her indictment as a fear of Sharif fearing his defeat.

PAK GENERAL ELECTIONS TOMORROW

Candidate backed by Imran against Nawaz indicted in terror case

Pak Punjab intensifies crackdown against Imran's PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE, FEBRUARY 6

A PAKISTAN Tehreek-e-Insaf-backed woman candidate contesting against PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif here was indicted in a terrorism case on Tuesday, as authorities in Pakistan's Punjab province intensified crackdown on jailed former premier Imran Khan's party leaders and supporters ahead of elections.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidates are contesting the February 8 polls independently after the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the Election Commission of Pakistan to deprive Khan's party of its iconic election symbol 'bat'.

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Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at a rally in Khudian Khas near Kasur, on Tuesday. AP

ECP APP ACCUSED OF POTENTIAL POLL FRAUD

Islamabad: Pakistan's election commission's new app to transmit, tabulate results is targeted due to concerns raised by some officials about possibility of manipulation to impact outcome. PTI

MAKES £1,000 WAGER WITH PIERS MORGAN

Taken by surprise: Sunak on Rwanda asylum bet

REUTERS
LONDON, FEBRUARY 6

BRITISH PRIME Minister Rishi Sunak said on Tuesday he was "taken by surprise" as he explained why he agreed to a 1,000 pound (\$1,255) bet that his government would send asylum seekers to Rwanda before the next general election.

The prime minister has faced criticism from opposition parties, who said the bet with the broadcaster Piers Morgan was distasteful and showed he was out of touch with the concerns of voters.

On Tuesday, Sunak said he had been caught off guard by the offer of the bet, but stopped short of admitting it was a mistake.

The opposition Labour Party said the bet made by the wealthiest British prime minister showed he did not understand the challenges faced by voters facing rising mortgages and food bills.



British PM Rishi Sunak

FAILED ON HEALTHCARE PLEDGE, SAYS SUNAK

London: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said his government had not done enough to cut the high number of people waiting for hospital treatment in the health service, admitting failure on one of his signature pledges in the run-up to an election. REUTERS

FARMERS BLOCK ROADS ACROSS SPAIN



Farmers dine together after blocking a highway during a protest near Mollerussa, northeast Spain on Tuesday. Farmers staged tractor protests across the country, blocking highways and causing traffic jams to demand of changes in European Union policies and funds and measures to combat production cost hikes. AP

STATE LAW MANDATES PRIMARY BUT TRUMP ALLIES HOLD SEPARATE CAUCUS

Haley awaits hollow victory in Nevada primary

REUTERS
LAS VEGAS, FEBRUARY 6

RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

NIKKI HALEY, the last remaining rival to frontrunner Donald Trump for the Republican presidential nomination, is set to win Nevada's primary on Tuesday, but it will be

Republican candidate Nikki Haley

a hollow victory as Trump will secure all of the state's delegates in a separate contest on Thursday.

For Republican voters in Nevada, Tuesday's state-run Republican ballot only has former U.N. ambassador Haley as a major candidate. She is therefore all but guaranteed to win, but it's largely meaningless.

That's because only candidates participating in a separate

Republican caucus on Thursday can compete for the state's 26 delegates to the Republican National Convention in July when the party formally nominates its candidate.

Voters can participate in both the primary Tuesday and the Republican caucus Thursday.

In Tuesday's primary, there is a "none of the above" option. Joe Lombardo, Nevada's governor and a Trump supporter, said he will vote on the none option Tuesday and caucus for Trump Thursday. Haley's main "challenger" Tuesday will likely be Trump supporters marking this option.

The competing ballots are the result of a conflict between the

APPEALS COURT REJECTS TRUMP IMMUNITY CLAIM

Washington: Donald Trump does not have immunity from charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 election defeat, a three-judge panel of a federal appeals court ruled on Tuesday, bringing the former US president a step closer to an unprecedented criminal trial. REUTERS

state Republican Party - run by Trump allies - and a 2021 state law that mandates a primary.

Defaming King: Thaksin faces fresh probe

Bangkok: State prosecutors in Thailand said Tuesday they have revived an investigation into whether former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra almost nine years ago violated the law against defaming the monarch, a crime punishable by up to 15 years in jail.

Thaksin had been charged in 2016 with violating the law on royal defamation — also known as Article 112 — for remarks he made to journalists the previous year when he was in Seoul, South Korea, said Prayut Phetcharakun, a spokesperson for the Office of the Attorney General. AP

114 Myanmar soldiers take refuge in Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, FEBRUARY 6

OVER A hundred Myanmar army soldiers on Tuesday took refuge in Bangladesh alongside their paramilitary border guards amid escalated armed conflict between the government troops and rebel Arakan Army, officials here said.

Officials of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) said 116 Myanmar troops fled their posts and crossed the border.

This is the first time Myanmar's regular army soldiers took refuge in frontier Cox's Bazar district alongside personnel from the country's paramilitary Border Guard Police (BGP) and some other government agencies.

"...so far 229 BGP personnel, regular soldiers, immigration officials, policemen... entered Bangladesh," BGB spokesman Shariful Islam said.

They were disarmed and kept in custody, he said.

Bukle is a millennial of the we-have-to-break-things mentality, and he shuns ideology. AP



Nayib Bukele is a millennial of the we-have-to-break-things mentality, and he shuns ideology. AP

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN

MEXICO CITY, FEBRUARY 6

ELSALVADOR'S Nayib Bukele has called himself the "world's coolest dictator" or as his X profile read on election day, the "Philosopher King."

Now he'll likely have five more years to provoke, surprise and raise concerns, after appearing to win a landslide reelection as the Central American country's president. Preliminary and partial results Monday suggested Bukele had romped to victory Sunday over the country's thoroughly discredited traditional parties from the right and left.

Consolidating Power

In April 2020, early in the coronavirus pandemic, police began taking violators of his stay-at-home orders to quarantine centers for up to 30 days. When the Supreme Court said that violated the Constitution, Bukele tweeted: "It is one thing to interpret the

Constitution, and another... to order the murder of people."

When Bukele's party took control the following year, lawmakers quickly purged the Supreme Court's constitutional chamber. The new court interpreted the constitution differently when it came to an apparent ban on consecutive reelection. In September 2021 it ruled that such a reelection was not prohibited and ordered the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to allow a second term.

Darfang the Gangs

Bukele was not the first president of El Salvador to negotiate with the gangs that held an iron grip on its streets. But when local

media reported that Bukele administration was granting gang leaders benefits in return for maintaining a lower level of violence, Bukele denied it.

Then in 2022, the carnage of March 26 happened. Gangs killed 62 people in a single day across the country. Bukele sought and received special powers: arrests without warrants, no access to a lawyer, broad authority to intercept communications. Any secret negotiations were replaced by a highly publicized crackdown.

That is Bukele's justification. Those who criticize the gang crackdown are defending gangsters, he says. Those who talk of human rights were absent when gangs dominated swaths of the country, he says. On Sunday, Bukele pushed back at critics.

"So I believe that El Salvador, after half a century of suffering, now is our time to move forward," Bukele said. AP

Bringing Safety to Streets

The crackdown has been tough, but people have re-

claimed their neighborhoods.

Small businesses are no longer extorted into oblivion. People can safely seek jobs in neighborhoods formerly controlled by rival gangs. Children can walk to school without fear of forced gang recruitment.

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The Indian EXPRESS

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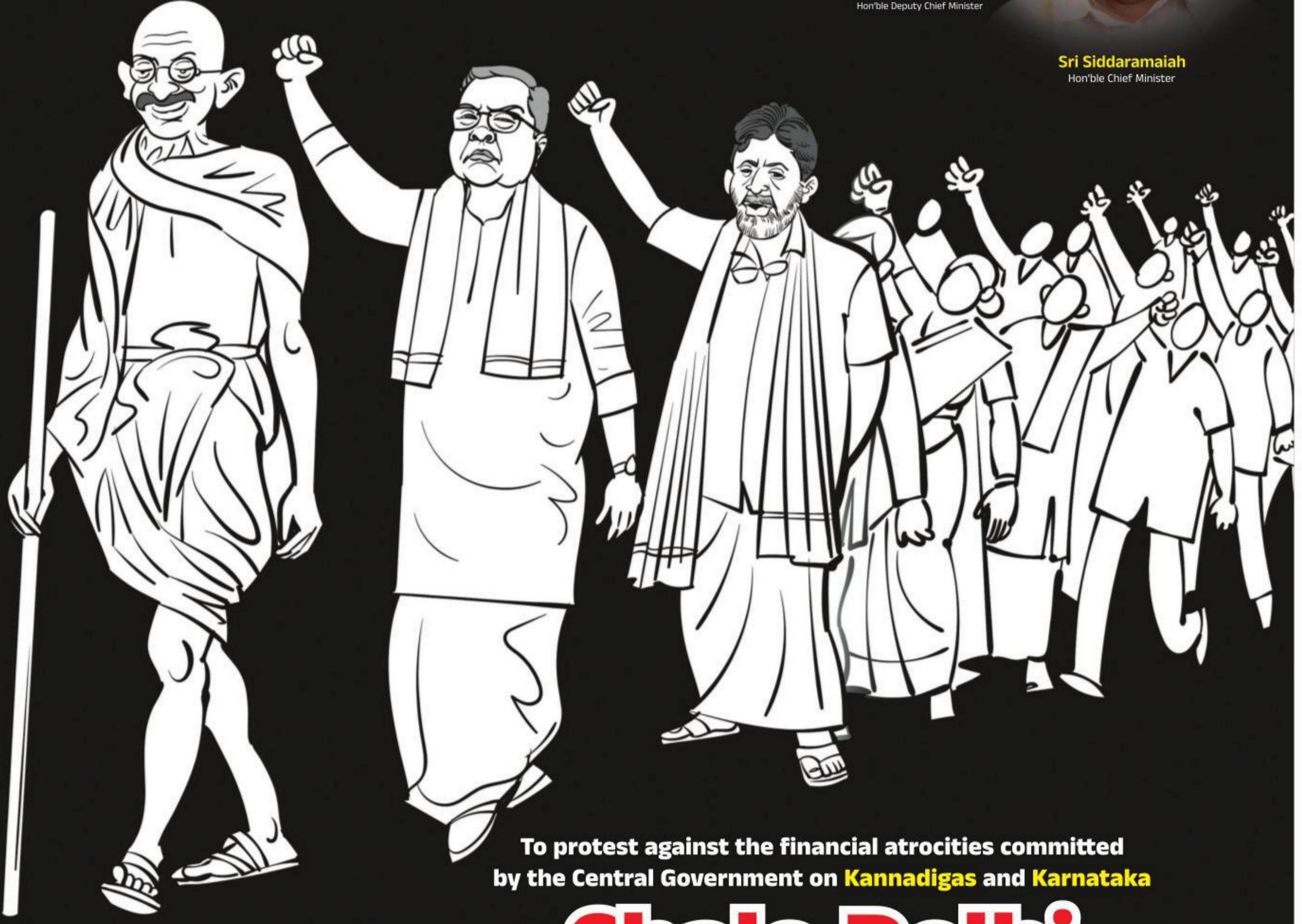


#MyTaxMyRight



Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister



To protest against the financial atrocities committed
by the Central Government on Kannadigas and Karnataka

Chalo Delhi



7th February 2024
11.00 am



Jantar Mantar
New Delhi

Let's Go To Delhi
Let's Fight for
Financial Justice

- Disparity in allocation of Grants to Karnataka
- Injustice to Kannadigas in providing facilities

▪ Not even a penny for Drought Relief
Demand of State : **Rs. 18,177 crore**
Given by Central Govt. : **Zero**

▪ Special Grant is now a Mirage
Recommended by 15th Finance Commission : **Rs. 5,495 crore**
Released by Centre : **Zero**

▪ Disparity in Tax Share
Reduced from 4.72% to 3.64%
Loss to the State: **Rs. 62,098 crore**
(5 years)

▪ Cut in grants for Collaborative Schemes
2021-22 : **Rs. 20,000 crore**
2022-23 : **Rs. 13,000 crore**

▪ Neglect of Bhadra Upper Bank Project
Announced in 2023-24 : **Rs. 5,300 crore**
Contribution by Central Govt.: **Zero**

▪ Unfulfilled dreams
AIIMS still a dream
No approval to Mahadayi Project

Losses to Karnataka by
Central Government
from 2017-18

Rs. 1,87,000 Crore



As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to
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X f CMofKarnataka https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024



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

Uttarakhand civil code: how needle has moved

The key changes for Hindus and Muslims in marriage, inheritance

**AJOY SINHA KARPURAM &
APURVA VISHWANATH**
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE UTTARAKHAND government tabled the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) 2024 Bill in the Assembly on Tuesday. It makes important changes in areas such as marriage, divorce, and succession.

What changes for Muslims?

First, the proposed UCC brings the minimum age of marriage to 18 and 21 for Muslim women and men, in line with the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954.

This issue has been debated in courts since Muslim law allows puberty (presumed at 13 years) as the age of marriage for girls. Since Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) criminalised sexual activity between minors, and the Prevention of Child Marriage Act prohibited marriage between minors, the Muslim age of marriage was at odds with these laws.

In December 2022, the National Commission for Women challenged in the Supreme Court the practice of allowing minors to get married. The case is pending before a bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud.

On succession, the nature of testamentary succession (through a will) and intestate succession (in the absence of a will) for Muslims will change drastically. Currently, Muslims may bequeath up to one-third of their property to anyone of their choosing through a will. The remaining property, or the entire property when there is no will, must then be divided in the manner provided in the Quran and the Hadith. This would ensure that the legal heirs are not entirely dispossessed. However, under the proposed UCC, in situations where the deceased person does leave a will behind, there is no restriction on how much of their property they can bequeath, or to whom.

The UCC draws heavily from the Indian Succession Act, 1925, retaining a majority of the provisions. In cases of intestate succession, the property will pass on to Class-1 heirs, who include the children, the widow and parents among a long list of others. In the absence of Class-1 heirs, the prop-



Uttarakhand CM Dhami with state ministers in the Assembly Tuesday. PTI

erty will pass on to Class-2 heirs, who include siblings, nieces, nephews and grandparents, among others. If no such heir exists, anyone most closely related to the deceased person may receive the property.

The practices of bigamy or polygamy are outlawed in the UCC Bill. This is done by placing a condition for marriage under Section 4 of the Bill that neither party can have a living spouse at the time of their marriage.

The proposed Code also criminalises certain Muslim marriage practices such as Iddat and Nikah Halala, without explicitly naming them.

Section 30 deals with the right of a person to remarry following a divorce. Here, the UCC provides that the right can be exercised without any other condition, such as marrying a third person before such marriage. This is a reference to the practice of halala under Muslim personal law. Section 32 then provides the punishment for anyone who "compels, abets or induces" someone to meet such conditions. Anyone convicted under Section 32 can be punished with imprisonment up to three years and also be liable to fine of Rs 1 lakh.

What changes for Hindus?

The key change for Hindus under the proposed UCC involves succession.

First, the UCC takes away the distinction under Hindu law between ancestral and

self-acquired property. Coparcenary rights under the Hindu Succession Act do not find mention in the UCC Bill.

In a joint Hindu family governed by the Mitalshari school of law, a son/daughter; grandson/granddaughter; great-grandson/great-granddaughter are deemed joint owners of the property from the time of their birth. Each of them is a coparcener. Practically, what this means is that the father cannot sell or will away the joint family property on his own accord if his descendants are alive. The ancestral property is held jointly across four generations. However, in the case of self-acquired property, the father is free to dispose of it.

The other key change is the elevation of both parents — mother and father — as Class I heirs in case of intestate succession (when a person dies without making a will). Currently under Hindu law, in case of an intestate succession, the Class I legal heirs who will simultaneously inherit the property include children, the widow and mother and other lineal descendants of the deceased man. If no Class I heirs exist, then Class II heirs are considered, where the father is included. Now, Class I heirs would include the children, widow, and both the father and the mother.

This concept is in fact found in Shariat law. Hindu law does not include siblings as legal heirs, but inclusion of both parents could mean that a person's property could travel to his siblings through his parents, cutting into the share of his children and widow.

The promise to pass the UCC stems from Article 44 of the Constitution of India — a directive principle saying, "The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India."

This Article was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 23, 1948, after a spirited debate. What were the arguments for and against the UCC?

How the Uniform Civil Code came to be included in the Indian Constitution



Dr B R Ambedkar (centre) with other members of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution in 1947. Wikimedia Commons

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

UTTARAKHAND CHIEF MINISTER Pushkar Singh Dhami tabled the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in the state Assembly on Tuesday. This came after the state-appointed committee led by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana P Desai submitted its draft on February 2.

The law will govern personal law subjects such as marriage, inheritance, divorce, and adoption uniformly across communities.

The enactment of the UCC was one of the BJP's key poll promises in the state ahead of the 2022 Assembly elections. Similar Bills may soon be placed before the Gujarat and Assam assemblies as well.

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All India Muslim League led the push against the UCC

Mohammad Ismail Khan, an Assembly member from the All India Muslim League

(AIML, the Indian faction of the pre-Partition Muslim League), opened the debate by suggesting an addition to Article 35 (which would later become Article 44) of the Draft Constitution. He pushed to include the proviso: "Provided that any group, section, or community of people shall not be obliged to give up its own personal law in case it has such a law."

Ismail argued that a secular state should not interfere with long-standing religious practices as it could breed discontent and subvert harmony in the country.

B Pocker Sahib Bahadur also spoke in favour of the amendment forwarded by Ismail, saying, "If such a body as this (Constituent Assembly) interferes with the religious rights and practices, it will be tyrannous."

Another AIML member Naziruddin Ahmad proposed to introduce a similar, but more descriptive proviso: "Provided that the personal law of any community which has been guaranteed by the statute shall not be changed except with the previous approval of the community ascertained in such manner as the Union Legislature may determine by law."

Ahmad argued that the UCC would clash with the freedom of religion under Article 19 (which would later become Article 25) of the Draft Constitution. He claimed that the UCC would "undo" the freedom of religion by giving the state the room to "break the guarantees given in article 19".

EXPLAINED HISTORY

EXPLAINED FOREIGN POLICY & STRATEGY

Elections in Pakistan: the view from New Delhi as Army appears set to install Nawaz in power again



SHUBHAJIT ROY



In a library in Karachi, newspapers with front-page ads for Nawaz Sharif. Reuters

PAKISTAN WILL hold its 12th national general elections on Thursday. Approximately 12.85 crore voters, about half the country's population of 24.1 crore, are eligible to vote for a new National Assembly, the lower house of Parliament, and four provincial legislatures.

Two hundred and sixty-six members will be elected to the National Assembly by a first-past-the-post system similar to India's. Sixty seats are reserved for women and 10 for non-Muslims, and will be allocated to parties in proportion to their share of directly elected seats.

From India's perspective, elections in Pakistan are about the way the balance of power between the civilian government and the military plays out.

South Block considers the change of Army Chief as the real transition of power in Pakistan, unlike in democracies where elections lead to peaceful transfers of power.

Imran Khan, the discarded

The Army has a huge say in the politics of Pakistan, and is seen as manipulating elections to get their preferred candidate to win. In 2018, the last time elections were held, the Army had "selected" cricket icon-turned-politician Imran Khan to replace the leader of the PML(N), Nawaz Sharif. Imran was put in the Prime Minister's chair after Nawaz was convicted, but was allowed to leave the country.

"You'll have that beautiful green hillside in July and August but subsequently that fuel will die off, which promotes rapid fire growth and what we call light flashy fuels," Reuters quoted Nick Schuler, spokesperson for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, as saying.

How will it help the region?

Before two consecutive wet years including the present one, California had experienced drought conditions for decades. California's water year is measured from October to September. The rainfall, thus, is welcome, but could have chosen its location better.

According to Reuters, the current storm is mostly affecting Southern California, which lacks the storage capacity of the northern part of the state and

fisted crackdown that followed, hundreds of PTI members, including Imran's No. 2, former Foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, were arrested, and many leaders were intimidated.

Imran has now been deserted by a section of his party, and leaders such as Jahangir Tareen and some others have formed their own party with the blessings of the Army.

Nawaz Sharif, back in play

The Army's preferred candidate is again Nawaz Sharif, the 74-year-old three-time Prime Minister who returned to Pakistan in October, after the decks were cleared for him. Nawaz has been done in by the Army twice earlier — in 1999, when Gen Pervez Musharraf led a coup against him, and in 2017, when he fell out of favour and was forced to step down.

His pro-business image, accommodative attitude towards India and the United States, and the skilful administration of his brother Shehzad Sharif — who was Prime Minister until last August when caretaker PM Anwarul-Haq Kakar took over — have returned him to the Army's good books.

Asif Ali Zardari, still ambitious

Asif Ali Zardari wants to be President

again, and his son, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari — who was Foreign Minister in the post-Imran PML(N)-PPP coalition government of Shehzad Sharif — as PM. But the PPM is no longer the party it was when Benazir Bhutto captured the imagination of the country in both life and death, and its base is now said to be limited to Sindh.

No level playing field

Analysts have repeatedly pointed to the absence of a level playing field in the elections that no one expects will be free or fair.

Imran remains extremely popular, but his workers have been arrested and harassed, the PTI has been denied the use of its election symbol, the cricket bat, and there have been reports of his candidates being stopped from filing nominations.

The "unelected forces" of the Election Commission of Pakistan, the courts, and the army are seen as leading the crackdown against Imran and his party. The media were earlier asked to not name Imran in their reports.

The known unknowns

Punjab has more voters than the other three provinces put together — 7.32 cr out of 12.85 cr — and 141 of the 266 general seats in

the National Assembly.

Both PTI and PML(N) draw their strength and popularity from Punjab, even though the PPP and Tareen's Ittehad-e-Pakistan (IPP) are also in the mix. Winning margins in the past have been as small as 1,000-2,000 votes in constituencies with an average 9 lakh voters.

If PTI supporters turn up at voting stations in large numbers, the military will find it tougher to rig the elections. A lower turnout could mean a lack of enthusiasm among people resigned to a predetermined outcome.

The youth vote could be significant. The number of voters ages 18-35 is 5.7 crore, which is more than 47% of the electorate. Imran is said to have a lot of support in this group.

The 5.9 cr registered women voters constitute 46% of the electorate. The extent of their participation and independence in voting behaviour — different from the men in their households — could be interesting.

Finally, there is the economic situation in the country — the rate of inflation is 30%, the cost of living is high and rising, and unemployment and poverty rates are high. Voters can be expected to consider all of this while voting.

From India's perspective

From India's perspective, these elections are more predictable than ever before. The military has made its choice clear, and some have described the formality of February 8 as the "mother of all selections".

For India, Pakistan's continuing support for terrorism is the key question, and it has largely adopted a doctrine of indifference as its western neighbour has slid steadily towards failure on multiple fronts. But the elections could open a window of opportunity.

For the first time in many years, the election cycles of the two countries have aligned. By May, India will have a government with a five-year mandate, while Pakistan's civilian government will be a few months old. The Army Chief, General Asim Munir, took charge in November 2022, and going by the fact that his predecessor had a six-year tenure, there is some time before there is a change of guard at the GHQ in Rawalpindi.

There is potentially scope for the two sides to look to the longer term in their fraught relationship.

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

WHAT IS THE 'ATMOSPHERIC RIVER' BRINGING HEAVY RAIN TO CALIFORNIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA has been inundated with massive rainfall, with the risk of landslides rising on the soaked ground. The rainfall has been caused by an 'atmospheric river', and is likely to bring in both positives and negatives for the region.

What is an atmospheric river?

According to the US government's Department of Energy, "atmospheric rivers are large, narrow sections of the Earth's atmosphere that carry moisture from the Earth's tropics near the equator to the poles. On average, the Earth has four to five active atmospheric rivers at any time. Each moves the equivalent of the liquid water that flows through the mouth of the Amazon River. When they reach land, atmospheric rivers release this moisture, producing heavy snow and rain."

The rain that has hit California is part of a weather system called the Pineapple Express, which is an atmospheric river that originates in the subtropical waters around Hawaii.

How will it help the region?

Before two consecutive wet years including the present one, California had experienced drought conditions for decades. California's water year is measured from October to September. The rainfall, thus, is welcome, but could have chosen its location better.

What risk could it bring?

The additional moisture is generally good for wildfire resistance, but the rain also promotes growth of grasses and brush that will become fuel for future fires when the weather turns dry again, reported Reuters.

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WITH INPUTS FROM REUTERS

MARRIAGE AGE FIXED AT

21 years for men, 18 years for women

EQUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR

sons, daughters, legitimate or not

Uttarakhand brings one code for marriage, inheritance, divorce

Tribals kept out of UCC Bill brought in House, likely to be passed today

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 6

CREATING A template for other states ruled by the BJP, the party's government in Uttarakhand tabled the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) 2024 Bill in the state Assembly Tuesday.

While exempting the Scheduled Tribes from its purview, the Bill proposes a common law on marriage, divorce, inheritance of property and live-in relationships for all citizens, irrespective of their religion.

Once the Bill, presented in the House by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, is cleared – it is expected to be passed Wednesday – and all legal processes and formalities are completed, Uttarakhand will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami leaves his Dehradun residence with a copy of the Constitution, Tuesday. PTI

WHAT CHANGES

- Partners in live-in relationships have to register with a Registrar
- Bigamy and polygamy are barred
- No more personal laws of succession; the UCC borrows from the Indian Succession Act
- No difference between ancestral property and self-acquired property for intestate succession for Hindus

Registration of live-ins, jail term raise questions of privacy & liberty

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

FROM REQUIRING compulsory registration with the state while starting or ending a live-in relationship for heterosexual couples – a record of which will be kept in a police station; providing for maintenance to the

EXPLAINED

woman when "deserted" by her partner; to prescribing jail term of up to six months for not producing a "certificate" of the relationship – the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill introduced in the Uttarakhand Assembly Tuesday enters uncharted territory, imposes stringent terms on a consensual relationship be-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK

11 DIE IN CRACKER FACTORY FIRE IN MP, OVER 50 INJURED

GYANVAPI: PLEA FOR SURVEY OF OTHER CELLARS TO BE HEARD FEBRUARY 15

INDIA HOCKEY PLAYER BOOKED IN POCSO CASE PAGE 7

THE CITY

ED SEARCHES KEJRIWAL AIDE'S HOUSE, AAP SLAMS AGENCY PAGE 3

Lok Sabha passes Bill to curb job exam malpractices

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE PUBLIC Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, which aims at preventing malpractices such as leaking of question papers, tampering of documents and tampering of computer networks in central recruitment and entrance examinations, was passed by Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

While the Bill, which has provisions for jail term of up to 10 years and a fine of over Rs 1 crore, seeks to punish officials or organisations that indulge in such malpractices, students or candidates will not come under its purview, clarified Union minister Jitendra Singh, who piloted the Bill.

During the discussion, several members, including Singh and leader of Congress in Lok

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The Pawars at loggerheads

options by Wednesday, 4 pm. In its final order sent to both sides on Tuesday, the EC said it had relied on the test of majority in the party's legislative wing to decide the dispute, which arose in July last year. According to the order, the total number of MPs, MLAs and MLCs of the NCP was 81, of which 57 had supported Ajit Pawar and 28 had supported Sharad Pawar. But,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EC rules Ajit faction is real NCP, Sharad Pawar faction will go to SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, FEB 6

IN A setback for Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) founder Sharad Pawar, the Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday recognised the faction led by his nephew, Ajit Pawar, as the real NCP, giving it control over the party name and 'clock' symbol.

Calling it a "conspiracy against Maharashtra", Sharad Pawar's daughter and Lok Sabha member, Supriya Sule, said they would approach the Supreme Court.

The faction led by Sharad Pawar has been given a one-time concession to choose a new name and symbol for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections for six seats in Maharashtra. They have been asked to submit their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

JUDGEMENT

judgement in E V Chinnaiyan vs State of Andhra Pradesh & Others needs a relook – the 2004 ruling had said that Scheduled Castes (SCs) form homogenous classes and there cannot be any sub-division among them – Justice Vikram Nath, summarising the arguments of Punjab Advocate General Gurinder Singh, remarked: "Why should not be there an exclusion? According to you, amongst a particular category, some of the sub-castes have done better. They are the forward in that category. They should

come out of that and compete with the general. Why stay there? And let the remaining who are still backward within the backward, let them get the reservation. Once you achieve the concept of reservation, you should pull out of that reservation."

The Advocate General said, "That's the aim, and if that aim is achieved, then the purpose for which the exercise was undertaken should come to an end."

The bench, presided by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SC: Those who gained from quota should make way for more backward

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE SUPREME Court said Tuesday that those among the backward castes who were entitled to reservation and had benefited from it should now move out of the reserved category and make way for the more backward among them to avail the benefit of the affirmative action.

As a 7-judge Constitution Bench began hearing a reference on whether the Supreme Court's

come out of that and compete with the general. Why stay there? And let the remaining who are still backward within the backward, let them get the reservation. Once you achieve the concept of reservation, you should pull out of that reservation."

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

**Indigenous CAR-T cell therapy gets rolling: 'first' patient is cancer-free**

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 6

A YEAR ago, if someone had told Dr (Col) V K Gupta, 64, that he would not just be declared "free of cancer cells" – despite a failed bone marrow transplant in 2022 – but would be able to get back to work in 2024, he would have brushed it off as polite optimism.

Months after India's drug reg-



Dr (Col) V K Gupta took the CAR-T cell therapy at Mumbai's Tata Memorial Hospital. Gajendra Yadav

ulator approved the commercial use of CAR-T cell therapy, a pioneering treatment that genetically reprogrammes a patient's immune system to fight cancer. Gupta, a Delhi-based gastroenterologist, became one of the first patients to access the therapy by paying Rs 42 lakh – a treatment that costs approximately Rs 3-4 crore abroad. Doctors at the Tata Memorial Hospital, where he underwent the procedure, said he is "currently free of cancer cells" – the first commercial patient to achieve that status.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



INDIA'S NO. 1 HINDI NEWS CHANNEL

9.48 CRORE

9.33 CRORE

AAJ TAK

Source: BARC | Metric: AMA's | TG: NCCS All 15+ | Period: Wk 04'24, All Days, 24 Hrs | Market: HSM | 14 channels considered



FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Uttarakhand brings one code for marriage, inheritance, divorce

become the first state in the country to implement the UCC.

Coming just ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, it ticks off an important item on the BJP agenda – its three goals were the Ram temple in Ayodhya, abrogation of Article 370 in J&K and the UCC.

In Uttarakhand, this was a pre-poll promise that Dhami had made. On Tuesday, as he tabled the Bill, the treasury benches thumped their desks and chanted slogans of "Bharat Mata ki jai", "Vande Mataram" and "Jai Shri Ram".

The draft specifically covers matters related to marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption. There has been no tampering with the traditions and customs of any religion, caste or sect. Religious beliefs will not make any difference in the marital process," the government said in a statement.

"Scheduled Tribes have been kept out of the scope of this law. Parties to marriage are clearly defined in the Code. Marriages can take place only between one man and one woman. Special attention has been paid to the rights of children and their protection, whether legitimate or illegitimate," it said.

MARRIAGE
The age of marriage has been fixed at 21 years for men and 18 years for women. For a marriage to be valid, neither party should have a "living spouse at the time of the

marriage", thus prohibiting bigamy or polygamy.

The provision mandates the compulsory registration of marriages that occur after the enactment of the UCC, regardless of any other existing laws or customs. It applies to marriages solemnised within the state or outside its territory, provided that at least one party to the marriage is a resident of the state. In case of failure to register a marriage or divorce, the couple will be deprived of all benefits linked to government facilities.

Prohibited relationships between the parties are not allowed unless permitted by custom or usage, provided these don't contradict public policy or morality. Finally, the marriage must not be prohibited under any prevailing law.

Marriage ceremonies can be conducted in accordance with religious beliefs, customary rites and ceremonies, encompassing various Acts such as The Anand Marriage Act 1909, The Special Marriage Act 1954, and the Arya Marriage Validation Act 1937, among others.

DIVORCE

The Bill also addresses the "nulity of marriage" and divorce. It outlines conditions under which marriages are considered void or voidable and the grounds for divorce.

It makes halala, iddat and triple talaq – practices governing

marriage and divorce under Muslim personal law – punishable offences. If a case like halala comes to light, there is a provision of three years imprisonment or a fine of Rs 1 lakh or both.

Men and women have the same reasons and rights with regard to divorce. The Bill also discusses grounds for divorce, including adultery, cruelty, desertion, conversion to another religion, mental disorder, incurable venereal disease, renunciation of the world, absence for seven years, bigamy, and failure to comply with maintenance orders. It allows for judicial separation in certain cases and divorce on mutual consent.

"Voidable" marriages may be annulled based on grounds like non-consummation, contravention of marriage conditions, force or coercion in obtaining consent, or pregnancy by someone other than the spouse.

Additionally, the Bill regulates the time frame for filing divorce petitions, prohibits dissolution of marriage except as per the UCC, grants the right to remarry after divorce or nullity, and upholds the legitimacy of children from void and voidable marriages. Penalties are prescribed for contravention of certain provisions, including imprisonment and fines.

In case of divorce or domestic dispute, the custody of a child up to 5 years of age will remain with the mother.

INHERITANCE

The Bill proposes equal property rights for sons and daughters across all classes. Illegitimate children, adopted children, children born through surrogacy and children born through assisted reproductive technology are also considered to be biological children.

In the case of intestate succession, which refers to the distribution of a person's estate in case he dies without leaving a will, his wife, children and parents, if living, would have equal rights to his property. The existing laws only give the mother a right in the property.

A specified order of preference is outlined by the Bill for such cases. If there is no immediate family, the property will be split among second-line relatives, specifically first cousins from the paternal side, with others having the opportunity to stake claim if no claimants are found.

It specifies the order of succession, distribution of shares and disqualifications from inheritance, emphasising equal treatment among heirs and the government's role in the absence of eligible claimants.

Disqualification from inheritance includes murder or remarriage before the death of the person, while disease or deformity would not disqualify an heir unless specified otherwise. In case of simultaneous deaths, the younger person is presumed to have survived the elder for succession purposes.

Certain conditions prohibit the registration of live-in relationships, such as being within prohibited degrees of relationship, being married or in another live-in relationship, or involving a minor or obtained by coercion or fraud.

The state government has the authority to make rules for implementing these provisions.

poses.

Unborn children at the time of death are considered heirs if born alive later.

LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIPS

The Bill mandates the registration of any live-in relationship within the state's jurisdiction, regardless of whether the man and woman are residents of Uttarakhand or not.

The procedure for registration involves submitting a statement to the Registrar, who will conduct an inquiry and either register the relationship or provide reasons for refusal. The registration is solely for record purposes. Registrars are empowered to handle registrations and maintain relevant registers.

Partners can terminate the relationship by submitting a termination statement. Failure to submit statements or providing false information can lead to penalties. Women deserted by their live-in partners can claim maintenance through the competent court. Children born out of such relationships are considered legitimate.

Certain conditions prohibit the registration of live-in relationships, such as being within prohibited degrees of relationship, being married or in another live-in relationship, or involving a minor or obtained by coercion or fraud.

"When the expert committee (led by Justice Ranjana Desai) went to remote areas in Uttarakhand for public consultation," an official said, "incidents (of live-in crime) were fresh in the minds of the people. Because of that, during public consultation, parents and elderly said they want something to be done. It was discussed that personal freedom is important but the interest of youngsters is also important. The committee found a way to ensure that."

Easier said than done, said many experts. "The compulsory registration takes away the freedom to choose not being married. The state should not enter into the realm of what citizens do consentually. Prima facie, it intrudes into the domain of privacy which is recognised as a fundamental right in the Puttaswamy ruling," senior advocate Geeta Luthra said.

Significantly, the proposed Code also provides for maintenance for women "deserted" by

● Registration of live-ins raises questions of privacy

defining them as a "relationship between a man and a woman" (partners) who "cohabit in a shared household through a relationship in the nature of marriage, provided that such relations are not prohibited."

The Bill requires the partners to notify the "Registrar" within a month of entering into a live-in relationship and while terminating a live-in relationship. It prescribes a jail term of upto three months for not registering a live-in relationship.

In case of failing to produce a certificate of live-in relationship, a term of six months is prescribed on conviction.

When asked about these provisions, an official in the state government claimed that "concerns over heinous crimes among live-in couples" was the key imperative behind this provision. And that registration would act as a "mental deterrent" if a partner had "bad intentions."

"The idea of compulsory registration may have been to protect women, but women may not want that protection from the state. It is a parochial approach to deal with free adults in a free country," Luthra said.

In a 2010 ruling, the Supreme Court, in "Velusamy v Patchaiammal" case, dealing with the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 as "domestic relationships". The law, which also has provisions for maintenance, only recognises relationships "akin to marriage" when women complain of domestic violence.

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Significantly, the proposed Code also provides for maintenance for women "deserted" by

her partner, similar to a married woman. Section 388 states: "If a woman gets deserted by her live-in partner, she shall be entitled to claim maintenance from her live-in partner, for which she may approach the competent Court having jurisdiction over the place where they last cohabited, and, in such a case, the provisions contained in chapter 5, Part 1 of the Code shall mutatis mutandis apply."

The Bill also explicitly recognises that a child born in a live-in relationship is a legitimate child. This has been the legal position but is now codified as law.

The Registrar, similar to powers granted to the magistrate in the anti-conversion legislation, is currently accounted for only under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 as "domestic relationships". The law, which also has provisions for maintenance, only recognises relationships "akin to marriage" when women complain of domestic violence.

The Registrar will forward the record to the police station concerned and, in case either partner is less than 21 years of age, inform the parents or guardians.

In the 2017 landmark Puttaswamy ruling where the Supreme Court recognised the right to privacy, the Court had cited several precedents stating that "personal information which has no relationship to any public activity or interest", or which would cause "unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual", unless the authority is "satified that the larger public interest justifies its disclosure".

The Delhi High Court in the Naz Foundation ruling in 2009, which for the first time struck down Section 377 of the IPC, had said: "...the sphere of privacy allows persons to develop human relations without interference from the outside community or from the State. The exercise of autonomy enables an individual to attain fulfilment, grow in self-esteem, build relationships of his or her choice and fulfil all legitimate goals that he or she may set. In the Indian Constitution, the right to live with dignity and the right of privacy both are recognised as dimensions of Article 21..."

of the state, may submit a statement of live-in relationship under sub section 1 of section 381 to the Registrar within whose jurisdiction such resident ordinarily resides." It adds.

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(WITH AVANEESH MISHRA)

● Ajit Pawar faction is real NCP: EC

five MLAs and one Lok Sabha MP had submitted affidavits supporting both sides. Even if these six were excluded, Ajit Pawar's faction had majority support, it said.

The EC said it had to reject the test of majority in the party's organisational wing as the internal elections appeared to be "without any foundational basis". It said the documents brought on record showed the names of members of the working committee were "announced" by Sharad Pawar.

The Sharad Pawar group had argued that the test of majority in the Assembly could not be the sole determinative factor as nine MLAs were facing disqualification. They argued that Sharad Pawar had "overwhelming majority support in the organisational wing".

On the other hand, the Ajit Pawar group had cited the EC order in the Shiv Sena dispute, where the EC said test of majority in the organisational wing of the party cannot be an indicator of which faction enjoys support if the party is not run in a democratic manner.

The EC said it had received a petition under the Elections Symbol Order, 1968, from Ajit Pawar on July 1 last year. The petition, dated June 30, claimed that Sharad Pawar was "running the party in total disregard" of the party constitution and rules, and that he (Ajit Pawar) enjoyed support of the majority in the party. In his petition, Ajit Pawar said Sharad Pawar was elected party chief at a national convention in September 2022 in a manner that was against the party constitution.

On July 2, Jayant Patil, of the Sharad Pawar group, wrote to the EC saying nine MLAs had indulged in "anti-party activities" by joining the BJP-Shiv Sena government the same day.

In its order, the EC said it would be failing in its duties if it did not address the issue of "non-transparent functioning" of political parties in the country.

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Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Better healthcare facilities for everyone
1.6 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs providing healthcare facilities close to home



Hamara Sankalp
Viksit Bharat



Government of India
cbs 2220/1/3/023/224

Open Gurgaon section of Dwarka expressway, Gadkari tells NHAI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 6

UNION MINISTER of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari Tuesday directed officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to open the Gurgaon section of the Dwarka Expressway.

In a meeting, Minister of State and Gurgaon MP Rao Inderjit Singh said the Gurgaon portion of the expressway is complete and should be opened to traffic, providing relief to the residents, to which Gadkari gave his approval. However, a date has not been fixed.

The two ministers also discussed the delayed progress of various national highway projects and the need to expedite them; specifically an elevated road project from Hero Honda Chowk to Umang Bharadwaj Chowk. Rao presented a 2017 notification designating this road as part of the NHAI. Gadkari directed officials to consider it as NHAI's responsibility and plan for its elevated development.



The part of the highway that falls in Gurgaon includes the cloverleaf interchange. Nitin Gadkari/X

Delhi riots 'larger conspiracy' case: No charges even after four years, Saifi tells HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

UNITED AGAINST Hate (UHA) member Khalid Saifi, booked in the "larger conspiracy" case regarding the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots, told the Delhi High Court Tuesday that no charges have been framed against him in the matter even after four years.

Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Saifi, submitted before a division bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Manoj Jain that three co-accused — Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal, and Asif Iqbal Tanha — in the case registered by the police were granted bail by the High Court in 2021. John submitted that bail was challenged before the Supreme Court, wherein the apex court in May 2023 had not disturbed the bail order. The senior counsel said the SC had also said if a co-accused is entitled to a plea on parity, it is for him to make such a plea and for the "court to consider it". "But, I can plead parity on facts. Even otherwise, I'm entitled to bail dehors the parity argument," she said.

Meanwhile, special public prosecutor Amit Prasad, representing the Delhi Police, took the court through certain messages on the Delhi Protest Support Group (DPSG) on WhatsApp, saying Saifi had sent a text message on the group, wherein he had said, "ask them to put black tapes on CCTV cameras" installed by police.

The bench, however, asked Prasad to show Saifi's role in the alleged conspiracy, asking him to point out the "clinching material" against him instead of going through the entire material in the matter "like it was a trial". The court orally said, "Come to his conduct and show us his role... Days together cannot be allowed in one matter. Confine your time... We have to see only on the issue of bail, whether they are entitled..."

The court has scheduled the next hearing on February 13, and asked the police's counsel to produce the case diary that day.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

DJB 'SCAM': AAP vs BJP

ED raids premises linked to AAP; CM calls it 'sheer hooliganism'

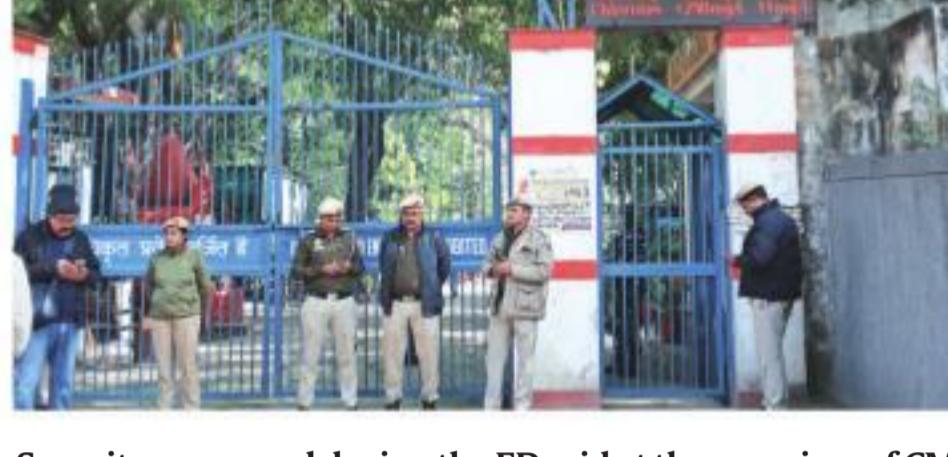
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) Tuesday raided around a dozen locations in Delhi linked to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP N D Gupta, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's personal secretary Bibhav Kumar, and former Delhi Jal Board (DJB) member Shalabh Kumar, in connection with a money laundering case related to an alleged scam in the DJB, said agency sources.

Calling it "sheer hooliganism", Kejriwal alleged that the ED raids and arrests were just "political malice" to harass and crush the AAP. He also said that the ED teams "found nothing" at any location during the Tuesday raids. Kejriwal later wrote on X, "Today, 23 ED officers raided my PA's house for 16 hours... They found nothing. Not a single penny was found, no jewelry or any property of any kind, no papers... It is clear that these raids and arrests are being done only out of political malice, to harass us, to crush the AAP..."

According to ED officials, the probe was related to money laundering charges in a July 2022 case where the DJB allegedly gave "undue advantages" to a company for the supply, installation, testing, and commissioning of electromagnetic flow meters in connection with officials of the NBCC (India) Ltd. The project was valued a little less than Rs 40 crore.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP presi-



Security personnel during the ED raid at the premises of CM Kejriwal's PA, Bibhav Kumar, in Delhi on Tuesday. Amit Mehra

dent Virendra Sachdeva accused Kejriwal of allegedly turning the DJB "into a den of corruption" since it came to power, while Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri demanded the CM's resignation on "moral grounds" as he chaired the DJB. Sachdeva said, "The raids have confirmed BJP's allegations of corruption in the Delhi Jal Board... Calling ED raids or other investigations as BJP-sponsored by AAP leaders is their desperation to escape from inquiry..."

Bidhuri, meanwhile, said, "Kejriwal was the Board chairman... When the AAP first came to power, the Board had a surplus fund of Rs 600 crore. Today, it faces a loss of Rs 73,000 crore."

The AAP, meanwhile, said that the raids were a reaction to an "exposé" on the ED by party senior leader and Delhi minister Atishi. During a press conference on Tuesday morning, Atishi launched a scathing attack on the

ED, accusing it of resorting to intimidation tactics and corruption to silence the AAP.

ED sources, however, said that the allegations were "baseless and malicious", and it is planning to take legal action against Atishi over her Tuesday attack.

Condemning the raids that came days after the ED filed a complaint against Kejriwal for non-appearance to its repeated summons in the Delhi liquor policy case, Atishi said that these were "blatant attempts" by the BJP-led Centre and the ED to "silence dissent and intimidate the Opposition". "Last night, I posted on Twitter that at 10 am today (Tuesday), I shall do an exposé on the ED. To stop this exposé, people associated with the AAP have been raided by the ED since 7 am," Atishi said, alleging that there was a lack of substantial progress in the ED's investigations, with three crucial factors casting doubt on the same.

She further accused the ED of tampering with evidence, saying that the "ED had deleted audio footage from CCTV recording of the interrogations". She cited a 2020 Supreme Court order which had observed that all investigating agencies, including the ED, must carry out their interrogation under CCTV surveillance and that footage must contain both audio and video recordings. Atishi said that one of the accused had requested access to the interrogation footage, but was not provided with the audio recording. "The accused asked for the CCTV footage, but the ED gave the footage with the audio being deleted," she said.

Sources in the ED, however, asserted that the CCTV system was upgraded to record and store audio as well as video only in October 2023. "The CCTV footage was recorded in video-only format as the then available CCTV system did not have the facility to record audio," said an ED source.

On this, AAP sources said the ED has, therefore, admitted that it did not follow the Supreme Court directions. "The ED has admitted... that in complete violation and contempt of court orders, including an order by Hon'ble SC, they did not conduct audio recordings till October 2023. Why?... Several accused/witnesses have claimed that their statements were different from the one presented to them for signing," said an AAP source, requesting anonymity.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Police: Dark web used to send hoax bomb threat mail to school

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

DAYS AFTER Delhi Public School RK Puram received a hoax bomb threat on its email, claiming two devices were planted on the premises, a police probe revealed that the suspect used the Tor browser to access the Dark Web through which they used a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to send the email.

While police have not been able to trace the sender, senior officers suspect they are students of the same school. Said an officer, "Through Tor, a dark web browser, (the sender) used a VPN of a foreign country, which we are trying to trace... we have written to the internet service providers to get their web connection details and eventually trace back the IP address." The officer added that the suspect used an Outlook ID to send the e-mail, and tracing their digital footprints "will be an arduous task" because they might have used several VPN layers.

"In Tor, there is an entry and exit VPN. The entry VPN is of the origin country and one can change the exit VPN to that of another country. To trace the

PREVIOUS INCIDENTS

MAY 16, 2023: Amrita Vidyalayam, Pushp Vihar, got a hoax bomb message. Police apprehended a Class 12 student; he said he had sent it as a prank

APRIL 26 & MAY 11: Delhi Public School, Mathura Road, got two hoax bomb emails. Police said students allegedly sent them. A teenager was apprehended in the first case; he told investigators he did it 'for fun'. In the second, the sender denied sending the email

APRIL 12: The Indian School in Sadiq Nagar got a bomb hoax email, which was traced to a Russian domain. Police wrote to their foreign counterpart seeking details, but are yet to receive a response. The school got a similar email in Nov 2022 — traced to a German online domain; a reply is yet to come. Police suspected students to be involved in the cases

suspects, we will have to break through at least three VPNs of countries," said another officer.

The school received the threat e-mail on Friday at 9 am. DCP (Southwest) Rohit Meena had said the school and hostel were thoroughly searched and nothing suspicious was found. Said an officer, "We prima facie suspect the accused to be students wanting to cause mischief..."

Last year, several schools in Delhi had got hoax bomb calls. In most cases, the suspects were minor students of the same school, playing a prank or just "having fun".

In these cases, a *kalandra* or a notice is usually issued to a person against whom there is information that he/she may commit breach of peace or disturb public tranquility. However, a case can also be lodged under IPC Section 507 (criminal intimidation by anonymous communication) and other sections of the IT Act.

Police also write to their foreign counterpart if their VPN is used to send the email, through the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) process, but information is often refused or it takes months to be shared.

Bombay HC quashes summons to Kejriwal in poll code violation case

Panaji: The Bombay High Court's Goa bench on Tuesday quashed an order of a Judicial Magistrate First Class at Mapusa, summoning Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal in a case, pertaining to alleged violation of model code of conduct, filed by the ECI in 2017.

During a campaigning

speech for the 2017 Assembly polls in Goa, Kejriwal allegedly appealed to the voters to accept money from other political parties, but vote for the AAP.

AAP Goa president Amit Palekar said Kejriwal had approached the High Court, challenging the summons. ENS

गणितीय विज्ञान संस्थान, चेन्नई
THE INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES, CHENNAI
(Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India)

February 05, 2024

विज्ञान संस्था/ Advt No. 18-R/IMSc/2024

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सूचनापत्र / REGISTRAR

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

3rd & 4th Floor, Chandrikar Building, 36 Janpath,

New Delhi-110001, Phone: 23353503, FAX: 23753923

Website: www.cercind.gov.in

Petition No. 123/TL/2023 Dated: 31.01.2024

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003

An application under Sections 14 and 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by Kallam Transmission Limited, Windsor, 1st Floor, Unit No. 101, Kalina, Santacruz East-400 098, Mumbai, Maharashtra for the grant of a separate transmission licence under the Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM) mode. The scope of the project for which a separate transmission licence has been sought is as under:

(a) "Augmentation of Transformation Capacity at Kallam PS by 2x500 MVA, 400/220 KV ICTs (3rd & 4th) along with 220 KV bays for RE interconnection" (hereinafter referred to as "Kallam Augmentation Part-1"); and

(b) "Implementation of 1 no. 400 KV bay at Kallam PS for interconnection of RE project of Torrent Solar Power Pvt. Ltd." (hereinafter referred to as "Kallam Augmentation Part-2")

2. The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited vide its letters dated 21.4.2023 and 8.8.2023 has recommended for the grant of a separate transmission licence to the Kallam Transmission Limited for executing the transmission line through RTM route as mentioned in para-1 above.

3. Based on the material available on record, the Commission has, vide order dated 4.1.2024 in Petition No. 123/TL/2023, proposed to issue transmission licence to the applicant for establishing the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.

4. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission Licence to Kallam Transmission Limited before the Commission can be accessed at the website https://www.indigrid.co.in/documents-manager/ or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.

5. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by 19.2.2024 at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.

6. The application shall be taken up for the further hearing by the Commission on 23.2.2024. Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

EXPRESS Careers

Defence Electronics and beyond
Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is a Navratna category Central Public Sector Enterprise and India's leading Professional Electronics Company under Ministry of Defence. Government of India requires 09 Deputy Engineers on Short Term basis for 02 years (02 Electronics and 07 Mechanical), 05 Project Engineer (Electronics) on short term basis and 01 Trainee Officer (Finance) on short term basis for its manufacturing Unit located at NDA Road Panbari, Pune.

For further details, please visit CAREERS Link on website http://www.bel-india.in
'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

KOVIDIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
A Government of India Category-I Miniratna Company
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Ref No. P.8/A/18 (204)/2024 Vol II (A)

COchin Shipyard Limited (CSL) Mumbai Ship Repair Unit (CMSRU) NEEDS SUPERVISORS ON PERMANENT BASIS

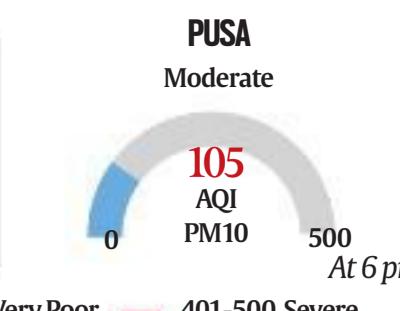
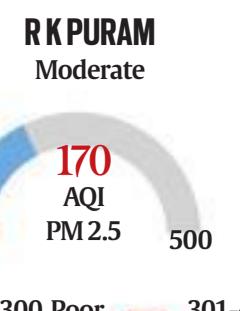
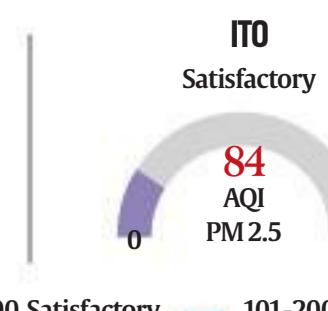
Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), a listed premier Miniratna Company of Government of India, invites Online applications for the following posts in CSL Mumbai Ship Repair Unit (CMSRU):

Sl. No.	Name of Posts	No. of Vacancies	Qualification & Experience
1	Assistant Engineer (Weapons)	1	Diploma in Engineering with Seven years relevant post qualification experience.
2	Assistant Administrative Officer	1	Degree in Arts / Science / Commerce OR three year Diploma in Commercial Practice / Computer Engg. / IT with minimum 60% and Seven Years relevant post qualification experience.
3	Accountant	1	Graduate with M.Com and Seven Years relevant post qualification experience OR Graduate with a Pass in CA / CMA Intermediate examination with five years relevant post qualification experience.
Total			3

For more details on age, reservation, educational qualification, experience, remuneration etc., please read the vacancy notification on CSL website www.cochinshipyard.in (Career page) CMSRU, Mumbai. Last date of receipt of online application is 05 March 2024.

Hindi version of detailed advertisement is published on the website (www.cochinshipyard.in) of CSL. Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER (HR & TRAINING)

Central University of Punjab<br



S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: February 7
Partly cloudy sky. Mist in the morning. Strong surface winds during the day

MAX: 21 2.3°C below normal | **MIN: 7** 2.4°C below normal

'LACK OF SUPERVISION, FAILURE TO NOTICE GLARING INFIRMITIES'

Flaws in Pragati Maidan tunnel: After L&T, 2 former PWD officers get notice

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

AFTER CONSTRUCTION company Larsen and Toubro (L&T), the Public Works Department (PWD) has issued a show cause notice to two of its former officers for "lack of supervision", "monitoring" and "failing" to notice the "glaring infirmities" in the Pragati Maidan Integrated Corridor redevelopment project and take suitable action against the contractors.

On Saturday, the PWD issued a notice to L&T for "design flaws", "serious technical and design deficiencies" and a "potential threat to the life of passengers" utilising the Pragati Maidan tunnel and underpasses on a daily basis. It also asked L&T—which executed the project—to deposit Rs 500 crore.

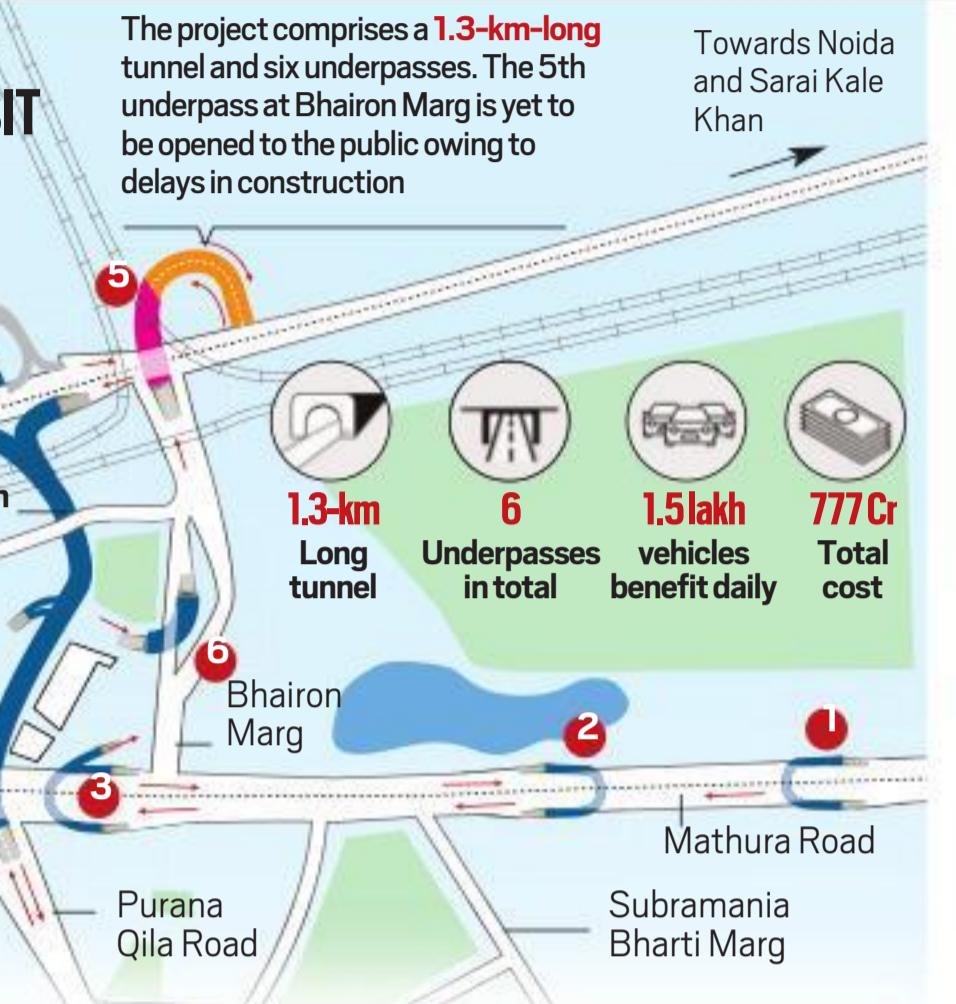
The two officers—Pradeep Kumar Parmar, who was under scanner of the Delhi Vigilance department in the matter of renovation of the Chief Minister's residence, and Iqbal Singh—were then posted in the Flyover wing as Chief Engineer (Flyover) and Executive Engineer, ITPO Project division, PWD.

"...these serious and persisting issues are clear and undeniable evidence of the structural as well as design faults in the project and its constructions... Furthermore, complaints raised in the public domain by daily users... prima facie establish that this is a case of major neglect/ oversight by the contractor as well as PWD officers in respect of the quality of construction material utilised and the design, that has been adopted..." said the PWD.

"You have failed to notice the glaring infirmities and take suitable action against the contractors during the execution of the project and the resultant public safety hazard which (is) tantamount to negligence and dereliction of duties..." the notice to the officers' further states.

While Parmar is currently posted in Assam, Singh is posted in the National CPWD Academy, Ghaziabad, UP.

Iqbal Singh said, "This is a maintenance and care matter... I was transferred two years ago... proper inspection following due



Repairs underway inside the tunnel, Tuesday. Caleigh Christy

THE DEFECTS

- Accumulation of water across various locations in the tunnel/underpasses
- Continuous leakage noticed and identified from some expansion joints of the tunnel
- Large cracks in concrete /cement at various places
- Waterlogging, malfunctioning of drainage systems across the tunnel
- Damage and non-uniformity of a large number of kerbstones
- Patches of branch tunnel with ITPO parking not cleaned for a long time
- Missing saucer drains at various locations
- Water dripping from the tunnel's ceiling and unexplained seepage of groundwater under the concrete surface are damaging murals and paintings on the walls

formalities were taken and permission was given after that for inauguration... The tunnel and the corridor was fine, there might be some drainage issue, water might have entered the expansion joint or some drainage must have broken... I have not received any notice yet, I will respond once after going through it," Parmar said.

PWD also said the issue, especially during the monsoon, rendered the entire project "non-

operational" for the public and ultimately ended up causing far more blockages and congestion along the arterial road of the entire New Delhi area which defeated the very purpose of this ambitious project.

The officers have been asked to reply in 15 days why disciplinary action should not be initiated against them.

'Design, technical hurdles behind delay in opening 5th underpass on Bhairon Marg'

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

APART FROM issues with the Pragati Maidan tunnel and underpasses, the Public Works Department (PWD) also pulled up Larsen and Toubro (L&T) for not completing the 5th underpass on Bhairon Marg on time. It said the project not only missed the deadline but has run into "serious design issues and technical hurdles".

While the six-lane tunnel and five underpasses were inaugurated in July 2022, the three-lane underpass on Bhairon Marg-Ring Road was delayed due to limited time for construction as it passes under a railway track. Officials said work could only be carried out when trains were not passing above and when the Railways granted permission.

When *The Indian Express* visited the 110-metre-long underpass Tuesday, it found that only a 90-metre-long two-lane stretch was complete—which is towards the exit. The entry portion is incomplete as the box-pushing concrete is stuck.

Meanwhile, the PWD, in its notice to L&T, also said the



The incomplete Bhairon Marg underpass. Caleigh Christy

riageways—one for traffic coming from ITO towards Bhairon Marg and the other from Bhairon Marg to Sarai Kale Khan. To reduce traffic, the PWD has decided to open the exit portion to facilitate commuters coming from ITO and going towards Sarai Kale Khan... Some work is going on on the railway track... once it is done, the lane will be opened. But the entry point, which is supposed to connect Bhairon Marg to Sarai Kale Khan, is stuck," said an official present on site.

It further said, "... We are also seeking damages in the form of losses that the government had incurred due to inordinate delay and failure of constructing the tunnel despite being provided requisite facilities and assistance..."

Leaks in tunnel,

Railways had agreed to reduce the speed of trains to 20 km/hr and also stopped rail movement for up to six hours on various days to facilitate box-pushing under the tracks, but the "company miserably failed to complete the project on schedule".

It further said, "... We are also seeking damages in the form of losses that the government had incurred due to inordinate delay and failure of constructing the tunnel despite being provided requisite facilities and assistance..."

Leaks in tunnel,

murals damaged

The Indian Express also visited the main tunnel and found that the surface, leaving aside a few metres, was wet due to a drainage leak. Further, the concrete cover of the drainage on the side was open at various points. Water was also seen dripping from the ceiling at several points. Due to the seepage, the artworks and murals on the walls were damaged. The concrete surface also sported large cracks and potholes.

Towards gate number 4 of Bharat Mandapam (underpass 4), which connects to the basement parking lot of the Pragati Maidan Exhibition hall, the entry to the left lane was open, but the exit was barricaded with 'no entry' board. A major part of the stretch was inundated by ankle-deep water. This path also connects to the basement parking and the main tunnel.

The situation was similar at the underpass that provides a u-Turn towards the Supreme Court side—the carpeting towards the exit was peeling off. The other underpass on Mathura Road had cracks and leaks.

Man arrested for beating, sexually assaulting woman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

A WOMAN hailing from Darjeeling was allegedly sexually assaulted by a 28-year-old man, who also poured hot lentils on her. The accused, Paras Shahi from Uttarkhand, was arrested by police. He worked as a cook at a hotel in Delhi.

DCP (South) Ankit Kumar said that on January 30 at 4 pm, they received a PCR call that a woman had been beaten up. Police staff reached the spot and took the woman to AIIMS.

During enquiry, the woman said she came in contact with the accused on social media and they became friends. "In the first week of January, she was to travel to Bengaluru through Delhi by train

The woman said she came in contact with the accused on social media

for a job as a house help... she had a one-day halt in the Capital. When she came to Delhi, the accused asked her to stay back and assured her of a job... so she stayed with him in a rented accommodation. She alleged that after some time, he started beating her... she alleged that he sexually assaulted her over the last week and threw hot lentils on her on one occasion," said the DCP.

A case under IPC sections 323

(punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 376 (rape), and 377 (unnatural offences) was filed.

According to officials, the general public can avail of a 15% discount, whereas employees of central government, state government, and government autonomous bodies will be offered a 25% discount on these flats.

"Sector A1-A4 is well connected with its proximity to the GT Karnal Road, Urban Extension Road-II and the proposed Metro line. This incentive scheme will

enable the middle class as well as government employees to fulfill their dreams of owning a decent-sized flat in Delhi," DDA officials said.

After a meeting, the DDA also

Govt scheme to restart legacy stalled projects off to slow start

Around 30 builders in Gr Noida, 13 in Noida agreed to plan

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, FEBRUARY 6

NEARLY A month and half after the rollout of the Uttar Pradesh government's scheme to restart legacy stalled projects, only around 30 builders in Greater Noida and 13 builders in Noida have given written consent to opt for the plan and pay the required 25% of the dues to begin the registration of flats.

There are 96 developers in Greater Noida and 57 in Noida authority on the list to get the relief package.

While officials said that they are pursuing the matter with the builders to begin a plan for the payment of dues so that the registry can begin, builders have raised issue with the calculation.

"This is a good package for all the stakeholders. But there are around 19 projects which attract both the zero period relief and waiver granted for housing projects affected by NGT ban on construction near Okhla bird park. The authority wants builders to first pay the 25% dues after getting relief for Covid. It says it will consider the relief for the builders affected by the NGT ban on later. But what will happen to those whose outstanding dues after counting both waivers become zero? Will the authority return the excess amount? There is no such provision," said Dinesh Gupta, Secretary, CREDAI (Western UP).

The data available with the Greater Noida Authority shows that out of 96 builders who are developing a total of 117 projects in the area, around 30 builders have given their consent. If these builders pay the required minimum dues on time, this will



There are 96 developers in Greater Noida and 57 in Noida authority on the list to get the relief package. Archive

consented verbally and some of them gave written consent. The authority has already addressed their concerns, whether it is dues calculation or zero period relief.

As far as NGT zero period is concerned, it will be addressed on a case to case basis. This provision is mentioned in the order," said Lokesh M, CEO, Noida Authority.

Under the package, the registration of flats can begin only when the builder pays 25% of the outstanding amount (land dues) within 60 days. The scheme gives two-year zero period relief (Covid time) to the builders, among others. Under the zero-period waiver, interest and penal interest will not be levied on the builder for two years, and the instalments will be shifted beyond it. Using this formula, the builders are getting around 20% reduction in total land dues.

The data available with the Greater Noida Authority shows that out of 96 builders who are developing a total of 117 projects in the area, around 30 builders have given their consent. If these builders pay the required minimum dues on time, this will

HC tells govt to pay Rs 20L more to kin of workers who lost their lives in manual scavenging



CM Kejriwal inaugurated the Dr BR Ambedkar School of Specialised Excellence in Paschim Vihar. Archive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE DELHI High Court has asked the Delhi government to make an endeavour to pay additional Rs 20 lakh to families of workers who lost their lives in manual scavenging, in pursuance to a Supreme Court's verdict.

The high court said it is well settled that when a person approaches a court and gets a declaration of law in his favour, it is expected that the State shall extend the same benefit to all the similarly situated persons without forcing those persons to approach the court of law. "This court expects that the State will endeavour to pay the balance of Rs 20 lakh to all similarly placed persons instead of forcing the family members of persons who have lost their lives in manual scavenging to approach this court by filing writ petitions," Justice Subramonium Prasad said.

Applying the same principle, the high court allowed a petition by several widows seeking direction to the Delhi government to pay them Rs 20 lakh additional compensation each in terms of the apex court's 2023 judgment. It was stated in the plea that the Delhi government, under its policy, has given Rs 10 lakh to the family of the persons who have died in between, including the petitioners.

The top court had directed that the compensation in cases of sewer deaths must be increased to Rs 30 lakh from Rs 10 lakh. In cases of permanent disablement arising from sewer operations, it had directed the increase of compensation to Rs 20 lakh and not less than Rs 10 lakh for other forms of disablement. "In the event, dependents of any victim have not been paid an such amount (Rs 30 lakh), the above amount shall be payable to them. Furthermore, this shall be the amount to be hereafter paid, as compensation," the SC had said.

The high court said the petitioners in this case are similarly placed and they ought to have been granted the same benefit of additional Rs 20 lakh in terms of the judgment passed by the apex court's decision.

Buy flats in bulk, get discounts: DDA's new offering to woo potential buyers



The discount offer is for flats in Narela's Sector A1-A4. Archive

flats in bulk to be used as residential staff quarters or hostels, officials said. The DDA, in a statement, said such a policy will enable the growth and development of private, industrial, educational and other sectors in upcoming areas like Narela.

Meanwhile, 246 Lower Income Group (LIG) flats in Ramgarh Colony will be offered at a 15% lower price -- ranging between Rs 14 lakh and Rs 15 lakh - under the First Come First Serve (FCFS) programme of the Diwali Special Housing Scheme 2023. The LIG flats had earlier been offered under the Special Housing Scheme 2021.

The meeting was chaired by L-G V K Saxena, who is also the chairman of the DDA.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

New Delhi: Taking cognizance of a viral video in which a man can be seen firing bullets during a wedding, the Delhi Police has registered a case and launched an investigation into the matter. "We got to know that a man fired more than three rounds during a wedding in Kumhar basti of Gharoli village," said a senior police officer. The purported video shows the man firing from a pistol during the function in Gharoli village. It was found during investigation that the alleged person got into an act of celebratory gun fire when the 'baraat' was about to leave for Baraut in UP, police said. PTI

IN PARLIAMENT

BUDGET SESSION

Can't deceive
Lord Ram, your
only intention is
political gains:
Brittas slams BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

CPM RAJYA Sabha member John Brittas has hit out at the ruling BJP for "using Lord Ram" for political gains, alleging that political programmes are being turned into religious programmes and vice versa.

While replying to the motion of thanks to the President's address in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, Brittas claimed that no speech from the treasury benches was complete "without Ayodhya and without prime minister".

He said: "You cannot deceive Lord Rama, because though you are harping on Rama, your only intention is... to reap political benefits". He also quoted the Supreme Court over the Ram Janmabhoomi case and called the destruction of Babri Masjid a violation of the rule of law. "Are they inflicted with selective amnesia?" he asked.

Brittas also made a scathing attack on PM Narendra Modi. "The primary responsibility of the PM is to give pran to citizens, not the gods. He should obviously stick to his duties... He should go to Manipur and conduct a pran pratishtha for citizens," he said.

He further said that while his Ram is Mahatma Gandhi's Ram, the BJP's Ram is Nathuram. "Ram belongs to us also... My Ram is Mahatma Gandhi's Ram—of compassion, of harmony and love".

Rajya Sabha passes Bill to amend Water Act, decriminalise minor pollution-linked crimes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE RAJYA Sabha on Tuesday passed the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill, which seeks to decriminalise minor offences related to water pollution, and exempt certain categories of industrial plants from statutory restrictions.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said development and environment protection must go together. "There should be harmony in ease of living and ease of doing business... Its provisions will lead to greater transparency in dealing with various issues related to water pollution," he said.

The Bill, which seeks to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, was approved by the Rajya Sabha by voice vote.

According to the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill, the amendment proposes to rationalise criminal provisions and ensure that citizens, businesses and companies operate without fear of imprisonment for minor, technical or procedural defaults.

Also, the nature of penal consequence of an offence must be commensurate with the seriousness of offence, it added.

According to the Bill, the central government will be empowered to exempt certain categories of industrial plants from the application of Section 25 relating to restriction on new outlets and new discharges. "This will reduce

Furore in House over DMK leader's remark against minister Murugan

Balu says nothing unparliamentary in his comment, BJP claims he insulted Dalit community

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE BJP on Tuesday sought to corner the DMK for allegedly insulting the Dalit community in Lok Sabha during Question Hour.

A furore erupted in the House when DMK MP T R Baalu, who was asking questions related to Central assistance to Tamil Nadu for damage caused by two cyclones last December, made a remark against Minister of State L Murugan for "interrupting his question".

Murugan, MoS for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, termed Baalu's question "irrelevant".

An agitated Baalu asked the minister not to interfere unnecessarily. When Murugan continued to speak, Baalu repeated his remark against the minister, drawing the ire of the treasury benches. Both Baalu and Murugan come from Tamil Nadu.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi rose up and asked why the DMK leader used such a word for a minister "that too a Dalit leader".

MoS, Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal then



DMK MP T R Baalu speaks in the Lok Sabha, Tuesday. PTI

joined in and said, "You take your words back. It must be removed from the record. You should tender an apology. You are a senior member of the DMK and we respect you. It does not mean you will call a Dalit minister..."

The treasury benches then began shouting slogans — "T R Baalu maafi maango". The DMK MPs too started shouting slogans that Tamil Nadu voices were being "muzzled". For the next five minutes there was a heated verbal exchange between the treasury and the opposition benches.

Speaking with reporters, DMK's Baalu and A Raja rejected the minister's charge that any unparliamentary term was used. Raja said even he was a Dalit and that there was no remark about Murugan's social background.

eventually allowed to ask his question, but he again used the same words for the BJP member.

"Check what is the fate of INDIA bloc. It is finished and you are still talking like this," Joshi said.

Following this, Birla called out another member's name to ask questions even as the DMK kept protesting. The party MPs later walked out of the House.

Speaking with reporters, DMK's Baalu and A Raja rejected the minister's charge that any unparliamentary term was used. Raja said even he was a Dalit and that there was no remark about Murugan's social background.

'Bias' claims

The Question Hour started with DMK MP A Raja asking questions on Chennai floods and accusing the Centre of being biased against Tamil Nadu.

"Last December, Chennai and Kanjipuram district were heavily impacted by a cyclone. Later seven districts were hit by another cyclone. A delegation from the state has met the PM and the Home Minister and demanded Rs 37,000 crore. An inter-ministerial committee, which visited the state, and the state government have given their reports to the ministry. But no assurance has been made by the government as to when and how much money would be released. Is the amount going to match those released to (then) BJP-ruled states such as Gujarat and Karnataka," he asked.

Manickam Tagore of the Congress also made similar allegations. "The problem with the minister is he is not ready to see Tamil Nadu with compassion. If this discrimination with Tamil Nadu continues, BJP will get the same number of seats in the state that it got last time," he said. The BJP did not win a single seat in the state in 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

MoS (Home) Nityanand Rai said Centre was not discriminating against any state.

"Between 2010 and 2015 there was provision for only Rs 33,581 crore for disaster relief. This increased to Rs 61,120 crore between 2015 and 2020. For 2020-25, it has increased to over Rs 1.38 lakh crore. SDRF funds have increased by 282%. This shows that the Modi government is sensitive to the needs of the states in disaster relief. The SDRF funds were earlier released later. Now they are released in advance. States have to spend those funds. Even now the Tamil Nadu government has over Rs 2,000 crore available in SDRF funds," he said.

A Raja, however, accused the government of "having a step-motherly attitude towards states not run by the BJP". He said the amount being asked by the Tamil Nadu government is under the National Disaster Relief Fund and not State Disaster Relief Fund.

At this, Rai said, "During cyclone Biparjoy, Gujarat was not given even a rupee under SDRF. Chennai has been given Rs 50 crore to manage floods. IMCT (Inter-ministerial Central Team) report has been received and is being studied. There is no discrimination against Tamil Nadu. Today, provision has been made to appear in competitive exams in vernacular languages."

Water released by Haryana at Hathnikund 'inadequate': House panel

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

OBSERVING THAT 10 cumecs (cubic metre per second) of water being released by Haryana at Hathnikund during lean season is "inadequate", a Parliamentary committee has asked the Centre to make concerted efforts to evolve consensus among the Yamuna basin states to maintain environmental flow (e-flow) of 23 cumecs as recommended by the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH).

In its report on "Review of Upper Yamuna River Cleaning Projects up to Delhi and River Bed Management in Delhi", the standing committee on Water Resources said, "The Committee is of the opinion that 10 cumecs of flow released by Haryana at Hathnikund during lean season is inadequate, most of which evaporates or percolates before it reaches Wazirabad. In fact, there is almost nil environmental flow available at the downstream of Wazirabad Barrage during most of the period i.e. 9 out of 12 months in a year. Environmental flow is only available during monsoon of 3 months i.e., July-September."

On the differences between Delhi and Haryana on the issue of ITO barrage, the report said, "The Committee feel that this issue needs to be sorted out as early as possible for ensuring the safe operation of the barrage so that the State of Delhi does not again become victim of flooding as witnessed in the month of July 2023."

Munda said some members have suggested adding a few more communities from their states in the list and the government is considering that.



THE HUDDLE

Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Pralhad Joshi, Arjun Ram Meghwal and V Muraleedharan at the Parliament House complex, Tuesday. PTI

RS passes Bills seeking to modify SC/ST list in Odisha and Andhra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE RAJYA Sabha on Tuesday passed two Bills, which seek to modify the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

The Upper House cleared the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, by voice vote.

The first Bill seeks to modify the SC/ST list in Andhra Pradesh, while the second seeks to modify the SC/ST list in Odisha. Both bills

were piloted by Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda.

Replying to the debate, Munda said both Bills have been brought with long-term planning. "In Andhra Pradesh, three more ethnic groups — Bondo Porja, Khond Porja, Parangipera — are being added to the list of STs. While in Odisha, it will add four groups in the list. All these are Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and they have been added to the scheduled list after 75 years of Independence," he said.

"There are 75 PVTGs which are spread from Andaman Island to the mainland. The government has started a scheme and worked in mission mode with a target to

reach them in the far-flung areas in which they reside... The names of such 10 PVTGs were not added in the list of scheduled tribes and they were deprived of conditional rights and faced injustice."

He said he has written to the state governments, where the population of PVTGs are on the decline. "Moreover, the government has also launched schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan to improve the socio-economic conditions of the PVTGs," he said.

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Munda said some members have suggested adding a few more communities from their states in the list and the government is considering that.

LS passes Bill to give OBCs quota in J&K local bodies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE LOK Sabha on Tuesday passed the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which is aimed at providing reservation to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the panchayats and municipalities in the Union Territory.

The Bill, supported by all parties, was passed by a voice vote in the House. It seeks to amend certain provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000 and the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 (the Acts) in consonance with the provi-

sions of the Part IX and Part IXA of the Constitution.

Piloting the Bill, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nitayanand Rai said that the Bill is aimed at providing rights to the Other Backward Classes in J&K.

He also said the Constitution provides that the State Election Commissioner can only be removed through the process prescribed for removal of a High Court Judge, but in case of Jammu & Kashmir, this power has been given to the Lieutenant-Governor. Through this amendment Bill, this ambiguity is being removed, he said, commending the Bill for consideration of the House.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Fearing OBC anger fallout, Shinde Sena MP backs caste census demand

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

IN WHAT is seemingly a bid to placate the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) who have been unhappy with the Maharashtra government's decision to provide reservation to Marathas under the OBC quota, an MP from the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday backed the demand for a nationwide caste census.

This is the first time that a Sena leader has voiced his support for the nationwide census, a demand that is the Opposition's key poll plank. The Shinde-led government, comprising BJP and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Ajit Pawar, has so far only spoken in favour of a caste survey in Maharashtra.

"In Maharashtra, Kolis,

Buldhana MP Prataprao Jadhav

around 57 lakh people are being given Kunbi certificates. There has been a demand for a caste census in Parliament too. If a caste census is done along with the general census in 2026-27, reservation for OBCs can be increased in states where their population is found to be higher. Similarly, quota can be reduced wherever it is found that their population has decreased," he said.

This is the first time that a Sena leader has voiced his support for the nationwide census, a demand that is the Opposition's key poll plank. The Shinde-led government, comprising BJP and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Ajit Pawar, has so far only spoken in favour of a caste survey in Maharashtra.

"In Maharashtra, Kolis,

issued a draft notification that said Marathas and their "sage soyare" (blood relatives) would be issued Kunbi certificates, thus enabling them to avail reservation under the OBC quota.

The Sena-BJP-NCP Mahayuti government was red-faced after state Cabinet Minister Chhagan Bhujbal of the NCP opposed the move. Bhujbal, seen as one of the tallest OBC leaders in the state, has been vocal against Marathas being accommodated in the OBC category and, in the past, has urged them to respond to Maratha agitators "in the same vein". He was also critical of their inclusion during a mega OBC rally held last December as a counter to Jarange-Patil's agitation.

Against this backdrop, Jadhav's comments are being perceived as the Maharashtra

government's move to placate OBCs who have been up in arms against the draft notification as they are wary of Maratha reservation eating into their quota. While his deputies have spoken in favour of a caste survey in the state, Shinde has so far avoided making a clear statement. "An appropriate decision will be taken on the issue after seeking the opinion of all sections of society," he said in December. That statement came a day after senior RSS functionary Shridhar Gadge said there was no need for a caste census and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi reiterated his party would conduct a caste census if voted to power in the Lok Sabha polls and also remove the 50% cap on quotas.

Jadhav, however, criticised the Congress and said it was ben-



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Rajya Sabha, Tuesday. PTI

Sitharaman: Prices of perishable goods within tolerance band

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday told Rajya Sabha that prices of perishable goods have started coming down and "they are within the tolerance band".

Sitharaman also said that the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre is working with the Centre on de-humidification of onions through Gamma Rays to give it a longer shelf life. Import restrictions have also been changed so that prices of onions can be kept reasonable.

She also spoke about the import of pulses. "We imported 8.79 lakh metric tonnes of Tur dal and 15.14 lakh metric tonnes of Masoor dal in 2023... We have also brought the branded 'Bharat Dal' through which Chana dal is made available at Rs 60/kg for one kg pack and Rs 55/kg for 30 kg packs.

She also spoke about the fuel prices in the country and the steps being taken by the Centre to reduce the burden on the public. "As for state governments, we can only request them that all citizens be treated equally and such a reduction be taken up by respective state governments."

'Biased assessment' keeps SC, ST posts vacant in educational institutes: House panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

SEVERAL CANDIDATES from SC/ST category have been "deliberately declared not suitable" due to "biased assessment" of selection panels at AIIMS Delhi, a report by the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which was tabled in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, said.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare data submitted to the panel, in 2018, 16 senior faculty posts were vacant in AIIMS Delhi as the selection committee found "candidates not suitable" in the SC/ST and OBC category. In 2022, another 12 such posts went vacant.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



BILL FOR FAIR POLLS

DURING A discussion on the Bill to prevent malpractices in examinations, Congress MP M K Vishnu Prasad said if computers can be hacked during examinations, the same can happen with EVMs. He said the government should bring a separate legislation to ensure fair polls, adding that examinations and elections are equally important. To this, Union minister Jitendra Singh, who was piloting the Bill, said, "You are touching a very sensitive topic."

GAG ORDER

THE CRPF brass has recently issued a gag order on its personnel, asking them not to share any confidential information such as operations details with journalists, and warned them of "disciplinary action". They have been told not to bring journalists into the officers' mess and other offices where they are likely to get access to various operations information. From now on, no journalist would be allowed to access the ops room or any such area of the unit HQs or co HQs where operational information is disclosed, said sources.

SILENT SWITCH

A WHATSAPP group of the Janata Dal (United) for the media in Delhi went silent around January 22. It sprang back to activity a couple of days ago, after the party returned to the BJP-led NDA again. After the phase of silence, the tone and tenor of the JD(U), which was critical earlier, changed seamlessly to supporting the NDA, much in sync with the political changes in Bihar.

Gujarat procuring power at triple cost from Adani: Cong

SOHINI GHOSH
GANDHINAGAR, FEBRUARY 6

THE GUJARAT Congress on Tuesday accused the BJP-led government in the state of buying power from Adani Power Limited (APL) at rates more than triple than what was decided over 15 years ago, and allegedly paying the company crores in excess.

The state, meanwhile, maintained that the charges included the cost of buying coal that was factored into the electricity rates through a government resolution issued in February 2022.

At the Budget Session of the

state Assembly on Tuesday, nine Congress MLAs questioned the government about the power it had purchased from APL in 2022 and 2023.

Speaker Shankar Chaudhary remarked that "this tactic" of the Opposition to have multiple MLAs ask the same question just so that the questions are addressed on priority, "is not right".

Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Amit Chavda said, "It is not the case that we are after Adani but we have to worry if our taxpayers' money is being looted. Double engine sarkar doesn't mean that they do double the profit."

APTRANS CO:: VIJAYAWADA
e-Procurement Tender Notice

The APTRANS CO invites bids online for Spec No. P.M.M31-06/2024. Nature of Work: Procurement for Supply of various C & R Panels & necessary Equipment under Q&M 2023-24, RMI 2022-23 & System Improvement works and necessary support while Execution, Testing & Commissioning at APTRANS CO Date & Time of availability of Tenders: 06.02.2024 at 05:00 PM. Web: [https://apseprocurement.gov.in](http://apseprocurement.gov.in)

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
TRANSMISSION

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED VIDYUTH SOUDHA :: VIJAYAWADA
Tender Notice No. V10/M/100023252

APGENCO invites for "Dr.NITPS - Procurement of 1 No. Two Stage Oil Free Rotary Screw Air Compressor of Stage-IV (1x500MW). Schedule available date and time : From 18.00 Hrs on 08.02.2024 onwards Bid submission closing date and time : At 14.00 Hrs on 29.02.2024. For other details visit website: www.apgenco.gov.in & www.apeprocurement.gov.in

Receipt of Tenders: Tenders will be received through e-procurement platform only for further details please visit www.apeprocurement.gov.in

DIPR No.2680PP/CL/ADVT/I/1/2021-22, Dt: 06/02/2024

Office of Superintending Engineer Cum Project Manager WCDC, Zila Parishad Sikar

फॉन नं.: 01572-294511 दिनांक: सेवद्वारा सिकर प्रशासनी के द्वारा दिया गया है।

No.: 2385 दिनांक: 01.02.2024

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No 09-15 YEAR 2023-24

Bids for Anicut, Farm Pond, MPT, PTWHS and Tanka Construction in Projects Sikar-WDC- 01-06/2021-22 Blocks- Ajitgarh, Danaramgarh, Dhol, Khandela, Nechwa and Patan in District Sikar, Rajasthan are invited from interested bidders up to Date 01.02.2024, Time 9.30 AM to Date 12.02.2024, Time 6.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal ([https://eproc.rajarshani.gov.in](http://eproc.rajarshani.gov.in)) or ([https://sppp.rajarshani.gov.in](http://sppp.rajarshani.gov.in)) of the state and www.watershed.gov.in

NIB No.: WSC2324OA356

UBN No.: WSC2324WSRC00714, WSC2324WSRC00715, WSC2324WSRC00716, WSC2324WSRC00717, WSC2324WSRC00718, WSC2324WSRC00719, WSC2324WSRC00720,

Sd/- (Ramesh Kumar Meena)
S.E. & P.M.
WCDC, Z.P. Sikar
DIPR/C/633/2024

New Okha Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को एतद् द्वारा सूचना दी जाती है कि-

नोएडा क्षेत्र के 31 ग्रामों के लगभग 268 काशकारों को देय 5 प्रतिशत आवादी भूखण्डों का नियोजन सैकर - 146 में किया जाना प्रत्यावृत्त है, इसके अतिरिक्त 08 ग्रामों मोहियापुर, सुधियाना, इलावास, नगली-नला, रसुलपुर नवादा, शहदरा, पर्थमा खंबरपुर तथा छिजारी-ला के 5 प्रतिशत आवादी भूखण्डों का नियोजन प्राप्तिकरण की उपलब्ध एवं कब्जा प्राप्त भूमि में किया गया है। 31 ग्रामों के लगभग 268 काशकारों एवं ग्राम-सदरपुर के कुल 35 काशकारों एवं उक्त 08 ग्रामों के 44 काशकारों के लगभग कुल 347 काशकारों का विवरण नवीन ओखलांगोलीगढ़ कियाकर साधारण की बेंद साइट www.noidaauthorityonline.in पर निरीक्षण हुए उपलब्ध हैं। यदि किसी काशकार को उपरोक्त सूची में कोई आवादी सुझाव दर्ज कराना हो तो इस सार्वजनिक सूचना के प्रकाशन की दिनांक से 15 दिन की अवधि में अपनी आपत्ति / सुचारा महाप्रब्रक (नियोजन) के मुख्य प्रशासनिक मरम्म रीटर्ट-6 रित्यं कार्यालय में लिखित रूप में प्रत्युत करने का कार्य करें, निर्धारित तिथि के उपरांत प्राप्तिकरण द्वारा प्राप्त आपत्तियों पर कोई विवाद नहीं किया जायेगा।

महाप्रबन्धक (नियोजन) नोएडा

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

STALIN SEEKS COLLECTIVE EFFORT BY ALL STATES

Karnataka, Kerala bring protest against Centre's 'financial atrocities' to Delhi, TN lends support

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 6

THE OPPOSITION RULED states of Karnataka and Kerala are bringing their protest against the Centre's alleged biased fiscal policies to the national capital, with Tamil Nadu lending its voice of support.

On Wednesday, the entire Karnataka Cabinet led by CM Siddaramaiah, plus all the Congress MLAs and MLCs in the state, will stage a sit-in at Jantar Mantar, to be followed a day later by Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and his ministers. The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu has said it will join the protests.

Siddaramaiah called his government's 'Chalo Delhi' protest as the first-ever by Karnataka against the fiscal policies of the Centre. In front-page ads splashed across newspapers in Karnataka on Tuesday, the Congress government said the protest was against "the financial atrocities committed by the Central government on Kannadigas and Karnataka". The Congress announced a simultaneous social media campaign, with hashtag 'My Tax My Right'.

The CM also penned letters to all MPs from the state, including Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Pralhad Joshi, and JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda, asking them to extend support to the state's cause. Deputy CM D K Shivakumar said the protest was "a non-partisan struggle for the benefit of Kannadigas and Karnataka".

In a briefing Monday, Siddaramaiah put the "losses" suffered by the state exchequer due to factors such as reduction of Karnataka's share in the divisible



The Karnataka Cabinet, led by CM Siddaramaiah, will stage a sit-in at Jantar Mantar today.

pool of taxes and "faulty implementation of GST" at around Rs 1.87 lakh crore. The CM also claimed that despite the Union Budget's size doubling between 2016-17 and 2022-23, there had been no marked increase in grants allocated to Karnataka.

The Kerala government has said its Thursday protest is meant to highlight "how the BJP-led government is neglecting the state by denying its due share of revenue in violation of principles of cooperative federalism". Led by the CM and including his Cabinet colleagues, the protest will include all LDF MPs and MLAs.

Kerala has accused the Centre of "slashing the state's borrowing limit", an issue on which it has also moved the Supreme Court. Last month, the state Cabinet took out a month-long tour against the Union government's "anti-peop[e] policies".

According to the Kerala government, there has been a fall of Rs 57,400 crore in state's receipts from the Centre, a shortfall of Rs 12,000 crore in GST compensation, another cut of Rs 8,400 crore in this year's revenue deficit grant, and a fall in Kerala's eligible borrowing limit to Rs 28,830 crore

from Rs 39,626 crore it expected. CPI(M) leader and Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal Tuesday said: "In a country where federal principles exist, such agitation is very rare. The Cabinet is going to Delhi to find remedy for the neglect towards the state."

He also questioned the Congress-led UDF for not joining the protest despite acknowledging the neglect towards the state.

In a boost for the Pinarayi government, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, whose government includes the Congress, extended unequivocal support to the Kerala government's protest on Tuesday.

In his statement, Stalin appreciated the Kerala decision to go to the SC against the Centre and said the situation had rapidly deteriorated in the last few years, with a clear consensus emerging among state governments over such control over their finances.

Offering his full support to Kerala, and saying Tamil Nadu "looked forward to collaborate and synchronise our efforts to address this crucial challenge", he called for collective action by all states. "The fundamental principle of fiscal federalism envisioned by the Constitution makers is under grave threat," he said.

The Tamil Nadu government has accused the Centre of exploiting its powers under Article 293 of the Constitution to severely limit the borrowing capacity of states. "The prior consent from the Union government, mandated by this section, has been converted into a restrictive tool to limit deficit financing," Stalin said.

DMK spokesperson T K S Elangovan said that the party and Tamil Nadu government were giving their support to Kerala as well as Karnataka.

SC asks ex-MP Anand Mohan to deposit passport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday asked former Lok Sabha MP Anand Mohan Singh, a murder convict who was granted remission by the Bihar government last year, to surrender his passport and record his presence at the local police station every fortnight. Singh was sentenced to life imprisonment for the 1994 murder of the then Gopalganj DM K Krishnaiyah.

"Respondent should deposit his passport immediately in the local police station and record his presence at the police station every fortnight," a bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan ordered.

Senior Advocate Siddharth Luthra, who appeared for the slain DM's wife, pointed out that the Centre was yet to file its reply to her petition challenging the remission granted to Mohan. The court said it was granting one last opportunity to the Centre to respond, and fixed the matter for final hearing on February 27.

He said, "...We know when there is saturation, discrimination ends and all the benefits are transferred to the beneficiaries. People do not have to pay bribes for their rights. I say this repeatedly that...saturation hi saha

secularism hai, saturation hi saha

saamajik nyaya hai, aur yehi saturation...God ko, desh ko...Modi ki guarantee hai (saturation is true secularism, saturation is real social justice and this saturation is Modi's guarantee to Goa and the country)."

Lauding the spirit of the people of Goa, the Prime Minister

'Everyone is fighting separately, sooner or later, it (South alliance) will evolve.'



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
WITH
PRIYANK KHARGE
KARNATAKA MINISTER

You have not given us permission for the Mekedatu project, then the Kalaburagi Railway division that Mr (Malikarjun) Kharge envisioned...you have not allowed it to even take off. You have kept Rs 1,000 for it. Is it not a mockery? We are an economic powerhouse. Imagine how we feel when for every Rs 100 that we pay, Rs 13 comes back to us and Uttar Pradesh gets Rs 333.

So you want a new formula to be devised?

We have already written to the government about what the 16th Finance Commission needs to do... We contribute so much and we get only Rs 44,485 crore, whereas UP gets Rs 2.18 lakh crore, MP Rs 95,000 crore.

On Thursday, the Kerala government is holding a similar protest. Do you see a South alliance taking shape?

It is not just us. Every state following good governance is being punished...In a federal structure...we have no problems sharing, but you cannot overfeed somebody and underfeed somebody. So do you see a South alliance taking shape?

Everybody is fighting for it separately, but sooner or later, it will evolve. Telangana is on a par with us because we are the same party. In TN we are part of the coalition government. In Kerala, though we are in the Opposition, we don't support anti-federalism moves...

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

ment, but we don't even get any appointments. I have written to the Panchayati Raj (Ministry) four-five times...there has been no response. So we're just asking, why this kind of treatment?

The state has been complaining about devolution of funds.

Under the 14th Finance Commission, we would get around 4.71% of the taxes. This has fallen to 3.64% in the 15th Finance Commission. So, we have incurred a loss of close to around Rs 1.87 lakh crore. And when the 15th Finance Commission has itself recommended that you deserve something...because of the loss involved in the share of devolution of taxes, the Finance Minister who is from Karnataka rejects it!

It has become a mockery...

Saturation of govt welfare schemes true secularism: PM



PM Narendra Modi with Goa CM Pramod Sawant (right) and Union Minister Shripad Naik in South Goa, Tuesday. PTI

said though Goa is small in terms of area and population, the coastal state is socially diverse and "people of different societies and religions have been co-existing in peace for many generations".

"So, when people of Goa repeatedly elect the BJP government, the message goes out to the entire country...That BJP's mantra is 'sabka saath, sabka vikaas'. Some parties in the country have always done politics of spreading fear and lies, but Goa has given a befitting reply to such parties and it has done so repeatedly," he said.

Accusing the previous governments of lacking vision for development of tourist destinations, coastal areas and islands, the Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over Rs 1,330 crore in Goa.

India to fence entire 1,643 km border along Myanmar: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY

BRIEFLY**UTTAR PRADESH**

2 BHU students arrested for robbery, assault

Lucknow: The Varanasi police on Tuesday claimed that with the arrest of three persons, including two Banaras Hindu University (BHU) students, a racket allegedly involved in sexually assaulting and robbing victims has been busted. Officers said the modus operandi of the gang involved contacting victims through a dating app predominantly used by the gay community. Later, after sexually assaulting the victims and filming the crime, the accused would threaten victims, said a senior police officer. The police are on the lookout for two more youths, both local residents.

ENS

NEW DELHI

Wanted for terror links, retd Armyman held

New Delhi: The Delhi Police said Tuesday they have arrested an operative of LeT, a retired Indian Army personnel who is wanted for his involvement in a recently busted terror module in J&K's Kupwara, from the New Delhi railway station. According to the police, he was nabbed at the New Delhi Railway Station on Sunday while he was trying to go to his hideout. "Riyaz Ahmed was involved in hatching a conspiracy along with one Khurshed Ahmed and Ghulam Sarvar in receiving arms from across the LoC," KPS Malhotra, DCP (Railways), said.

ENS

GUJARAT

Patients lose sight: 2 docs, 9 others booked

Ahmedabad: Eleven people, including two doctors, were booked Monday after two persons lost sight in one eye and 15 others lost partial vision allegedly after they underwent cataract surgeries at Shri Ramanand Eye Hospital at Ahmedabad's Mandal taluka on January 10. The HC will hear the matter again on Wednesday.

ENS



At the firecracker factory in Bairagarh village of Harda district, Madhya Pradesh, Tuesday. PTI

11 killed in MP firecracker factory blasts; owners held

ANAND MOHAN J
HARDA, FEBRUARY 6

THE EXPLOSIONS in a firecracker factory in Madhya Pradesh's Harda district on Tuesday, which killed 11 people and left 174 injured, began with a blast inside a tin shed storing gunpowder, and as people ran for cover, a second blast of higher intensity wreaked even more havoc, eyewitnesses said.

The owners of the factory, Somesh Aggarwal and Rajesh Aggarwal, have been arrested in connection with the incident. Workers at the factory said there were no safety measures in place and the building did not even have a fire extinguisher. They also said there was a wholesale shop inside the factory due to which a large stock of firecrackers was stored on the premises.

The incident took place around 11.30 am at the factory, located in Bairagarh village. After the explosions, rescue operations were impeded by smoke, fire and debris.

The first two firetenders, which arrived within 20 minutes of the blasts, were unable to proceed as the intensity of the flames grew. More firefighters and fire trucks from adjoining districts soon turned up, and they managed to douse the fire by around 2.30 pm.

Anoop Prajapati (32) was at the factory site when he heard a loud blast and got injured in the head. As he regained consciousness, he realised the factory was on fire. Bleeding from the head, he fled, but his uncle, Priyanshu, who had gone into the building thinking his nephew was trapped, got trapped and died. IGP Prishad Wali told *The Indian Express* that police were looking

into violations that may have been committed by the factory owners. "This factory had four licences, and one of them had expired. Two of the licences were issued from the Central government and two from the state government... Cases have been registered against the factory in 2015 and 2018 as well," he said.

Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav formed a three-member panel to probe the incident. The panel will be headed by Principal Secretary (Home) Sanjay Dubey.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Rs 2 lakh as compensation for the families of the deceased, and Rs 50,000 each to the injured. Additionally, the state government announced financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of the deceased and said it would bear the entire cost of treatment of the injured.

HC confirms bail to Chanda Kochhar

No blanket exemption for CBI in RTI Act, says Delhi HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE DELHI High Court has ruled that intelligence and security organisations are not exempted under the RTI Act when the "information sought pertains to allegations of corruption and human right violation".

The order by a single-judge bench on Tuesday dismissed a petition filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenging the order of the Central Information Commission (CIC) and asked the agency to furnish information, including file notings, regarding action taken on charges of corrupt purchase practices in AIIMS, New Delhi.

Sanjiv Chaturvedi, a former central vigilance officer (CVO) of AIIMS, appealed before the CIC after the CBI denied information regarding its investigation based on a complaint he had filed in 2014 about corrupt purchase practices in the AIIMS trauma centre.

In November 2019, the CIC instructed the CBI to furnish the information sought. The agency moved the HC which stayed the CIC order in July 2022.

In its latest order, the HC relied on multiple orders of the same court to reject the CBI's argument that Section 24 of the RTI Act was a complete bar on disclosure of information by the organisations mentioned under the Second Schedule of the Act.

Section 24 of the RTI Act, the order held, permits supplying information on allegations of corruption and human rights violations, and there is no blanket ban on disclosing such information.

for other reasons. We have sought a survey of the cellars and places which were not surveyed by ASI."

"The Anjuman Intezamia Masajid Committee had to file objections today, but they sought more time and the court listed the matter for further hearing on February 15 when the mosque committee is to file its objection," he said.

According to Dwivedi, there are a total of eight cellars in the mosque premises, and cellars N1 and S1 were not surveyed by the ASI.

Advocate Akhlaq Ahmad,

who represents the mosque committee before the Varanasi court, said, "The application seeks survey of the so-called remaining cellars. We only know

of four cellars there. I don't know what their application is based on. We will file objections."

Following an earlier petition by five women, the court had ordered the ASI to conduct a survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex, barring the "wazukhana" used for ritual ablutions before namaz.

On January 25, the ASI survey report was handed over to the litigants and it became public. One of its key conclusions was that "there existed a Hindu temple prior to the construction of the existing structure" at the Gyanvapi site. On January 31, the District Court allowed puja in the southern cellar of the mosque

complex, and it was opened the same night for a priest to perform puja – Hindu plaintiffs call the cellar 'Vyasji ka tekhkhan' (Vyasji's cellar).

The District Court's direction for puja in the cellar came on the petition of Shailesh Kumar Pathak, head priest of Acharya Ved Vyas Peeth temple, who said that the Vyas family had been offering prayers in the cellar even during the rule of the British but the practice was stopped in December 1993.

Hindu litigants, appearing before the court, have claimed that the Gyanvapi mosque was built on the site of the earlier Kashi Vishwanath temple after its destruction in the 17th century.

Meanwhile, the Allahabad High Court Tuesday heard an application by the mosque committee, challenging the January 31 order of the District Court which allowed puja in the southern cellar.

The matter was taken up by Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal, who will continue the hearing Wednesday. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Advocate Anupam Dwivedi, who represents Rakhi Singh, said, "We had moved an application in the District Court Monday. The ASI survey – its report was made public last month – had surveyed some cellars in Plot No. 9130. But some cellars couldn't be opened as the keys were not available, or

Arjuna award-winning hockey player booked for raping minor

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 6



Varun Kumar

news broke.

S Girish, DCP, West Bengaluru Police said, "The case under the POCSO Act, and Sections 376 (rape) and 420 (cheating) has been registered on the complaint of the woman. She has alleged that at the time of incident, she was a minor of around 17 years of age. She has stated that she and Varun had fallen in love. Later on, he promised to marry her now and he is refusing to marry her."

Varun or his family did not respond to calls for comment.

He hails from Himachal Pradesh and shifted to Jalandhar to train at a hockey academy. He made his debut for India in 2017.

WITH PTI INPUTS

HC confirms bail to Chanda Kochhar

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Tuesday confirmed the interim bail granted to former CEO of ICICI Bank Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak in a CBI case related to alleged irregularities in loans provided to the Venugopal Dhoot-led Videocon Group.

"We have confirmed an interim bail order. Order same as previous interim order of January 2023," said a bench of Justices Anuja Prabhudessai and Nitin R Borkar.

Last year, a bench led by Justice Revati Mohite-Dere questioned the CBI as to why its investigation took several years while the FIR was registered in 2019. In its interim order, the court had held that the Kochhars' arrests were not in accordance with law.

ENS

important for the country. The party had returned to power with a majority – 47 of 70 seats.

The ideologues in the party argue that the UCC is not a populist measure, but rather "a modern approach to civil rights". Says R Balashankar, former editor of RSS affiliate The Organiser: "For the BJP, it has been part of its core agenda from the Jana Sangh days. This is not for catching votes, nor is it a populist measure, but it is with the idea of integrating the country as one nation with one law, in civil matters like inheritance, marriage, women rights and sharing of property... It's a modern approach to civil rights."

Suggestions for a UCC have earlier drawn protests from a section of not just Muslims, Sikhs and other minorities but also Hindus, who fear interference in their customs.

Even with a brute majority in the Lok Sabha and its dominance in larger states, BJP has been careful in its approach to the UCC. The party, which faced protests over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, has chosen not to take it up at the central level, instead asking party-ruled states to move towards it.

State governments in MP, Haryana, UP and Maharashtra also have announced that they would implement a UCC. A version of UCC has existed in Goa since it was a Portuguese colony.

FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com

E. EXPLAINED

It targets Muslim identity: AIMPLB

LALMANI VERMA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE ALL India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has strongly objected to the move of the BJP-led government in Uttarakhand to bring the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, charging that the proposed legislation targeted the identity of the Muslim community besides inflicting damage on the country's diversity.

The Bill proposes banning of practices like polygamy and bringing in a uniform marriage age for citizens from all communities.

Commenting on the move, AIMPLB spokesperson Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas said, "We are protesting UCC. This UCC is against the diversity of the country. This is the country of different religions, culture and languages and we have accepted that diversity. If you try to implement such a UCC, then you are causing a damage to that diversity."

Ilyas said, "Secondly, you are forcing a majoritarian point of view on everyone." He alleged that the government's objective behind bringing UCC was to affect the identity of Muslims. "Muslim's identity is governed by religion. Religious identity is defined by religious laws. If you finish their religious laws, their religious identity will get finished."

Erosion of ideology not good for democracy: Gadkari



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari honours Congress MP Shashi Tharoor during the Lokmat Parliamentary Awards in New Delhi. PTI

bring them respect.

"Publicity and popularity is necessary but how they work for the people in their respective constituencies is more important than what they speak in Parliament," he said.

Gadkari praised RJD chief Lalu Prasad's oratory skills and said he has learnt a lot from former defence minister George Fernandes's "behaviour, simplicity, and personality". Apart from Gadkari, Nationalist Congress Party MP Praful Patel and central minister Ramdas Athawale also addressed the gathering. Cutting across party lines, there were a few lighter moments among the MPs.

In the fifth edition of the awards, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor (Lok Sabha) and BJD MP Sasmrit Patra (Rajya Sabha) bagged the Best Parliamentarian Award. BJP MP Maneka Gandhi (Lok Sabha) and Samajwadi Party MP Ram Gopal Yadav (Rajya Sabha) won the Lifetime Achievement Award. John Brittas of CPM and BSP MP Danish Ali were adjudged the Best Debutant Parliamentarians in the RS and LS, respectively. Shiroromani Akali Dal (Lok Sabha) and BJP MP Saroj Pandey (Rajya Sabha) were the Best Women Parliamentarians. Gadkari gave away the awards.

Gadkari also honoured Congress MP Shashi Tharoor during the Lokmat Parliamentary Awards in New Delhi.

The Army has also sponsored a girl from Topa Pir for IAS coaching at an academy in Delhi.

Since the custodial torture came to light, the Army has been trying to win back the confidence of residents of Topa Pir. It withdrew the 48 Rashtriya Rifles unit from Thanamandi-DKG-Buffliaz area and deployed 61 RR in its place. The newly deployed troops adopted Topa Pir as a "model village" and met residents, assuring them of help they might need.

On January 24, the Army and residents of Topa Pir marked the 75th Republic Day together. At the event, the Tricolour was unfurled, and village elders were felicitated and presented with shawls and blankets. The event culminated with a medical camp, the Army PRO said.

During the hearing in a petition seeking a CBI probe into the alleged "irregularities" in MBBS admissions, Justice Gangopadhyay had a heated argument with Dutta. The same day he had ordered a CBI probe in the case and in a written order levelled accusations against fellow judge, Justice

Gangopadhyay added.

Following the January 25 incident, lawyers, including members of the Bar associations, wrote a letter to Calcutta HC Chief Justice TSivagnanam and demanded an apology from Justice Gangopadhyay.

Over a month after Poonch torture deaths, families of victims want to send their children to Army schools



At an event to mark Republic Day in Topa Pir village

the Army had also promised to look after the education of the victims' children. When contacted, a senior Army officer said all possible help will be provided

to families who want to get their wards admitted in Army schools.

Topa Pir, a hamlet with just 30 houses, needs one to walk a kilometre from the nearest Dehra Ki

Gali-Buffliaz road – part of the Mughal road that connects Shopian district in Kashmir on one side and Surankote in Poonch district on the other. The road is in such a state that just covering 15 km takes an hour and a half.

Like Wali, Noor Ahmed, a BSF head constable whose brother Safeer was among the three killed, too wants Safeer's two children to be admitted to Army's Goodwill School in Rajouri. "I have requested the Army Commander to get the school bus facility extended up to Thanamandi so these children can travel every day," he said, adding that they cannot paint the entire security forces with the same brush. Noor said a senior Army officer last week sought details of children they wanted to admit.

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Days after a heated argument, Calcutta HC judge apologises to AG

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 6

Soumen Sen, leading to the intervention by the Supreme Court.

On Tuesday, Justice Gangopadhyay called the advocate general to his court. "Just a few days back, I said a lot of things to you. I have known you for years. For nearly the last 37 years, I am very, very sorry," Justice Gangopadhyay told Dutta. "I was angry and said a lot of things. Everyone in the Bar must know. I am apologetic," Justice Gangopadhyay added.

Following the January 25 incident, lawyers, including members of the Bar associations, wrote a letter

उत्तर प्रदेश पर्यटन

अपार्टमेंट डैवल विविजन

6-स्पू. नार्स, होटल गोमती, लखनऊ

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश पर्यटन विकास निपाल लि. जी इकाई अपार्टमेंट डैवल विविजन, लखनऊ द्वारा "एन्टर क्रिएशन सेमीनारी-2024" लेभनक में अधिकारी लेने वाले समाचार द्वारा दिए गए तिथि 12.02.2024 से 21.02.2024 के मध्य विभिन्न प्रकार की इकाई हावर करने वाले अनुबंधी ड्रेवर एंटरेंट डैवल से इंटरेंट आमत्रिक की जाती है। निविदा पार्म, नियम एवं शर्त, तकालीन विवरण एवं फाइनिशल विवरण (<http://etender.up.nic.in>) से डाउलोड की जा सकती है। इंटरेंट दिनांक 06.02.2024 से दिनांक 12.02.2024 तक डाउलोड करने वाले अपार्टमेंट डैवल विविजन 12.02.2024 को सायकल 4 वाले अपार्टमेंट डैवल विविजन, 6 स्टू. नार्स, होटल गोमती, लखनऊ में खोली जायेगी। इंटरेंट के साथ घोटाहर विवरण रु. 3,000/- (तीन लाख) एवं टेंटर डफर कार्ड का शुल्क रु. 590.00 (पांच लाख) का ज्ञान आवश्यक है। U.P.S.C.Ltd Lucknow के पास में देव लोगों संबंधित विवरण का आर.टी.जी.एस./निपट के पास सम्बन्धित प्रवर्त निविदा परम के साथ सलन करना आवश्यक होगा। इकाई जानकारी देने वाला निविदा परम के साथ सुरक्षित रहेगा। अधिक जानकारी देने वाला निविदा 9415609450 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

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RO No. 183 **Corrigendum** Dated : 06/02/2024

Due to unavoidable reasons the schedule date of

Tender No: NIT- 14/EE(Gen)/Vysi/23-24

Name of work / Supply/Services: "Purchase of 75 Mbps Internet Leased Line with SIP numbers for Vysi HEP for one year" is extended with some corrigendum as given below:-

Last date for submission of tender: 14.02.2024 up to 14:00 hrs

Date of opening of tender: 16.02.2024 at 11:30 hrs

All other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unaltered.

For fuller & further details with corrigendum, kindly visit our website.

Tender document can be downloaded from our website uttarakhandjalvidyut.com

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER
(RFP) Notice No. RLDA/2024/RFP/CD-07 dt 19.01.2024

GRANT OF LEASE FOR MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT (80% RESIDENTIAL & 20% COMMERCIAL) APPROX. 4.2 HA RAILWAY LAND OPPOSITE SATNA JUNCTION (BEHIND SHARDA COLONY) OF JABALPUR JN IN WCR FOR 99 YEARS

Site Description	Area	FAR	Bid Security	Reserve Price
Opposite Satna Station Building (Behind Sharda Colony)	4.2	2.0	Rs. 1.00 Crore	Rs. 65.12 Crore

Online Pre-bid Meeting On WebEx: 20th February, 2024 at 11:30 Hrs.

(Online Pre-bid meeting details to be obtained from Joint General Manager/Project-6)

Last Date of Submission of E-bid Online : 04.04.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.

For further details of the project, please visit our website www.rlra.indianrailways.gov.in or on e-procurement portal www.tenderwizard.in under the heading "e-tender".

For any clarifications, may please contact:-

Joint General Manager Project-6, Mr. Subhash Singh, M/S. Tel. No. 0135-2763808 sandeep53er@govt.nic.in, grameenmukti@gmail.com

General Consultant/RLDA Mr. Subhash Singh, M/S. Tel. No. 0135-2763808 sandeep53er@govt.nic.in, grameenmukti@gmail.com

For Tender Manager Mr. Subhash Singh, M/S. Tel. No. 0135-2763808 sandeep53er@govt.nic.in, grameenmukti@gmail.com

For General Manager Mr. Subhash Singh, M/S. Tel. No. 0135-2763808 sandeep53er@govt.nic.in, grameenmukti@gmail.com

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For General Manager Mr. Subhash Singh, M/S. Tel. No.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Sachin S/o RAJ Rani R/o E-320-A, First floor Kh No-197, Mandir Marg, East Babarpur, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Sachin Bhatnagar for all future purposes.

0040712371-1

I, It is for general information that I, Rashid S/o Raseed, R/o H.No.C-329 Street.No.-17, Old Mustafabad, North East Delhi-110094, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Mohd Rafeeq in my Voter Card No. LNV1550417. The actual name of my father is Raseed which may be amended accordingly.

0040712351-5

I, It is for general information that I, Digvijay Negi S/o Deva Ram R/o Ree Kong Peo, Asrang Khas (7/1), Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh-172109, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Dewa Ram in my Senior School Certificate & Marks Statement, Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree & Statement of Marks, Master of Arts in History Degree & Marks Statement, Bachelor of Education Marks Certificate, Certificate of Bonafide and Certificate of Schedule Tribe. The actual name of my father is Deva Ram, which may be amended accordingly.

0070887311-1

I, hitherto known as SUROBHI RANI DAS, wife of AJAY KUMAR DAS, residing at 78-H, Pocket A-1, LIG DDA-Flats, Kondli Gharoli, Mayur-Vihar Phase-3, Delhi-110096, have changed my name and shall hereinafter be known as SURBHI RANI DASS.

0040712354-1

I, YOGITA SHARMA (UID:961451035740), W/O SARVESH SHARMA, R/O-PLOT-27-F/F, BLOCK-T-EXTN,VISHWAS PARK, UTTAM NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110059, have changed my name, YOGITA RANI to YOGITA SHARMA, for all future purposes.

0040712366-5

I, PRINCE S/O RAMPAL R/O-HNO.379,POCKET-6,SECTOR-B4,PUNJABI COLONY, TIKRI KHURD, NARELA,DELHI-110040, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRINCE KUMAR.

0040712341-9

I, Valsala M/O-No.15709862Y,LNK Sooraj O/V r/o-vill-Eruvessi,Teh-Taliparamba,Dist-Kannur, Kerala-670632,have changed my name fm Valsala to Valsala Raveendran and also changed my date-of-birth fm 02-Apr-1968 to 08-Apr-1968 for all future purpose,Vide affidavit before public notary Kerala dated-27-Jan-24.

0040712341-6

I, VIKRAM S/o Zile Singh,R/o-F-1/408,Sultanpur,F-Block,Delhi-110086,declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as VIKARAM and ZILLE SINGH in my 10th-class certificate and marksheets educational document.The actual name of mine and my father are of same person.

0040712350-5

I, Sunil Kumar S/o Sat Parkash R/o 2319, Sainik Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Sunil Marwah.

0040712352-3

I, Soniya Tyagi,W/o Shri,Rahul Tyagi,R/o-Dadri Road,Near-Dwarkadhis Mandir,Bhangel, Noida,Gautam Buddha Nagar,U.P,-201304,inform that Soniya Tyagi and Sonia Tyagi,both names are of same person.

0040712341-3

I, Saurabh Giri,S/o Hoti Gir,R/o C-13/46, Fourth Floor,Pocket C-13, Sector-3,Rohini, Delhi-110085,have changed my name Saurabh Goswami.

0040712349-5

I, Sagrieka Mittal Bhatnagar,D/o Amrit Sagit Mittal,R/o F-84,Sonalika-Estate Radhey Mohan Drive Gadaipur Bandh Road Chhatarpur,New Delhi-110074,have changed my to name Sagrieka Mittal

0040712351-3

I, SASHIKALA,D/O VELLAPALAYAT JAYARAJAN,residing at,466 GREEN VIEW APARTMENTS POCKET-2,SECTOR-19 DWARKA DELHI-110075,have changed my name to SASHIKALA VP,for all,future purpose.

0040712349-9

I, SARVESH SHARMA (UID:73749391439),S/O-RAMESH CHAND SHARMA R/O-R-27-XT-EXTN,VISHWAS PARK,UTTAM NAGAR,WEST DELHI,DELHI-110059,have changed my name,SARVESH KUMAR SHARMA to SARVESH SHARMA,for all future purposes.

0040712366-6

I, SANTOSH KUMARI W/O RAM DASS KUREKHA R/O BN-40,EAST SHALIMAR BAGH,DELHI-110088,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANTOSH KUMARI KUREKHA.

0040712341-7

I, SADAF HASAN,W/O MOHD KASHIF, R/O-337-C, STREET NO-4,BATLA HOUSE,JAMIA NAGAR NEW DELHI-110025, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SADAF, KUREKHA.

0040712352-5

I, SANDEEP VARMA,S/O PRAKASH CHANDRA VARMA,R/O WA-139,GALI-NO-11,GANESH NAGAR,NEAR BAJAJ CLINIC, DELHI-110092,Have Changed My Name To SANDEEP VARMA,permanently.

0040712350-3

I, Rishi Tandon S/o Ajit Tondon R/o B-103, Sector-40, Noida (U.P) have changed my name to Rishi Tandon for all purposes.

0040712310-1

I, Ravneet Kaur Modi W/o Khushwant Singh Modi R/o U-1302, Homes-121, Sector-121, Noida-201301 have changed my name to Ravneet Kaur for all purposes.

0040712310-2

I, Raveendran, F/O-NO-15709862Y,LNK Sooraj O V, R/o-Vill-Eruvessi,Teh-Taliparamba, Dist-Kannur,Kerala-670632,have changed my.name fm Raveendran to Raveendran A and also changed my date-of-birth fm 06-Nov-1958 to 05-Jun-1957 for all,future purpose,Vide affidavit before public notary Kerala dated-27-Jan-2024.

0040712341-5

I, ASAN KHANNA,S/O Munshi Ram,R/O Q-86 Extension Uttam-Vihar Raja Puri Gali-No-1,Uttam-Nagar,New Delhi-110059,Have Changed the name of my minor Daughter from Punarvi Khanna to Punarvi Khanna,for all,Purpose in future.

0040712350-8

I, Rajbhushan Singh,R/o HNo.20, 1Ind-Floor, Emaar Emerald Hills,Golf Course Extension Road,Sector-65,Gurgaon (haryana)-121008,have change my Minor daughter name from Diksha to Diksha Singh.

0040712348-8

I, Raghavendra,S/O HEM CHANDRA, SHARMA, ADD-132-A ,DDA-FLATS, MANSAROVAR-PARK SHAHDARA,DELHI-110032,Changed my name to RAGHAVENDRA SHARMA,for all,future purposes.

0040712354-10

I, Priyanka W/o Saurabh Goswami,R/o C-13/46,Fourth Floor,Pocket C-13,Sector-3, Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name Priyanka Goswami.

0040712349-6

I, Pinki Gulati,W/o Sh.Manoj Kumar,R/o H.No.1502,2nd Floor,Near-Ardee City, Gate.No.2,Sector-52, Gurugram-122001(Haryana), have changed my name from Pinki Batra to Pinki Gulati,for all future purpose.

0040712341-4

I, Parmod Kumar BANSAL,S/O,ISHWAR ANAND BANSAL,ADD-B-201, SARASWATI APARTMENT-97 I.P EXTENSION,EAST DELHI 110092, have changed my name to Parmod Kumar BANSAL,for all,future purposes.

0040712354-9

I, Nitika Sharma,W/o SANDEEP VISHWA,R/o WA-139,GALI-NO-11,GANESH NAGAR,NEAR-BAJAJ CLINIC,DELHI 110092,Have Changed My Name To NITIKA VERMA,permanently.

0040712350-2

I, NIKHAT JAHAN, W/O,TARIO JAMIL, ADD-715,GALI MADARSA WALI BERI WALA BAGH, AZAD MARKET, NORTH DELHI 110006. Changed my name to NIKHAT, for all,future purposes.

0040712354-11

I, Manjeet Kumar S/o Manoj Kumar Yadav R/o,R-1/4, Block-R-1, Nawada Housing Complex, D.K.Mohan Garden, Utam Nagar, New Delhi-110059,have changed my name to Manjeet Yadav.

0040712349-10

I, Agya Bhattacharya,Address:-295-B,2nd floor,flat.no.10,Durga vihar,Delhi,Delhi-110080,have changed my name to Agyaraj Bhattacharya,for all,future purposes.

0040712349-7

I, Ashok Kumar S/O Brijendra Singh,R/o-166, Deepchand Pradhan Mohalla,RAJKARI Village, South West Delhi-110038,have changed my name to Azad Singh.

0040712349-7

I, Anish Ahamed,S/O Sabbir Ahamed,R/o HNo-D-586,Street-No.12,Shri Ram-Colony, Rajeev-Nagar,Delhi-110094,have changed the name of my minor Son,from MOHD UMAIR TO MOHD UMER.

0040712341-1

I, Alok Singh,S/o,Jagnanandan Singh,R/o-1/7491-B,Street-No.14,Uma Devi Public School, Gorakhpur,East Shivaji Park,(East-Delhi)Delhi-110032,have changed My name to Alok Singh Tanwar,for all purposes.Alok Singh and Alok Singh Tanwar is one and the same person.

0040712346-3

I, Manpreet Singh,SON OF SHRI MEHARBAN SINGH,R/o-B-165,Street.No.2, Indra-Nagar,Delhi-110033,have changed my daughter name,from PRISHA to PRISHA SINGH. In future she would be known as PRISHA SINGH, and her date-of-birth is-27.05.2011.

0040712351-4

I, Manik S/O YASHPAL CHAUHAN,R/o HNO.12/76, BLOCK-C,PKT-12-SECTOR-5,ROHINI,DELHI-110085,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANIK CHAUHAN.

0040712351-2

I, Mahabir Prashad GOEL,S/O SH.MURARI LAL GOYAL,R/o-D-378,GALI-NO-14,LAXMI NAGAR,NEAR LAXMI SWEET, EAST DELHI,DELHI-110092,have changed my name,from MAHAVIR PARSAK to MAHABIR PRASHAD GOEL,for all,future purposes.

0040712351-2

I, Kartik S/o Ajit,R/o House.no.14,Gali.no. 15B swatntra-nagar Narela, North West Delhi,have changed my name to Kartik Dahiya,for all purpose.

0040712350-6

I, Kalvikudi Pandian Siva Santhanu,S/o-Shri Kalvikudi Marudha Pandian,R/o-Flat-C-135,First Floor,Gali Vihar,B-Block,Sector-23,Noida,Uttar Pradesh-201301,have changed my name to Siva Santhanu K P for all future purposes.

0040712366-4

I, K SINDHU,W/O UDAY PRATAP CHAURASIA,R/o FLAT-NO-2004,TOWER-T25,NIRALA-ESTATE PHASE-II,TECHZONE-IV, GREATERNOIDA WEST,GAUTAMBUDH NAGAR,UTTAR-PRADESH-201306,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SINDHU DEVI,FOR ALL PURPOSE.

0040712354-5

I, SARVESH SHARMA (UID:73749391439),S/O-RAMESH CHAND SHARMA R/O-R-27-XT-EXTN,VISHWAS PARK,UTTAM NAGAR,WEST DELHI,DELHI-110059,have changed my.name,SARVESH KUMAR SHARMA to SARVESH SHARMA,for all,future purposes.

0040712366-6

I, SANTOSH KUMARI W/O RAM DASS KUREKHA R/O BN-40,EAST SHALIMAR BAGH,DELHI-110088,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANTOSH KUMARI KUREKHA.

0040712341-7

I, SADAF HASAN,W/O MOHD KASHIF, R/O-337-C, STREET NO-4,BATLA HOUSE,JAMIA NAGAR NEW DELHI-110025, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SADAF, KUREKHA.

0040712352-5

I, KARANMIR,S/o Rajbir Singh,R/o WZ-1253,Nangal Nayra,New Delhi-110046,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KARANMIR SINGH VERMA.

0040712349-4

I, JASPAL S/O KASTURI LAL R/o 498, BLK-29, KAHLOON-COLONY, ACHALI-GATE, BATALA, GURDASPUR, PUNJAB-14305, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO YASHPAL.

0040712350-1

I, Himant,D/o-Suresh Kumar, Address-A357B, DDA-flats new ranjeet nagar opposite-Lata Hari hospital near Satyam cinema hall Patel-Nagar,Delhi-110008, changed my name to Himant kataria.

0040712354-6

I, Gaurav Kumar Sharma,S/o Suresh Chand Sharma, Address-C-81-A, First-Floor,Dayal Bagh Colony, Sector-39,Lakkarpur, Faridabad, Haryana-121009, changed my name to Gaurav Sharma.

0040712354-7

I, EX No-9077999Y,Havildar Ghulam Mohd Rather,S/o-Ab Ganji Rather, R/o- Chogalpura, Tehsil-DH Pora, District-Kulgam. In my service records the name of my daughter has been wrongly mentioned as Mehnaza Gull instead of Mahnaz Gull as in Matriculation Certificate.It needs corrections.Objections be filled to JAJKL record office within seven days.

0020471592-1

I, Dinesh S/o Rajbir,R/o VPO Dahkora, District-Jhajjar, Haryana-124501,have changed my name to Dinesh Kumar,for all purposes.

0040712349-1

I, Davinder Kaur W/O RAMPAL R/o HNO.379, POCKET-6, SECTOR-B4, PUNJABI COLONY, TIKRI KHURD, NARELA,DELHI-110040, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DEVENDER KAUR.

0040712341-10

I, BHARAT KAUR,W/o,Late Sh.Jai Narain, R/o,63/2,12,Gali No.3, Mahavir Park, Bahadur Garh, Distt.Jhajjar(Haryana)-124507,have changed my name to BHARAT KAUR,for all purposes.

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The Indian **EXPRESS**

 ↵ FOUNDED BY ↵
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

LAW IS NOT ENOUGH

Bill to curb cheating in public service exams is welcome. But more needs to be done to address a chronic breakdown

ON TUESDAY, LOK Sabha passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 in Parliament. The legislation is an attempt to address a disturbing state of affairs. Examination malpractices at the credibility of the public recruitment system. An investigation by this newspaper found more than 40 instances of paper leaks in 15 states over the last five years. The cascading effects touched the lives of at least 1.4 crore applicants for about 1 lakh posts. Paper leaks lead to either the cancellation or postponement of exams, adversely affecting the prospects of the aspirants – in seven cases investigated by this newspaper, candidates are still awaiting a re-examination. Some states do have anti-cheating laws, but they haven't proved to be effective deterrents. The Centre's Bill is intended as a "model draft", which aims to introduce "greater transparency and fairness". This is a much-needed step – accountability for paper leaks must be fixed. Much more, however, needs to be done to make sure that unfair practices have no place in the government recruitment system.

In recent years, several states have witnessed public outrage over the disruption of examination schedules. This issue was among the talking points in the recent state assembly elections in Rajasthan, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh. In Rajasthan, the BJP alleged that members of the then-ruling Congress were complicit in the paper leaks. The Congress hurled similar accusations against Telangana's BRS government. However, alleviating the anxieties of the young public service aspirants has never gone beyond trading charges, it is yet to become a major election issue – say, like the demands of caste groups. The political class's shortage of ideas on this issue is disturbing in a country that proclaims its intention to reap its demographic dividend in the next quarter century.

Even after more than 30 years of liberalisation, a large section of the country's young population, especially those from the middle and lower-middle classes, seek the safety of a government job. Regular salaries and social security benefits enhance the appeal of these jobs and multiple pay commissions have reduced the gap between private and public sector salaries. In large parts of the country, working for the government is seen as the most assured route of upward mobility. The number of aspirants for such jobs seems to have grown after the economic crises of 2008 and 2013 and the pandemic-induced disruption. At the same time, however, the government employment pie has been shrinking across states. This demand-supply gap creates fertile grounds for the job mafia and exam fixers. Comparatively, examinations conducted for the elite All India Services, IITs and medical institutions have been less prone to such controversies or scams. Introducing the new Bill, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitender Singh said that "the government is aware of the concerns of youth regarding irregularity in examinations". The Lok Sabha has passed the bill without much debate. The discussions in the Upper House will hopefully suggest a way forward on framing broader and durable solutions to a longstanding problem.

SIGNAL FROM INDUSTRY

Data shows employment picked up after Covid. But pace of job creation remains a challenge

ON MONDAY, THE Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the results for the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2020-21 and 2021-22. These surveys cover factories employing 10 or more workers using power and those employing 20 or more workers without power. As such, they form a critical source of information on the registered organised manufacturing sector in the economy. As both these years – 2020-21 and 2021-22 – were marked by disruptions in economic activities on account of the pandemic, these surveys, by providing granular information, help in understanding how industry fared during those years.

At the aggregate level, gross value added grew by 8.8 per cent in 2020-21 (in current prices), after registering a fall the year before. Growth in value added was driven by a sharper fall in input (at 4.07 per cent) than output (which fell by 1.9 per cent). In 2021-22, as the economy rebounded, value added grew by 26.6 per cent, with output growing at 35.4 per cent. In both these years, the registered organised manufacturing sector grew at a faster pace than the unorganised sector. The industries that drove growth during 2021-22 were manufacture of basic metal, coke and refined petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, motor vehicles, and chemicals – value added by these industries grew by 34.4 per cent. Profits, which were also depressed in 2019-20, bounced back during this period.

The estimates of employment show that during the first year of the pandemic, total persons engaged fell marginally by 3.2 per cent – from 1.66 crore in 2019-20 to 1.6 crore in 2020-21. Employment picked up thereafter, with total persons engaged rising to 1.7 crore in 2021-22 – an increase of 7 per cent. This pick-up in employment is encouraging. However, the pace at which quality jobs are being generated across all sectors at the aggregate all-India level leaves much to be desired. Between 2017-18 and 2022-23, while the labour force participation rate (15 years and above) saw a steady increase, rising from 49.8 per cent to 57.9 per cent, a greater percentage of workers were self-employed, not engaged in regular salaried or casual wage employment, as per the periodic labour force surveys. The share of workers that were self-employed rose from 52.2 per cent in 2017-18 to 57.3 per cent in 2022-23. Over the same period, the share of workers in manufacturing declined from 12.1 per cent to 11.4 per cent. This jobs dilemma has been, and will remain, the principal policy challenge.

TARGET: GOBI MANCHURIAN

In seeking to ban the dish, Mapusa may be missing the gobi for the manchurian

FOR LOVERS OF gobi manchurian, its siren-red hue is a beacon, calling to them to indulge in its crispy deliciousness. Yet, for the councillors of the north Goan town of Mapusa, that same colour is an indication of what is wrong with the popular snack and is one reason why it has reportedly been banned from being sold at street stalls during a "zatra" (temple festival). Besides the use of synthetic colour, other concerns raised were poor-quality sauces and unhygienic conditions of preparation.

The cold logic of health and safety standards is hard to argue with, but the fact is that street food consumption is not driven by calculations about which food is healthier. It's not as if those who partake of roadside chaat and kebabs are unaware of all the ways in which these indulgences could be the stuff of cardiac and insulin-resistant nightmares. From oil that is reused multiple times to ingredients that are exposed to the elements, eating any kind of street fare is a gamble. The question, then, is: Why is gobi manchurian a target, when every other street food, too, can pose a health risk? Or is the ban not so much about enforcing safety standards, but targeting a food that is seen as non-native, or non-Indian?

This is not the first time that gobi manchurian has attracted official ire in Goa. The municipal councils of Bicholim and Marmugao have previously raised similar concerns to prevent street stalls from serving gobi manchurian at festivals. It could be asked whether those who have sought to ban this dish believe that all other kinds of street foods – many of which are also as greasy and additive-laden as gobi manchurian – unfailingly meet these same standards. Rather than banning one dish and disrupting the livelihoods of small vendors, better implementation of existing regulations is needed. Clearly, the municipal council of Mapusa has missed the gobi for the manchurian.


**RAJA MANDALA
C RAJA MOHAN**

The General's Raj

Whoever wins in Pakistan's election, Army Chief Asim Munir is in charge. But his may be a crown of thorns

who had turned himself from a playboy into a pious Islamic leader. Recall Imran's promise in 2018 to bring the "Riyasat-e-Medina" – a just welfare state – to Pakistan.

It is right to argue that Imran Khan brought it upon himself. That few in Pakistan's political class at home or its friends abroad are willing to speak up for Imran Khan points to his "lone wolf" politics. At home, Imran demonised his political opponents, let alone bothering to cultivate them. He was quite happy to rely on the Army's backing to destroy potential rivals. On the external front, Imran Khan alienated all of Pakistan's traditional friends. He accused Washington of plotting to overthrow him, celebrated the return of the Taliban to Kabul, and showed up in Moscow to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin as he invaded Ukraine. He sought to undermine the Saudi leadership of the Islamic world by aligning with Turkey and Malaysia. Imran also alienated Beijing by raising uncomfortable questions about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Critics would say Imran Khan deluded himself into thinking that his relationship with the Army was one of equals. He believed that Rawalpindi needed him as much as he needed the Army. But his supporters will say the story is not over. Despite the best efforts to malign him, Imran remains immensely popular with the younger generation in Pakistan. Will they show up in large numbers to elect Imran's candidates, contesting as independents, and overturn General Munir's apple cart? Can Munir really stamp out Imran's spell over Pakistan?

The betting will be that Munir will win for now and pick up a prime minister of his choice. But that is when his problems will begin. For one, Imran Khan has shown that the army's perch at the top of Pakistan's political heap is no longer sacrosanct. He has emboldened the expanding urban classes at home and the diaspora abroad to challenge its authority. Munir has presented himself as the champion of long overdue but painful economic reforms that the political class has been unwilling to touch. There is no guarantee that the planned reforms can be effectively implemented. Nor is it certain that they will deliver the desired positive results soon. As the owner of eco-

nomic reform, Munir will also have to bear the political costs.

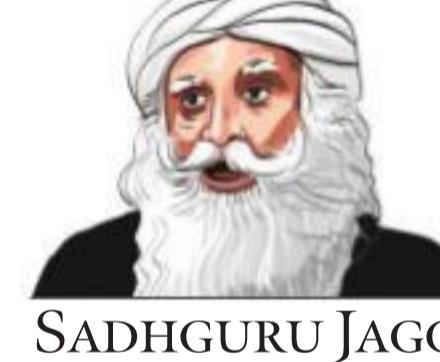
The Army's hands are also full dealing with growing security challenges on the volatile western borderlands in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The resurgence of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militancy in the Pashtun tribal areas and growing problems with the Taliban government in Kabul are major security challenges for the Army. Munir has his task cut out in rejuvenating frayed relations with the US, navigating the rivalry between Washington and Beijing, and restoring productive relationships with Saudi Arabia.

All these tasks have become so much harder for a Pakistan that has fallen from the frontlines of global politics at the turn of the 21st century. Two decades ago, Pakistan's army chief, Pervez Musharraf, was serenaded around the world as the great gendarme against Islamic terror, showered with Western economic gifts as a "major non-NATO ally" and celebrated as the all-weather partner of China. General Munir has none of those luxuries.

For long, Pakistan was best friends with the world's two largest economies – the US and China – but it has so little to show for it now. The scale of Pakistan's strategic economic failure is breathtaking. Its economy today is smaller than that of Bangladesh by more than \$100 billion and is less than a tenth of India's.

Given the multiple problems that Pakistan confronts, relations with India can't be at the top of General Munir's mind. The questions for Delhi are no longer whether to engage Pakistan and on what terms. Pakistan's rapid relative decline in the last few years has made those issues easier for Delhi to deal with. The challenge for India lies in assessing the pathways in which Pakistan might evolve under General Munir. After all, Gen Zia-ul-Haq's Pakistan was very different from that of General Ayub Khan's, and Munir's dilemmas are not the same as Musharraf's. The internal and external conditions confronting Munir are far more demanding than those that tested his predecessors.

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


SADHGURU JAGGI VASUDEV

WHY RAM IS REMEMBERED

Because he inspired people towards righteousness, truthfulness, compassion

THERE IS A lot of excitement in the nation about the Ram temple in Ayodhya. This is because it is a 500-year aspiration. There is a substantial and intricate history to the temple that most people who are just looking at news channels may not understand. The temple is important because, in many ways, for many people in the country, Ram is their spirit. So, this is not just another temple. Ram and Ramayana have been so much a part of the Indian ethos that it is almost like a resurrection of a damaged national spirit. But why Ram now?

In history, the people who are remembered are those who overcame disasters or those who inspired people to rise beyond their limitations. Even after nearly 7,000 years, Ram is remembered because he inspired people towards righteousness, truthfulness, and being compassionate to each other for thousands of generations.

How can a person inspire? If you look at the story of Ram's life – everyone knows Ramayana, at least the main events, if not the whole story – Ram had to withstand a series of disasters. From losing his kingdom to losing his wife, sending his wife to the forest again, not seeing his children, then trying

In history, the people who are remembered are those who overcame disasters or those who inspired people to rise beyond their limitations. Even after nearly 7,000 years, Ram is remembered because he inspired people towards righteousness, truthfulness, and being compassionate to each other for thousands of generations.

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to kill them on the battlefield not knowing who they were – a terrible life. Then why so much enthusiasm about him? Because through all these disasters, he remained unfazed. He never allowed any situation to bring angst, anger or hatred into him, and he did what was needed. After he finished his battle in Lanka, he wanted to do penance for the sin of war and the number of lives that it took. Though he thought the war was worthwhile, there was still regret at having shed blood – particularly of Ravan, because he was a great devotee of Shiva.

This is a civilisation that considers multi- or liberation as the highest value. That means when you are alive, you are free from everything. You are not withdrawn; you are active but free. You are not in a cocoon of protection. He was out in the world, even fighting a battle, but without angst, anger, and hatred against the enemy he was fighting – this is what he displayed. This is the quality we are bowing down to. This is why we call him, *Maryada Purushottam*. We are not calling him a god. *Purushottam* literally means a very superior human being. *Maryada Purushottam* means one who deserves everyone's respect. You may like him or not but his qualities are

such that you must respect him. If you can be like this in your life, you also become a *Maryada Purushottam*.

This is a civilisation where no one descended from heaven. This is a civilisation where human beings can rise to become divine. We nurture gods among ourselves, within ourselves. This is the possibility of yoga and other spiritual processes. And this is important not just for Bharat but for the world.

So, the Ram temple is essentially a civilisational reclamation. It is a civilisational aspect of moving from simplistic belief systems of "there is a god somewhere who will take care of everything for us" or "He will take us to heaven" to that of individual human beings working for their liberation. It is about trying to transcend the limitations of our physiological and psychological processes so that even when we are alive here, we know how to be beyond that. If you do this in your life, you also become a *Maryada Purushottam*. The Ram temple and similar structures that represent this quality are important because people need iconic representations to aspire for it.

The writer is founder, Isha Foundation



FEBRUARY 7, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

DIPLOMAT SHOT DEAD

R H MHATRE, India's assistant commissioner in the Birmingham consulate has been shot dead by a group believed to be the Kashmir Liberation Army (KLA). Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has personally directed the special (police) branch to see that the culprits are hunted down and captured. In a message to Mrs Indira Gandhi, she said, "The police with full support of the government will continue to bring those responsible to justice".

TIGHTEN SECURITY

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ordered tightening

security measures in India's 100-odd missions abroad and also within the country – particularly in Jammu and Kashmir where the state government is being advised to crack down on secessionist and anti-India elements. The decision was taken after the government received the report about the killing of the Indian diplomat, R H Mhatre, in Birmingham.

ESCAPED THE NOOSE

MOHAMMED MAQBOOL BUTT, whose release was demanded by the kidnapper killers of the Indian diplomat R H Mhatre, has dodged the noose twice. He is one of those

rare prisoners carrying a double death sentence. When the first death verdict was pronounced on him in 1968, Maqbool Butt told the magistrate, "Judge sahib, nobody has the rope which could hang me."

ROBBERY IN S DELHI

FIVE ARMED Dacoits, three of them Sikhs, looted a bank in Connaught Place of cash worth Rs 2 lakh. The dacoity in the heart of the city followed an abortive attempt to loot a jeweller's shop in Kalkaji earlier in the day. The dacoity in Connaught Place is believed to be the work of the same gang that attempted to loot the South Delhi jeweller.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Policy must address growth gap

Gap between wages and self-employment earnings, and GDP growth, indicates a worsening of income distribution and weak improvements in welfare



AMIT BASOLE AND
ZICO DASGUPTA

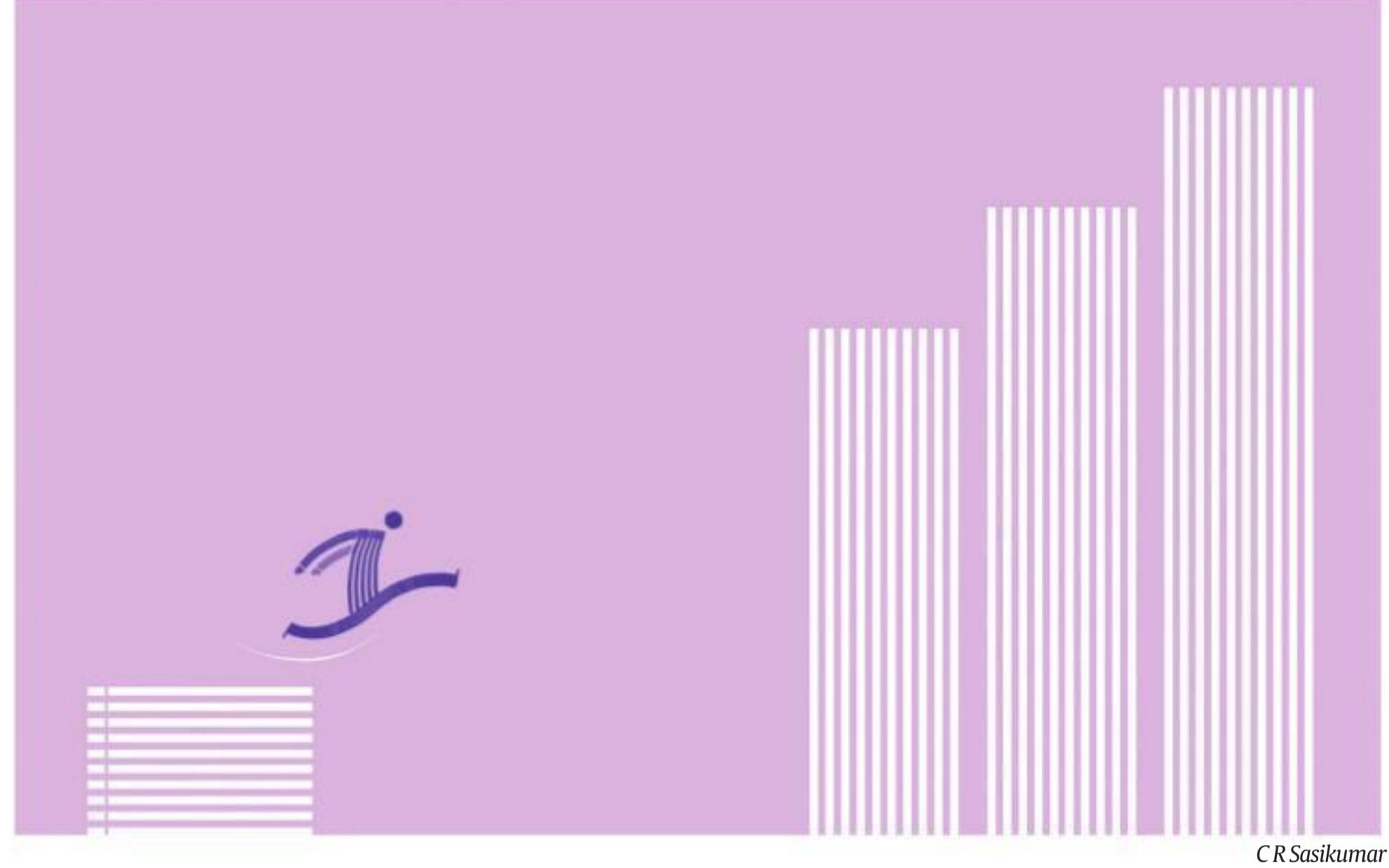
THE INTERIM UNION budget presented on February 1 was only a vote on account since the general elections are due soon. However, it still gives a picture of the government's thinking on macroeconomic policy objectives and allows us to ask if the approach is correct, given the challenges currently facing the Indian economy.

First, let us recapitulate some numbers. In nominal terms, budgeted total expenditure at Rs 47.8 lakh crore is higher by 6.1 per cent over the revised estimates for 2023-24. This increase is the lowest in two decades. In keeping with previous years, capital expenditure has seen a large increase (though less than the increase last year) at 16.9 per cent to Rs 11.1 lakh crore. Revenue expenditure, net of interest payments on government debt, has declined by 0.8 per cent. It had contracted more sharply last year by 3 per cent. In real terms, assuming a rate of inflation of 5 per cent, total expenditure is mostly stagnant while non-interest revenue expenditure has declined by 5.5 per cent. Thus it is overall a fiscally conservative, if not contractionary, budget. It also continues to shift the composition of expenditure towards capex as has been the trend in the last few years.

The present fiscal policy framework is based on two distinct objectives: Reducing the level of debt-to-GDP and mitigating the adverse effects of the resulting expenditure reduction on GDP growth. The rationale for debt reduction follows from the FRBM review committee report which had set the targeted debt-GDP ratio of the Centre at 40 per cent, far lower than the present level of 58 per cent.

The debt-to-GDP ratio of any period depends on two distinct factors. First is the gap between the GDP growth rate (g) and the interest rate (r) that the government has to pay on its borrowing. The greater g is with respect to r , the lower would be the ratio. Second, it depends on the primary deficit-GDP ratio, where the primary deficit is the excess of expenditures net of interest payment over the non-debt receipts of the government. The lower the primary deficit-GDP ratio, the lower would be the debt ratio. The policy objective of reducing debt-to-GDP ratio has involved the government reducing its borrowings and primary deficit ratio since 2021-22.

There are two ways of reducing the ratio of primary deficit to GDP — increasing the tax-GDP ratio or reducing the expenditure-GDP ratio. With the former largely remaining the same during this period, the burden of adjustment has fallen on the latter. The primary expenditure-GDP ratio declined from 12.7 per cent in 2021-22 to 11.6 per cent in 2023-24. Note that the ratio is just an outcome of two growth rates — the GDP growth rate and the expenditure growth rate. For any level of GDP growth rate that the government expects to prevail, the expenditure growth rate needs to be set at a level that achieves a reduction in the expenditure-GDP ratio. In other words, the tar-



get of lowering the debt-to-GDP ratio has de facto set a limit on the expenditure growth rate.

Coming to the second objective behind the budgetary decisions, this involves the government's attempt to mitigate the adverse effect of expenditure reduction on GDP growth. Here the solution has been to shift the composition of expenditure away from revenue towards capital expenditure, under the assumption that an increase in the former has a greater impact on output (multiplier value) as compared to the latter. In short, the two policy targets of the government have together been achieved by squeezing the growth rate of current expenditures.

This fiscal policy framework raises the question: Is it advisable to have an arbitrary level of debt-to-GDP ratio as a target? If the goal is debt stability (ability to repay loans without taking more loans) this can be achieved even at the present level of debt-to-GDP ratio by registering a growth rate greater than the interest rate. India has largely satisfied this condition, except for the odd Covid year. But even if one happens to agree with continuing with a conservative debt target, a second question remains: Are the two policy objectives sufficient to address the developmental challenges of India, in particular the need to promote structural change by generating employment in productive modern sectors?

The Periodic Labour Force Survey data allows us to closely track the employment situation on a quarterly basis. In the normal course of economic development, the structure of the workforce undergoes a slow transformation. The proportion of workers engaged in self-employment (agriculture, petty retail and traditional services) shrinks and the share of wage workers in the modern sector (manufacturing and modern services) rises. This was the trend in India until around 2018. Just prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, a small reversal of this process of structural change was observed. The reverse trend became far more pronounced during Covid as job losses forced workers to fall back upon self-employment.

The present fiscal policy framework is based on two distinct objectives: Reducing the level of debt-to-GDP and mitigating the adverse effects of the resulting expenditure reduction on GDP growth. The rationale for debt reduction follows from the FRBM review committee report which had set the targeted debt-GDP ratio of the Centre at 40 per cent, far lower than the present level of 58 per cent.

After reaching a high of 23 per cent prior to the pandemic, the share of regular wage workers in the total workforce declined and then stagnated at 21 per cent. Even after the worst effects of the pandemic were over, between the first quarter of 2022-23 and the first quarter of 2023-24, the self-employed workforce grew by a huge 15.8 per cent while the salaried workforce grew by only 2 per cent. Most of the self-employed increase was in the category of unpaid helpers. Women, in particular, have entered the workforce in large numbers, mostly into self-employment.

Labour earnings have been mostly stagnant, too. On average, the quarterly rate of growth of GDP prior to the pandemic (between second quarter of 2017-18 and fourth quarter of 2019-2020) was 4.8 per cent. In this same period, regular wages grew by 0.21 per cent in real terms, casual wages by 3.9 per cent and self-employment earnings by 1.7 per cent. In the Covid period and its immediate aftermath (first quarter of 2020-21 to second quarter of 2021-22) GDP grew by 1 per cent in real terms (this includes a large reduction and a jump back), regular wages shrank by 0.63 per cent while self-employment earnings shrank by a huge 5.3 per cent.

Post-Covid (third quarter of 2021-22 to second quarter of 2023-24), the average quarterly GDP growth rate recovered to 6.7 per cent, while regular wages continued to stagnate (-0.07 per cent) even as self-employment earnings bounced back and registered a growth of 6.1 per cent.

In real terms, regular wages and self-employment earnings have grown at just under 1 per cent since 2017. The gulf between these rates and GDP growth indicates a worsening of the income distribution as well as weak improvements in welfare. Addressing this will require government expenditure to rise — in fact, the growth gap between labour earnings and GDP can itself serve as a policy target.

The writers teach economics at Azim Premji University

The framing of the temple

Ram temple at Ayodhya is a uniquely new site of official memory

established inside the Ram temple complex — Guru Vashishtha Peethika (Centre for study of research on Veda, Purana, Ramayana, and Sanskrit), Ram Darbar (Lecture and Communication Centre), and Ramayana (Library and Reading Room). However, one does not find any information about these academic endeavours.

The relationship between *official history* and *official memory* is very relevant to understand the specific status of the Ram temple as a commemorative entity. The official memory refers to those possible ways in which certain historical images, people, and events of *national importance* are remembered, evoked, and commemorated by performing a set of official rituals. The official history, on the other hand, is generated through government publications, web-portals, school text books and the "introductory histories" of the monuments and memorials.

The official history, in this sense, provides resources to the ruling elite to construct a politically relevant narrative; while the official memory empowers them to institute certain *official rituals* — Independence Day celebrations, Republic Day Parade, Gandhi Jayanti festivities and so on. One can find three sites of *official memory* in postcolonial India: Protected monuments, memorials and samadhis.

A monument, technically speaking, is a building/site that is more than a century old and which has certain historical, artistic, and archaeological significance. The Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Ajanta and Ellora caves, thus, are officially called the *monuments of national importance*. An *in-situ* principle of conservation is applied to protect the originality

and authenticity of these sites so as to make them trustworthy official symbols — something that Nehru evoked very creatively to justify his nation-building project.

Memorials are the sites built to commemorate important events and individuals. These sites are used as representative symbols by the political establishment to legitimise its historical existence. Unlike monuments, memorials are open to changes and makeovers. The Indira Gandhi government reconverted the India Gate — a memorial built in memory of Indian soldiers killed during the first World War — into a purely postcolonial entity in 1972 when a relatively smaller *Amar Jawan Jyoti* was installed inside it. The same India Gate has found a completely different commemorative status after the construction of the National War Memorial in 2018.

A samadhi is a truly postcolonial site of memory. For instance, the development of the Raj Ghat — an old ghat of the Yamuna where Gandhi's body was cremated. This land was officially declared the Gandhi Samadhi, when a law was passed by Parliament in 1952. After the death of Nehru and Shastri, the idea of the samadhi found a new political overtone. As a result, several new commemorative structures — Kisan Ghat, Shanti Van, Shakti Sthal, Veer Bhumi and so on came into existence.

The Ram temple does not fit in this established schema. Hindutva politics does not want to treat it as a pure historical monument; at the same time, it cannot be called either a memorial or samadhi. There are two intrinsic elements, which make it a uniquely new site of official memory.

First, the Ram temple is a symbol of Hindutva's success as a political force as well as the dominant narrative of Indian politics. This Hindutva triumph has given new enthusiasm to the Sangh Parivar to actively pursue the Shahi Eidgah case in Mathura and the Gyanvapi mosque case in Banaras. From this standpoint, the Ram temple emerges as a reliable political reference point.

However, the BJP establishment is reluctant to portray it as any kind of political object. Instead, there is a careful effort to recognise the Ram Temple as a *culturally symbolic site of national significance*. The BJP is keen to make use of the intermingling of religion, culture, and politics by evoking a particular set of political events. This kind of selective remembrance might help the party to constitute a new official memory from the Hindutva perspective.

Secondly, and perhaps most importantly, the Ram temple has a religious significance of its own, which has nothing to do with the Babri Masjid. For a significant majority of committed Hindu devotees, the Ram temple is a sacred site, which is inextricably linked to their religious faith. This Hindu population is likely to observe it as a non-controversial holy place of worship in the future. This religious attitude might encourage them to forget the contentious history associated with it.

This tussle between *political remembrance* and *religious forgetting* is going to redefine the future trajectories of official memory, and for that matter, Indian politics.

The writer is associate professor, CSDS, New Delhi

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Putin shows no signs of backing down in Ukraine or negotiating peace because he hopes for a better deal from Trump... Whether or not he wins, Trump has already created a more dangerous world, in which the power and principles of the United States are seen not as constants but as variables." — THE WASHINGTON POST

The dead ends of education

What is it that forces the young, so many of them from lower castes, to extinguish themselves? It is the educators who need to be educated first



DIVYA DWIVEDI

Durkheim's insights, suicide is homicide by social forces and laws. Indian societies are defined by two distinct laws in conflict — the ancient oppressive caste order founded on *graded inequality and subjection* and, the modern constitutional order of *equality and autonomy*. The experience of the "lower-caste" majority is that the adoption of the latter is punished by the former, often through the instrumentalisation of modern law itself.

Psychoanalytically, it is the tortuous unease — *Unbehagen*, said Freud — where the pressing social reality of a person's world is at war with this world's ideals of moral law, building up in them a complex of psychic resistances to oppressive social organisation in the immediate world. When this world — the hostel, the classroom — becomes unendurable, the individual breaks down.

"Weak" is the diagnosis our society gives to the unarmed, unarmoured souls sent into this civilisational war, relegated by society to be born as broken gifts to their parents. It teaches a section of its wards to find in themselves the "worst daughter".

Then, those who have the power to make the world liveable again for others should feel responsible — academics, the media, judiciary and intellectuals, and perhaps, under ideal conditions, politicians too.

There are texts by important politicians and intellectuals of modern India on pedagogy: The remarks on modern education by Gandhi, its "uselessness" against caste-based training; the Nehruvian aspirational education programme; Phule's revolutionary educational programme; and Dr Ambedkar's rationalist project of education as emancipation. But, they answer differently the question of *what education is for*, and therefore do not constitute a tradition on pedagogy.

School education is a preparation for a student to graduate as an autonomous rational human being navigating constitutional rights and duties, trans-national rights, and having the literacy to master other forms of knowledge, either through universities or autodidactically. In *On Education*, Kant called it the cultivation of a faculty for "being adapted to various ends" — the faculty of freedom.

Educational programmes in most parts of the world repeat the temporal schema established in the 20th century — 12 years of school, three to four years for a graduate degree, and two years onwards for postgraduate education. The disciplines, however, have undergone extraordinary transformations since the 1940s. Twelve years of school are becoming insufficient to gain competent literacy for the world of today.

The norms and ethos under which people interact in a democratic state are to be determined by education alone, according to the values of justice and equality. In India, education is a means to be discarded, *futurum oblivionem* in Kant's words. It is the educators and the elders of India who need to be educated first about the ends of education.

The writer is a philosopher, teacher and co-author of the upcoming book *Indian Philosophy, Indian Revolution: On Caste and Politics*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PAYTM COMPLIANCE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Payment blocked' (IE, February 6). RBI's actions regarding Paytm were not excessive. They were in line with the Banking Regulation Act 1949 as pointed out in the editorial. In fact, Paytm has shown a flagrant disregard for regulations that govern the banking system as a whole and fintech compliance standards in particular. If not caught in time, such incidents can lead to system-wide concerns and even crashes. It is good that RBI is taking into account the learnings it obtained from the evergreening of loan issues and non-performing assets, specifically with reference to lax adherence to laws by banks (which was seen in the case of Paytm). But more could have been done to alleviate the anxiety and concerns of customers who use this service.

Anany Mishra, Bhilai

REORIENT THINKING

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Demography and destiny' (IE, February 6). Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made a curious statement in her interim budget speech about setting up a high-powered committee to consider the challenges arising from "fast population growth and demographic changes." No details are

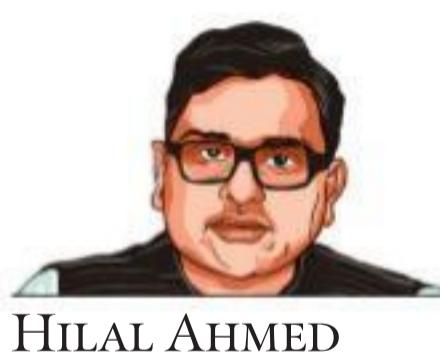
available about the committee and the work it is expected to do. But if the assumption is that population growth is a challenge, it is the wrong idea. Since the government has not conducted the census due in 2021, there is no authoritative figure about the population count. Policy formulation and designing government schemes will be seriously affected by the absence of authoritative data provided by the census.

Khokan Das, Kolkata

POLL CONFIDENCE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Budget questions, no answers' (IE, February 5). In the interim budget 2024-25, FM Nirmala Sitharaman has shown formidable courage and confidence in the BJP government returning to power at the Centre in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. This has obviated the need for her to go for a populist budget to woo the voter with sops on taxation matters — a classic example of over-confidence and counting one's chickens before they hatch. A different picture may have emerged today had the INDIA bloc alliance remained united and not split on seat-sharing matters. However, it is the self-destruction of the Opposition that gave the upper hand to the ruling dispensation.

C K Subramanian, Trichy



HILAL AHMED

THE SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION of the Ram temple in Ayodhya as a significant cultural object in overtly Hindu terms seems to redefine the established contours of postcolonial *official memory* — the state recognised authoritative ways to observe events of national significance. Two specific reasons lie behind it.

First, the temple is not commemorated only as a religious place of worship. The active participation of political leaders and the media campaign to celebrate the inauguration ceremony as an important national event created the impression that the Ram temple has an *official status*. The temple is being displayed as a new official site of national memory.

Secondly, the Ram temple is not portrayed as a *historical object*. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra (SRJKT) Trust, an autonomous body constituted by the government in 2020 for the construction and management of the temple, relies heavily on the contemporary history of the Ayodhya dispute. According to this narrative, the struggle for the Ram Temple is 492 years old. It means that the Babri Masjid, built on this site in 1528, is still remembered as a historical point of reference. The SRJKT is not interested in exploring any ancient history of Lord Ram's birth place, or for that matter, the archaeological historicity of the temple that was supposedly demolished to construct the Babri Masjid.

The Trust, it seems, is obsessed with a few controversial moments of our political life — 1984 (an indirect reference to the first VHP led-Yatra), 1989 (when the *Shilanyas* took place), and 2019 (Supreme Court judgement in the Ayodhya case). The SRJKT website does mention research institutions that are to be

UTTAR PRADESH SHASAN PARIVAHAN ANUBHAG-4

In pursuance of the provisions of clause (3) of Article 348 of the Constitution of India, the Governor is pleased to order the publication of the following English translation of notification no.03/2024/153/XXX-4-2024, dated 01 February, 2024.

Notification No.03/2024/153/XXX-4-2024 Lucknow: Dated 01 February, 2024

In exercise of the powers conferred under clause (ca) of sub-section (3) of section 68 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (Act no. 59 of 1988), the Governor is pleased to formulate the routes given in the Schedule below for plying stage carriages:-

Schedule

S.No.	Region	Route	Total Distance (km.)
		3	4
1	2		
1	Agra	Bevar Bhogaon to Sarai Aghat	33
2	Agra	Shikohabad Firozabad Kotla Fariha	47
3	Agra	Shikohabad Firozabad Bachhgaon	38
4	Agra	Shikohabad via Kathfori May	40
5	Agra	Shikohabad-Uravar	44
6	Agra	Shikohabad via Sirsaganj Markandeya Mandir	40
7	Agra	Shikohabad Atetur Uravar	31
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9	Agra	Shikohabad- Tundla, Pachokhara, Narkhi Fariha	93
10	Agra	Shikohabad - Firozabad to Kakarukothi Nagla Beach	66
11	Agra	Shikohabad- Tundla, Bachhgaon, Orkha	81
12	Agra	Shikohabad- Tundla, Pachokhara, Salempur	90
13	Agra	Mainpuri-Kusmara via Mahgawa	48
14	Agra	Mainpuri- Siegpur via Kishni	52
15	Agra	Mainpuri - Auchhavaya Ujhaiya Fakirpur	36
16	Agra	Mainpuri - Padham via Ghoror	52
17	Agra	Mathura-Maant-Nasiti	32
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24	Agra	Agra - Fatehpur Sikri - Aulenda	54
25	Agra	Agra-Kirawali-Tajpur-Nagaraya	40
26	Agra	Agra-Kirawali-Tehra	45
27	Agra	Agra - Fatehpur - Sikri Chauma - Shahpur	52
28	Agra	Agra - Fatehpur Sikri - Mahdooru	53
29	Agra	Agra- Kirawali- Achhnera- Turka Nahar	45
30	Agra	Agra - Kirawali- Achhnera - Laxman Nagar	47
31	Agra	Agra-Khandauli- Auwalkheda-Kanrau	40
32	Agra	Agra-Khandauli- Auwalkheda-Kanrau	44
33	Agra	Agra-Etmadpur-Chirhauri	41
34	Agra	Agra-Fatehabad-Paitikheda Dhigsari Kumbhpura	48
35	Agra	Agra-Basai-Sabed	47
36	Agra	Bah-Syahi-pura-Vitholi	34
37	Agra	Bah-pinahat- toda	45
38	Agra	Bah- Pinahat- Tasod	52
39	Agra	Agra-Bammal	62
40	Agra	Agra-Kheriau	43
41	Agra	Agra- Kukandai	47
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43	Azamgarh	Mau-Dugarov-Kandheri-Mugesar-Ranbirpur-Bahadurganj-Yusufpur Mohammadabad	55
44	Azamgarh	Mau-Amila-Bozhi-Katihari	45
45	Azamgarh	Mau-Muhammadabad-Nadwasari-Sikatiya	45
46	Azamgarh	Mau-Khurhat-Ranipur-Sultanipur-Chirayakot	36
47	Azamgarh	Azamgarh-Bhitkoli, Palhana	49
48	Azamgarh	Azamgarh-Parshuram-Shankpur-Naini jore, Mathia-Mahula	36
49	Azamgarh	Azamgarh-Muhammadabad-Varanasi via Mubarakpur-Sathyavan-Azamgarh	130
50	Azamgarh	Azamgarh-Ghazipur via Mubarakpur-Ibrahimpur-Mau	127
51	Azamgarh	Azamgarh-Sofipur via Lalganj	48
52	Aligarh	Atrauli-Chaumuhu-Barla	41
53	Aligarh	Atrauli-Sankara-Dinapur	42
54	Aligarh	Aligarh-Arrana kaanta-Via Ismalpur-Nahrula-Khair	31
55	Aligarh	Kasganj-Amopur- Magathara	31
56	Aligarh	Kasganj-Sahawar- Mohanpur	32
57	Banda	Banda-Samagra	63
58	Banda	Banda-Armar	60
59	Banda	Banda-Lakhanpur	77
60	Banda	Banda-Mau-Inguva	68
61	Banda	Banda-taryan	56
62	Banda	Banda-Gurgaon	52
63	Banda	Banda-Lasada	51
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67	Banda	Banda-Alona	32
68	Banda	Banda-saudi	31
69	Banda	Banda-Tangamau	53
70	Banda	Banda-Semrader	65
71	Banda	Banda-Mawai	62
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84	Banda	Banda-Khatri Pahad via Khurhand	36
85	Banda	Banda-Gadaon	44
86	Banda	banda-pauhar	56
87	Banda	Banda-Barchha Daadiya	62
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97	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot-Dehruch	109
98	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot-Ganiya	101
99	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot-Bardwara	124
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110	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot-Sikla	126
111	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot-Manikpur-Dharkundi	112
112	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot-Manikpur-Saraiya-Bandhi	127
113	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot-Bodi Pokhri Mod-Rajapur	106
114	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot Shivrampur Usri Road	90
115	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot Shivrampur Ramaiyapur	85
116	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot-Sangrampur-Fatehganj	96
117	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot-Rasin-Fatehganj	97
118	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot-Pahari-Panauti	96
119	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot-Prasidhpur-Mangwara	97
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121	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot-Bhaura-Atrauli-Rajapur	99
122	Banda	Banda-Chitrakoot- Baisondha Mod Lambeta Road	83
123	Banda	Mahoba Panwadi Niswara	54
124	Banda	Mahoba Panwadi Masoodpura Salaiya Khalsa	58
125	Banda	Mahoba Panwadi Masudapur Harpalpur	74
126	Banda	Mahoba Rivai Kabrai	58
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128	Banda	Mahoba Kabrai Barbai Mataudh Mahoba Kabrai Khanna Chichara Mataudh	46
129	Banda	Mahoba Kabrai Gyodi Khanna Mahoba-Kaimaha-Belatal	45
130	Banda	Mahoba Kabrai Suraha Aichana Kherla	43
131	Banda	Mahoba-Kaimaha-Belatal	57
132	Banda	Mahoba-Kabarai Soupa Srinagar	47
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136	Banda	Mahoba Kulpahad Belatal Kunhata	52
137	Banda	Mahoba Kulpahad Belatal Srinagar	58
138	Banda	Mahoba Kulpahad Belatal Bilbai Bhatewar	32
139	Banda	Mahoba Charkhari Gudha Jamala mahoba cesariya	51
140	Banda	Rath- Sarila-Jalalpur, Biwar-Maudha	90
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142	Banda	Rath- Sarila-Jitkiri-Chandaut	52
143	Banda	Rath- Sarila-Puraini- Muskra	60
144	Banda	Rath- Sarila Bandwa, Muskara	53
145	Banda	Rath- Sarila- Jalandhar	50
146	Banda	Rath- Sarila- Jalandhar	59
147	Banda	Rath- Sarila- Jalandhar	52
148	Banda	Rath- Sarila- Puraini- Muskra	41
149	Banda	Rath to Sarila Muskra- Khadeh Lodhan, Maher, Jalla, Maudha	109
150	Banda	Rath to Sarila Muskra- Khadeh Lodhan, Maher, Jalla, Maudha	100
151	Banda	Rathirupur-Jalalpur-Sarilachaki-Sukhjan	100
152	Banda	Rath-Jarakhar-Rahank Bamba-Chikasi	35
153	Banda	Rath-Riruwa, Amgaon, Chhota Kadaura, Harsundi, Rath-Sarsai- Dhuwal	43
154	Banda	Rathirupur- Dhuwal	46
155	Banda	Ramgarh Devgaon Tedha Surauli	32
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157	Banda	Ramgarh-Maudha-Fatepur- Gusyari	68
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159	Banda	Ramgarh-Bhaili-Kotupur	31
160	Banda	Ramgarh-Lalpur-Bocki, Sumerpur	59
161	Banda	Ramgarh-Maudha- Kalolijar, Lalpura	57
162	Banda	Ramgarh-Sumerpur, Ichauli, Gusiyari	65
163	Banda	Ramgarh-Maudha- Biwar	52
164	Banda	Ramgarh-Maudha, Sayar, Imalia	58
165	Banda	Ramgarh-Umari, Emilia	47
166	Banda	Ramgarh-Tikapur-Bajeta	38
167	Banda	Ramgarh-Chhani, Rudipara, Galihmau	41
168	Banda	Ramgarh-Artara	35
169	Banda	Ramgarh-Igohata-Chhani, Vidokhar,	42
170	Banda	Ramgarh-Maudha-Imalia,Biwar	65
171	Banda	Ramgarh-Maudha-Bajeta	66
172	Banda	Ramgarh-Maudha-Rudipara	60
173	Banda	R	

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356	Basti	Singarjot- Shahpur- Siddharthnagar	68	461	Gorakhpur	Sihabhar-Odwalia-Nichalul-Maharajganj	42	577	Kanpur	Auraiya- Bidhuna- Kursi Patna	62
357	Basti	Sohna-Badala- Siddharthnagar	82	462	Gorakhpur	Lakshmipur Khurd-Gadaura-Nichalul- Mahajganj	42	578	Kanpur	Auraiya-Sahar-Sahayal marg	49
358	Basti	Kohroda- Tritolpur -Sohna- Siddharthnagar	70	463	Gorakhpur	Jhulnipur-Nichalul-Maharajganj	45	579	Kanpur	Auraiya- Sohra Adda- Bidhuna	39
359	Basti	Biskohar-Semri-Siddharthnagar	39	464	Gorakhpur	Nichalul-Chittha-Puraina-Paratawal- Mahajganj	69	580	Kanpur	Auraiya- Dibiyapur- Harchandapur Banshi- Achhalda	42
360	Basti	Khurja-Pahasu-Ahmedgarh	32	465	Gorakhpur	Thuthibari chauraha-Nautanwa-Sonauli	38	581	Kanpur	Auraiya-Bidhuna-Haseran	63
361	Ghazibad	Bushahar-Chola-Kakod- Ravpura	33	466	Gorakhpur	Babupasia-Adda Bazaar-Mogalha Sonauli	37	582	Kanpur	Auraiya-Yakubpur-Tirwa	66
362	Ghazibad	Bushahar-Syana-Khanpur- Jahangirabad	67	467	Gorakhpur	Kajri-Dhotiyawa Kajri Sonauli	33	583	Kanpur	Etawah - Jaswantnagar to Basrehar via Baidpura	43
363	Ghazibad	Secunderabad-Ganganagar T-point-Buxar	99	468	Gorakhpur	Purandarpur-Kavaldah-Kaulpur Sonauli	58	584	Kanpur	Etawah- Karri Pulia to Bamuri via Nagla Kadoli	39
364	Ghazibad	Loni bus station se Chandi Nagar	34	469	Gorakhpur	Farendra-Brijmanganj-Lehda Station	70	585	Kanpur	Etawah- Karri Pulia to Jaswantnagar via Chhiniwara	63
365	Ghazibad	Kausambi-Modinagar-Begmabad- Budhana-Paanga-Sonda	44	470	Gorakhpur	Brijmanganj-Sahjanwan Babu-Kolhuir- Sonauli	49	586	Kanpur	Etawah- Chitthawan to Chaknagar via Larkhour	33
366	Ghazibad	Kausambi-Modinagar-Bhojpur-Faridnagar- Nahali	45	471	Gorakhpur	Dhani-Brijmanganj-Kolhu-Sonauli	56	587	Kanpur	Etawah- Chithawan to Vakaui via Bharthana	48
367	Ghazibad	Kausambi-Modinagar-Jahogirpur-Patti- Amarala	46	472	Gorakhpur	Khoriya-Chakra-Bhaisainiyas- Lakshmipur-Ekma-Paisiya-Sonauli	61	588	Kanpur	Etawah- Chitthawan to Kudrail via Duda chaura	41
368	Ghazibad	Kausambi-Modinagar-Kajampur-Dausa- Manki-Kalchina	47	473	Gorakhpur	Rajmandir-Parmesarpur-Eksadwala- Sonauli	37	589	Kanpur	Etawah- Chitthawan to Kudrail via Duda chaura	41
369	Ghazibad	Noida-Ghangola Canal-Kanaras- Rabpura	59	474	Gorakhpur	Rudlapur Shivnath Bhagirathpur Pipra- Lakshmipur-Sonauli	51	590	Kanpur	Etawah-Chakarnagar via Udi, Jarauli	41
370	Ghazibad	Noida-Parichowk-Rabpura- Jhanjharpur	78	475	Gorakhpur	Ranipur Majhanwan Lakshmiipur Court	56	591	Kanpur	Etawah-Andawa via Ikdil	39
371	Ghazibad	Noida-Jewarcut-Jahangirpur-Lodana	93	476	Gorakhpur	Lotan-Kolhu-Sonauli	36	592	Kanpur	Etawah-Niwadi kala via Ludhiana chaura	37
372	Ghazibad	Noida-Parichowk-nahar-Vilaspur- Dankour-Jhanjharpur marg	80	477	Gorakhpur	Salikpur-Nauragini-Kaptanganj- Padrauna	75	593	Kanpur	Etawah-Parmi via Jaswantnagar, Balrai	41
373	Ghazibad	Noida-Parichowk-Rabpura-Jewar- Hamidpur-Jhuppa marg	82	478	Gorakhpur	Chhitania-Singha-Ramkola-Padrauna	32	594	Kanpur	Etawah-Gadokhar via Jaswantnagar Tijaura	35
374	Ghazibad	Noida-Parichowk-Rabpura-Tirathali- Karauli-Govindgarh-Kothra-Jhuppa marg	88	479	Gorakhpur	Samoor-Kuberthan-Padrauna	42	595	Kanpur	Etawah-Vaibhav via Chowpla, Samrath	46
375	Ghazibad	Noida-Khedamod-Takipur-Anwarpur- Suhaidi Muhyiddinpur marg	66	480	Gorakhpur	Bankata-Fazilgarh-Patheria-Padrauna	48	596	Kanpur	Etawah-Bharthana to Basrehar via Umakheeda Lohiapur	54
376	Ghazibad	Noida-Surajpur-Dadri-Mahawar marg	38	481	Gorakhpur	Hata-Mathali-Tecuatar Ramkola- Padrauna	50	597	Kanpur	Etawah-Basrehar to Saifai via Nagla Sosiya	36
377	Ghazibad	Noida-Surajpur-Dadri-Kalunda marg	44	482	Gorakhpur	Gobbari-Hetimpur-Kasya-Padrauna	41	598	Kanpur	Etawah-Samhe via Bharthana	36
378	Ghazibad	Noida-Dehra Jhal marg	48	483	Gorakhpur	Kasia-Ramkola-Padrauna	33	599	Kanpur	Etawah-Ursrahar via Bahadurpur	49
379	Ghazibad	Noida- Surajpur- Luharli Cut marg	53	484	Gorakhpur	Pipra-tumkuhi road-pasidiya -padrauna	62	600	Kanpur	Etawah-Ursrahar via Karpuriliya	38
380	Ghazibad	Noida- Choya marg	46	485	Jhansi	Nari-Jhansi via Didaura Chirgaon	36	601	Kanpur	Etawah-Muron via Pachaygaon	34
381	Ghazibad	Garh-Kithore nahar- Simbhaoli-Hapur	58	486	Jhansi	Sersa-Jhansi via Sesa Pooch Month	87	602	Kanpur	Farrukhabad-Rajipur-Chibramau	38
382	Ghazibad	Garh-Bhagwanpur-Hapur	67.5	487	Jhansi	Karai-Jhansi via Samthar Month	84	603	Kanpur	Farrukhabad-Rajipur-Kannauj marg via Singhirampur	60
383	Ghazibad	Garh-Dehra-Buxar- Hapur	50	488	Jhansi	Todhi-Jhansi via Samthar Month	74	604	Kanpur	Farrukhabad- Kayamganj-Kampil- Siwara	59
384	Ghazibad	Garh-Simbhawali-Bankhanda- Kuchesar Chowpla-Hapud marg	43	489	Jhansi	Kakarbai-Jhansi via Gadhbai Gursaroy Sirvon-Jhansi via Gursaroy Rammagar Chirgaon	89	605	Kanpur	Farrukhabad-Baghara-Checkpost Kali Nadi Police chowki	31
385	Ghazibad	Garh-Kithor-Lauti-Matanaura-Babugarh- Hapud	51	490	Jhansi	Abhiruwa-Orai via Babina, Jolhpur	58	606	Kanpur	Farrukhabad-Chibramau-Bahorikpur- Tajpur-Mohammadabad-Nabawganj- Dhaiga	100
386	Ghazibad	Garh Hapur-Babugarh Jainuddinpur Gazalpur	50	491	Jhansi	Narihan-Orai via Jolhpur	47	607	Kanpur	Farrukhabad-Kampil-Rudayan	58
387	Gonda	Gonda-Koyljungal-Pathribazar- Tarabganj-Ayodhya	70	492	Jhansi	Mangraul-Urai via Kalpi	47	608	Kanpur	Farrukhabad-Kayamganj-Paitthan Khurd link road	44
388	Gonda	Gonda-Balpur-Katabazar-Aryanagar	37	493	Jhansi	Shergarhghat-Orai via Nizampur, Kuthund	66	609	Kanpur	Farrukhabad- Karyaganj-Achra- Sarai Aghat	60
389	Gonda	Gonda-Sonbarsa-Pipra-Bhitaura-Rajgarh- Motiganj	40	494	Jhansi	Rabgaroni-Jhansi via Garautha Markua Adjar-Jhansi via Mauranipur	105	610	Kanpur	Farrukhabad- Mohammaddabad-Pakhna- Dheepur-Navigan	44
390	Gonda	Gonda-Dhanepur-Datalui-Mankapur- Ayodhya	72	495	Jhansi	Sijora-Jhansi via Sakrar	42	611	Lucknow	Lakhimpur-Phulbehad-Lucknow	159
391	Gonda	Gonda-Aryanagar-Bhavnipur- Maharaiganj	56	496	Jhansi	Basari-Jhansi via Bangra	61	612	Lucknow	Lakhimpur-Aliganj- Bijua	53
392	Gonda	Gonda-Itiyathok-Babaganj	45	497	Jhansi	Patharam-Jhansi via Sakrak	52	613	Lucknow	Lakhimpur-Fardhan-Gulaura-Magalganj	53
393	Gonda	Gonda-Motiganj-Kahoba-Tarabganj	62	498	Jhansi	Ikauna-Urai via Babina, Karme	64	614	Lucknow	Lakhimpur-Lahabdi-Lucknow	167
394	Gonda	Gonda-Kathgath-Dehras-Marchaur	36	499	Jhansi	Abhiruwa-Orai via Babina, Jolhpur	58	615	Lucknow	Gola-Situpar via Neemgaon	86
395	Gonda	Gonda-Babaganj-Rehbarabazar	34	500	Jhansi	Narihan-Orai via Rampura, Madhaughar	68	616	Lucknow	Lakhimpur-Patras- Badangaon-Situpar	75
396	Gonda	Gonda-Motiganj-Dumariadhi-Tarabganj	42	501	Jhansi	Mangraul-Urai via Kalpi	47	617	Lucknow	Lakhimpur-Phulbehad via Patras	81
397	Gonda	Gonda-Katra-Dubhabazar-Narayanpur Kalan-Meharbanabad	50	502	Jhansi	Shergarhghat-Orai via Nizampur, Kuthund	66	618	Lucknow	Lakhimpur-Thakuripurva via Padhua	53
398	Gonda	Gonda-Maskwan-Chandni Chowk- Kushmau Ghat-Chauribazar-Hyderabad	72	503	Jhansi	Rabhadpur-Orai via Umri, Madhaughar	71	619	Lucknow	Lakhimpur-Ranipur via Dhakarwa	58
399	Gonda	Gonda-Maskwan-Gaurachowki	57	504	Jhansi	Jaigha-Orai via Rampura, Madhaughar	68	620	Lucknow	Lakhimpur-Dhakerwa- Dhaurahara	61
400	Gonda	Brahaich-Kaiserganj-Gandara-Baragaon Brahaich-Gilaula-Bhikharpur-Chandwapur-Kalam-Gobar- Khutehana-Farda-Dharampur-Sasalampur-Huzurpur.	57	505	Jhansi	Maharajpura- Orai via Madhaughar, Amkheda	54	621	Lucknow	Lakhimpur-Sisaya-Durgapurpadri	86
401	Gonda	Brahaich-Itha-Tikrimati-Jangli-baba- Bagaha-Alingar- Imamganj-Kotwa Rupaidha-Babaganj-Bhatpuri-Bhatpurwa-Jamaah-Shankarpur- Nabawganj	45	506	Jhansi	Atrakalan-Orai via Babai Jalaun	39	622	Lucknow	Lakhimpur-Sakethu-Lucknow	168
402	Gonda	Brahaich-Bondi-Tower-Sistapur-Tendwa- Gopichandpur-Rampurwa	38	507	Jhansi	Nainapur-Orai via Sirkala Churkhi	57	623	Lucknow	Lakhimpur-Shahpur-Lucknow	158
403	Gonda	Brahaich-Bondi-Bello-Bhatpat- Jaitapur-Bhatpura-Jamaah-Shankarpur- Nabawganj	35	508	Jhansi	Pal-Sareni-Orai via Churkhi	33	624	Lucknow	Sitapur-Shahmholi-Rakhuna- Shadipur Navinagar	46
404	Gonda	Brahaich-Bondi-Tower-Sistapur-Tendwa- Gopichandpur-Rampurwa	38	509	Jhansi	Chandrasri-Orai via Jolhpur	60	625	Lucknow	Sitapur-Harpan-Navinagar- Ramana Farm-Mahadev Atra	50
405	Gonda	Brahaich-Ikuna-Madhupura-Bilarwa- Bargadahi-Samiriyana-Payagpur	57	510	Jhansi	Jakhauli-Orai via Pindari, Konch	40	626	Lucknow	Sitapur-Hargaon-Dateli-Piparjhala-Kasta	80
406	Gonda	Brahaich-Balapur-Dhanuhi-Purana- Visheshwarganj	63	511	Jhansi	Sala-Urai via Pirauna, Konch	53	627	Lucknow	Sitapur-Manpur-Maharajganj	33
407	Gonda	Balrampur-Utrala-Babaganj-Rehra Bazaar	71	512	Jhansi	Rukhna-Urai via At	37	628	Lucknow	Sitapur-Manpur-Noorpur- Kamhariya	40
408	Gonda	Balrampur-Pehar-Bharoseganj- Mauryaganj	59	513	Jhansi	Manpur-Orai via Damras Churkhi	49	629	Lucknow	Sitapur-Parsuda-Aurangabad-Godlamau	54
409	Gonda	Balrampur-Hussainabad	61	514	Jhansi	Lagampura-Orai via Nawali	76	630	Lucknow	Sitapur-Mahmudabad-Baddupur- Nilgaon- Atria	97
410	Gonda	Balrampur-Rehra Bazaar-Sadullanagar	68	515	Jhansi	Gidwasa-Orai via Nadigaon Konch	56	631	Lucknow	Sitapur-Hemp-Indrauli-Arthana- Qutubnagar	38
411	Gonda	Balrampur-Utrala-Rehra Bazaar to Shuklaganj	69	516	Jh						

... Continue from the previous page			
681	Lucknow	Palia Sampooranagar Basahi Khajuria	109
682	Lucknow	Dudhwa Chandan Chowki Dignia	125
683	Lucknow	Lucknow-Mohanlaganj- Junabganj	43
684	Lucknow	Lucknow-Junabganj via Bijnor Gauri	37
685	Lucknow	Bazaar Scooter India	37
686	Lucknow	Lucknow-Sisendi-Mahimpur-Jabrauli-Madakheda	40
687	Lucknow	Lucknow-Mohanlaganj to Gosaiganj	39
688	Lucknow	Lucknow-Mohanlaganj to Khojauli	41
689	Lucknow	Lucknow-Gangaganj-Nagram	57
690	Lucknow	Lucknow-Mohanlaganj via Nigoha-Nagram link marg	36
691	Lucknow	Lucknow-Scooter India-Mohan	44
692	Lucknow	Lucknow-BBD via Juggaon Gosaiganj	48
693	Lucknow	Lucknow-Gosaiganj via Khojauli-link marg Nagram	53
694	Lucknow	Lucknow-Mohanlaganj via Mau Hulas Kheda, Karora-Nagram	49
695	Lucknow	Lucknow-Suduoli Mod Via Bhavareshwar Dham Asarenda link marg	57
696	Lucknow	Lucknow-Laval Mod Mirakhnagar, Nagaram	60
697	Lucknow	Lucknow-Telibagh-Kalli West via Jagat Kheda	44
698	Lucknow	Kaiserbagh-Itaunja-Amaniganj	44
699	Lucknow	Kaiserbagh-BKT-Chandrika Devi- Mall	45
700	Lucknow	Kaiserbagh-Itaunja-Mall	44
701	Lucknow	Kaiserbagh-Kumharwana-Babaganj	41
702	Lucknow	Kaiserbagh-Malihabad-Mohan	46
703	Lucknow	Raebareli -Dhakia-Harchandpur	32
704	Lucknow	Raebareli -Salon-Dhara	43
705	Lucknow	Raebareli-Maharajganj-Harchandpur-Baldupur-Achaleshwar-Chaksunda-Pandit ka purwa - Dhakia chaura -Korihar-Sultana Kheda-Ataura	57
706	Lucknow	Raebareli-Harchandpur-Rupkheda-Deghaura-Aghaura Ghat-Bachhrawan-Lucknow	94
707	Lucknow	Raebareli -Salon-Mataka-Pari-Jagatpur-Murai Ka Bagh-Lalganj	92
708	Lucknow	Raebareli -Salon-Parsipur-Naserabad- Jais	65
709	Lucknow	Raebareli -Fursatganj-Tenduva-Maharajganj- Bachhrawana	69
710	Lucknow	Raebareli -unchahar-rohaniya-pichhwara-suchi-raebareli	93
711	Lucknow	Raebareli-Harchandpur-Kundanganj-Johwasharki-Paschimgaon Nandakhedha-Gurubakshganj- Lalganj	62
712	Lucknow	Raebareli-Lalganj-Dosadka-Purepandey-Dudhvan	55
713	Lucknow	Raebareli -Lalganj-Dosadka-Purepandey-Chhiwalha(Bhupganj)-Goda-Mathpur-Rampur Kalan,	58
714	Lucknow	Raebareli-Lalganj-Dosadka-Purepandey-Gannakanta-Ranikheda-Nisgar	59
715	Lucknow	Raebareli -Kheeron-Atarhar	42
716	Lucknow	Raebareli-Gangaganj-Harchandpur-Kundanganj-Bachhrawan-Rajamau	40
717	Lucknow	Raebareli -Maharajganj-Harchandpur-Sirsaghat Dhakia chaura-Gurubakshganj	53
718	Lucknow	Raebareli -Uchahaar-Barehwa-Paterwa-Umrani-Salon	61
719	Lucknow	Raebareli-Dhakiya chaura -Gurubakshganj-Kheeron-Paho	42
720	Lucknow	Raebareli -Maharajganj-Chandrapur-Tiloj	45
721	Lucknow	Raebareli -Dariba-Nagdilpur-Karaksa-Kasimpur-Johwa- Mura Ka Bagh	33
722	Lucknow	Raebareli -suchi -dih-purab nayan	36
723	Lucknow	Raebareli -Salwan-Rasoolpur-Parsipur-Umrani-Dhauhara Pichwara-suchi	79
724	Lucknow	Raebareli -Karkasa-Domapur-Utranwa-Aihar	34
725	Lucknow	Raebareli -Jagatpur-Chadharai chaura-haar Chaura	44
726	Lucknow	Raebareli -Bachhrawana-Tilenda-Ashan Jagatpur-Osah-Halor	53
727	Lucknow	Raebareli -Bachhrawana-Samodha-Ichauli	38
728	Lucknow	Raebareli -Gurubakshganj-Tala-Bande	34
729	Lucknow	Unnao-Ganj Moradabad-Sirdhapur	68
730	Lucknow	Unnao-Virsinghpur-Munshiganj	32
731	Lucknow	Unnao-Bhaili-Simramau	32
732	Lucknow	Unnao-Bhawantnagar Chainpur	67
733	Lucknow	Unnao-Sikanderpur Gadheva	45
734	Meerut	Meerut-Shahjahanpur, Jadauda Marg	40
735	Meerut	Meerut-Nawalsurajpur- Lalianna-Silaur	45
736	Meerut	Meerut-Mahalwala-Gasewinpuri	34
737	Meerut	Meerut-Asifabad-Veer Nagar	46
738	Meerut	Meerut-Machhra-Kali-Kila marg	33
739	Meerut	Meerut-Dariapur marg	42
740	Meerut	Meerut-Hastinapur Tarapur-Ramraj marg	61
741	Meerut	Meerut-Hastinapur, Makhdumpur marg	49
742	Meerut	Meerut-Mawana- Makhdumpur marg	42
743	Meerut	Meerut-Mawana-Jaisinghpur-Jalalpur marg	53
744	Meerut	Meerut-Mawana-Bhadraliki-Pratapnagar marg	42
745	Meerut	Meerut-Saini- Kastala Mawana marg	35
746	Meerut	Meerut-Sardhana-Atarna-Ruhasa marg	31
747	Meerut	Meerut-Tanda-Kapsad marg	31
748	Meerut	Meerut-Peurpuri-Mandaura-Nangli marg	43
749	Meerut	Meerut-Panchli(Ghat)-Kalanjari-Soharka-Gejha-Siwal	35
750	Meerut	Meerut-Mohidwinpur Sugar Mill- Aodya- Salehnagar-Johra	34
751	Meerut	Meerut-Partapur-Gagol-Kheda- Balrampur-Nanglapatu-Kharkhuda	39
752	Meerut	Meerut- Kharkhoda-Uldhan	42
753	Meerut	Badaut-Binoli-Darkavda-Fazlapur-Taida-Tatri-Baghpat	39
754	Meerut	Badaut-Khaprana-Barnawa-Binauli-Sirsalgarh-Aminnagar Sarai-Tattiri- Baghpat	62
755	Meerut	Badaut-Chhaprauli-Tilwara-Hewa-Lumba-Tugana-Baudha-Tanda-Baghpat	52
756	Meerut	Badaut-Binauli-Chirchita-Mavikanal-Puramahadev-Balaini-Baghpat	56
757	Meerut	Badaut-Biral-Kasimpur Khedi-Kandera-Baghpat	34
758	Meerut	Badaut-Nirpuda-Daha-Palda-Paldi-Barnawa-Baghpat	51
759	Meerut	Badaut-Kankor via Bachhod-Baraut-Baghpat	31
760	Meerut	Badaut-Pusar-Doghat-Sujati-Asara-Baraut-Baghpat	71
761	Meerut	Badaut-Jagos(Khadar Bangar)-Kotana-Baraut-Baghpat	31
762	Meerut	Badaut-Barwala-Basoli-Soup-Biral- Baghpat	42
763	Meerut	Badaut-Baghpat-Meiti-Pabla- Chamarawali	40
764	Meerut	Badaut-Aminnagar Sarai-bijali ghar -Baghpat via Puramahadev-Saidpur	62
765	Meerut	Badaut-Hisavad-Dola-Baghpat via Basod-Bilochpura-Gospur	58
766	Meerut	Badaut-Aminnagar Sarai-bijali ghar via Dattanagar-Chamarawali-Baghpat	57
767	Meerut	Badaut-Aminnagar Sarai-Baghpat via Taida Rammagar Tilpani	46
768	Meerut	Badaut-Aminnagar Sarai-Balaiani via Dolcha-Harisya-Chamarawali-Baghpat	68
769	Meerut	Badaut-Sankal Putthi via Baghpat	36
770	Meerut	Badaut-Aminnagar Sarai via Pilana-Dhikoli	58
771	Meerut	Badaut-Dhanaura Silver Nagar via Putti Baghpat (Zila mukhyalay se jodne hetu isi marg par wapas)	31
772	Meerut	Badaut-Baghpat-Khekada Pathshala-Mussoorie-Abbadullah-Subhanpur	32
773	Meerut	Badaut-Baghpat-Khekada pathsala-Khekada Town-Fakharpur, Nirojpur	35
774	Meerut	Baraut-Baghpat-Khatta nahar Road- Rataul-Nagla Badi-Gatora-Ghitaura marg Baraut-Baghpat-Khatta Dihauli	43
775	Meerut	Badaut-Baghpat-Khatta Dihauli- Badgaon-Ratal-Baghpat-Gadi Kalanjari	47
776	Meerut	Badaut-Baghpat-Khatta Dihauli- Mansoorpuri-Laliana-Shahabd- Tukali	46
777	Meerut	Badaut-Baghpat-Khatta Dihauli-Badgaon Mod-Lahchauha	38
778	Meerut	Mauhariya-Karma-Robertsganj	39
779	Mirzapur	Koliyagh- Ghoraval- Robertsganj	48

781	Mirzapur	Chanruigaon-Markundi- Obradij-Patkagaon-Shahgaj- Mahuli-Panura-Panniganj- Robertsganj	31	896	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Baghra-Dholra -Jaso -Gurjarhedi -Chhatia-Piplcheda	68
782	Mirzapur	Bharhari-Jugal-Ghatihata-Chopan- Robertsganj	31	897	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Baghra-Dholra-Dholri- Budhana-Navda	58
783	Mirzapur	Bharhari-Gothani-Chopan- Robertsganj	57	898	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Baghra-Mandi-Karwad- Khataula-Harsauli	57
784	Mirzapur	Kathauta, Hardevpur, Danapur, Gyanpur- Bhadohi-Varanasi	61	899	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Charthawal-Biralsi- Balvakhedi	67
785	Mirzapur	Abhiya, Suryavao, Pali, Gyanpur- Bhadohi-Varanasi	87	900	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar - Dadheu - Charthawal - Biralsi - Guniyaguddi - Dudhl - Budhakhaned.	44
786	Mirzapur	Kathauta, Hardevpur, Danapur, Gyanpur- Bhadohi-Varanasi	88	901	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Badkali- Kalarup- Dadhedu	35
787	Mirzapur	Samdha, Babhnauti, Gyanpur-Bhadohi- Varanasi	80	902	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Rohana-Charthawal- Kasauli	61
788	Mirzapur	Kariyav, Modh, Kavad, Gyanpur- Bhadohi-Varanasi	77	903	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Charthawal-Niyamu- Kasauli	42
789	Mirzapur	Chauri, Bhadohi, Gyanpur-Gopiganj- Varanasi	84	904	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Charthawal-Biralsi- Mangapur-Roni-Hamaki	38
790	Mirzapur	Semradh, Gopalpur, Kavalapur, Gyanpur- Bhadohi-Jaunpur	91	905	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Charthawal-Biralsi- Kadargarh	41
791	Mirzapur	Girdbagdaon, Maherajganj, Gopiganj, Gyanpur-Bhadohi-Varanasi	90	906	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Rohana-Charthawal- Kutesara	51
792	Mirzapur	Rohi, Pali, Gyanpur-Bhadohi-Jaunpur	79	907	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Jauli-Behda	56
793	Mirzapur	Barji, Goppur, Gopiganj, Gyanpur- Bhadohi-Varanasi	73	908	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Jansath-Behda Shukrat	39
794	Mirzapur	Ramaipur,Subashnagar,Wohida,Gopiganj- Gyanpur-Bhadohi-Jaunpur	82	909	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Kukda-Jauli-Behda- Dariapur-Kharpod-Dariabad	39
795	Mirzapur	Mirajpur-Belahi via Kalwari	51	910	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Jansath-Mehda- Jadwad Katia-Mirapu	36
796	Mirzapur	Mirajpur-Dubar Kala via Haliya	60	911	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Jansath-Dewal- Phulwala-Alampur	52
797	Mirzapur	Mirzapur-Haliya-Matwar-Kusiyara	78	912	Saharanpur	Muzaffarnagar-Bhopa-Belda- Dhirahedi- Nirgajani- Sikandarpur-Sikri	32
798	Mirzapur	Mirzapur-Gaipa-Rampurghat-Babura	42	913	Saharanpur	Khatauli-Ratanpuri-Bhanwada- Nasirpur-Basi-Atali	44
799	Mordabad	Moradabad-Umri	32	914	Saharanpur	Khatauli-Budhana-Barkata-Kurthal	39
800	Mordabad	Moradabad-Bajpur	61	915	Saharanpur	Khatauli-Budhana-Bawana-Shikarpur	41
801	Mordabad	Moradabad-Pakbada-Agwanpur-Chhajlat- Kanth	40	916	Saharanpur	Khatauli-Budhana-Mandwada-Kurawa	41
802	Mordabad	Moradabad-Dalpatpur-Mundapande- Swara Baje-Bujpur Maan	49	917	Saharanpur	Khatauli-budhana-luhsana-jaipur gadhi	40
803	M						



OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
No. ECR-SPJOSTRP(IREP)/418/2023
Dated 02.02.2024 Sr. DMM(Admn.)/ECR/SPJ on behalf of the President of India
"Open e-Tender Notice" from the eligible and experienced agency or contractor for e-Tender on Tender No. 72245102 particulars are as under:-
SI.No. : 1, Name of Items : Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Fired boiler 850kg Cap with diesel tank for departmental Laundry (As per attached specification). Quantity : 3 Set
Sr. DMM (Admin)/ECR/SPJ PR/0223/SPJ/STORE/T/23-24/20

RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT
Superintending Engineer Cum Project Manager, WCDC, ZILA PARISHAD BARMER
e-mail Id - SEWDS.C.BARMER@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN
Telephone No. :- 02982-20733
No. 7258 Date: 30/01/2024

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No 23-32 YEAR 2023-24

Bids for Watershed Development Works are invited from interested bidders up to 09.02.2024 at 06:00 PM as per following details. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal https://eproc.rajarajasthan.gov.in or https://ppr.rajarajasthan.gov.in on the state departmental website.

Sr. No.	Block	NIB No.	Estimate (Rs in Lacs)	NIB Code	UBN Code
1	Adel	23/2023-24	296.00	WSC2324A0328	WSC2324W/SOB00596
2	Barmer	24/2023-24	294.52	WSC2324A0329	WSC2324W/SOB00597
3	Barmer Rural	25/2023-24	249.56	WSC2324A0330	WSC2324W/SOB00598
4	Baytu	26/2023-24	291.94	WSC2324A0331	WSC2324W/SOB00599
5	Fagliya	27/2023-24	296.00	WSC2324A0332	WSC2324W/SOB00600
6	Gadrirod	28/2023-24	295.16	WSC2324A0333	WSC2324W/SOB00601
7	Patodi	29/2023-24	295.85	WSC2324A0334	WSC2324W/SOB00602
8	Sheo	30/2023-24	291.00	WSC2324A0335	WSC2324W/SOB00603
9	Sindhar	31/2023-24	297.30	WSC2324A0336	WSC2324W/SOB00604
10	Gadrirod	32/2023-24	37.10	WSC2324A0337	WSC2324W/SOB00605

Sd/-
SE CUM PROJECT MANAGER, WCDC,
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT & SOIL
CONSERVATION, BARMER

DIPR/C/526/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Parbhjot Singh @ Lucky, S/o: Iqbal, R/o: H.No. 81/A, South Anarkali Extn., Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 22/20, Dated 25.01.2020, U/s 411 IPC & 25/54/59 Arms Act, P.S.: Jagatpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Parbhjot Singh @ Lucky** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Parbhjot Singh @ Lucky** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Parbhjot Singh @ Lucky** accused of FIR No. 22/20, Dated 25.01.2020, U/s 411 IPC & 25/54/59 Arms Act, P.S.: Jagatpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 12.03.2024.

By Order

Ms. Aayushi Saxena
Metropolitan Magistrate-05
Room No. 48, Shahdara District
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/1467/SHD/2024-
(Court Matter)

MP POORV KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
BLOCK NO.7, SHAKTI BHAWAN, RAMPUR, JABALPUR (M.P.)
Tel No. 0761-2702473, Fax No. 0761-2660048
CIN : U40109MP2002SGC015120

TENDER NOTICE Jabalpur, Dtd. 01.02.2024

Online tenders are invited for following items :-

S. No.	T.S. No. DISCOM/ EZ/PUR	NAME OF ITEMS	APPROX. VALUE (Rs. in Lakhs)	TENDER FEE (in Rs)	DATE OF OPENING OF TENDER
1.	1438 (E-Tender No. 2024_PKVVC_329477_1)	AAA Rabbit & DOG Conductor	1033.89	11,800.00	20.02.2024

For other details visit our Website :- www.mpez.co.in & mptenders.gov.in

SAVE ENERGY FOR BETTER TOMORROW C.G.M. (S&P)

"महत्वपूर्ण सूचना - मोबाइल पर विज्ञली विल प्राप्त करने के लिये अपना मोबाइल नंबर स्मार्ट विज्ञली एप, विज्ञली कार्यालय अधिका काल सेटर के टालप्रो नंबर 1912 पर आइपीआरएस नंबर बताकर तकाल दर्ज कराये अधिका पारस्परित मोबाइल नंबर अपडेट कराये"

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED (CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Registered office : -ENGINEERING BUILDING, HEC, DHURWA, RANCHI-4,
FAX No. 0651 – 2400799, email – cere_jseb@yahoo.co.in
(Department of Rural Electrification)

Cancellation Notice of E-Tender

Due to unavoidable reasons following tenders under Mukhyamantri Ujjawal Jharkhand Yojana have been cancelled:-

Sl. No.	Name of Package (District)	NIT No.
1	Gumla	253/PR/JBVNL/2023-24
2	Hazaribagh	254/PR/JBVNL/2023-24
3	Koderma	264/PR/JBVNL/2023-24

This has got the approval of the competent authority.

PR No. 312421

स्वाहित एवं राष्ट्रपति में रजत चतुर्वेदी कृपया अपनी
शिक्षणी को 18003456570 (कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/- General Manager (RP)
PR 318097 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(23-24).D

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS)
ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-03

No. CE/CW/40/2023-24/7

PRESS NOTICE RE-INVITING TENDER(Re-Bid)

The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 re-invites bids on behalf of the Governor of Assam from approved & eligible contractors registered with PWRD, Assam for construction of roads and drains under **Mukhya Mantri Paki Path Nirman Achani (MMPNA)** for the year **2023-24** under Dispur LAC, East Guwahati LAC & West Guwahati LAC amounting to Rs. 8,345 Crores (approx.) in Kamrup (Metropolitan) district of Assam.

Details along with packages for the works may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of the undersigned in the "City Works Cell". Amendment / Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non- sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.

Note: NIT Value is inclusive of GST (12%), Labour Cess (1%), etc.

Chief Engineer, RWD (Roads),
JANASANYOG/CF/5339/23-7-FEB-24
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

झारखण्ड राज्य ग्रामीण पथ विकास प्राधिकरण (JSRRDA)

एफ-एफ-001 भवन, तृतीय तल्ला, धूर्वा, रीची -834004, झारखण्ड

अति अल्पकालीन ई- पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (3rd Call)

PR No. 314098 Dated 22.12.2023

दिनांक : - 06.02.2024
मुख्य अधिकारी, जेंटल्स ऑर्डर्ड आरॉडी०५०, रीची द्वारा निम्नविवरण के अनुसार e-procurement प्रक्रिया से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं. आई-एन-टी-एस-एस-एन संस्करण प्रक्रिया की विवरण - 08.02.2024

ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 15.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा खालील की विवरण- 16.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 17.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 18.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 19.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 20.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 21.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 22.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 23.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 24.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 25.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 26.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 27.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 28.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 29.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 30.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 31.02.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 01.03.2024 अप्रैल तक 5.00 बजे तक।

निविदा अप्रैल करने की अवधि तिथि एवं समय- 02.03.2024 अप्रैल तक

SENSEX: 72,186.09 ▲ 454.67 (0.63%) NIFTY: 21,929.40 ▲ 157.70 (0.72%) NIKKEI: 36,160.66 ▼ 193.50 HANG SENG: 16,136.87 ▲ 626.86 FTSE: 7,670.20 ▲ 57.34 DAX: 16,998.70 ▲ 94.64



GOLD

₹63,200



USD RATE

₹83.05



OIL

\$77.89



SILVER

₹74,900

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of February 5

International market data till 1900 IST

DAY 1 OF INDIA ENERGY WEEK 2024

Petronet LNG, QatarEnergy extend vital LNG supply deal by another 20 yrs beyond 2028

As per sources, LNG prices under the new contract likely to be lower than the current term deal

SUKALP SHARMA
BETUL (GOA), FEBRUARY 6

PETRONET LNG and QatarEnergy on Tuesday inked the deal to extend the supply of 7.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the latter for another 20 years beyond 2028, when the current long-term contract is set to expire. Negotiations for extending the current supply contract—the largest term contract for LNG in India—had been going on for some time with involvement from the governments of the two countries. The agreement was inked on the first day of the India Energy Week 2024 in Goa.

"This (new agreement) is pursuant to extension of an existing LNG SPA (sale and purchase agreement) for LNG supply of around 7.5 mtpa LNG...on FOB (free on board) basis, signed on 31st July 1999 for supplies till 2028. Under the new agreement, LNG supplies will be made on delivered (DES) basis commencing from 2028 till 2048," Petronet LNG said in a statement. The company, which is India's largest importer of LNG or super-chilled gas, did not give pricing details of the contract.



India aims to rapidly raise its refining capacity from around 254 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) to 450 mtpa by 2030. Reuters

Sources in the know indicated that LNG prices under the new contract would be lower than the current term deal and lead to savings for Indian buyers of imported gas. As per back-of-the-envelope calculations, the new pricing terms could result in savings of around \$6 billion over the 20-year period, assuming a Brent price of \$80 per barrel.

LNG in the existing contract is priced at a slope of 12.67 per cent of Brent crude oil futures and a fixed charge of 52 cents per million British thermal unit (mBtu). According to sources, the fixed charge is not there in the renewed contract, even as the slope to Brent may be in the same range. Additionally, the shift to DES deliveries from FOB is expected to lower the landed price of LNG under the contract further. In DES, shipping is arranged by the seller, while in FOB, it is arranged by the buyer.

Govt to lease out around 1 million tonne of strategic crude oil reserve capacity

SUKALP SHARMA
BETUL (GOA), FEBRUARY 6

THE CENTRE has decided to lease out around 1 million tonnes of vacant strategic crude oil storage capacity to Indian and international companies, instead of spending government money on filling up the available capacity in the caverns, India Strategic Petroleum Reserves (ISPR) Managing Director LR Jain said Tuesday. The government had allocated Rs 5,000 crore for 2023-24 (FY24) to fill up vacant capacity in the underground caverns. However, in the Interim Budget for FY25, the al-

location was reduced to nil. A petroleum ministry undertaking, ISPR has built underground storages for crude oil at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, and Mangalore and Padur in Karnataka to store a total of 5.33 million tonnes of oil for India's emergency use. The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) has leased 1.25 million tonnes (of 2.5 million tonnes) at the Padur reserve and 0.75 million tonnes (of 1.5 million tonnes) at Mangalore.

While the ISPR filled the remaining 1.25 million tonnes at Padur, 0.75 million tonnes capacity at the Mangalore reserve has been vacant.

PM Modi says India making unprecedented investments, invites global majors to invest

SUKALP SHARMA
BETUL (GOA), FEBRUARY 6

INDIA IS investing in the energy sector at unprecedented levels in view of rapidly rising demand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Tuesday, as he invited global energy majors to invest in India.

Speaking at the India Energy Week in Goa, Modi noted that various estimates suggest that India's energy demand is likely to double from current levels by 2045 and the country is already preparing to meet the demand years.

In the Interim Budget for 2024-25, the government hinted at the capital investment outlay to be 11 per cent to over Rs 11 lakh crore. Modi said that such high infrastructure investment in sectors like roads and highways, railways, aviation, and housing will also feed into energy demand and investments.

The Prime Minister said that nearly all global oil, gas, and energy leaders want to invest in India. "Many such leaders are sitting here in front of me. We extend a warm welcome to them,"

Modi said at the inaugural session of the India Energy Week, which had numerous foreign delegates in attendance.

While speaking on India's efforts to increase energy capacity in line with demand, Modi emphasised that the country is also focussed on energy affordability.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Paytm CEO Sharma meets FM, RBI officials amid regulatory concerns

HITESH VYAS & AANCHAL MAGAZINE
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI,
FEBRUARY 6

PAYTM FOUNDER and chief executive officer Vijay Shekhar Sharma met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday and had also met Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials, days after the regulator imposed a ban on Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL).

"It was a courtesy meeting of about 10 minutes in the evening with the Finance Minister. He (Sharma) explained his position. He was asked to reach out to the RBI to resolve the issue," a source said.

On January 31, the RBI barred Paytm Payments Bank from accepting deposits or top-ups in any customer account, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags and NCNC card after February 29, 2024, in the wake of persistent non-compliances and mate-

rial supervisory concerns. The crackdown on PPBL came after a comprehensive system audit report and subsequent compliance validation report of the external auditors, the RBI had said.

The central bank had directed that the Nodal Accounts of One97 Communications Ltd (OCL), which owns Paytm, and Paytm Payments Services Ltd are to be terminated at the earliest, in any case not later than February 29, 2024. Sharma, who is a part-time Chairman of the bank, met RBI officials and sought some relaxations on the regulatory action on PPBL, sources said. A mail sent to One97 Communications did not elicit any response.

Paytm Payments Bank has been facing RBI scrutiny since 2018.

The RBI's recent action on PPBL came after it was found that the bank had violated KYC norms and also had linked the same PAN to multiple customers. It

was also observed that the bank was allowing transactions above the permissible limit, which raised concerns over money laundering.

In June 2018, RBI had made certain observations about the processes the company followed to acquire new users, especially on KYC norms. PPBL then stopped enrolling new customers following an audit by the RBI, which revealed that the firm was not following KYC norms when it comes to acquiring new customers. In a conference call on February 1, Sharma described the RBI action on PPBL as more of a big speed bump and the bank would be able to see through in the next few days or quarters.

Meanwhile, shares of OCL

which declined by 43 per cent in the last three sessions, recovered by 3 per cent to Rs 451.60 on the BSE on Tuesday. OCL also denied speculation that Jio Financial of the RIL group is in talks to acquire PPBL's wallet business.

On January 31, the RBI barred Paytm Payments Bank from accepting deposits or top-ups in any customer account, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags and NCNC card after February 29, 2024, in the wake of persistent non-compliances and mate-

Parliament panel proposes composite licence for insurers, cut in GST rates

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 6

IN A significant boost to the insurance segment in the country, the Standing Committee on Finance of the Lok Sabha has recommended that insurance companies should be allowed composite licensing which will enable an insurer to offer both life and non-life insurance products, including health, motor and term policies. The committee has also proposed a reduction in GST rates from the current level of 18 per cent in the case of health insurance.

A composite licence can cut costs and compliance hassles for insurers, as they can run different insurance lines under one roof.

"It can offer customers more choice and value, such as a single policy that covers life, health, and savings," the panel said in its performance review and regulation of the insurance sector. The

House panel, headed by Jayant Sinha, said the Insurance Act, 1938, and the regulations of the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India do not allow composite licensing for an insurer to undertake life, general, or health insurance under one entity. It can boost insurance reach and awareness in India, as customers can get all-in-one insurance from one provider, with lower premiums and easier claims.

The committee has recommended that the government should hold deliberations with stakeholders to find solutions to these issues and introduce a provision for composite licensing for insurance companies and make the related amendment in legislation at the earliest.

On the GST issue, the committee said there is a need to rationalise the GST rate on insurance products, especially health and term insurance, which is 18 per cent at present. The high rate of GST results in a high premium

burden, which acts as a deterrent to getting insurance policies, it said. The committee recommended that GST rates applicable to health insurance products, particularly retail policies for senior citizens and microinsurance policies (up to limits prescribed under PMJAY, presently Rs 5 lakh), and term policies may be reduced. Insurance companies have been arguing for a cut in GST rates for some time now.

On catastrophe insurance, the committee has recommended that the government should explore options as to how homes and properties, especially those of economically vulnerable groups,

can be insured in areas susceptible to catastrophic damages with the aid of Central/State Government. This may require a specialised insurance business to be set up by one of the PSU general insurance companies with subsidised premiums for disaster-prone areas, it said.

FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

HDFC Bank group gets RBI nod to acquire up to 9.5% in six banks

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 6

HDFC BANK on Tuesday announced that the HDFC Bank group entities have received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire "aggregate holding" of up to 9.5 per cent of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in six banks -- Axis Bank, Suryoday Small Finance Bank, ICICI Bank, Bandhan Bank, YES Bank and IndusInd Bank.

The "aggregate holding" includes shareholding by the bank and entities under the same management/ control, mutual funds, trustees and promoter group entities.

"The approvals were granted pursuant to applications made by HDFC Bank (as a promoter/sponsor of the Group) to the RBI on December

18, 2023," the bank said.

The central bank's approval is valid for a period of one year from the date of RBI's letter – which is till February 4, 2025.

Further, HDFC Bank should ensure that the "aggregate holding" in these six banks does not exceed 9.50 per cent of the paid-up share capital or voting rights of the respective banks, at all times.

While HDFC Bank does not intend to invest in these banks, since the "aggregate holding" of HDFC Bank group was likely to exceed the prescribed limit of 5 per cent, an application seeking approval of the RBI for increase in investment limits was made, it said.

"Further, since the RBI Directions is applicable to HDFC Bank, the bank had made the application to RBI on behalf of the group," the bank added.

THE ASKA CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR INDUSTRIES LTD.

P.O. Nuagam (Aska) - 761111, Ganjam District, Odisha

Ph.No. 06822-273464, email:askasugar@yahoo.co.in

Website: www.askasugar.com

TENDER CALL NOTICE:- 1768/2024, DATED:02.02.2024

INVITATION FOR COMPETITIVE BIDING

Bid Notice No : 02/2023-24

The Managing Director, Aska Co-operative Sugar Industries Ltd, Nuagam, Aska Invites sealed tender in confirming with sealed tender call notice (D.T.C.N) from the Registered contractor of state PWD or equivalent class of CPWD /Railway/MES/ Central Govt./State Govt. Undertaking for the following works to be eventually drawn up in the percent rate contractor from (P-1).

Sl. No. **Name of the Work** **Approximate Estimate Cost in Rs** **EMD in Rs.** **Eligibility of Contractor** **Time of Completion** **Cost of Tender Paper (Non Refundable)**

1. Construction of Country Liquor Storage Go-Down at Aska Co-Op. Sugar Industry. 75,05,000/- 75,050/- "B" 03 Months 08,000/-

(1) Registered Contractor of Class-"B", can obtain tender documents for the work either from Office of the Aska Co-Operative Sugar Industries Ltd, Aska or from the official web site (www.askasugar@yahoo.co.in) in all working days during office hours from 03.02.2024 to 12.02.2024 on payment of the Cost as indicated in the table in shape of A/c payee DD (Non -refundable) drawn in favour of Aska Co-Operative Sugar Industries Ltd, Aska,. The tender shall be received in a sealed cover through Registered Post/ Speed Post only. The tender will be opened before the Tender Committee on 13.02.2024 at 11.30 AM in presence of tender or their authorized representative.

(2) To know the detailed advertisement please visit the Aska Co-Operative Sugar Industries Ltd, Aska on working days.

MANAGING DIRECTOR



GOLD

₹63,200



USD RATE



OIL

₹83.05

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of February 5

\$77.89



SILVER

₹74,900

Basmati output rises to 13 mt, yet prices climb for millers, consumers

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

INDIA'S BASMATI paddy output is up from 11 million tonnes (mt) in 2022-23 to 13 mt this year, yet both millers and consumers are paying more for the premium grain.

"The crop size is bigger this time, but we have paid an average price of Rs 50 per kg for paddy delivered at our plant, versus around Rs 46 in 2022-23. Farmer realisations have correspondingly risen from Rs 41-42 to Rs 44-45," said Kunal Gupta, senior manager (procurement & production) at KRBL Ltd, India's largest basmati miller and branded rice seller.

He attributed the higher prices to export demand and a growing domestic market.

Last year's 11 mt basmati paddy production would have yielded about 7.25 mt of milled rice (at 66 per cent recovery) and 5.5 mt of "head" or non-broken grain (at 50 per cent).

KRBL's basmati rice also comprises in-home (1.8 mt) and institutional (1.2 mt; mainly hotels, restaurants and caterers) consumption, with the former being further sub-divided into branded/packaged (0.6 mt) and unbranded/loose (1.8 mt).

The Centre hasn't imposed any export prohibitions on basmati rice, unlike with non-basmati grain. The latter exports have dipped 33.5 per cent from 11.57 mt in April-November 2022 to 7.65 mt in April-November 2023. Basmati shipments, entirely comprising head rice, are continuing as before on the back of robust demand.

</

BRIEFLY



For now, we have to tip our cap to Jasprit and say that spell (in the first innings of the second Test) was as good as anything we have seen so far on this trip."

BRENDON MCCULLUM
ON JASPRIT BUMRAH

'Will find way to counter Bumrah'

ENGLAND WERE at the receiving end of Jasprit Bumrah's sensational spell in the second Test but head coach Brendon McCullum expects his players to work out a way to tackle the immense threat posed by the star Indian pacer. McCullum, also known for his aggressive batting during his playing days, was non-committal when asked how England plan to deal with Bumrah in the remaining three Tests, simply saying that his team does not believe in theories. "We don't really do theories. It is about making sure the guys are totally clear and present, confident and have conviction in their method. They are a lot better than I ever was and they will work it out how best to go about it," McCullum said. "There are contrasting ways of going about it... we will see where we get to. For now, we have to tip our cap to Jasprit and say that spell (in the first innings of the second Test) was as good as anything we have seen so far on this trip," he was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

PTI

Stokes struggles to pick up pace: Atherton

FORMER ENGLAND, captain Michael Atherton reckons incumbent skipper Ben Stokes has struggled to pick up the pace off Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah in the ongoing five-Test series. Stokes has been dismissed twice in four innings of the two Tests so far by Bumrah, who has cleaned up the southpaw on both instances. "Picking with the speed of the ball is tough with him (Bumrah), and I've noticed with Stokes, even Stokes is an excellent player of fast bowling. He's hurried with Bumrah," Atherton was quoted as saying by Sky Cricket. "He struggles to pick up the pace and a couple of times when he's (Bumrah) got him, it looks as though the ball has kept low, which has, but it also almost beaten him for pace as well. I think that's the issue with Bumrah." Bumrah, who has snaffled 15 wickets in the first two Tests, returned 6/45 in the first innings of the second Test.

PTI

HIGH PRIEST OF FAST BOWLERS

Bumrah's rarely-used weapon: Slower ball

Like Ben Foakes found out in Vizag and Shaun Marsh in Melbourne in 2018, the fast bowler's deceptive change of pace can be lethal

SANDIP G
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

THE JASPRIT Bumrah slower ball is a thing of beauty and also a rarity. It's not an everyday spectacle but when he does bring it out, the audience and the hapless victim of his sleight-of-hand sorcery are bemused and dazzled.

It's a paradox that some of the most-revered deliveries of one of the fastest bowlers his country has produced have been his slower balls. There's the Shaun Marsh curveball, Mohammad Rizwan snapper, Ollie Robinson gripper and Steve Smith corker from the past. More recently, from the ongoing England series, there's the Rehan Ahmed stunner and Ben Foakes ripper.

Bumrah's action is made for slower balls, just as it is made for shoe-crushing yorkers. The run-up is short, whereupon the body explodes into the action. The elbow is hyperextended. The natural release is in front of his body, which means he is releasing the ball from six-seven inches closer to the batsman than most bowlers. All these chains of interrelated actions and quirks mean the batsman is crunched for reaction time to decode the change of pace.

The Bumrah slower ball forces a batsman to react against his own muscle memory. A batsman when facing a 145kph bowler is trained to react in less than 0.4 seconds, the time it takes for a ball's journey across the pitch. But when the ball turns out to be much slower, the fully focused batsman has to re-align himself.

During India's tour to Australia in 2018, the ball that got Marsh was clocked at 114 kph. The ball before that was 140 kph. A difference of 20-26 kph is difficult to adjust to. The batsman's shape goes off-kilter. Bumrah destabilises the batsman's base, the footwork betrays panic and he ends up resembling a novice. One minute Bumrah is a heavy metal drums basher, the next he is rendering a soulful note on a sitar.

Bumrah also has the nuanced art of disguise. He does not reduce the arm speed, doesn't slow his action, he does not contort his wrist wickedly. He does not mess about with the seam either. There is no giveaway, no pattern, no algorithm, no AI tips. He gives

only microscopic clues, like when bowling the slower ball, his palm faces skywards in the load-up rather than towards the side when he struts his seam-up balls.

Besides, he holds the ball fractionally deeper in his palms.

Sometimes, he gives the ball an extra tweak, like a spinner does. But from a batsman's perch, it's impossible to decode the variation. He has to gauge it in the air, or off the surface.

A master at work

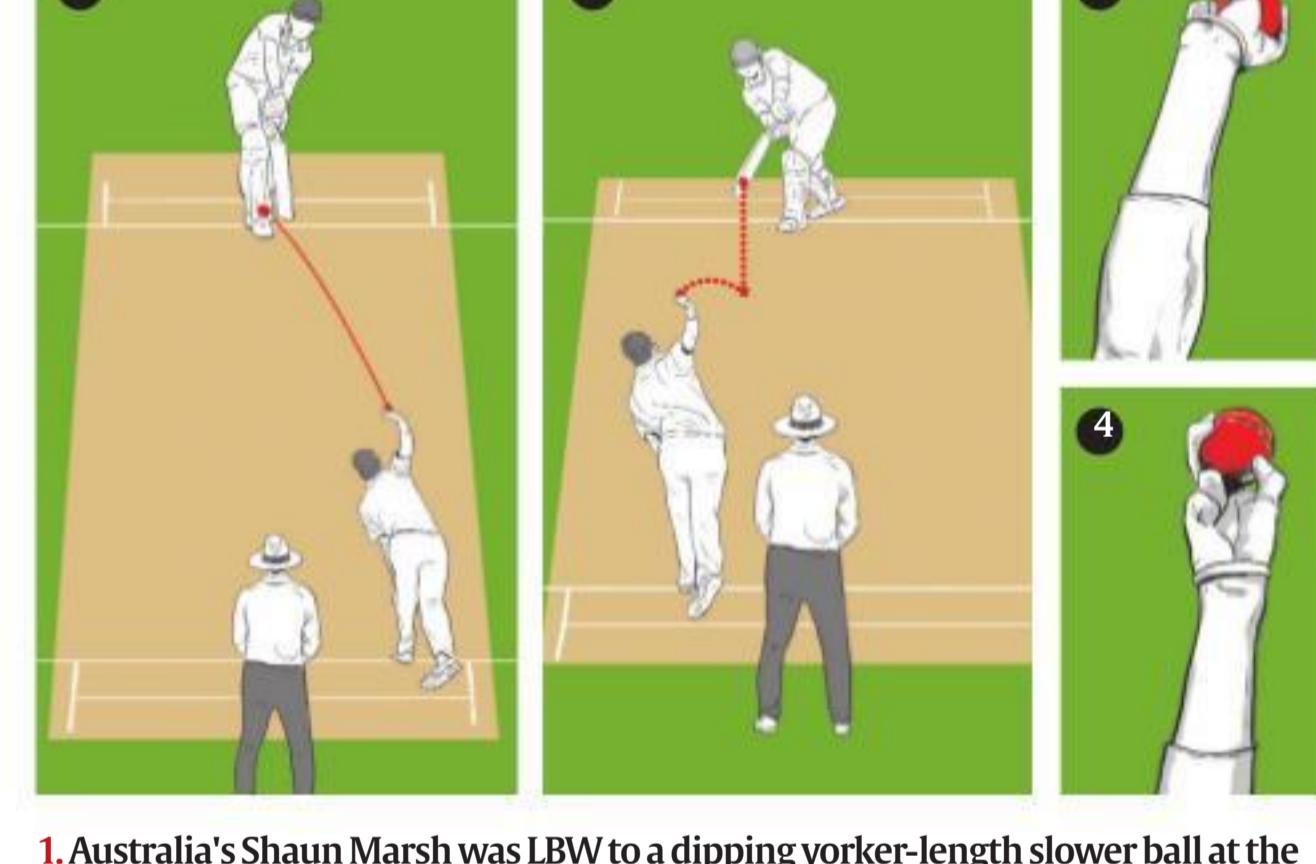
Interestingly, Bumrah does not have a variety of slower balls, like the knuckleball, or the one delivered from the side of the hand. He mostly spews the off-cutter, fingers cutting the side to ensure that it loops in the air, and invariably cuts into a right-handed batsman.

The mastery of lengths and angles too kicks in. The Marsh one was on a full length on mid-off and off, floating and swerving in the air. The Rizwan and Smith ones in the World Cup were more good length, landing outside the off-stump. The Robinson one was from around the stumps, angling in and then breaking back like an off-spinner. The Foakes one was on the fuller side of the good-length patch.

Bumrah lays traps, sometimes double-bluffs too. Before the Marsh ball, he would bring the cover to short cover, making the batsman second-guess that he might bowl a tempest outside off-stump. Robinson was fed the slower ball after a barrage of bouncers with a leg-side heavy field. For Foakes, he brought the mid-on and mid-off fielders slightly up, inviting him to drive. Most bowlers have a preferred length when bowling a specific delivery. Bumrah is unspoiled by preferences. He can rip a slower ball from any length, because he is exemplary with different lengths.

Though, the biggest reason his slower balls are so effective could be that he uses them sparingly. The ball to Marsh was only the second slower one Bumrah had attempted in the Test series. He doesn't need to resort to the slower one because he already has a quiver full of poisoned tipped arrows. The genius lies in the awareness, wisdom and intuition to pick the right weapon at the right time. Bumrah infallibly does this.

He doesn't need to resort to the slower one because he already has a quiver full of poisoned tipped arrows. The genius lies in the awareness, wisdom and intuition to pick the right weapon at the right time. Bumrah infallibly does this.



1. Australia's Shaun Marsh was LBW to a dipping yorker-length slower ball at the MCG in 2018; 2. In the 2nd Test in Vizag, England's Ben Foakes was out caught & bowled to a slower ball that pitched around the good length spot; 3. Bumrah's normal grip; 4. The grip when he bowls a slower ball. Illustrations: Suvajit Dey



Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah took nine wickets in the second Test against England in Vizag. PTI

When does Bumrah take a break?

VENKATA KRISHNA B
VISAKHAPATNAM, FEBRUARY 6

WITH A DECENT break before the third Test and the five-match series locked 1-1, the biggest concern for India is how their biggest match-winner Jasprit Bumrah shapes up in the next week.

India are yet to name the squad for the remaining three Tests. Though Bumrah is certain to make it, the lingering question is when to give him a rest. Last week, despite Mohammed Siraj bowling full throttle at the nets two days before the Test, India's think-tank decided to send him home from Vizag.

He could have avoided taking the flight to Vizag in the first place, which would have given him a few extra days to spend at home. But it was a decision they took at the eleventh hour, keeping the larger picture of workload in mind and it wasn't just that of Siraj, but also Bumrah. With both needed for the final Test in Dharamsala, India have to use them judiciously at Rajkot or Ranchi, where they will pair up again.

In the two Tests so far, apart from Ravichandran Ashwin on the fourth morning in Vizag, no Indian bowler has embraced the threat of Bazball as much as Bumrah. In both matches, it is Bumrah who has broken England's back. And after failing to find support from the other end in Hyderabad, he single-handedly demolished them in the first innings at Vizag before Ashwin played his part in the second innings.

For England, who seem to have an answer for everything that India throw up, they are yet to find a way to tackle Bumrah's magic deliveries and combating his reverse-swing would be their sole focus as they head to Abu

has delivered in a Test since his comeback. In the six home Tests he has featured so far, only in the first Test against England during the 2021 series has Bumrah bowled more overs than Vizag. After sending down 42 overs in Chennai, he was rested for the next Test.

Given Bumrah's importance, there is every reason for India to be concerned about his workload, particularly given the gruelling schedule ahead of them. Apart from the IPL, there is a T20 World Cup that follows soon after and then there are eight more Tests lined up this year, including four in Australia, where he would be needed much more. While Bumrah has featured in four consecutive Test matches in a series once each in Australia and England, it was before he went down with a career-threatening back injury.

While India have been handing him short bursts, at Vizag with Mukesh Kumar unable to create any sort of impact with either new or old ball, Rohit had to rush to Bumrah at least on a couple of occasions immediately after a spell. On day two, after a four-over spell, they had to turn to him after just three overs. It meant, at times, even Bumrah wasn't at his absolute best.

So far, Bumrah had been able to hunt in packs, but with Mohammed Shami not around and Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma out of favour, he is now carrying the pace department on his shoulders. At all times in this series, with England being at their aggressive best, Bumrah has picked up 15 wickets at an average of 10.66, which is largely down to how attacking he has been. That England are showing him due respect, even prepared to see out his spell – that they have not been able to always do it is a different story – is a testament to how they see Bumrah to be their only threat.

Decision time

With a nine-day gap before the third Test at Rajkot, with the series level at 1-1 and momentum by their side, playing Bumrah is tempting for the team management.

Dhabi to reunite with their families and enjoy a break.

"Bumrah bowled a fantastic spell of reverse-swing," head coach Brendon McCullum told BBC Sport. "Our guys have so much talent and quality, it's just a matter of ensuring they feel confident to make decisions and go all in on their strategies. We need to come up with some ways to counter that."

At the moment, it seems as if Bumrah is the lone trump-card India have in their hands to counter Bazball. And it is also the reason why the hosts are taking utmost care of their lead pacer. So much so that trainer S Rajnikant, who handled his rehabilitation, continues to look after him here. The question India are facing now is whether to rest Bumrah at Rajkot or at Ranchi.

Decision time
With a nine-day gap before the third Test at Rajkot, with the series level at 1-1 and momentum by their side, playing Bumrah is tempting for the team management.

Having drawn level, India understand the need to go hard at England at Rajkot and for that they need Bumrah, who delivered every time Rohit Sharma handed him the ball. Although he didn't show any signs of fatigue or struggle, he was sent down at Vizag is the most he

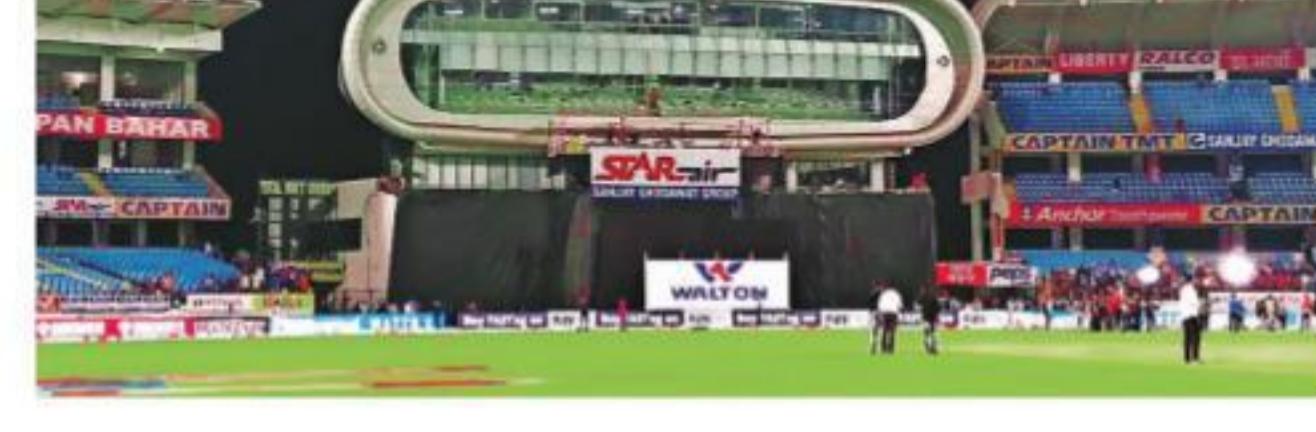
Another stadium to be named after administrator, this time it's Rajkot

RAHUL PANDEY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

ON TUESDAY, the Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) announced that it would rename its home venue in Khandevi, Rajkot, as the Niranjan Shah Stadium on February 14, a day before India and England take the field there for the third Test of the ongoing five-match series.

Having played 12 first-class games for Saurashtra in the 1960s and 70s, Shah is more renowned for having served as SCA secretary for almost four decades. He also held the post at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Niranjan's son Jaydev is the current president of the Saurashtra Cricket Association. Carnatic composer Tyagaraja.



Niranjan's son Jaydev is the current president of the Saurashtra Cricket Association.

Cricket Association (DDCA) President — has gates named after Virender Sehwag and Anjum Chopra, and stands after Virat Kohli and Gautam Gambhir, all of whom played cricket for both India and Delhi.

Elaborating on the announcement made of the Rajkot Stadium being rechristened after the former administrator, the SCA stated in a press release, "Most significant and valued contribution of Shri Niranjan Shah to the cricket of the region as well as at National and International levels must be very befittingly well acknowledged."

Saurashtra has a rich cricketing heritage: Ranjitsinhji, from whom the Ranji Trophy gets its name, to one of India's greatest all-rounders Vinoo Mankad, Karsan Ghavri — the first Indian pacer to nab 100 Test wickets — to current day stars Cheteshwar Pujara and Ravindra Jadeja.

Not just politicians and officials though, even music maestros have had stadiums named after them — Guwahati's Dr Bhupen Hazarika Cricket Stadium and Delhi's multi-purpose Thyagaraj Stadium, dedicated to

REUTERS
FEBRUARY 6

KANE WILLIAMSON scored his second century of the match as New Zealand dismissed South Africa for 162 before extending an already substantial lead to a mammoth 528 runs on the third day of the first test at Bay Oval on Tuesday.

The hosts will resume on 179 for four on day four after deciding not to enforce the follow-on on the inexperienced Proteas despite holding a first-innings lead of 349 runs when they bundled the tourists out before tea. Williamson's 109 from 132 deliveries on another sun-kissed day at Mount Maunganui made him only the fifth New Zealander to score a hundred in each innings of a test. The former Black Caps captain came to the crease after Dane Paterson had removed opener Tom Latham lbw for three in the fifth over of New Zealand's innings.

Youthful vigour
Scoring at a pace that appeared beyond the other batsmen, the 33-year-old brought up his 13th test half century off 75 balls and his 31st century with a single through the covers off the 125th delivery he faced.

As in the first innings, he had a life courtesy of Edward Moore halfway through his innings when the South African dropped a sitter off Paterson at backward square leg.

Moore made amends in the next over with a brilliant diving catch to remove Devon Conway for 29 off the spin of South Africa's test debutant captain Neil Brand.

A Brand catch off a Ruan de Swart de-



Kane Williamson scored 109 from 132 deliveries on another sun-kissed day at Mount Maunganui.

Reuters

Ivory ensured there would be no second-innings heroics for Rachin Ravindra, who scored 240 in the first but departed for 12.

Williamson pummelled the first six of his innings after reaching the century mark

but was stumped after advancing down the track in search of another five balls later to give Brand his eighth wicket of the match.

Daryl Mitchell will resume on day four unbeaten on 11 with Tom Blundell five not out alongside him as New Zealand look to make an all but unassailable position even stronger. "It's been a tough couple of days, I think we've seen enough of Kane now," said South Africa's Keegan Petersen.

"We've just still got to believe that we can get something out of this game."

The tourists, boasting only 51 caps between them as Cricket South Africa prioritises their Twenty20 competition (SA20), resumed on 80-4 and added only three runs to their tally when seamer Matt Henry struck with two wickets in three balls.

Petersen's knock of 45 extended his team's innings beyond the lunch break but all-rounder Ravindra had him caught off a rash shot and it was then just a case of mopping up for New Zealand.

"I think (we wanted to) give the big boys a bit of a rest and see if this wicket slows down or cracks up a little bit more," said Mitch Santner, explaining why the follow-on had not been imposed.

"Hopefully it starts to play some tricks," added the spinner, who took 3-34 in South Africa's first innings.

New Zealand have never beaten South Africa in a test series in nearly a century of trying. The second and final test in the series takes place in Hamilton from Feb. 13.

Brief scores: New Zealand 511 & 179 for 4 (Williamson 109, Mitchell 11*) lead South Africa 162 (Petersen 45, Henry 3-31, Santner 3-34) by 528 runs

Saharan: India's captain fantastic

The 171-run stand between skipper and Sachin for the fifth wicket helps India beat South Africa and enter U-19 World Cup final

PRATYUSH RAJ

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6