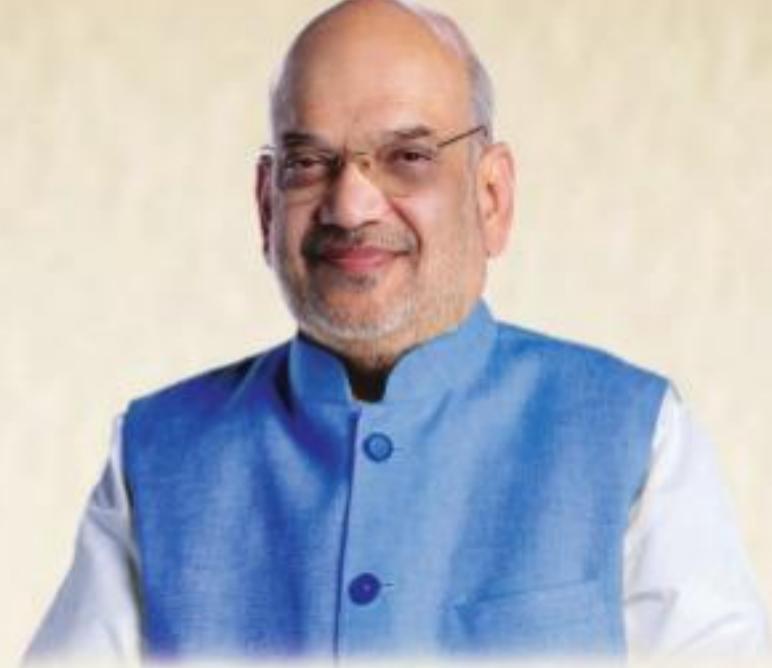




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Shri Amit Shah

Honourable Union Minister of Home Affairs and
Minister of Cooperation



Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

Honourable Union Minister of Health &
Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers

With the Vision of our
Honourable Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi

Under the Efficient Leadership of our
Honourable Union Minister of Home Affairs and
Minister of Cooperation

Shri Amit Shah

Along with the Constant Support of our

Honourable Union Minister of Health &
Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

And with the Progressive Efforts of
Shri Dileep Sanghani

Chairman, IFFCO

&

Dr. Uday Shanker Awasthi

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Dr. Uday Shanker Awasthi
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THE WORLD

PPP, PML-N REACH POWER-SHARING DEAL

to keep Imran and his party out of power



PML-N's Shehzad Sharif (left); PPP's Asif Ali Zardari. file

EXPLAINED

Can allies maintain precarious coalition?

THE DEAL to form a coalition government is based on conditional support from the Pakistan People's Party, that will review decisions on a case-by-case basis, a top PPP official said on Wednesday. Such an arrangement could make life difficult for the government, as the PPP is not taking cabinet positions. PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said that he turned down a shared prime-minister term, as he did not want to take up the top post without the people's mandate.

The PML-N won 75 seats while the PPP came third with 54 seats. Speaking at the press confer-

ence last night, Shehzad asserted that his party now has the "required numbers" with the PPP to

be in a position to form the next government as he thanked the leadership of the two parties for the positive conclusion to the talks.

Responding to a question about whether the PPP was getting any portfolios, Shehzad said that the Bilawal-led party has not demanded any ministry from the first day. *The News International* reported. "It would not be an easy ride. We will work together to bring this country on the path of development and progress," Shehzad Sharif said.

Though details were not provided, sources said PPP was still reluctant to be part of the government as it agreed to have its candidate as the President, Chairman of the Senate, and governors in Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and chief minister in Balochistan. The PML-N would have full charge of the federal government with the prime minister and speaker. It will also get governors in the Sindh and Balochistan provinces.

Meanwhile, in a post on X, 71-year-old Khan's party claimed that the public never gave them the mandate for the premiership.

Khan's sister Aleema Khan said he has termed the February 8 elections "mother of all rigging". Aleema met Khan at Adiala Jail Tuesday.

IT WILL NOT BE AN EASY RIDE, but we will work together, says Shehzad

SC rejects plea seeking annulment of elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 21

PAKISTAN'S SUPREME Court on Wednesday dismissed as a "publicity stunt" a petition seeking new elections over alleged irregularities in the February 8 polls, clearing the way for the formation of a coalition government to end the political uncertainty in country.

The apex court also imposed a fine on the petitioner, a former army officer, over his failure to appear before the court.

Retired Brigadier Ali Khan last week urged the apex court to order new elections within 30 days to be held under the direct supervision and oversight of the judiciary "to ensure fairness, transparency and accountability".

He had also sought a stay order to stop the formation of a new government till the case was decided.

However, the petitioner failed to attend two consecutive hearings. Subsequently, a three-member bench led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, and comprising of Justice

MARYAM NAWAZ SIGNALS CONTINUING CRACKDOWN ON PTI

Lahore: Pakistan's Punjab chief minister-designate of PML-N Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday held a parliamentary meeting and hinted at the continuation of a crackdown against jailed former premier Imran Khan's party and also vowed to deliver on every front. She said her red line is taking law and order at hand on political grounds, referring to the PTI's planned agitation in connection with Imran's allegation of poll rigging. PTI

Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hilari, disposed of the plea and imposed a fine of Pakistani Rs 500,000 on the petitioner after being informed that a notice had been served to him appear in the court.

Calling it a "publicity stunt", CJP Isa observed that Brig (retd) Ali Khan had stated he could not appear before the court as he was in Bahrain.



The site of an Israeli airstrike in Rafah on Wednesday. Reuters

UN aid body says food to north Gaza halted amid rising fears of starvation

Families limit themselves to one meal, mix animal, bird fodder to bake bread

ASSOCIATED PRESS
RAFAH, FEBRUARY 21

THE WORLD Food Program said Tuesday it has paused deliveries of food to isolated northern Gaza because of increasing chaos across the territory, hiking fears of potential starvation. A study by the UN children's agency warned that one in six children in the north are acutely malnourished.

Entry of aid trucks into the besieged territory has been more than halved in the past two weeks, according to UN figures. Overwhelmed UN and relief workers said intake of trucks and distribution have been crippled by Israeli failure to ensure convoys' safety amid its bombardment and ground offensive, and by a breakdown in security, with hungry Palestinians frequently overwhelming trucks to take food.

They describe famine-like conditions, in which families limit themselves to one meal a day and often resort to mixing animal and bird fodder with grains to bake bread.

"The situation is beyond your imagination," said Soad Abu Hussein, a widow and mother of five children sheltering in a school in Jabaliya refugee camp.

U.S., RUSSIA TO SPEAK AT U.N. TOP COURT ON ISRAELI OCCUPATION

The Hague: The United States and Russia will present arguments on Wednesday in proceedings at the U.N.'s highest court examining the legality of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), also known as the World Court, was asked in 2022 by the U.N. General Assembly to issue a non-binding opinion on the legal consequences of the occupation. REUTERS

Israeli troops first moved into it in late October. Large swaths of the city have been reduced to rubble, but several hundred thousand Palestinians remain largely cut off from aid.

Heavy fighting and airstrikes have flared in the past two days in areas of northern Gaza that the Israeli military said had been largely cleared of Hamas weeks ago. The military Tuesday ordered the evacuation of two neighborhoods on Gaza City's southern edge.

The north, including Gaza City, has been isolated since

test of time, Schoonmaker, the editor of his films, is no less so. She got to know Michael Powell through Scorsese, and went on to marry the former, so who better to shine a light on their relationship than her?

EU APPROVES NEW SANCTIONS PACKAGE AGAINST RUSSIA

Brussels: EU members approved a 13th package of Ukraine-related sanctions against Russia on Wednesday, banning nearly 200 entities and individuals accused of helping Moscow procure weapons or of involvement in kidnapping Ukrainian children. The new package will see 193 entities and individuals added to the list of those banned from traveling to the EU or doing business there. REUTERS

Moscow has made small gains in recent months and claimed a major victory with the siege on Avdiivka in eastern Donetsk. While still motivated to fight Russian occupation, they spoke of the challenges of holding off a larger and better supplied enemy as military support for Ukraine from the West slows.

Another commander in the 59th Brigade, who only gave his first name Hryhoriy said:

"Weapons break, and if there is no possibility of bringing them more ammunition or changing their weapons, then you understand what this leads to."

The Ukrainian and Russian defence ministries didn't immediately respond to requests for comment on the state of the play on the frontlines and how both sides intend to prosecute the war.



Thelma Schoonmaker at the 74th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin on Tuesday. Reuters

about the documentary, apart from Scorsese's carefully-crafted narration, are the clips from the Powell and Pressburger pantheon, as well as from Scorsese's films: for those who haven't watched many of their movies, those snippets are a real treat.

During the 30s and 40s, the very British Michael Powell and the Hungarian Emeric Pressburger

thrived, and their films, under their banner of *The Archers*, found eager viewers flocking to theatres. During World War 2 and after, they hit a low, and quite astonishingly soon, they were forgotten. It is only when Scorsese came looking for them sometime in the 70s, and made his admiration for the duo well known, that interest in their films was rekindled.

"No one knew who they were before Marty resurrected them", says Schoonmaker. "In his autobiography, Michael (Powell passed away in 1990) said that after meeting Scorsese and basking in the evident warmth of his regard, 'the blood started flowing in his veins again'. Powell was the more forceful of the two, Pressburger was quieter, but both worked really well, picking on each other's strengths.

The films, and their makers, reached cult status shortly after, and since then there have been several retrospectives of their work, something that Schoonmaker, and David Hinton, the director of *Made In England* are thrilled about. Scorsese called

them the only independent-minded directors who managed to make their kind of films while staying within the system, and you can see what he means when we see clips of their films-within-the-film which celebrates their work. It is a quality that Scorsese, and other directors who blossomed in the 70s – Steven Spielberg, Brian De Palma, among others – wanted to incorporate in their own work.

I ask Schoonmaker about her process of collaborating with Scorsese. Are there any disagreements? "No, not really", she said. "We screen quite a few times, more than most people in the business, and Marty listens to what I have to say. I have the greatest job in the world". She does bring up the instance of *Raging Bull*, arguably Robert De Niro's greatest role, "where we had shot several scenes, and I wanted to go with warmer scenes but Marty wanted him to be colder. And he was right", she laughs. "It is the film I learnt the most from him."

On frontlines, Ukrainian troops face mounting odds

REUTERS
KRAMATORSK, FEBRUARY 21

AS THE Ukraine war enters its third year, the infantry of 59th Brigade are confronting a bleak reality: they're running out of soldiers and ammunition to resist their Russian invaders.

One platoon commander who goes by his call sign "Tygr" estimated that just 60-70% of the several thousand men in the brigade at the start of the conflict were still serving. The rest had been killed, wounded or signed off for reasons such as old age or illness.

Heavy casualties at the hands of Russian forces have been compounded by dreadful conditions

on the eastern front, with frozen soil turning into thick mud in unseasonably warm climate, playing havoc with soldiers' health.

"The weather is rain, snow, rain, snow. People get ill with simple flu or angina... They're out of action... and there is nobody to replace them," said a company commander in the brigade.

"The most immediate problem in every unit is lack of people."

On the cusp of the second anniversary of its February 24 invasion, Vladimir Putin's Russia is in the ascendancy in a conflict that combines attritional trench combat reminiscent of World War One with high-tech drone warfare that's sending tens of thousands of machines into the skies above.



A Ukrainian soldier with a drone in Donetsk region, earlier in February. Reuters

Moscow has made small gains in recent months and claimed a major victory with the siege on

S Africa sets May 29 date for polls, most pivotal after apartheid

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAPE TOWN, FEBRUARY 21

SOUTH AFRICA will hold pivotal national elections May 29 as polls show the ruling African National Congress could lose its majority for the first time since it came to power with the fall of apartheid 30 years ago.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the date Tuesday as Africa's most developed economy faces a myriad of problems under his ANC party. They include record unemployment, an electricity crisis that's led to crippling blackouts for homes and businesses, and widespread voter mistrust after a stream of corruption allegations.

Several polls predict that the party once widely admired across the world and led by Nelson Mandela will slip below 50% of the

vote for the first time since it won South Africa's first all-race election in 1994 to lead a new democracy after end of white minority rule.

If it loses its majority, the ANC would need to enter into a coalition to remain in government and keep Ramaphosa – a political protege of Mandela – as president for a second and final five-year term. South Africa has never had a coalition at national level.

South Africans vote for a party in a general election. Parties are then allocated places in the 400-seat Parliament according to their share of the vote, and lawmakers elect the president.

She's here at the 74th Berlinale, speaking about the abiding influence the films of Powell and Pressburger had on Martin Scorsese, who received the Golden Bear award for Lifetime Achievement. If Scorsese is considered a legend, with a body of work that has stood the

test of time, Schoonmaker, the editor of his films, is no less so. She got to know Michael Powell through Scorsese, and went on to marry the former, so who better to shine a light on their relationship than her?

As a child, says Scorsese in the two-hour long documentary, *Made In England: The Films Of Powell And Pressburger*, he was an asthmatic so he couldn't go out and play. Confined to his chair, and the TV set in the living room, his first encounter with these films was nothing short of magic. Hollywood films were not available on TV, but British films were, and somewhere during those endless repeats of *The Red Shoes*, *The Life And Death Of Colonel Blimp*, *Black Narcissus* and others, the young Scorsese knew what he was going to be when he grew up.

"Marty was born to be a filmmaker", says Schoonmaker, "and the Powell-Pressburger films showed him the way. He loved them because there were no heroes, or villains in their films, just people like us". The best part

about the documentary, apart from Scorsese's carefully-crafted narration, are the clips from the Powell and Pressburger pantheon, as well as from Scorsese's films: for those who haven't watched many of their movies, those snippets are a real treat.

During the 30s and 40s, the very British Michael Powell and the Hungarian Emeric Pressburger

thrived, and their films, under their banner of *The Archers*, found eager viewers flocking to theatres. During World War 2 and after, they hit a low, and quite astonishingly soon, they were forgotten. It is only when Scorsese came looking for them sometime in the 70s, and made his admiration for the duo well known, that interest in their films was rekindled.

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**Fali Conscience
Nariman**

1929-2024

Jurist & humanist secured many a verdict shaping modern India

COOMI KAPOOR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

FALI SAM Nariman, the exceptional jurist and humanist, a colossus in the courts who helped secure many a landmark verdict in modern India, whose moral authority steered and even shaped the judiciary, passed away in his sleep at his home in New Delhi an hour after midnight Wednesday.

Nariman was 95.

The family issued a statement that the burial will be held February 22 at the Parsi Arangab and a prayer meeting at the Parsi Anjuman in New Delhi at 4 pm the same day.

Nariman, perhaps among the last of a distinguished group of legal luminaries, including Nani Palkhivala, C K Daphtry, Ashok Desai, Homi Seervai and Soli Sorabji, was universally respected. He was unafraid of freely voicing his opinion on decisions taken by successive governments and Supreme Courts when he felt that they had crossed the line. He vigorously took up cudgels on behalf of freedom of speech and fundamental rights.

In his last book *You Must Know your Constitution*, published just four months ago, Nariman warned that governments with huge majorities led by populist leaders tend to



At Nariman's home in New Delhi Wednesday. On the wall is a photo of him with wife Bapsi who died in 2020. Anil Sharma

**There can't be another
Fali: Nation pays tribute**

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu mourned the passing of the "titian among legal luminaries"; Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar called it an "unbridgeable loss," and his legacy and contribution a "guiding light to the nation." Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was

"among the most outstanding legal minds and intellectuals" who "devoted his life to making

justice accessible to common citizens." Supreme Court, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud called him "great giant of an intellectual."

Fali Nariman's death early Wednesday evoked an outpouring of grief, respect and a deep sense of loss with voices — cutting across party lines — joining in to mourn his passing.

From Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge; Sonia and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**RELATED REPORTS**

PAGES 9, 15

CBSE to conduct test run of open-book examinations in select schools this year

**VIDHEEsha
KUNTAMALLA**
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

THE CENTRAL Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is considering Open Book Examinations (OBE) for students of Classes 9 to 12 in line with the

recommendations of the new National Curriculum Framework released last year, *The Indian Express* has learned.

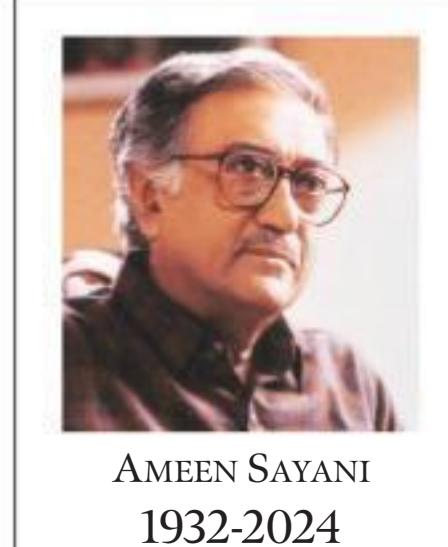
According to sources, the Board has proposed a pilot run of open-book tests in a few schools for English, Mathematics and Science for Classes 9 and 10 and English, Mathematics and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Biology for Classes 11 and 12 later this year to evaluate time taken by students to complete such tests and stakeholders' response.

In an open-book exam, students are allowed to carry their notes, textbooks, or other study material and refer to them during the examination. However, OBEs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



AMEEN SAYANI
1932-2024

The voice of radio's golden age

SUANSHU KHURANA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

"NAMASKAR BEHNO aur bhaiyon, main aapka dost Ameen Sayani bol raha hoon," announced Ameen Sayani in 1952 from his underground outpost of Radio Ceylon in Sri Lanka and had a newly independent nation in a thrall.

Almost instantly, the warmth

and affability of a voice from the radio interrupted the sanctioned solemnity and sternness that came in the guise of authoritative baritones, perfect pronunciations, and diction — all of which were associated with state-owned All India Radio (AIR).

Sayani's was a salutation in Hindustani, with all the etiquette in place; what he spoke was friendly yet cultured, simply told,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CENTRE CALLS FOR CALM, TALKS**22-yr-old from Punjab dies as Haryana uses force to stop farmers**

Protest march on hold; CM Mann promises action over death

**KANCHAN VASDEV &
NAVJEEVAN GOPAL**
SHAMBHU, KHANAURI,
FEBRUARY 21

A 22-YEAR-OLD Punjab farmer died of a head injury Wednesday at the state's Khanauri border crossing in Sangrur district when Haryana security personnel used teargas shells — and according to farmers, even rubber bullets — against them as they set out on their 'Dilli Chalo' march to seek a minimum support price (MSP) guarantee.

Punjab officials said a total of 26 people were injured at the Khanauri and Shambhu border crossings which had been barri-



Farmers at Khanauri on Punjab-Haryana border Wednesday. Jasbir Malhi

caded by Haryana Police to stop the march.

Shubhkaran Singh, a youth from Ballooh village in Bathinda district, became the first casualty in the protest by farmers after he died of a head injury. He was declared "brought dead" at the Rajindra Hospital in Patiala.

It was not clear what caused Shubhkaran's head injury.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Cabinet clears 8% increase in sugarcane FRP

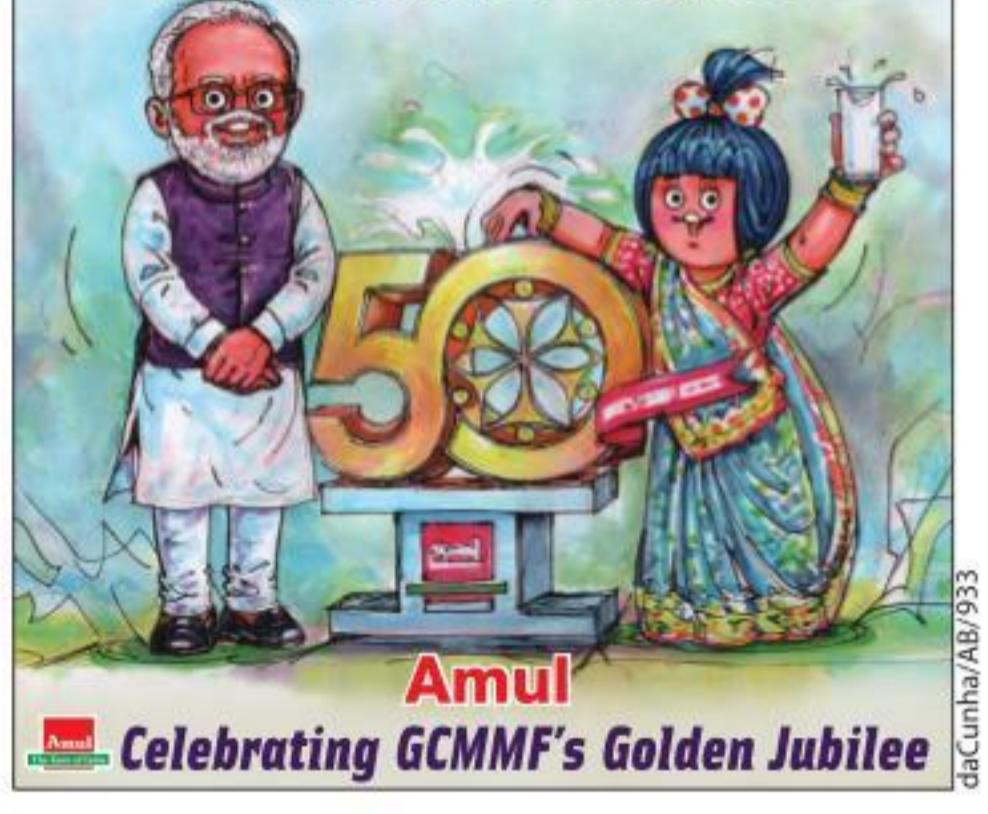
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

THE CENTRE Wednesday decided to hike the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane to Rs 340 per quintal for Sugar Season 2024-25 (October-September) from the existing Rs 315 per quintal.

A decision to this effect was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The announcement is significant especially for Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, the two biggest sugarcane growing states which are also among states

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**A Golden Present.
An Amrit Future.****Opp pact in UP: SP & Co from 63 seats, Cong 17**

out of 80 seats in the state, leaving the remaining 63 seats for the SP and its smaller allies.

In MP, the Congress has agreed to allot the Khajuraho seat to the SP and will field its candidates from the remaining 28 constituencies in the state.

Congress sources said that All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra played a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

22-yr-old Punjab farmer killed

DIG (Patiala range) Harcharan Singh Bhullar told *The Indian Express*, "While the exact details will be made available by doctors, the information we have is that a rubber bullet hit him (Shubhkaran). We have sent a DSP to coordinate with the doctors."

Citing the preliminary information he received, Bhullar said, "A group of protesters tried to create a smokescreen by setting stubble on fire and security personnel hurled tear gas shells and fired rubber bullets."

Rajindra Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Harnam Singh Rekhi said, "Shubhkaran was brought dead from Khanauri with an injury on the back of the head." He said it could be a bullet injury, but the exact cause of the injury would be known only after a post-mortem examination. On a doctor saying that a fall after being hit by a bullet may have caused the injury, Dr Rekhi said, "(This) cannot be ruled out."

The death of the youth

prompted farmer leaders to put the protest march on hold until Friday. Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee general secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher, who was present at Shambhu border, said they would "review" the situation Friday.

Later in the evening, Jagjit Singh Dallewal, president of the BKU Ekta (Sidhpur), who had been struck by a teargas shell, was admitted to the Rajindra Hospital in Patiala.

Meanwhile, Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda called for peace, and a return to the talk table.

"After the fourth round (of talks), the government is ready to discuss all issues like the MSP demand, crop diversification, stubble issue and FIRs (against farmers). I again invite the farmer leaders for discussion. It is important for us to maintain peace," Munda said.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann vowed to pun-

ish those responsible for Shubhkaran's death. "I have seen the video of the incident. We will conduct an investigation and register an FIR against the guilty officers."

The Indian Express tried reaching out to Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij and DGP SS Kapur for comments but they were not available.

In a video statement on X about the Khanauri incident, Haryana Police AIG Manisha Chaudhary said the "protesters surrounded the police from all sides, set fire to paddy stubble by sprinkling chilli powder, attacked the policemen using sticks and maces and indulged in stone pelting" leaving "12 personnel seriously injured". There was no mention of Shubhkaran's death in the statement.

Patiala Deputy Commissioner SA Paray said at least 26 people were injured - 17 at Khanauri and 9 at Shambhu. Four were referred to the Rajindra Hospital in Patiala,

for the maximum number of Lok Sabha seats.

Briefing the press Wednesday night, R&B Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said the FRP of Rs 340 per quintal will be paid at the sugar recovery rate of 10.25 per cent and for each increase of recovery by 0.1 percent, farmers will get an additional price of Rs 3.32.

A statement said, "This is a historic price of sugarcane which is about 8% higher than FRP of sugarcane for the current season 2023-24. The revised FRP will be applicable w.e.f. 01 Oct 2024."

"At 10% higher than A2+FL cost of sugarcane, the new FRP will ensure prosperity for sugarcane farmers. It is noteworthy that India is already paying the highest price of sugarcane in the world and despite that, the Government is ensuring the world's cheapest sugar to domestic consumers of Bharat," it stated.

"This decision of the Central Government is going to benefit more than 5 crore sugarcane farmers (including family members)

sugars) and lakhs of other persons involved in the sugar sector. It confirms fulfilment of Modi ki Guarantee to double farmers' income," the statement said.

"With this approval, sugar mills will pay FRP of sugarcane @ ₹340/quintal at a recovery of 10.25%. With each increase of recovery by 0.1%, farmers will get an additional price of ₹3.32 while the same amount will be deducted on reduction of recovery by 0.1%.

However, ₹315.10/quintal is the minimum price of sugarcane which is at a recovery of 9.5%. Even if sugar recovery is less, farmers are assured of FRP @ ₹ 315.10/quintal."

"In the last 10 years, Modi Sarkar has ensured that farmers get Right Price of their Crop in Right Time, 99.5% cane dues of previous sugar season 2022-23 and 99.9% of all other sugar seasons are already paid to farmers leading to the lowest cane arrears pending in the history of the sugar sector. With timely policy interventions by the Government,

Earlier, at Shambhu, farmers leaders including Pandher and Dallewal, along with their supporters, moved towards the border while calling for restraint. It was then that teargas shells were fired in their direction.

As he was led out, Dallewal said, "We were not armed. There was no provocation. But they (Haryana personnel) started hurling teargas shells at us. This is what they have been doing, lobbing shells at youths. How do they say then that the youths have been provoking them? What they are doing is not done," he said.

Before the news of the youth's death at Khanauri, the farmers leaders, who had given a call for the march to start at 11 am, had engaged in talks with officials at the Shambhu border for a fifth round of talks with Central ministers. They stormed out of the meeting after learning of Shubhkaran's death.

cultivation in the non-forest land, waste land/ range land/ non-arable as well as forest land 'Non-Forest Wasteland/ Rangeland/ Non-arable Land' and 'Fodder Production from Forest Land' as well as in degraded forest land."

"The Livestock Insurance programme has been simplified. The beneficiary share of the premium for the farmers has been reduced and it will be 15% as against the current beneficiary share of 20%, 30%, 40% and 50%. Remaining amount of the premium will be shared by the Centre and the State at 60:40 for all states, 90:10. The number of animals to be insured has also been increased to 10 cattle unit instead of 5 cattle unit for cattle, sheep and goat," it stated.

The Cabinet also approved a proposal of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation for continuation of "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme" with total outlay of Rs. 4,100 crore for 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

● Fali Conscience Nariman: Secured many a verdict shaping modern India

slowly bend the written and unwritten rules which condition the correct functioning of a liberal democracy.

Nariman's uncompromising rectitude first came to public attention when on June 26, 1975 he resigned his post as Additional Solicitor General hours after then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had declared the Emergency. He was the only senior government law officer to do so.

During the Emergency, he developed a special bond with this newspaper and its late owner Ramnath Goenka, who lived under the constant threat of the closure of his newspaper chain with a vindictive Gandhi government filing dozens of cases all over the country.

At one point, Nariman suggested to Goenka that maybe "enough is enough" — and that he should find a way out — but Goenka was insistent and Nariman rose to stand by him, conjuring "out-of-the-box" legal defences for *The Indian Express* until the Emergency was finally lifted in March 1977.

The senior counsel would once again stand by the Express in 1980-84 when then Delhi Lt Governor Jagmohan sought to demolish a section of the Express building. His special relationship with *The Indian Express* continued until his death.

Despite being based in Burma, his schooling was in India, in Jesuit institutions, Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, and St Xavier's College, Mumbai.

Years later, when he was the government counsel for Gujarat, Nariman was tasked with defending the construction of the Narmada dam against a PIL filed by Medha Patkar and others. Gujarat law officers were taken aback when one day he angrily and abruptly returned the brief to them saying he was extremely upset over reported violent incidents against Christian missionaries in the state.

Some months ago, I asked jokingly why I was used as the intermediary. Was it because we were fellow Parsis? He simply laughed

and said, "Nonsense."

He was unfailingly warm with a wonderful sense of humour. It came as a surprise, therefore, to discover that some of his most heavyweight clients and fellow lawyers were, in fact, so much in awe of him that they felt slightly intimidated and fearful in his presence.

He was said to have a short fuse and did not suffer fools gladly. His clients were also terrified of the little pug by his side during briefings. Despite being warned not to pat the dog, some injudiciously did so to their cost. The master was never apologetic over his pet's behaviour.

Nariman, initially, specialised in corporate law and was lead counsel in several high-profile corporate battles, including the civil litigation against Union Carbide arising out of the 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy. He would later acknowledge he made a mistake in accepting the brief.

The path-breaking cases in which he was involved, included the Golaknath case, TMA Pai Foundation case and Jayalalithaa's disproportionate assets case. He fought on behalf of the Supreme Court Bar Association for the right of judges to be appointed only by judges, but conceded in later years that the collegium system had failed. However, he repeatedly flagged the need for the judiciary to be insulated from political pressure.

Nariman is survived by his son, former Supreme Court Justice, Rohinton Nariman, whose proud father always acknowledged that his son was far more knowledgeable than he in the Zoroastrian scriptures; his daughter Anaheeta as well as his daughter-in-law Sanaya and granddaughters.

When his wife, Bapsi Nariman, a masterchef of a cook and writer of many popular cook books, passed away in 2020, Nariman phoned me the next day to graciously thank and say that "Bapsi would have been delighted by her obit if she were still alive."

I can only hope that my tribute to Fali Uncle would meet his exacting standards if he were alive.

Like most Parsi lawyers of his day, Nariman, after completing his legal degree from the Government Law College Mumbai, began his career in the chambers of the legendary Sir Jamshed Kanga, though his immediate senior was Kharshedji Bhabha. He joked that he had "half a chair" in the crowded extended chamber. He was part of an earlier generation of lawyers largely from the Bombay High Court who judged the standing of an advocate not in terms of the fees charged but their contributions in shaping the law and legal craftsmanship.

Nariman, initially, specialised in corporate law and was lead counsel in several high-profile corporate battles, including the civil litigation against Union Carbide arising out of the 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy. He would later acknowledge he made a mistake in accepting the brief.

He served for many years on the International Commission of Jurists and was its chairperson from 1995 to 1997. He headed the committee to examine how racial discrimination affected the awarding of death penalties in the USA, with the accused not provided with proper legal representation, nor a fair jury selection process.

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● There can't be another Fali: Nation pays tribute

Rahul Gandhi; ex-president Ram Nath Kovind and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik and Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin, tributes poured in from across the nation.

"Fali Nariman's passing is a tremendous loss for *The Indian Express* and for me personally,"

said Viveck Goenka, chairman,

Express Group. "His association

with us started with Ramnath Goenka and the Emergency, but it did not end there. His relationship with the *Indian Express* deepened over the years and was beyond that of lawyer and client — he was more like Ramnathji's kindred spirit. Fali took no fees from the Express, and always said it was because he believed that the paper continues to uphold the values of Ramnathji, values that need constant vigil and ever-

spirited defence.

"We have lost an intellectual giant, a titan of the law who epitomized intellect combined with dignity, grace and an uncompromising commitment to justice. He and his work will remain an inspiration — and a guiding light — for all those who believe in the cause of a free press and its role in securing the democratic rights of our citizens. May his soul rest in peace," Goenka added.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta recalled the professional as well as personal rapport he had with the jurist. "The country has lost the epitome of what righteousness stood for. The legal fraternity is intellectually poorer today. Such intellectual giants do not die. They remain immortal through their contribution. There cannot be and will not be another Fali Nariman," Mehta said.

● SP, Cong alliance in UP, MP

"crucial role" in resolving the standoff between the two INDIA parties by speaking with SP national president Akhilesh Yadav over the phone to clinch the deal.

The SP-Congress seat-sharing pact would come as a shot in the arm to the beleaguered INDIA bloc which has been lurching from crisis to crisis.

"Following our discussion, it has been decided that the Congress would contest 17 seats in UP. On the remaining 63 seats, Samajwadi Party and other parties of INDIA bloc would declare their candidates to fight and defeat BJP," AICC general secretary Avinash Pande told a joint press conference along with UP Congress chief Ajay Rai, state SP chief Naresh Uttam and SP national spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary.

While thanking AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Akhilesh, Pandey highlighted Priyanka's role in forging their alliance, saying it proved to be "decisive". "We would specially like to thank Priyanka Gandhi ji for playing a crucial role in finalising the alliance and for her efforts to bring all such forces together which can defeat BJP," he said.

The 17 seats allotted to the Congress include Raebareli, Amethi, Kanpur, Fatehpur Sikri, Bangaon, Saharanpur, Prayagraj, Maharranjan, Varanasi, Amroha, Jhansi, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad, Mathura, Sitapur, Barabanki and Deoria.

The SP will retain the Lucknow and Faizabad seats along with most of the constituencies in the western UP region barring Saharanpur, Mathura, Ghaziabad and Bulandshahr.

Naresh Uttam said, "For social harmony in the country and to end social and economic inequality, Samajwadi Party and Congress have decided seat-sharing."

He said that Akhilesh would decide the candidates in 63 seats left for the SP under the deal.

Ajay Rai said, "The way our leader Priyanka Gandhi is working hard, it has given us strength and we will make all efforts to fight from the 17 seats."

On Akhilesh's statement that he would join Rahul's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, which is currently traversing UP, only after the conclusion of his party's seat-sharing with the Congress, Pande said the SP supremo had said earlier that he would join the Yatra in Amethi or Raebareli. He said since the Yatra has crossed these two belts and would now resume from west UP on February 24, the Congress has informed the SP about Rahul's route map ahead.

Akhilesh would now decide about his plan to join the Yatra, he said.

● Kannadiga staff details

and other parts of the state.

The committee will discuss new rules to ensure that Kannadigas are preferred when employment is provided. "We will discuss how the rules should be for MNCs and for industries of the state," T. Gangadagi said.

During discussions on the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development (Amendment) Bill — which mandates 60 per cent Kannada in signboards of all business establishments in the state — at the Legislative Council on Tuesday, the minister had first revealed the state government's proposal.

Failure to comply with the rules could lead to the cancellation of an establishment's licence, the minister said.

Information Technology and Bio-technology minister Priyanka Kharge pointed out that there are already laws in the state to ensure employment is provided to those who have lost land for projects as well as to make sure Kannadigas get preference in employment.

"Whenever there is a discussion on investment with companies, we always insist that Kannadigas should be preferred," he said.

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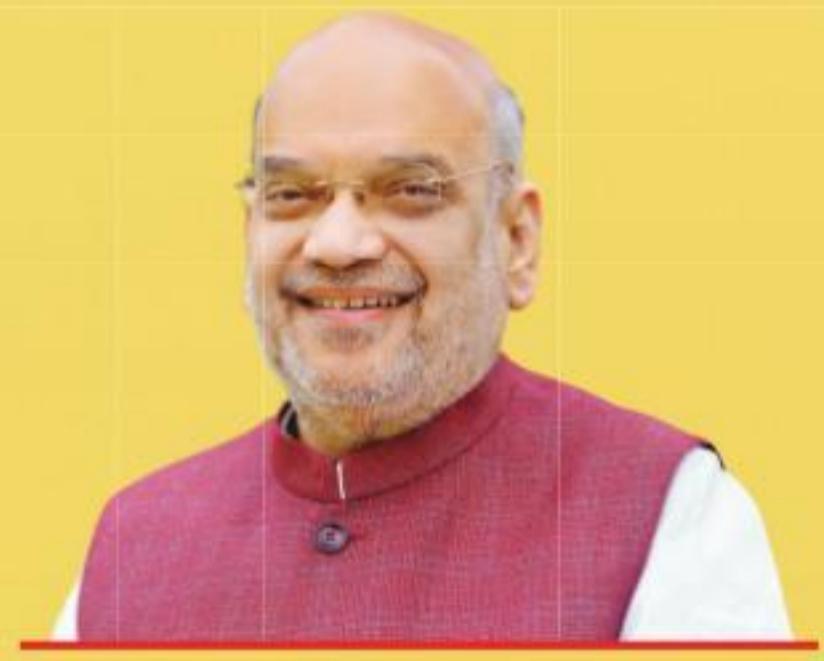
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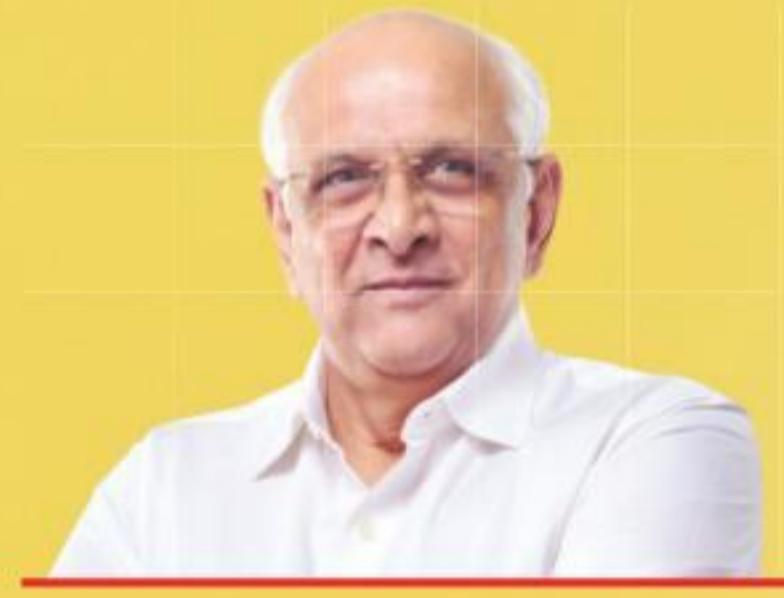
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Shri Amitbhai Shah
Honourable Minister of Home Affairs &
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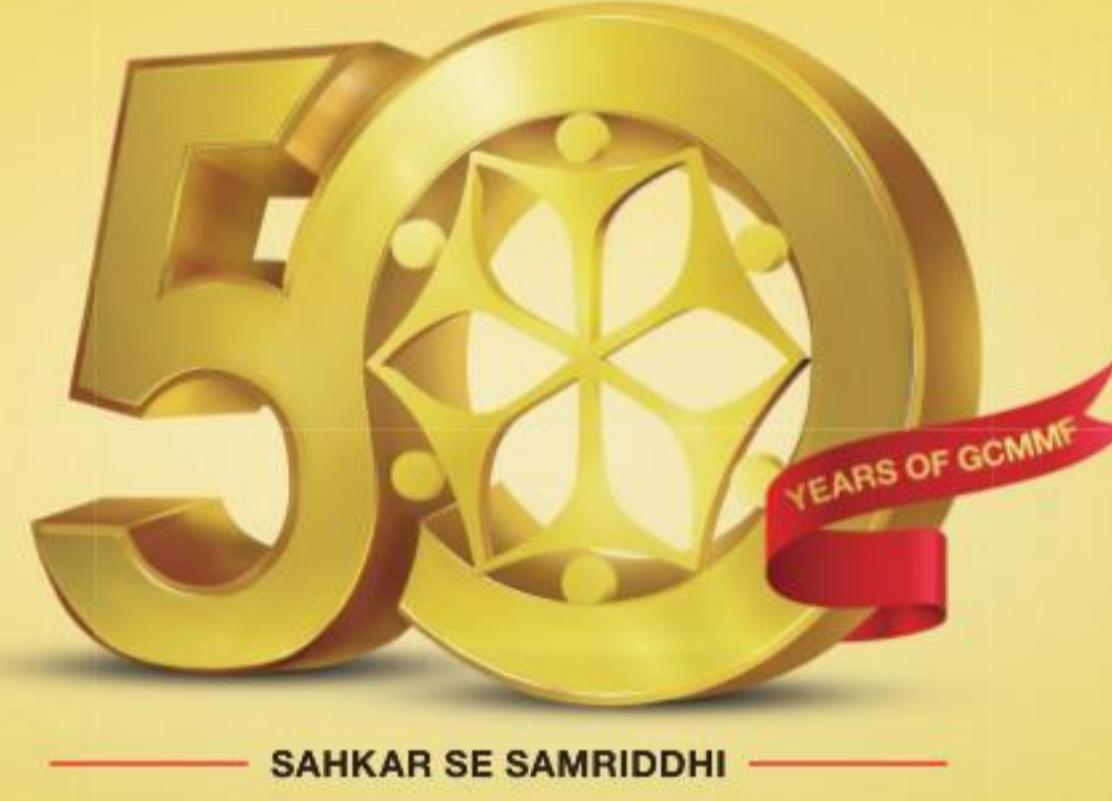


Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel
Honourable Chief Minister,
Government of Gujarat

IT TAKES THE WORLD'S
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TO MAKE INDIA THE WORLD'S
LARGEST MILK PRODUCER.

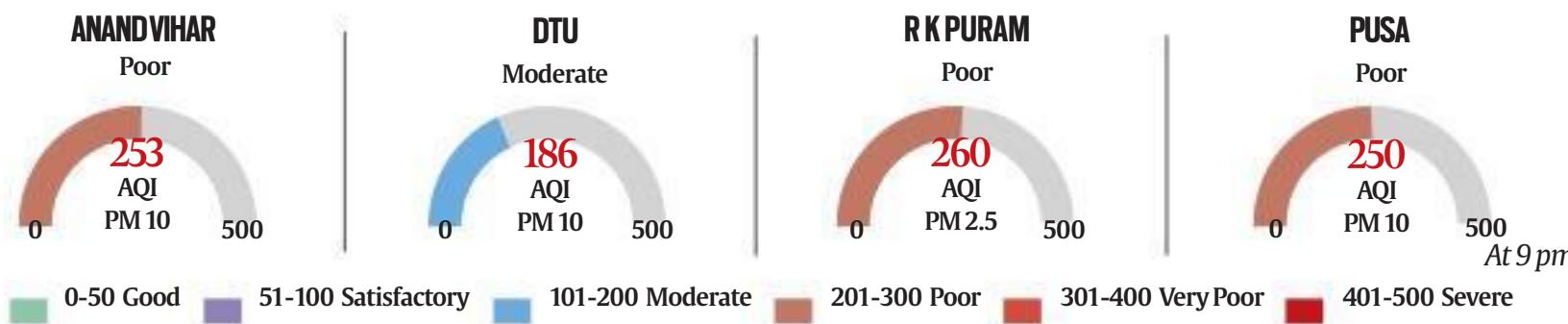
On the occasion of 50 years of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, Amul & 36 lac women farmers warmly welcome & felicitate **Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi.**

Every morning 36 lac women milk farmers bring in milk worth ₹ 200 crores that is converted into butter, ghee, buttermilk, cheese, ice creams, chocolates, health beverages and several other delicious & healthy products. Empowered by the cooperative that strengthens, respects & brings prosperity to the women & the Taste of India to over 140 crore Indians. Bringing alive the vision of Amrit Kaal and looking ahead to Amul being the dairy to the world.



22nd February, 2024 | Narendra Modi Stadium,
10:00 A.M. Ahmedabad





S K Y W A T C H

FORECAST: February 22

 Partly cloudy sky
 MAX: 25 0.5°C below normal | MIN: 11 0.8°C below normal

SECURITY AT DELHI BORDERS TIGHTENED AS PUNJAB FARMERS RESUME 'DILLI CHALO' MARCH

Little respite as traffic woes continue

Traffic snarl on the Ring Road near Sarai Kale Khan on Wednesday night. *Tashi Tobgyal*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

DELHI'S BARRICADED borders with Gurgaon and Ghaziabad saw snaking lines of vehicles on Wednesday as farmers from Punjab resumed their 'Dilli Chalo' march, following their rejection of the Centre's five-year minimum support price (MSP) proposal.

Though farmers were stopped by police at Punjab's borders with Haryana, the impact was witnessed in Delhi as commuters spent hours trying to travel through the two NCR towns into the Capital.

The Delhi, Gurgaon, and Ghaziabad police, meanwhile, made elaborate arrangements including several layers of barricading, concertina wire, and concrete blocks to restrict vehicular movement. This led to traffic chaos at places such as Rajokri and Sarhol borders, Delhi-Gurgaon Highway (NH-48) and Delhi-Bahadurgarh Highway during peak office hours on Wednesday morning and evening. The impact was also felt in areas like ITO, Daula Kuan, Rajokri, Ashram, Mathura Road, and at entry and exit points of Delhi's borders.

Gurgaon Police, meanwhile, said barricading by Delhi Police was the reason behind the crawling traffic. "Police were checking vehicles on the Delhi side, leading to slow vehicular movement. As it was the peak hour, the condition got worse on Delhi-Jaipur Highway," said an officer.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police

beefed up security across the city and the borders. While Tikri and Singhu were sealed, the service lane of Delhi-Meerut expressway at Ghazipur was closed on both sides.

Singhu border was heavily fortified with five layers of metal barricades topped with barbed wires, two layers of cement barricades, and trucks and eight portable cabins blocking roads. Security personnel were seen carrying teargas shells as well. Said an RAF officer, "Even if they (farmers) break through the multiple layers of barricading, we have teargas to ensure they do not enter the Singhu border premises... Security has been heavily ramped up as compared to what it was during the 2020 protests. Directions have been issued to ensure teargas is used if they get near Singhu."

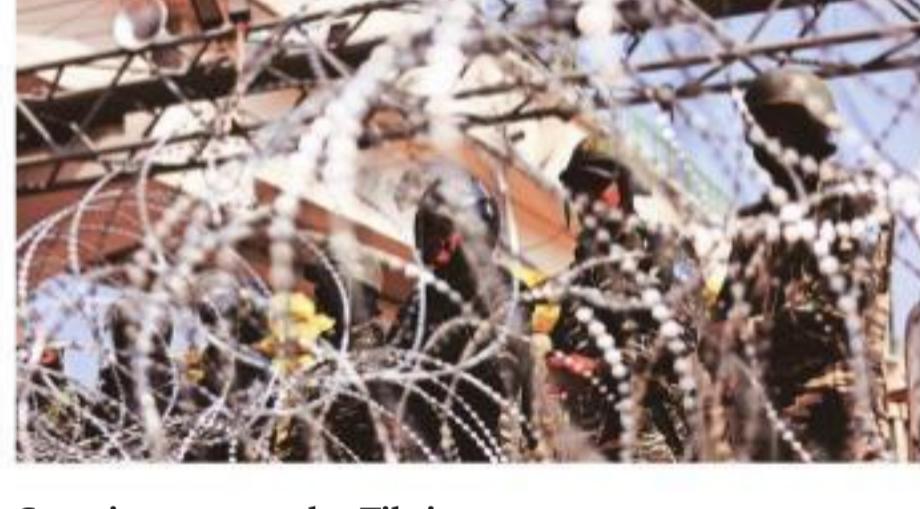
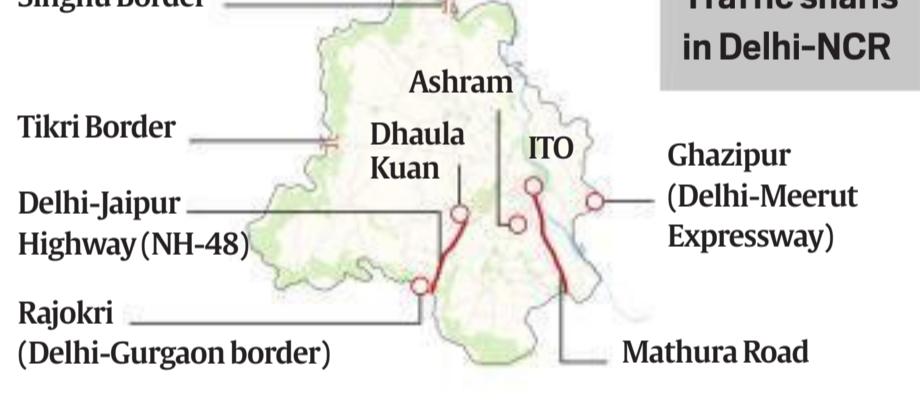
At Tikri, there was massive deployment of troops from the police and Rapid Action Force. Barriers, barbed wires, and CCTVs were installed over the past week in the area.

DCP (Outer) Jimmy Chiram said there was sufficient deployment of the force, besides paramilitary personnel, at the Delhi-Haryana borders. "Our motive is not to disturb traffic, but to ensure safety, security, and law and order. Teams are checking all the vehicles to ensure farmers do not enter the national capital."

Security personnel have been directed to not allow one protester or vehicle to enter Delhi, said a senior officer, adding that mock security drills were conducted.

At Singhu border, Wednesday. Security was stepped up in light of the farmers resuming their protest. *Gajendra Yadav*

CAPITAL CURBS: WHAT'S CLOSED

Security personnel at Tikri. *Tashi Tobgyal*

Traffic snarls in Delhi-NCR

- Singhu Border
- Tikri Border
- Delhi-Jaipur Highway (NH-48)
- Rajokri (Delhi-Gurgaon border)
- Ashram
- Daula Kuan
- ITO
- Ghazipur (Delhi-Meerut Expressway)
- Mathura Road

AT TIKRI AND SINGHU

- Both borders to Haryana remain sealed
- Heavy deployment of police personnel and paramilitary forces
- Multi-layered barricades of concrete and iron nails
- Trenches dug up

AT GHAZIPUR

- Service lane of Delhi-Meerut Expressway closed on both sides
- Barricades put up and heavy vehicles parked on a stretch of about 100 metres on both sides of the Expressway

In Gr Noida, farmers hold tractor march

DHEERAJ MISHRA

NOIDA, FEBRUARY 21

FOLLOWING A call by the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) to hold a one-day protest in support of farmers of Haryana and Punjab, Gautam Buddha Nagar's farmers Wednesday set out on their tractors — with DJs playing songs on the agrarian crisis — to the collectorate office in Greater Noida's Surajpur.

Apart from a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price, they listed their demands: stop attacking core values of the Constitution, abolish the new pension scheme, and announce a comprehensive loan waiver scheme. This was submitted to President Droupadi Murmu through the district magistrate.

"In this district alone, farmers have been protesting against the Noida and Greater Noida authorities for many months, but are not being heard... Our villages are being displaced due to the (Jewar) airport, but we are not getting proper compensation... We have been residents here for thousands of years, how can they do this to us?" said Pawan Khatana, BKU's Western UP president, who led the protest.

"Our strategy is very clear. Either the government should find a solution to this matter, else wherever the farmers sit, that very place will become the border. We do not live very far from Delhi..." added Khatana.

Rajiv Malik, BKU state spokesperson, said the government is treating farmers as if they are traitors and enemies of the state. "... Is this how you treat *annadata*? Before farmers even left their homes, you have installed barricades, boulders, and driven nails (into the road) at the Capital's borders. Are you preparing for war..." he questioned.

Meanwhile, following directives from UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a three-member committee has been formed to come up with a "reasonable and satisfactory solution" to address the concerns of farmers in the Noida and Greater Noida areas, officials said Wednesday.

CM Arvind Kejriwal during the Budget session of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Wednesday. *PTI*

CM: Chandigarh mayoral poll judgment a message to growing dictatorship

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

THE SUPREME Court's verdict on the Chandigarh mayoral polls was a strong message to the "growing dictatorship" in the country, said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during the Delhi Assembly session Wednesday.

Terming Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud's judgment a "clear message" from God, the AAP convenor said it underlined that the BJP was not impervious to defeat. "God has given a clear message that if the BJP can lose the Chandigarh major elections, it can also lose the general elections. The BJP does not win elections, it rigs them," he added.

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri argued that the matter could not be discussed in the Assembly as per rules, and walked out.

Kejriwal used historical and mythological anecdotes to describe the recent turn of events

in the Chandigarh election. "It was Lord Krishna", he said, "who didn't let the cameras turn off to bring out the real face of BJP in front of everyone".

"Just like Draupadi, Lord Shri Krishna protected the democracy of the country. It was a different atmosphere in the Supreme Court yesterday, it felt like Lord Shri Krishna was right there, speaking through the medium of Honourable Chief Justice of India," he added.

What was happening in the country today, Kejriwal alleged, had shaken people's faith in righteousness, honesty, and truth, while so much wrongdoing had become prevalent that MLAs were "being bought openly".

Bidhuri, meanwhile, said in a statement, "While we respect the SC's decision in the mayoral elections, the other aspect of the picture is that AAP does not have a majority in the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation. In the council of 35 members, the AAP has only 10 members, while the BJP has 18."

AT SINGHU & TIKRI BORDERS, BUSINESSES — AND DAILY LIFE — GRIND TO A HALT

Barely recovered from previous protest: Traders

People cross the heavily barricaded border at Singhu. Some carried their belongings on their heads. *Gajendra Yadav*

AUTO DRIVERS, traders to nursing home staff and labourers: For the past week, life for the common people has ground to a halt at Tikri and Singhu, on the Delhi-Haryana border, amid heavy security measures deployed for the farmers' protest. Both borders have been sealed.

A 1.5-km stretch of no man's land between Bahadurgarh and Tikri was sandwiched between two barriers — on one side, the Haryana Police set up a barricade using shipping containers, and on the other side, the Delhi Police propped up multiple layers of barricades, concertina wire, and concrete blocks. Auto drivers, who used to ferry people between Tikri and Bahadurgarh, now take them between the barriers. "We earned at least Rs 800 to Rs 900 earlier, but now we earn around half of that," said Santosh, an auto driver.

Meanwhile, Metro pillars between Tikri and Bahadurgarh were plastered with posters, put

up by Confederation of Bahadurgarh Industries (COBI), pleading with farmers to reach a consensus with the government. "We suffered during Covid and then the 360 days' of farmers protests (in 2020-21)... we had barely recovered from that when they started protesting again," said Pardeep Koul, general secretary, COBI.

With 26 industrial areas in Jhajjar and approximately 2,500

factories in MIE Parts A & B alone, Koul said most factories, which are mostly micro and small industries, would be put out of business if the border closure continues.

Hospitals too have been hit. At CNC Nursing Home, located behind the Tikri border's barricades, Dr Deepanshi Aggarwal sat idly in an empty OPD ward. Before the borders closed, she would see at least 40 to 50 patients a day,

which has now reduced to half. "Patients complain about having to walk to the clinic and then telling the police why they should be let through," said Aggarwal.

At JJ Institute of Medical Sciences, located before the Bahadurgarh barriers, director Deepak Khattar said ambulance services can't function with such blockades on the road. The closures have also hit the hospital's medicine and oxygen supply. "... It's a relief we have an oxygen generator here, else we would've been in trouble," he added.

He said his hospital has been turned into a 'police control room', with officers using the premises to monitor the border.

Getting across on foot

Meanwhile, at Singhu, people were forced to cross the heavily barricaded border on foot — some even carrying loads on their heads. Baccchal (18), who is in the goods transportation business, said, "Commuting has been particularly difficult during the last few days; we import clothes from Balgarh to Delhi every day... now, we have to walk kilometres carrying the

bundles on our heads as trucks are being stopped at the border."

Raghurani (65) from Gohana, who was on her way to Ayodhya for a pilgrimage, was seen jumping across the barricades while balancing a pile of clothes on her head. "... I've no other choice as I have to catch a train from New Delhi railway station," she said.

Tempo drivers said they were facing losses due to fewer customers. "Generally, we would earn around Rs 700 to Rs 800 a day... after paying rent for the vehicle, we would be left with Rs 500... Now, after the rent, we are left with not more than Rs 200," said drivers Ajit and Jagpal.

Work at factories in Kundli Industrial Area too has come to a standstill. Subhash, who works at Bharat Motor Transport, said, "Over 250 trucks have been standing idle for the past week... workers are facing huge losses."

Meanwhile, locals were spotted gingerly crossing multiple ditches dug up in the alleys of the industrial area — a bid by police to stop farmers. "It is concerning to cross these ditches at night... they are hardly visible," said Savita Bansera, a labourer.

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Kejriwal used historical and mythological anecdotes to describe the recent turn of events

FOUNDER OF DELHI STREET ART, HIS PROJECTS SPANNED OVER 20 CITIES

Yogesh Saini, who added colour to Delhi's streets one wall at a time, dies

VANDANA KALRA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

IN 2013, when Yogesh Saini, an engineer with over a decade of experience working in the US, returned home to Delhi, it was sheer instinct and desire to beautify his city that led him to start a drive under the banner of Delhi Street Art (DSA). A man with a mission, his means was art and painting the streets in cities across

India. "It is important to keep the city clean and maintain that. The onus lies not just with the authorities but also the citizens," he said in an interview with *The Indian Express* in September 2023.

On February 19, he passed away following a heart attack. He was 64. A prayer meeting will be held on Thursday.

"His approach was that he wanted to leave a legacy, with people enjoying art, both the process of creation and once it

was complete," says artist-curator Akash Sinha, CEO of Delhi Street Art.

A resident of Alaknanda, Saini had no formal training in art but he did believe in its power to bring people together.

While a team of artists was gradually built, over time one project led to another and soon he was working with the New



Saini had no formal training in art but he believed in its power to bring people together. *Archive*

Delhi Municipal Council for the beautification of Shankar Market, where DSA painted an array of motifs, from flying birds to city life, music and dance.

At Khan Market is a wall designed as an Art Nukkad, with protagonists from different

walks of life. To mark the G20 Summit in Delhi last year, DSA painted, among others, pillars standing between Dilli Haat and INA market with traditional motifs from Gond and Madhubani art. "He touched so many lives and inspired so many youngsters," says Sinha, adding, "We would look out for walls, in some cases also with the objective that people would want to keep it clean thereby."

While the projects DSA undertook and the walls it painted span over 20 cities, from Malana (Himachal Pradesh) to Ahmedabad (Gujarat), efforts were also made to initiate a change through art. On the boundary wall outside Suncity School in Gurgaon, for instance, is a painted plea for gender parity. At a slum in Delhi's Raghbir Nagar, where DSA worked off and on for over a month in 2019, meanwhile, efforts were made to try to involve people residing

in the neighbourhood.

"He always wanted to work with the local community and engage with people, allowing them to express their ideas through art. He wasn't commercially driven and wanted people to enjoy art," says Yashika Gupta, Project Manager with DSA.

She adds, "We hope to take forward and implement what he envisioned for the streets across India."

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NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER



INSPIRED BY THE
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FASHION

Popular Connaught Place shops sealed over pending tax dues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21



THE EMBASSY restaurant, Naturals ice-cream parlour, Bata, Reebok and OnePlus showrooms – popular eateries and shopping outlets in Connaught Place were in for a shock this week when officials of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) turned up at their premises to recover tax dues.

Naturals and Dr Jayna's Dental Clinic were sealed on Wednesday. Owners alleged that the NDMC's tax recovery cell reached the premises of different shops and asked them to either pay taxes worth crores within an hour or vacate in 15 minutes.

A notice pasted by officials on the sealed properties read, "In compliance with the direction of Attachment u/s 102 of the NDMC Act 1994... the above-cited property/premises has been... sealed on 19.02.2024 in the presence of the representative/owner/occupier of the subject premises."

An NDMC official told *The Indian Express*, "The process of recovery is initiated as per the due process of law – assessment orders were issued, demands confirmed and bills raised for payment of dues. No appeal was filed in court, thereby the demand attained finality... Recovery notices were issued, giving ample opportunity to pay outstanding debts but no dues have been realised... Failing this, the NDMC was constrained to initiate attachment of properties as a last resort."

People gather outside the Embassy Restaurant at CP on Wednesday. @NDTAofficial

The New Delhi Traders' Association (NDTA) said the new property tax being charged by the council is "irrational and arbitrary". An NDTA office-bearer claimed, "Bata and Reebok showrooms were asked to pay taxes through cheques on Monday... Dr Jayna's Dental Clinic and Naturals were blocked. Officials also entered the Embassy Restaurant without prior permission."

NDTA president Atul Bhargava said the due process for tax recovery has not been followed. "A few shops were sealed in E, D and L blocks in the Inner Circle and some other premises were sealed at Radial roads. Occupants were unduly forced to pay part/full cheques within an hour and then the premises were de-sealed... Some are still lying sealed as they could not pay at that time... NDTA demands that the council hold property tax camps to discuss cases of each property with owners and to arrive at a mutual value."

DWARKA SOCIETY: GRANDDAUGHTER HOSPITALISED

83-yr-old woman jumps from balcony to escape fire, dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

AN 83-YEAR-OLD woman died after jumping from a balcony of the Pacific Apartment in Dwarka on Wednesday, after her flat on the fourth floor caught fire, said officers on Wednesday.

Ankit Kumar, deputy commissioner of police (Dwarka), said that they received a PCR call at the Dwarka South police station about the blaze inside the apartment's flat no. 502 in Sector 10 on Wednesday.

Firefighters were immediately deployed to the spot, and the two women who jumped off the balcony were eventually rescued.

The two women – Jasuri Devi (83) and her granddaughter Pooja Pant (30) – had jumped from the balcony to save themselves. "After

initial treatment, they were moved to Ayushman Hospital, where Jasuri was declared dead on arrival. Pooja is undergoing treatment," said Kumar.

Delhi Fire Services chief Atul Garg said that they were informed about the fire incident at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, and six fire tenders were sent to the spot. "...The fire damaged property of the two 3 BHK flats – one on the fourth floor and the other on fifth..."

Nobody was present on the fifth floor where the fire broke out, said officers, adding that the deceased and her 30-year-old granddaughter were inside their flat on the fourth floor at the time.

"When the garbage collector came to collect waste from the house on the fourth-floor, he saw thick smoke coming out of the flat and approached the neigh-



Fire at the apartment in Dwarka Sector 10. ANI

hours for help immediately. They together, tried to break open the flat's door, but failed. Police and fire brigade were eventually informed," said a police officer.

The women, meanwhile, jumped off their balcony and landed on mattresses on the ground surface laid out by other residents of the housing complex. While Pooja suffered minor injuries during the fall, her grandmother landed on her head and was severely injured, said police. Pooja's father had gone out to courier a parcel at the time of the incident, and her husband was in Noida to meet a family member.

"Prima facie, it appears that the fire broke out following an explosion in the fourth-floor flat's AC compressor due to a possible gas leak from it or a short circuit in the switch as the AC was purportedly switched on before the incident," said a senior police officer. The fire allegedly spread from the fourth-floor flat to the fifth floor, and property inside both the houses were completely damaged, said officers.

Man gets death penalty for rape, murder of 3-yr-old

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 21

A POCSO court in Gurgaon has sentenced a 25-year-old man to death for the rape and murder of a three-year-old girl in Gurgaon six years ago, said officers.

In 2018, the girl, aged three years and nine months, was playing in the neighbourhood when the then-21-year-old accused, a

resident of Uttar Pradesh, took her to a deserted place when her parents had left for work, then raped her and inserted a stick into her genitals. The girl's body was found the next day, with her face bludgeoned by bricks and genitals bleeding, said police.

The POCSO (protection of children from sexual offences) court has also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on the accused, while directing the state government to

pay a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the victim's family for rehabilitation. Observing that the "brutal, barbaric, and diabolical nature" of the crime was evident from the injuries on the victim's body, the court said that "gallows await those committing such crimes".

"...Attacking and killing her with bricks, committing violent sexual assault, and his brutish behaviour by inserting a 10-cm-long wooden stick in her vagina. These

acts demonstrate the mental perversion and inconceivable brutality committed by the convict. He has betrayed the trust of a minor girl. She trusted him, being her neighbour. The convict carefully committed the barbaric acts of raping and murdering the child..." said the court of Additional Sessions Judge Shahsi Chauhan.

It said the accused faces "murder after sexual assault" charges, including three in Gurgaon.

L-G to Kejriwal: Only Delhi govt delays files 'unjustifiably for yrs'

New Delhi: L-G V K Saxena on Wednesday wrote to CM Arvind Kejriwal over "inordinate and unjustifiable" delays for months and years related to appointments and constitution of statutory bodies mandated with citizens' welfare in Delhi. He mentioned four instances of "mindful delay" and alleged neglect, asking Kejriwal to take personal interest to avoid repetition.

"It would not be an overstatement... to assume GNCTD is possibly the only government in India where files are held and delayed inordinately..." he said. The AAP government has not commented on the same. The L-G alleged these included the constitution of a state-level monitoring panel under Plastic Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, where a proposal was moved in May 2023, but the Urban Development minister "sat over it for nearly eight months."

Delays occurred in declaration of DMS as Responsible Sanitation Authority, constitution of State Food Commission, among others.

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
LAND DISPOSAL DEPARTMENT
INA, New Delhi- 110023
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR TENDER EXTENSION

In continuation of advertisement dated 19.01.2024 vide which DDA invited the Bids on annual License fee basis, for operationalization of Café Bamboo Oasis at Baansera, Sarai Kale Khan, it is for the information that the last date for registration, submission of technical bid and financial bid has been extended with the approval of the competent authority. The revised crucial dates are as under:

Closing time for registration, submission of EMD and Technical Bid: 29.02.2024 till 6.00 PM

Date of e-auction (Financial Bid): 04.03.2024

- Those bidders who have already registered are not required to register themselves afresh.
- All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain the same.
- The detailed terms & conditions are available at DDA's website www.dda.gov.in
- For details regarding registration and EMD submission, kindly visit e-auction website <https://ddaland.etender.sbi>

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INAUGURAL SESSION OF RAISINA DIALOGUE

India has vital role to play on Ukraine: Greek PM

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

CALLING INDIA as the "consensus builder" and a "leading democracy in the Global South", the visiting Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, said Wednesday that Ukraine is "much more than a local war on European soil" and India has an "important role to play" and it has a "voice that should be heard".

Addressing the inaugural session of the Raisina Dialogue Wednesday, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Greek Prime Minister underlined the growing importance of the role of India on the international stage as he said, "It is the leading democracy in the Global South and Prime Minister, the world is looking to you like never before when it comes to shaping the direction of the global debate, and addressing the great challenges that we face."

"India is now often regarded, and rightly so, as a consensus



PM Narendra Modi welcomes his Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis and his wife Mareva Grabowski-Mitsotakis at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Wednesday. Anil Sharma

builder and as a voice of reason, in an increasingly polarised world," said the Greek PM, who was the keynote speaker.

"And we too often forget that the result that's the real reason why the international system was created in the first place was simple because nations large and small, recognise that their true interest lay ultimately not in antagonism and in conflict, but in partnership and cooperation. And we cannot afford to overlook the cost of conflict and the human tragedy and suffering it unleashes," he said.

As the keynote speaker at the inaugural session, Kyriakos said, "And this ninth edition of the Raisina Dialogue is taking place at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions, a protracted war in Ukraine, new conflict in the Middle East, or the violence that has erupted goes beyond the direst predictions. There is a horrifying death toll of civilians. The risk of regional destabilisation, there's no clear path at the moment that leads to a sustainable

de-escalation. As for the war in Ukraine, the unthinkable has happened. A war in the European heartland is still raging on with devastating consequences two years, almost to the date since Russia attacked Ukraine."

"And I understand that countries that belong to the Global South see this frequently as a

European war and I hear all too often that we Europeans do apply double standards, focusing on Ukraine at the expense of wars and crises in the rest of the world. And maybe there's truth in that allegation, but I would like to make the point here in Delhi that Ukraine is much more than a local war on European soil. It is a

brutal challenge to international stability and the international rules based order that India has supported and has every interest in maintaining. I think we all have a responsibility to use the power we have on the international stage. And none of us can afford to sit on the sidelines and I'm convinced that on Ukraine, India has an important role to play, it has a voice that should be heard. Our common humanity and interconnectedness are inescapable, to draw from the Hindu scriptures that put it so powerfully. The world is one family and secret Sanskrit wisdom that resonates loud and clear today," the Greek PM said, to applause.

Proposing the vote of thanks, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "His message of democracies that deliver, resonates strongly, particularly now, particularly here. Prime Minister Modi's presence amongst us, as always, is a reminder of India's growing engagement with the world, especially in the last decade. He has shown us why it is

as important to listen and reflect as it is to articulate and express."

He said this event takes place at the end of a day which has seen the intensification of the strategic partnership between India and Greece, established during Modi's visit in 2023. "As two civilised states, our countries have a particular responsibility to contribute to the evolution of the contemporary global order. We both naturally tend to take a long view of challenges and a considered one of opportunities," Jaishankar said.

Earlier, India and Greece agreed to deepen cooperation in defence manufacturing and space, while advocating better connectivity between the two countries.

After holding the talks, Modi also said they discussed concluding the Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement between the two countries as soon as possible. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said the two leaders discussed ways to bolster connectivity including through India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

'Grateful to India for humanitarian aid to Ukraine'



THE EXPRESS

INTERVIEW

MARGUS TSAHKNA
FOREIGN MINISTER,
ESTONIA

We are very grateful to India because it has supported a lot by India

because Ukraine is fighting for our values. India is the biggest democracy in the world. If Putin wins, all other countries are watching carefully who will win. If Ukraine wins based on our support, then democracy wins. Here, India plays a huge role as a leader of democracy in this region and in the world as well.

Who do you hold responsible for Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny's death?

Putin killed Navalny. We don't know the specific details and we will never get the objective information out from Russia. But Putin put him in prison in difficult conditions and he died there. That's why I say that Putin killed Navalny.

We don't see the end of the war. What we see is Ukrainians are fighting for their existence because Russia is committing the full aggression, full aggression with its military, cyber and deportation of children. We have names of over 20,000 grandchildren deported to Russia. Ukrainians are fighting well. The European Union has done a lot.

On the Russian invasion of Ukraine, two years later.

We had gathered at the Munich Security Conference and the same day, the message came Navalny had died. And it was a message to all of us, all democrats that 'I can do whatever I want, I can kill people, I can attack nations, and you cannot do anything'. But we must respond to defend our values.

What is your view on China's aggressive behaviour?

We see that China is not a democracy, China is using all the powers to fulfil their political goals. Within the EU, we have had many discussions about how to get rid of the dependence on China because China is using them as well politically. India is taking a bigger and bigger position as a leader in this region to stand for the same values and as an economic leader. We need to find new partnerships, deepen cooperation with India and have an alternative than (economic) depending on China.

How do you see India's role?

The Estonian Parliament is discussing how to use the Russian frozen assets... it is leading the process about the legislation. How can we use the frozen assets of Russia, in the public and private assets. The amount is about 36-37 million Euros, but the important thing is that it will be the first legal framework in the world. How can we use the recent frozen assets? This has universal use, and can be used as a template.

More rural houses after '14 than previous 29 yrs: Singh

New Delhi: Around 3.74 crore rural houses have been sanctioned and constructed under PMAY-G and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) over the last 10 years compared to 3.25 crore rural houses under IAY in 29 years till 2014. Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh said Wednesday.

Not only did the NDA government led by PM Narendra Modi construct more houses under the rural housing scheme, Singh said, the minimum area was also increased to 25 sq m under PMAY-G

from 20 sq m under IAY. With a target of constructing 2.95 crore houses by March 2024, over 2.94 crore houses have already been sanctioned while construction of 2.56 crore houses has been completed as on January 31, 2023. This is separate from 74 lakh houses built under IAY in 2014-16. ENS



Minister
Giriraj
Singh. File

Rumours that Congress veteran Kamal Nath, a nine-time MP from Chhindwara before he moved to the state and took over as party chief, could leave the party have been around for some time.

They resurfaced after the Congress didn't nominate Kamal Nath for the coming Rajya Sabha polls, and were fanned by his sudden trip to New Delhi on Saturday, cutting short a tour of Chhindwara.

However, Kamal Nath spent his time in the Capital closeted with his supporters, who later dismissed rumours that he would join the BJP.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



KISAN CARE

AGRICULTURE MINISTER Arjun Munda, who is leading the government delegation in talks with the protesting farmers, inaugurated a Kisan Call Centre at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi Wednesday. The call centre will provide an outbound call facility, and will be used for calling farmers to know about their problems. The call centre staff will also provide information to farmers about agriculture-related schemes. On this occasion, Munda, too, made a few calls to farmers and heard their views.

WRONG SONG

THE CENTRAL BJP has had a number of instances to be disappointed with its Kerala unit, its leadership, and its activities but the latest gaffe seems to have left many in the central leadership fuming. For the rally led by Kerala BJP president K Surendran, a theme song was made and it was officially released on the BJP Kerala YouTube channel. The song has a line calling for "throwing out the corruption-infested Central government". The next line seeks "support for lotus to throw out such corrupt leaders". In no time Kerala BJP's rivals made the song viral. Several visitors to the channel reacted saying "congratulations Surendran for telling the truth at least once".

Row after Rahul asks TV reporter if owner of channel is Dalit

Reporter roughed up by Cong workers

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

CONTROVERSY ERUPTED on Wednesday over Congress workers allegedly roughing up an 'India News' journalist at Raebareli on Tuesday and the manner in which Rahul Gandhi quizzed him. The TV channel released a video where Rahul is seen asking the TV journalist, Shiv Prasad Yadav, his name, and also that of the owner of the channel.

Rahul is then heard telling Congress workers on the mic not to assault him (journalist) and asking him the name of the owner of his TV channel. "Kya wo OBC hai? Nahn. Kya wo Dalit hai? Nahn (Is he OBC? No, Is he Dalit? No)," Rahul had said.

"Media ke hain aap? Naam kya hai aapka? Haan? Aap Shiv Prasad Yadav? Nahn? Apke maalik ka kya naam hai? Apke maalik ka kya naam hai? Kya naam hai? Naam bataao. Naam bataao. Bhai maaro mat yaar. Maaro mat usko. Maaro nahin hai. Maaro nahin hai. Naam bataao usko. Wo OBC hai? Nahn. Wo Dalit hai? Nahn. (Are you from the media? What is your name? You are Shiv Prasad ji? What is your owner's name? What is your owner's name? What is the name? Tell me the name. Tell me the name. Don't hit him. Don't beat him. Tell his (owner's) name. Is

West UP back on Rahul's Yatra map, but will skirt RLD bastions

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has again tweaked his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra's route and included five districts of west Uttar Pradesh, a region which he had decided to skip following the exit of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) – seen to be influential in the region – from the INDIA bloc.

Congress general secretary in-charge (communications) Jairam Ramesh Wednesday said the yatra will resume on February 24 from Moradabad, after a two-day break, and head to Sambhal, Aligarh, Hathras and Agra (all in west UP) before moving on to Dholpur in Rajasthan. Sources said Rahul will cover the five districts in a day as he wants to "save time". It was also announced that there would be a break in the Yatra from February 26 to March 1.

The districts in west UP which Rahul will tour have a significant Muslim population. While Jats are dominant in Moradabad, Dalits make up a key part of the population in Hathras and Agra. Rahul will skip constituencies like Chandauli, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Allahabad, Bhadohi, Pratapgarh, Amethi, Raebareli, Lucknow, Baghpat, Mathura, Kairana, Muzaffarnagar, Bijnor, Nagaon and Amroha, where the RLD is said to be influential. He will not travel to Hamirpur and Jhansi either,

which was scheduled earlier. Moradabad and Sambhal were won by Congress ally Samajwadi Party (SP) in the 2019 LS elections, when it fought in a tie-up with the BSP and RLD. The SP has declared sitting MP Shafiqur Rahman Barqi as its candidate for Sambhal, while it is yet to name its nominee for the Moradabad seat.

According to original route, the Yatra was to traverse through Chandauli, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Allahabad, Bhadohi, Pratapgarh, Amethi, Raebareli, Lucknow, Hardoi, Sitapur (all in eastern and central UP) and Bareilly, Moradabad, Rampur, Sambhal, Amroha, Aligarh, Badaun, Bulandshahr, and Agra (in western UP).

On February 12, the Congress announced that Rahul had decided to cut short his yatra by skipping the western region of UP. Later, the party said this was done to not inconvenience students, with the board exams starting from February 22.

Congress spokesperson Anshu Awasthi had dismissed talk that the RLD's hobnobbing with the BJP had led Rahul to curtail his Yatra in the region.

On Wednesday, its sixth day in UP, the Yatra entered Kanpur.

Post its resumption on March 2, the Yatra will traverse through Morena, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Shahjapur and Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh. Rahul will visit the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain.

BJP: Rahul insulting Lord Ram, 'intoxicated' remark unacceptable

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

The BJP Wednesday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of nurturing hatred towards the people of Uttar Pradesh and disrespecting Lord Ram. Rahul's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra is currently in Uttar Pradesh. After a two-day break, it will resume on February 24 from Moradabad.

Union Minister Smriti Irani visited Amethi at the same time as Rahul, who lost the constituency to her in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

In Delhi, senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad accused

Rahul of making statements against the people of UP. "He asked on entering UP whether any SCs, STs or OBCs were present at the Ram temple consecration. Ambani and Adani were merely observers. Rahul Gandhi should refrain from disrespecting Lord Ram," Prasad said.

He also took umbrage at Rahul purportedly saying that he found people in Varanasi intoxicated. "Rahul Gandhi's remarks is unacceptable. Is this the appropriate language to use, especially for a region where his family has held sway and where he and his MPs hail from?"

Prasad also wondered why Rahul and other opposition leaders were silent on Sandeshkhali even as they were speaking about the Supreme Court's verdict on Chandigarh mayoral elections.

A day earlier, Irani said about Rahul's statement: "How much

poison he has for Uttar Pradesh in his mind is revealed by this statement. He had also made objectionable remarks on UP's voters in his constituency Wayanad in south India. He had also rejected the invite to the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya.

On what he has said about the *punya bhoomi* (holy land) of Kashi and about the youth of Uttar Pradesh, I will say that the Congress' future is dark but UP's future is moving towards progress."

Prasad also wondered why Rahul and other opposition leaders were silent on Sandeshkhali even as they were speaking about the Supreme Court's verdict on Chandigarh mayoral elections.

Meanwhile, Kalyanpur MLA Maheshwar Hazari, who Wednesday resigned as Assembly Deputy Speaker, might be in contention for a ministerial berth in the next cabinet expansion.

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Cryogenic engine test for human-space flight mission, Gaganyaan, successful: ISRO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 21



Flight Acceptance Hot Test CE-20 Engine for First Gaganyaan Unmanned Mission

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Wednesday said that the performance of the key cryogenic engine, to be used onboard the LVM3 vehicles for India's Gaganyaan missions, has been qualified and now certified for missions that will transport humans into space.

Gaganyaan is India's proposed first human flight mission that envisions sending a three-membered crew into an orbit of 400kms for a period of three days and bringing them back to Earth. The first unmanned Gaganyaan - 1 mission is scheduled sometime in mid-2024. ISRO's heavy lift launcher, the LVM has been identified as the launch vehicle to be used during the Gaganyaan missions. Comprising solid, liquid and a cryogenic stage, these systems can be configured to ferry humans into space.

The seventh in the series of vacuum tests performed on the CE20 cryogenic engine, which powers the space vehicle during the cryogenic stage of its lift-off, was performed on February 14 at the space agency's High Altitude Test Facility in Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.

"ISRO has accomplished a major milestone in human-rating of CE20 of the LVM3 vehicle for Gaganyaan missions," the ISRO shared on its 'X' handle on Wednesday.

Previously, the CE20 was subjected to 39 hot firing tests under varying operating conditions that lasted for a total duration

of 8810 seconds (2hr 26mins), whereas the minimum standard time for human rating is 6350 seconds (1hr 45mins).

ISRO said even the flight engine, identified for the first Gaganyaan mission, has completed the acceptance tests. Powering the upper stages of the LVM3, the flight engine boasts of a thrust capacity of 19 - 22 tonnes with an impulse of 442.5 seconds.

The development of a human-rate launch vehicle is part of the several tests and technology development efforts required for the proposed human-space flight mission. Other technological developments like development of life support systems to provide an earth-like environment to crew in space, crew emergency escape provision, evolving crew management aspects for training, recovery and rehabilitation of crew are planned. Besides, precursor missions are being planned which will demonstrate the technology preparedness levels before the actual manned Gaganyaan mission.

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108 mazars demolished, CM's bulldozer moving around: Gujarat minister

PARMAL DABHI
GANDHINAGAR, FEBRUARY 21

Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi told the Assembly on Wednesday that the Bhupendra Patel-led Gujarat government has demolished 108 illegal mazars in the state and that the anti-encroachment drive will continue against any encroachment that comes up as "part of a conspiracy".

Speaking during the discussion on budgetary demands of the Home and Transport departments, Sanghavi referred to an earlier speech of BJP MLA Amit Shah, who had spoken about the relocation of idols from a Jain derasar (temple) at Jamalpur in Ahmedabad when Congress was in power in the state.

"Today, the point mentioned by Amit Shah... He said that a derasar was removed in Jamalpur.

Referring to the redevelopment of Uparkot fort in Junagadh, he then said, "In Uparkot, it was not known where (and when) all mazars were built. How can it be built suddenly?"

He added, "In all, 108 mazars have been demolished (in the state) and the state's properties have been opened... The encroachment around Somnath has been removed. This bulldozer of Dada can enter a 20-ft wide street and an 80-m wide road."

Sanghavi further said that the "bulldozer" is ready to demolish any encroachment, which is part of a conspiracy.

Kovind panel reviews progress

New Delhi: The One Nation, One Election committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind Wednesday reviewed its progress so far, a day after the BJP met the panel to suggest that Lok Sabha and Assembly elections should be simultaneous in the first phase and local body polls synchronised later.

Kovind and committee members Home Minister Amit

Shah, former Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Finance Commission chairperson NK Singh, former Lok Sabha secretary-general Subhash C Kashyap and former CVC Sanjay Kothari attended the meeting, as per a Law Ministry statement.

The high-level committee "reviewed its various activities," it said.

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MILAN 2024



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at an exhibition during the opening of Milan 2024 in Visakhapatnam, Wednesday. PTI

'Extremely pressing challenges': Rajnath on Arabian Sea situation

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA

VIKAS KHATRI, FEB 21

FLAGGING THE targeting of merchant ships, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Wednesday said that even as there is optimism about the shared goodness of our human race, India is also alive to the dangers lurking in shadows.

"We prefer peace, and will do the utmost for its sake, but we will not shrink from countering any threat that undermines our collective well-being, piracy and trafficking included," he said.

He said India has maintained a sustained presence in the region to ensure the safety of shipping.

Rajnath was speaking at the opening ceremony of the 12th edition of multilateral naval exercise - Milan-24 in Visakhapatnam and was referring to the series of drone and missile attacks on merchant ships and piracy and hijacking attempts on them in the Arabian Sea since December last year. Around 50 countries are participating in the mega naval exercise.

"India continues its proactive engagement and has been maintaining a sustained presence in the Region to ensure safety and security of all shipping, irrespective of the flag on the ship and the nationality of the crew," he said.

"It is our steadfast resolve to be the first responder and the preferred security partner in the Indian Ocean Region, and for the peace, stability and prosperity of

the wider Indo-Pacific," the Defence Minister added.

The Defence Minister stated that even as there is optimism about the shared goodness of our human race, India is also alive to the dangers lurking in shadows.

"We prefer peace, and will do the utmost for its sake, but we will not shrink from countering any threat that undermines our collective well-being, piracy and trafficking included," he said.

He said India will continue to play the role of a Vishwamitra - or a friend of the world, in forging meaningful partnerships that make the planet a connected and equitable habitat for humanity as a whole.

Rajnath said Milan 2024 is an attempt to build much-needed fraternal bonds across oceans and mountains. He said the exercise would have been unimaginable in the past, as recent as 50-60 years ago, for navies from over 50 nations to converge in one location for purposes other than conflict.

Addressing the gathering, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said that from five IOR navies in 1995 to 50 navies across the Indo-Pacific today, MILAN reflects the growing stature and increasing importance of such collective and cooperative endeavours in the maritime domain.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
PATNA - 801507
(An Autonomous body under MoHFW, Govt. of India)

INSTITUTE LEVEL SPOT COUNSELLING FOR ADMISSION IN POST-GRADUATE (MD/MS/MDS/M.Ch 6 yrs.) COURSES (JANUARY 2024 SESSION) AT AIIMS PATNA

Admission to the vacant Post-Graduate (MD/MS/MDS/M.Ch 6 yrs.) seats for the session January-2024 will be held on 26th February, 2024 from 10:00 AM onwards at E-classroom, Medical College Building, AIIMS Patna. The seats will be filled on the basis of merit list issued by AIIMS New Delhi for PG (MD/MS/MDS/M.Ch 6 yrs.) courses examinations (INI-CET-PG Examination) held on 05th November, 2023.

The eligible candidates interested in the Institute level Spot Counselling must compulsorily register online for the same by 05:00 PM on 25.02.2024 (website for registration: www.aiimspatna.edu.in). Registered candidates should report with required original documents (refer Spot Counselling Notice available at AIIMS Patna website) by 09:00 AM on 26.02.2024.

The schedule and seat position is tentative and any change will be under the discretion of the Executive Director, AIIMS Patna.

Tentative seat matrix is as under:

Sl.No.	Subject_Speciality	UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS
1	Anatomy	1	0	1	0	0
2	Biochemistry	1	1	0	0	0
3	FMT (Forensic Medicine & Toxicology)	1	1	0	0	0
4	Microbiology	0	1	0	0	0
5	Pharmacology	1	1	0	0	0
6	Physiology	1	1	0	0	1
7	Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery	1	0	0	0	0
CTVS (MCH 6 Years)		Total	6	5	1	0

For any query/information regarding Institute level Spot Counselling, contact, PG Admission Cell, O/o the Dean (Academics), Mobile No. 854423532 & 0612-2451006, Email ID: admission@aiimspatna.org

Sd/-
Dean (Academics)
AIIMS, Patna

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Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 31.03.2023 & MSGL, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prapard, Super Value, ADGL and all others 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 30.06.2023 and MSGB, SME Suvama & EMI due up to 31.12.2023 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far irrespective of notices, will be auctioned from 01.03.2024 from 10 am.

BHAGALPUR - BHAGALPUR: F2178, F2367, F2865, F2868, F2009, F2614, F2636, F2638, F2685, F2687, F2681, F2717, F2721, F2736, F2737, F2819, F2890, F2891, F2892, F2893, DARBHANGA DISTRICT - DARBHANGA-BIHAR: 4302000091, 4302000092, 4302000093, 4302000094, 4302000095, 4302000096, 4302000097, 4302000098, 4302000099, 4302000100, 4302000101, 4302000102, 4302000103, 4302000104, 4302000105, 4302000106, 4302000107, 4302000108, 4302000109, 4302000110, 4302000111, 4302000112, 4302000113, 4302000114, 4302000115, 4302000116, 4302000117, 4302000118, 4302000119, 4302000120, 4302000121, 4302000122, 4302000123, 4302000124, 4302000125, 4302000126, 4302000127, 4302000128, 4302000129, 4302000130, 4302000131, 4302000132, 4302000133, 4302000134, 4302000135, 4302000136, 4302000137, 4302000138, 4302000139, 4302000140, 4302000141, 4302000142, 4302000143, 4302000144, 4302000145, 4302000146, 4302000147, 4302000148, 4302000149, 4302000150, 4302000151, 4302000152, 4302000153, 4302000154, 4302000155, 4302000156, 4302000157, 4302000158, 4302000159, 4302000160, 4302000161, 4302000162, 4302000163, 4302000164, 4302000165, 4302000166, 4302000167, 4302000168, 4302000169, 4302000170, 4302000171, 4302000172, 4302000173, 4302000174, 4302000175, 4302000176, 4302000177, 4302000178, 4302000179, 4302000180, 4302000181, 4302000182, 4302000183, 4302000184, 4302000185, 4302000186, 4302000187, 4302000188, 4302000189, 4302000190, 4302000191, 4302000192, 4302000193, 4302000194, 4302000195, 4302000196, 4302000197, 4302000198, 4302000199, 4302000200, 4302000201, 4302000202, 4302000203, 4302000204, 4302000205, 4302000206, 4302000207, 4302000208, 4302000209, 4302000210, 4302000211, 4302000212, 4302000213, 4302000214, 4302000215, 4302000216, 4302000217, 4302000218, 4302000219, 4302000220, 4302000221, 4302000222, 4302000223, 4302000224, 4302000225, 4302000226, 4302000227, 4302000228, 4302000229, 4302000230, 4302000231, 4302000232, 4302000233, 4302000234, 4302000235, 4302000236, 4302000237, 4302000238, 4302000239, 4302000240, 4302000241, 4302000242, 4302000243, 4302000244, 4302000245, 4302000246, 4302000247, 4302000248, 4302000249, 4302000250, 4302000251, 4302000252, 4302000253, 4302000254, 4302000255, 4302000256, 4302000257, 4302000258, 4302000259, 4302000260, 4302000261, 4302000262, 4302000263, 4302000264, 4302000265, 4302000266, 4302000267, 4302000268, 4302000269, 4302000270, 4302000271, 4302000272, 4302000273, 4302000274, 4302000275, 4302000276, 4302000277, 4302000278, 4302000279, 4302000280, 4302000281, 4302000282, 4302000283, 4302000284, 4302000285, 4302000286, 4302000287, 4302000288, 4302000289, 4302000290, 4302000291, 4302000292, 4302000293, 4302000294, 4302000295, 4302000296, 4302000297, 4302000298, 4302000299, 4302000300, 4302000301, 4302000302, 4302000303, 4302000304, 4302000305, 4302000306, 4302000307, 4302000308, 4302000309, 4302000310, 4302000311, 4302000312, 4302000313, 4302000314, 4302000315, 4302000316, 4302000317, 4302000318, 4302000319, 4302000320, 4302000321, 4302000322, 4302000323, 4302000324, 4302000325, 4302000326, 4302000327, 4302000328, 4302000329, 4302000330, 4302000331, 4302000332, 4302000333, 4302000334, 4302000335, 4302000336, 4302000337, 4302000338, 4302000339, 4302000340, 4302000341, 4302000342, 4302000343, 4302000344, 4302000345, 4302000346, 4302000347, 4302000348, 4302000349, 4302000350, 4302000351, 4302000352, 4302000353, 4302000354, 4302000355, 4302000356, 4302000357, 4302000358, 4302000359, 4302000360, 4302000361, 4302000362, 4302000363, 4302000364, 4302000365, 4302000366, 4302000367, 4302000368, 4302000369, 4302000370, 4302000371, 4302000372, 4302000373, 4302000374, 4302000375, 4302000376, 4302000377, 4302000378, 4302000379, 4302000380, 4302000381, 4302000382, 4302000383, 4302000384, 4302000385, 4302000386, 4302000387, 4302000388, 4302000389, 4302000390, 4302000391, 4302000392, 4302000393, 4302000394, 4302000395, 4302000396, 4302000397, 4302000398, 4302000399, 4302000400, 4302000401, 4302000402, 4302000403, 4302000404, 4302000405, 4302000406, 4302000407, 4302000408, 4302000409, 4302000410, 4302000411, 4302000412, 4302000413, 4302000414, 4302000415, 4302000416, 4302000417, 4302000418, 4302000419, 4302000420, 4302000421, 4302000422, 4302000423, 4302000424, 4302000425, 4302000426, 4302000427, 4302000428, 4302000429, 4302000430, 4302000431, 4302000432, 4302000433, 4302000434, 4302000435, 4302000436, 4302000437, 4302000438, 4302000439, 4302000440, 4302000441, 4302000442, 4302000443, 4302000444, 4302000445, 4302000446, 4302000447, 4302000448, 4302000449, 4302000450, 4302000451, 4302000452, 4302000453, 4302000454, 4302000455, 4302000456, 4302000457, 4302000458, 4302000459, 4302000460, 4302000461, 4302000462, 4302000463, 4302000464, 430200046

'My client is independence of judiciary'

In a sterling 7-decade career, Nariman left a lasting imprint on the judiciary

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

"MY CLIENT is the independence of the judiciary," said Fali Nariman, glancing at the lawyers behind him. A five-judge bench in 2015, which was hearing the challenge against the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), had asked Nariman who he was representing.

The Supreme Court struck down the constitutional amendment, cementing the collegium system of appointment of judges. The ruling — together with the 1993 Second Judges Case and the 1998 Third Judges Case that established the collegium — form the biggest imprint Nariman left on the Constitution.

He began his legal practice in 1950, the same year in which the Constitution he fiercely defended for over seven decades came into effect. Despite making fewer courtroom appearances since 2020, his stature and the long innings he played have earned him an enduring place as the north star for the judiciary.

Born in Rangoon (now Yangon) on January 10, 1929, to Sam Bariyamji Nariman and Banoo Nariman, Nariman studied in Shimla before his family moved to Bombay, now Mumbai. Nariman graduated in law from the Government Law College, Bombay, in 1950, and started his law practice at the Bombay High Court, joining the chambers of the veteran Jamshedji Behramji Kanga. In 1971, he became a Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court.

Nariman practised in the Bombay High Court for 22 years before moving to Delhi. In 1971, he was designated a senior advocate and, the next year, was appointed the Additional Solicitor General by the then Congress government.

Two days after the Emergency was imposed, Nariman resigned. He never took up a government post after that. But he spearheaded virtually every leading Constitutional law case for the next

two decades. He mixed his trademark wit and cheerful nature with the seriousness his arguments deserved in the courtroom.

Defending the rights of minority educational institutions, Nariman was the lead counsel in several cases from 1992 to 2002. The most notable among those is the 11-judge bench ruling in *TMA Pai Foundation v State of Karnataka*.

He frequently wrote on key constitutional debates: from the basic structure doctrine to the Centre's abrogation of Article 370, which he termed "political but not constitutional."

Nariman's interventions on issues, even the press conference in 2018 by four senior top court judges, were framed with an unabated faith in the Supreme Court and the rule of law.

When asked by this reporter if he worried that the SC someday could overturn the Kesavananda Bharati ruling that established the basic structure doctrine, Nariman said any "sane judge" would retain it. "God willing, they are all still sane," he added with a chuckle.

New Delhi: Is there a new generation of conscience keepers for the Bar? "I am sorry, I can only draw a blank on that question," said former Attorney General of India and veteran lawyer K K Venugopal.

Venugopal, 92, was paying tribute to his "old friend," Fali Nariman, who died Wednesday.

Remembering Nariman as a "giant among lawyers," Venugopal told *The Indian Express*: "When you speak of Fali, you can only use superlatives. He



FALI SAM NARIMAN

1929-2024

Trusted lieutenant of 40 years speaks: 'He was a prophet for me'

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

"WHERE GANGES, woods, Himalayan caves, and men dream of God, I am hallowed, my body touched that sod... I do not wish to die in bed, but with my boots on, speaking of God and India..."

This was one of the passages Subhash Sharma, Fali Nariman's trusted lieutenant for nearly 40 years, read out to him from a 1952 speech of Paramahansa Yogananda about five hours before the eminent lawyer breathed his last in the wee hours of Wednesday.

"I started crying after reading the speech...looking at me, Fali started weeping too," Sharma told *The Indian Express*.

"Paramahansa used to think Mahatma Gandhi was a prophet... for me, Nariman was a prophet," he said. Sharma is a well-known name in legal circles and has been the devoted gatekeeper for Nariman's offices. As his junior since 1986, Sharma's name appears in virtually every case handled by Nariman. It was Sharma who would be the first point of contact for lawyers or litigants to Nariman's office since the veteran neither carried a cell phone nor directly accessed his email account. Printouts of emails were often placed before him the next morning. He then dictated responses which were typed out on a letterhead which were signed and attached to emails.

It was by a stroke of luck that Sharma got an opportunity to work with one of the country's most well-known lawyers. "The Bar Council of India had started a programme, assigning young members of the Bar who lacked opportunities to work with a senior advocate. I was one of the 20



Subhash Sharma has been Nariman's junior since 1986

orphan-category candidates whom Bar picked... Nariman even paid the fee of my son who is studying in the USA," Sharma said as he received visitors who walked in to pay their last respects at Nariman's Hauz Khas home.

On his long association with Nariman, Sharma felt he had a "spiritual connection" with him.

Recollecting his experience working with Nariman in 2015 when the Senior Advocate led the challenge against the Modi government's National Judicial Appointments Commission, Sharma said that the duo worked from morning till 2:30am.

"During this time, he took no case for six months," Sharma said. "I think he believed that when lawyers chase multiple cases, it harms the clients... this is what happens today."

Sharma also remembered Bapsi Nariman, Fali's wife who passed away in 2020. "Bapsi ji was a gem of a person. She always worked for the underdog... I give her even more marks than Fali for compassion," he said.

Helped 'safeguard' our share of Cauvery water, say Karnataka leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 21

POLITICAL leaders in Karnataka expressed sorrow on the demise of jurist Fali Nariman, 95, who had been closely associated with the state on account of his role as the pre-eminent legal consultant on the Cauvery dispute.

Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, 91, who played a role in the efforts to settle the Cauvery water dispute, said: "He was not just my friend, he was a great friend of Karnataka and a proud son of India."

Gowda requested the Speaker of the Karnataka

Assembly and Chairman of the state Legislative Council to ensure a condolence resolution. "His decades of service to Karnataka to safeguard its share of Cauvery water is unparalleled. We are indebted to him," he said.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Nariman will forever remain in the memory of the people of Karnataka for his part in the Cauvery dispute.

"Nariman, the country's foremost river water dispute expert, represented Karnataka in the SC for decades. If the farmers of Karnataka got justice in the Krishna and Cauvery disputes, it was due to Nariman's great contribution," he said.

NARIMAN, THE STORYTELLER

Drawing from his trove of witty anecdotes to describe serious issues, Fali Nariman often recalled an exchange between former Attorney General CK Daphtry and senior advocate Sunderlal Desai to highlight the significance of free speech.

CK and ST Desai – both Senior Advocates – were distinguished Gujarati-speaking contemporaries. They always came in early to the Bar Library, each sat opposite the other, occasionally exchanging pleasantries, occasionally not. One morning in August 1975, I was the sole witness to the following conversation between them.

ST: (Holding a cigarette between third and fourth finger in loosely-clenched fist, as was his habit, and occasionally inhaling) "Chandubhai, bolo (Chandubhai, speak)." CK: (Puffing at his pipe, his eyes sparkling with mischief) "Sunderlal, tame pehla bolo (Sunderlal, you speak first)."

'Colossus': Advocates, judges recall Nariman's journey at Bombay Bar

OMKAR GOKHALE & SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 21

IN REMEMBRANCE of Fali Sam Nariman, who started his career as a lawyer from the Bombay Bar Association, several senior advocates and former judges recalled the jurist's contribution to the city's legal institutions as well as the country's constitutional law.

Having joined the Bar at the age of 21 in 1950, Nariman practised in the Bombay High Court and other courts of the city for nearly 22 years till he moved to Delhi in 1972 when appointed

the Additional Solicitor General. Senior advocate Navroz Seervai said: "I have known him (Nariman) since my childhood. It is universally acknowledged that he was a colossus at the Bar. He dominated the Bar at the Supreme Court, for probably 40 years, as no other lawyer before him has dominated."

Seervai said: "In addition to several other landmark cases, which we can call 'Nariman's legacy,' in recent years, it has to be the NJAC case which was noteworthy and cannot be forgotten."

On Wednesday, during a hearing at the Bombay High Court, senior counsel and former

Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi spoke about Nariman's death being an "end of an era". "He was an indisputable leader of the Bar," Rohatgi said.

Senior advocate Nitin Thakker, the president of the Bombay Bar Association, said that as the high court was holding a full court reference Wednesday after the death of Bomi Zaikwalla, he had contacted Nariman via email on Tuesday. Nariman's reply, in his trademark fashion, came as an attached document bearing his signature — "in firm handwriting at the age of 95".

FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

SC on TN's submission against Sterlite plant: Does smelter in Gujarat mean no need for another?

ANANTHAKRISHNAG
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

A THREE-JUDGE bench of the Supreme Court, presided by CJ D Y Chandrachud, Wednesday questioned the Tamil Nadu government's submission that the Adani Group's upcoming copper smelter project in Gujarat will cater to the country's demand for the precious metal and there is no need to reopen the Sterlite plant in Tuticorin, and asked if it can be said just because there is a plant in Gujarat, the nation doesn't need another.

"Simply because there is another smelter in Gujarat, can we say that therefore the nation doesn't require another?" the CJJ asked.

On February 14, the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, had cited "national interest" and mooted forming an expert panel to look into environmental concerns for reopening the plant.

FARMER WHO DIED FROM HEAD INJURY DURING PROTESTS

'Worked hard to make ends meet, believed in protesting for rights'

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
BALLOH, BATHINDA,
FEBRUARY 21

IT IS LATE in the evening, and villagers at Balloh, about 15 km from Rampura Phul city in Bhatinda district, await Shubkaran Singh's body, outside his home.

A hard-working young farmer, engaged in contract farming, and trying to make ends meet — this is how close friend Pala describes Shubkaran. He died of a head injury Wednesday at the Khanauri border as Haryana security personnel used teargas shells and, allegedly, rubber bullets on farmers.

Shubkaran and his uncle Baljeet Singh cultivated around 20 acres on contract. They also managed livestock, including a bull that the 22-year-old took great pride in. He quit studies before completing his Class 12, and immersed himself in farming.

Raised by his grandmother after his parents' divorce, Shubkaran assumed the responsibility of the family, which in-

cluded two sisters. His grandmother died six years ago. With no contact with his mother and a father who does not keep well, he took charge.

Though Shubkaran owned only two acres, the most valuable possessions at his home are agricultural implements scattered across the yard. Two manual spray pumps, and a sack of DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) fertiliser, and three bags of rice are kept in the three corners of his room.

Access to his home, situated outside the village in the fields, is not easy. Comprising three rooms and a traditional village kitchen, the home brings back memories

of the Punjab of the 1990s. Pointing to Shubkaran's room, Pala, who is also a small farmer, says, "This is his room. People speak ill of Punjab's youth assuming they are spoilt. This was his life — a hardworking small farmer engaged in contract farming to make ends meet."

In Shubkaran's room, the cot at the centre displays neatly folded bed-clothes beneath a fan suspended from an old-style roof supported by wooden beams. Two pairs of boots, one for the fields, are kept behind.

The room does not have any pictures of Shubkaran; instead, there are pictures of his sister's school group and relatives who have died. With his younger sister in shock, villagers attended to four buffaloes and five calves in their house.

Mahinder Singh, another village friend, said, "Shubkaran was always at the forefront when Bhartiya Kisan Union Sidhupur called for protests or gatherings. He believed it was the responsibility of farmers to actively participate and secure their rights."

Sandeshkhali, farmer protest bids to disrupt democracy: Organiser

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

THE LATEST issue of RSS-affiliated magazine, *Organiser*, termed farmers' demands for a legal guarantee of MSP for all crops as "unreasonable" and claimed their protests are "politically motivated", a contrast to the Sangh earlier support for the demands.

The magazine has also called the Sandeshkhali incident in West Bengal as an "ISIS-inspired" exhibition.

"The farmers' agitation that we witnessed around Delhi in 2020 was in the context of three bills related to reforms in the agriculture sector. This time around, there is no such reason," an editorial penned by magazine's editor Prafulla Ketkar said.

Suggesting that the protests are political in nature, the editorial said: "The modus operandi is the same — massive mobilisation and blockade of roads with unreasonable demands such as legal guarantees related to MSP for

all the crops, loan waivers, pension for all farmers, and India's withdrawal from WTO. Some are also raising the sensitive and provocative issue of Khalistan."

Ketkar argued that after the 2020 protests, the government has announced MSP on various crops and the government has been engaging with farmers' organisations.

"Even when the negotiations are going on, the kind of mobilisation that is taking place not just to draw attention but to obstruct the traffic on the roads is undemocratic. In popular perception, the Opposition parties are fuelling this protest to create an anti-government atmosphere. Using farmers in this political game undermines the genuine concerns of the agriculture sector," Ketkar wrote.

The editorial concluded that the farmers' protests, along with opposition to investigations into the Sandeshkhali incident and the Haldwani protests, are part of a "larger game to disrupt and demean democracy".

10

The Indian **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

FALI NARIMAN

A colossus and a conscience,
at 95 gone too soon

THE RESIGNATION OF law officer number 3 made no impact, created no ripples, "in the political waters in the capital. I was simply not important enough". This was how Fali Nariman recounted, in a piece he wrote for this newspaper in 2015, a moment in June 1975. That was when, having been appointed additional solicitor-general of India in May 1972, and reappointed for another three-year term in May 1975, Nariman resigned, taking a stand against the Indira Gandhi government's imposition of Emergency. But, of course, Nariman's decision mattered. What lay behind his resignation then — a fierce independence, unwavering integrity and staunch commitment to constitutional principle — set off many a ripple that picked up force in a career over seven decades long, raising the bar and setting an example for others. Now, his death, coming in a time when the space is shrinking for both individuals and institutions who stand against the current, when the Constitution needs all its upholders, leaves a void that is especially gaping. Nariman lived a long and full life in which he engaged deeply and widely with the public sphere from the time he started work as a young lawyer — incidentally, also the time that a young country was giving to itself a new Constitution. But it is impossible not to feel that he is gone too soon, his work was not yet done.

So much of what Nariman stood for, and argued and wrote about, will continue to shine a light after him. He argued the case for the court to appoint its judges, deeming that power to be essential to protect the independence of the judiciary — and yet he also did not hesitate to criticise the decisions of the Collegium that was established and shaped by the seminal cases he appeared in. In September 2023, he wrote in this paper against the Collegium's decision not to elevate S Muralidhar to the SC; and called out the SC's decision as "politically acceptable but constitutionally incorrect" on Article 370. Just as the judiciary as an institution needs to preserve its independence, he wrote, citizens need the reassurance of a system of judicial accountability. Another binding theme and concern was the right to dissent, which he believed was essential and non-negotiable, on the bench and outside the court too, in a country of great diversities. During the phase of coalition governments, he wrote in another piece in this paper, leaders changed for the better, "stepping down from the high ground, they became much less fractious and much more friendly...". Through it all, the Constitution, for Nariman, was a lodestar and a living thing — he appeared in the *Golaknath* case of 1967 in which the Supreme Court held that Parliament cannot make a law that infringes citizens' fundamental rights.

The country will miss a public intellectual, who spoke his mind, followed his conscience, admitted his mistakes, did the right thing. This paper will miss its friend and columnist, who wrote in often — along with his deeply insightful columns, delightful little letters to the editor that came as encouragement and affirmation, as gentle comment, or just to tell a small anecdote that illustrated and illuminated a large thing.

STAIN ON CAMPUS

By punishing students, Jindal University risks becoming a cautionary tale rather than the role model it aims to be

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIONS — public and private — across the country have, in recent years, unfortunately not always stood up for academics and students when the latter have questioned the dominant ideas and powers that be. Teachers and students have been arrested, discussions, even movie screenings stalled or called off. Academics at prestigious private universities that claim to champion liberal values have been forced out and university authorities have not refrained from inviting the police on campus. In this milieu, OP Jindal Global University (JGU) seemed to have, quietly and without fuss, created a space even as others in its neighbourhood ceded it. However, the JGU administration's action against two students for "putting up posters and engaging in conversation" that involved "derogatory and provocative words" flies against its own record and stated principles. More importantly, it undermines the idea and promise of a university. It's a stain on the campus.

The action against the students was in response to posters and discussion on the Ram temple at Ayodhya. Reportedly, the framing of the discussion was critical of the dominant politics surrounding the consecration. On February 10, the students were suspended for a semester and late that night, they were "evicted" from campus housing. According to the university's Student Disciplinary Committee, the punishment was for "a serious violation of the student code of conduct". This wasn't a frightened university administration giving in to goons, this was the university punishing free speech.

JGU is an "Institution of Eminence" and, to the credit of its leadership, its law school has been ranked among the top 100 in the world. Its faculty includes a former Chief Justice of India, a former SC justice and social scientists. They could tell the JGU administration that ideas are tested through debate, and a campus can remain "excellent" only if it allows students to experiment with them. After all, a campus is the only place where you have the right to be wrong. There's no evidence that the two students were fomenting violence or breaking a law. "At the core of JGU's vision and mission", according to its website, "is our aspiration to be a role model for excellence in higher education in India and among the leading universities of the world". It also promises to remain sensitive to the "deepening of democratic traditions in India". The university should revoke the suspensions, ensure that expressing an idea can't be the reason for students to be evicted from a residential campus. Otherwise, JGU's words on democracy will ring hollow, its global ranking a mere marketing number.

LIKE A FRIEND

Ameen Sayani revolutionised radio presentation, brought people in a young country together with Hindustani

INA 1945 letter to Kulsum Sayani, an educationist who published the fortnightly newsletter *Rahber*, her mentor Mahatma Gandhi wrote, "Beti Kulsum, I like the mission of *Rahber* to unite Hindi and Urdu. May it succeed." *Rahber*, since its inception in 1940, was published in Hindustani — an amalgamation of Hindi and Urdu — at a time when the conflict over the superiority of one language over the other was fomenting. Hindustani was Gandhi's solution. Kulsum Sayani's young son Ameen imbibed his first lesson on the power of language then — it could transcend the constraints of identity.

Soon after, since 1951, Ameen Sayani's warm and charming voice entered Indian homes like a close friend with *Binaca Geetmala*, over boxy Murphy radio sets and Philips transistors. Sayani spoke in Hindustani while taking listeners on a journey through film music. What was interesting was the way he used Hindustani or what he called "*bol-chal ki bhasha*" in a newly-independent country recovering from the scars of Partition. "I promised to myself: I was *naye Bharat ka naya naujawan*. I will speak in Hindustani," he said in a 2016 interview to this newspaper.

In 1952, BV Keskar, then I&B minister banned film music on radio, calling it "erotic and vulgar". Sayani began broadcasting his shows from Radio Ceylon in Sri Lanka. It was a radical idea — to not be stymied into silence — and the popularity of the show continued unabated. It was Aruna Asaf Ali, who after her conversation with Jawaharlal Nehru, brought the show back to India in the late '50s. The show went on for 42 years and was revived in 2014 for an FM channel. With Sayani's demise on Tuesday, India has lost not just a man who revolutionised radio presentation, but a voice that bound the nation together.



INDIRA JAISING

THE PASSING OF Fali S Nariman represents the end of an era. Being 20 years of age when India attained Independence, Nariman belonged to a generation of lawyers who were almost the first post-Independence legal practitioners. On their shoulders fell the task of decolonising a system which worked without a written constitution to one which had a constitution — a transition of immense importance for the citizens of the country. On their shoulders also fell the task of making the first challenges to laws which could be declared unconstitutional.

There were advantages to starting in Bombay. It was the commercial centre of India. Bombay was a city which housed Parsi businesses and industry. There is the famous House of Tatas — known as Bombay House — in which sat another famous Parsi lawyer N A Palkhivala. The legal profession in Bombay, now Mumbai, was proud of being an advisor to the East India Company. At that time the legal profession was bifurcated between solicitors who did not appear in court and counsels who only appeared in court and did no transactional legal work. Fali Nariman chose the latter and was one of the most sought-after lawyers in his younger days. In a profession dominated by Parsis and Gujaratis, business and industry looked to Nariman for legal advice and guidance. It is in these circumstances that he perfected his command over commercial laws, long before he shifted to Delhi in 1971. He was by then already a role model for generations of lawyers who came after him. The Parsi community has always contributed a judge to the Supreme Court of India, but Nariman chose not to be a judge of any Court. Years later, his son Rohinton Nariman became a judge of the Supreme Court.

Starting work in Bombay as a lawyer, I had several occasions to observe him at work in court. He was, even then, a natural

The thinking of generations of lawyers has been shaped by the cases he argued

leader of the Bar. Loud and aggressive — which I saw as a mark on his confidence in court — and coming straight to the point, he had a charisma which came from a direct approach to the law. When I started working as a litigator, I often found myself on the opposite side of him. We both belonged to a working-class city which shaped and moulded our work in different ways. He was representing industry, whereas I represented the workers of the enterprises he stood for. Conflict was inevitable, but what it did offer was the opportunity to learn the tools of the trade from a master. His style of practice was minimalist, focused on the outcome his clients wanted. It was a far cry from the days of grandstanding which emerged later in both oral arguments and judgments under the full glare of the media.

Nariman went to the Government Law College in Mumbai to learn the law. It's a different matter that many who went there say they learnt the law outside the school. With the advent of the national law schools, the nature of legal education has changed dramatically. The march of technology has made legal research available at our fingertips. Yet, ask any young lawyer and you are likely to find that she will know of Nariman's contribution to the practice of law and has been shaped in her thinking by the cases he argued.

Nariman belonged to a group of illustrious men (notice, no woman in his generation) from the High Court of Bombay, who held high office in the country as law officers. He himself occupied the office of Solicitor General of India under a Congress government. His resignation from the post of Additional Solicitor General on the declaration of Emergency is a testimony to his value system and his commitment to liberalism and democracy.

As a jurist he was committed to the in-

dependence of the judiciary. For him, the separation of powers and commitment to judicial review were the cornerstone of a Constitution in defending the rights of citizens against the state. He led the arguments in three major cases which led to the formation of the collegium system, insulating from political interference the appointments of judges to High Courts and the Supreme Court.

State governments and politicians also depended on him for advice. In fact, he represented several states, including Karnataka in inter-state water disputes. In a different context, he represented the State of Gujarat in the Narmada rehabilitation case. He also represented the late J Jayalalithaa. He also appeared in the TMA Pai case which held that higher education was a business and occupation entitled to protection as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India. He was a liberal and believed in the free market.

In his long career, the one regret he expressed was about this representation of Union Carbide Corporation in the Bhopal Gas leak case on becoming aware of the suffering caused to the victims and the inadequacy of compensation provided in an agreement signed under his watch. But then, how many lawyers even apologise for the consequences of their professional work? I wonder if he also regretted his appearance in the infamous *Nargesh Mehta* case which denied women air hostesses the right to continue in employment after marriage.

His commitment to secular values cannot be doubted. He spoke up when he saw the slow dismantling of some of the basic features of the Constitution. History will judge the contribution of his generation of lawyers to the making of modern India.

The writer is senior advocate Supreme Court



MANURAJ SHUNMUGASUNDARAM

AT THE INAUGURAL session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Governor R N Ravi did not read the text prepared by the state government. Instead, he walked out, as he did the previous year, and later claimed that he did not agree with the remarks prepared by the government of Tamil Nadu. In such circumstances, the underlying conflict within the executive branch of the government comes to the fore resulting in a constitutional crisis. There have been other instances of Governor Ravi withholding Bills duly passed by the Assembly and even referring these to the President of India. Such actions strengthen the argument that the position of the governor has lost its constitutional utility in a modern democratic setup.

There has been an increase in the interference of governors in governance in non-BJP-ruled states. Regularly, states like Kerala, Telangana, Punjab, Delhi and West Bengal have witnessed such constitutional friction, which has ultimately impeded governance. Many of these states approached the Supreme Court to seek directions for governors to pass bills in accordance with the constitutional scheme. In some cases, such as Telangana, the 2022 assembly session began without the customary Governor's Address.

In the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly, the previous year witnessed a walkout when the chief minister objected to Ravi reading out an unapproved and abridged version of the Governor's Address. In this year's session, he staged a similar exit stating that the Address "contained numerous passages with misleading claims and facts"

A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

Governor R N Ravi's conduct shows how country's federal structure has eroded

and reading them would amount to "a constitutional travesty".

The governor's office also released a press communication which stated that the governor had asked for the national anthem to be sung before the commencement of the address but that was not done.

On the first issue, the state minister for law has explained that the governor had not sought clarification regarding any factual issues. Secondly, it is well known in Tamil Nadu that the protocol in official government events is to begin with the Tamil Thai Vazhthu (Tamil anthem) and conclude with the national anthem, which was followed in the present session as well. However, without understanding this, the governor seems to be building a case against his state government as if they have a vested agenda against the national anthem. Both of these arguments are unsubstantiated and do not behove the constitutional office occupied by Ravi.

It is well known that the governor is required by the Constitution to act only in accordance with the aid and advice of the council of ministers and as such, no discretion is provided for in terms of his functions. When it comes to the Governor's Address, these are merely curtain raisers for the assembly session, formal statements made on behalf of the state government.

The role of governors was always envisaged as a bridge between the elected governments at the state and the Union. The original idea was presumably that the larger interest of the country would be served better if we had a person with statesmanship beyond partisanship occupying the Raj Bhavan.

Bhavan. Unfortunately, recent events have led us to think that the actions of various governors have, instead of tying up the loose ends of Union-State relations, caused more damage to the federal fabric of the country.

Such incidents have revived the necessity to review the role and position of the governor within the constitutional architecture. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the governor has no discretionary power in matters of governance. In *A G Perarivalan vs State* (2022), the Supreme Court called the governor a "short-hand expression for state government". When it comes to the withholding of bills passed by the assembly, the Supreme Court has been curtailed and has essentially cut short the self-proclaimed role of the governor. This raises a larger question on the necessity for the governorship as an institution itself.

We have persisted with the "nominal head" only for customary reasons. As such, governments seem to function perfectly well with real executive heads in the form of the chief ministers and the collective responsibility of the council of ministers. The present constitutional crisis which has eroded the federal structure beyond recognition is a wake-up call. It may only be a matter of time before a future Parliament may regard governorships as unnecessary colonial vestiges and disregard them altogether.

The writer is an advocate practising before the High Court of Madras and National Media Spokesperson, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Inputs for this article were provided by Dhileepan P



FEBRUARY 22, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

SHOOTOUTS IN PUNJAB

PUNJAB WAS ROCKED by three shootout incidents in which nine persons were killed and over a dozen injured, eight of them seriously. Unconfirmed reports put the toll at 10. Seven persons were shot dead by unidentified persons near Kahnuwan village and at least two were killed and four injured at Bhaini Mian in Gurdaspur district.

HARYANA VIOLENCE

HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER Bhajan Lal said a magisterial inquiry will be held into the recent violent incidents at Panipat and Kaithal.

He said the state government was determined to put down violence with a firm hand irrespective of the persons responsible for it. The chief minister, who has already announced that miscreants trying to damage any place of worship or property would be shot, said he expected every community to cooperate in the maintenance of law.

INDO-CZECH TALKS

INDIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA expressed concern over the increasing threat of nuclear war and reiterated their support for all efforts aimed at resumption of talks for the reduction of nuclear and other arms. The is-

sues of war and peace marked Czechoslovak Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal's 80-minute talks with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on global and bilateral matters.

CLASHES IN DHAKA

AT LEAST 50 persons were injured in a clash between students supporting the opposition and government-backed political workers at Shaheed Minar where they had assembled to pay homage to the martyrs of the language movement. President HM Ershad was the first to place a wreath. Soon after his departure, students and other people who were stopped earlier broke through the cordon.

THE IDEAS PAGE

In his own words

Fali S Nariman's articles and letters to the editor in The Indian Express reflected his deep knowledge of the Constitution and commitment to upholding it, innate sense of justice and sparkling humour. Excerpts:

On the Emergency (June 23, 2015)

IT WAS ON June 12, 1975, that Justice Jagmohan Lal Sinha of the High Court of Allahabad pronounced judgment in the election petition filed against Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, holding her guilty of corrupt practices, and disqualifying her from holding all public office... The PM's senior advocate, Nani Palkhivala, argued the stay application before the vacation judge, Justice VR Krishna Iyer, on June 22... Justice Iyer's order was handed down on June 24, 1975: Only a conditional stay — no absolute stay. And "Operation Emergency" swung into motion.

On the morning of June 27, I informed the law minister of my decision on the telephone. I then drafted, signed and posted to Delhi a one-line letter of resignation... The resignation of law officer number 3... created no ripples, in the political waters in the capital. I was simply not important enough. The then high commissioner of Australia told me not long after the Emergency that he had met Gandhi a couple of weeks after June 25, and she had expressed shock and surprise at the lack of reaction among the "intelligentsia". She need not have been surprised. It is always the intelligentsia that has both the capacity and inclination to rationalise tyranny. And so it was in India.

On freedom of speech (February 17, 2016)

Citizens in India are free to criticise their governments at the Centre or in the states — which they do quite frequently, and boldly and fearlessly as well; as they must, because that is what a participatory democracy is all about. It behoves the men and women of the law who advise government to impress upon their client that freedom of speech and expression is a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution — and to remind all governments (present and future) that "sedition" had been deliberately and designedly excluded by the framers of the Constitution from Article 19(2), the exception clause to free speech, only because, as the founding fathers had said, "Sedition is not made an offence in order to minister to the wounded vanity of governments!"

On the Basic Structure of the Constitution (September 19, 2022)

Up to the year 1989, with one single political party almost consistently returning to power at every election, the judges had plumb the depths of silence in the world's longest Constitution, searching for some limitations on the amending power. They found none; and they said so, emphatically, in 1951 in a Bench decision of five judges (*Sankari Prasad vs Union of India*). Fourteen years later — a different Bench of five judges — said no again (*Sajjan Singh vs State of Rajasthan*), but this time with some hesitancy. Ultimately, in 1973 in *Kesavananda Bharati*, a larger Bench of 13 judges sat for several months, listening to arguments on what was described as "an issue of grave moment, not only to the future of this country but to the future of democracy itself!" ... by a 7:6 majority, it held that although under Article 368 Parliament's power to amend the Constitution was plenary, extending to each and every article of the Constitution, including the articles enumerated in the Fundamental Rights Chapter, no amendment was permissible if it altered "the basic structure or framework of the Constitution".

In *Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narain* (1975), a Constitution Bench of the highest court held that free and fair elections were a fundamental part of the Constitution, so fundamental as to be beyond the reach of the amending power, all the five judges on the Bench having been a part of the Bench of 13 judges in *Kesavananda Bharati*. It was this decision (in



C R Sasikumar

Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narain, 1975) that helped to cement the "basic structure theory".

On importance of coalition governments (August 17, 2016)

After another somewhat indifferent decade of Congress rule, there emerged a prolonged period of coalition governments for the next 25 years — 1989 to May 2014 — during which no single political party could, on its own, form a government at the Centre.

It was during this period when political parties were reaching out for alliances — in order to form a stable government — that India witnessed a complete change of attitude in their leaders. Stepping down from the high ground, they became much less fractious and much more friendly. They began practising the spirit of fraternity — one of the prime purposes for which the Constitution was framed, as stated upfront in its Preamble... And when governments do good things, people do the same. When those in the government speak temperately, and without excitement, anger or malice, the people do likewise.

On judicial accountability (November 12, 2022)

Empowering itself with the trappings of modern technology, India's Supreme Court has been striving to perform its arduous task. But what of the future? First, and foremost, the judiciary as an institution needs to preserve its independence, and to do this it must strive to maintain the confidence of the public in the established courts. The independence of judges is best safeguarded by the judges themselves — through institutions and organisations that the law empowers them to set up... It is in the high courts that there are now left the largest number of roadblocks and delays; in their administrative functioning the high courts are answerable to no one but themselves... It is time that the Supreme Court be entrusted with direct responsibility for the functioning of the high courts: Only then can the highest court be an effective apex court, only then can the Supreme Court be made answerable, as it should be, for judicial governance for the entire country.

On Justice Muralidhar not being elevated to Supreme Court (written with Madan B

FOR THE RECORD

It was during this period when political parties were reaching out for alliances, in order to form a stable government, that India witnessed a complete change of attitude in their leaders. Stepping down from the high ground, they became much less fractious and much more friendly. They began practising the spirit of fraternity — one of the prime purposes for which the Constitution was framed, as stated upfront in its Preamble.

Lokur and Sriram Panchu, August 16, 2023

Along with Justice A P Shah, he authored the path-breaking *Naz Foundation* judgment that decriminalised consensual homosexuality by reading down Section 377 of the IPC. He convicted Congress leader Sajjan Kumar for his role in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. He sentenced 16 policemen to life imprisonment for the targeted killing of 38 Muslims in Hashimpura. He granted bail to Gautam Navlakha, one of the activists arrested in the Bhima Koregaon case. During the Delhi riots in 2020, he held a late night sitting to mandate ambulance services to victims and rehabilitation measures. His Bench slammed the Solicitor General and the police for not registering cases against BJP leaders for provocative speeches; this obviously led to his hurried transfer to Punjab and Haryana HC by an executive midnight order...

The judge retired at the age of 62; he was in his stride, and had so much more to do and give... The judiciary has lost a treasured asset, a diamond which should have sparkled on the crown. And hence questions, hard questions, must be asked of the collegium of the Supreme Court. Why was this judge not taken to the Supreme Court when he is so supremely qualified and has performed so brilliantly? With such merit on display, along with matchless integrity and probity, on what grounds was he denied his rightful place?

A letter on camaraderie in Parliament

This refers to the article, 'Laughter in the House' (IE, December 8, 2023), by Derek O'Brien. My friend Piloo Mody believed that if ever there could be a good government, he was the man to provide it — "Look at my initials", he would say, with childish simplicity: "PM". But the nearest he came to the High Office was when he once wrote a note in Parliament to Mrs Indira Gandhi, his adversary and political opponent. "Dear IG", it began and ended with the initials "PM". Mrs Gandhi responded in the same vein "Dear PM", she wrote back and signed "IG"! Those were indeed gracious days: people in politics, though opposing one another, were able to laugh at and with each other.

For full versions of the articles, go to www.indianexpress.com

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Public pressure... can impose costs on corporations... But environmentalists should not expect wholesale change. Pressuring the Securities and Exchange Commission to impose a rule for public companies to report corporate emissions is likely to be much more effective." — THE WASHINGTON POST

An example, and inspiration

Fali S Nariman belonged to a generation that had seen the birth of India and whose values were shaped by the ideals of its founding



ARUNDHATI KATJU

FALI SAM NARIMAN passed away on February 21. Senior Advocate, doyen of the Indian bar and legal luminary, his life is an example and an inspiration for all those who cherish the values of the Republic.

Born in Rangoon in 1929, in what was then still British India, Nariman moved to India with his parents in February 1942 in the wake of the Japanese invasion of Burma. As he described in his autobiography *Before Memory Fades* (2010), the Nariman family was forced to leave behind most of their personal belongings. They made the 21-day trek across the Indo-Burmese border, carrying, for the most part, boxes of office records. He came from a generation who knew the cost of war personally.

After he received a second class in his Bachelor of Arts examinations, his father was keen on him sitting for the Indian Civil Service (ICS) examination, but young Fali knew his father could ill-afford the fees. He chose, instead, to study the law.

Though Nariman described law as the "last refuge" of a "second-class arts student", that second-class degree was the Indian bar's good fortune. He began his legal career in November 1950. He joined the chambers of Sir Jamshedji Behramji Kanga, which produced such luminaries as Harilal Kania, the first Chief Justice of India, and H M Seervai, whose *Constitutional Law of India* (1967) is one of the definitive accounts of the Indian Constitution.

Nariman's career was marked by his integrity. He was Additional Solicitor General of India from May 1972 to June 1975, resigning from that post when the Emergency was declared on June 26, 1975. He never accepted any constitutional office thereafter. In a career spanning more than 70 years, the cases he argued shaped the courts as an institution of constitutional governance.

One example is the *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA)* case of 1993 (the Second Judges case) where the Supreme Court endorsed the collegium system. Before the Court, Nariman had argued that "consultation" with the President meant more than merely seeking advice. The Court upheld the collegium system, finding that the Chief Justice would also have to take into account the opinions of his seniormost colleagues.

In later years, Nariman criticised the collegium system, arguing that many fine lawyers had been overlooked for consideration for judgeship. But he appeared again

in the 2016 SCAORA case, arguing that the National Judicial Appointments Commission would impinge on the independence of the judiciary. The Constitution's mandate to uphold the independence of the judiciary, he argued, was necessary to inspire the faith of citizens in impartial justice and to uphold constitutional values.

I was one of the lawyers who briefed him, in 2012, in *Suresh Kumar Koushal vs Naz Foundation*, where the Supreme Court upheld the sodomy law, under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. His arguments were a masterclass in the fundamental principles of criminal law. He laid bare the structure of the Penal Code to argue that there were no grounds to make sexual acts between consenting adults a criminal offence. He urged the Bench that the law had to move with the times.

Despite reaching the heights of the legal profession, Nariman's trademarks remained his humility, his unrelenting insistence on following his conscience, and speaking his mind. He was also not afraid to admit he had made a mistake. In 1985, he defended the Union Carbide Company, helping arrive at the settlement agreement in which Union Carbide paid \$470 million as compensation to victims after the gas leak. In a television interview, he said that compensation to "hard core" victims had proved to be inadequate and unjust. If he had to live his life over again, he said, with the foreknowledge of what came later, he would not have accepted the civil liability case.

Nariman's advice to young lawyers are words we should all pay heed to. Keep your temper in court, he counselled, because losing it will only do a disservice to your client. Be scrupulously correct in quoting the facts and the law, so judges trust you. Do not speak in the media about cases you have argued — as a lawyer, you have that luxury, but judges cannot turn to the press to defend themselves.

Are people born with these human traits, or are they wrought by their times? Fali Sam Nariman was one of the last of a generation that saw the birth of this country, and whose values and ideals were shaped by its founding and which, in turn, shaped this fledgling nation. They crossed borders that had not existed at their birth, saw the pain of Partition and the joy and hard work of creating a new country. They saw constitutional values imperilled during the Emergency. The country changed beyond measure before their eyes.

As Nariman himself said, writing a constitution is easy, but working a constitution is a grave challenge. His passing has been mourned by many, and our thoughts are with his family. What remains for us to do, as citizens, is to reflect on the lessons we can learn from his life and perhaps try to live and protect the values that he stood for.

The writer practises law at the Supreme Court of India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOR FOOD SECURITY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The minimum support' (IE, February 21). For a country with a population as large as ours, there can be no compromise on food security. Remunerative prices for farm produce are essential for keeping production going. In the process, there may also be some wastage. The responsibility for ensuring food security cannot be on farmers alone. Having a functional MSP system across the country and not just in Punjab is, therefore, imperative. At the same time, diversification of crops and shift to pulses and other areas where India is not self-sufficient or where export opportunities exist, need to be incentivised.

K L Sharma, Gurugram

THE ROOT CAUSE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'El Nino, La Nina' (IE, February 21). The recent study linking air pollution in India to external factors sheds light on a crucial aspect of the air quality debate. While these external phenomena may influence the distribution of pollutants, the root cause of air pollution lies closer home. The study's findings have underscored the importance of addressing baseload emissions which are the primary drivers of air pollution. Meteorological conditions may occasionally provide temporary relief, but they are not a substitute for long-term solutions. Measures like artificial rain or odd-even schemes may provide temporary relief but do not address the fundamental issue at hand. As we continue to grapple with the challenges of air pollution and climate change, we must prioritise sustainable solutions.

Likitha Manoj, Bengaluru

CASE FOR MSP

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Keep the door open' (IE, February 20). Minimum income support on a per acre basis to all farmland owners will compensate the land and capital cost, without disrupting the economy. Similarly, extending MGNREGA to include farming activities and farm labour will benefit the land tillers who toil on the farms and help in reducing labour costs. A proper mechanism to include landless farmers and tenant farmers should be devised to provide minimum income support to them. This income support, along with crop insurance and social security schemes, will also reduce distress due to natural calamities. The MSP purchase system as per the present system will take care of market uncertainties and the government's policy objectives.

Arvind Waze, Mumbai

PAYING TRIBUTE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Loss of a guiding light' (IE, February 21). The writer, PM Narendra Modi, while recalling the life and teachings of Sant Shiromani Acharya Shri 108 Vidhyasagar Ji Maharaj Ji, made a salient point about what it means to pay tribute. It is to embody the values of compassion and honesty in thought, word and deed espoused by him. This assumes significance in view of people paying tribute to great religious and political leaders as a perfunctory custom without heeding and imbibing their teachings and ideals. Had this not been the case, this land of Buddha, Mahavir and Gandhi would not have been witnessing such an escalation of bigotry, violence and social strife.

LR Murmu, New Delhi

Defender and dissenter

Whichever the government, Fali S Nariman spoke truth to power



SHADAN FARASAT

The legal career of Fali Sam Nariman began in 1950, along with the coming into force of the Indian Constitution. In the 74 years for which Nariman and the Indian Constitution co-existed, they were inseparable. From *IC Golaknath* in 1967, where the Supreme Court (SC) held that fundamental rights are beyond the amending powers of the Parliament, to the *Supreme Court Advocates-On-Record vs Union Of India* case in 2015, where the SC struck down the 99th constitutional amendment to defend the independence of the judiciary, Nariman argued and succeeded in cases that have shaped Indian constitutional law. Through his long legal career, he ensured that his professional success did not come at the cost of his fundamental principles and he was that rare personality who straddled the world of extraordinary professional success while being a moral guide to governments, judiciary and the legal fraternity.

While much will be written about the cases he argued, the element of his life which will possibly be well remembered in posterity is his extraordinary engagement as a public intellectual in the last 20 years of his life, when he slowly reduced his court work, simultaneously increasing his public writings — particularly in respect

to the Indian Constitution and the legal system. In the years between 2006 and until his passing today, he authored a total of six books, most of which have been best-sellers. His most recent book *You Must Know Your Constitution* was published last year. This was a tour de force on the political and cultural underpinnings of the Indian Constitution, presented in such a lucid style that even a layperson could absorb the complexities of the Indian Constitution. His 2010 autobiography *Before Memory Fades* was an exceptional account of his personal and professional life that has inspired lawyers and non-lawyers alike. It is not unusual for lawyers to get applications from young law students seeking internships, detailing how one of Nariman's books inspired them to get into the field and how they aspire to be lawyers like him.

In the last many years, he was one of those rare public intellectuals who defended not only the Constitution but also, more specifically, the principle of secularism enshrined in it. In *Before Memory Fades*, he described the worrisome trend of loss of tolerance within Indian society. His public statements on the 2002 riots in Gujarat or on the appointment of a religious leader

as the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh were a reflection of his concern that a society where religion, politics and governance are conflated, is a society on a downward spiral. Nariman never shied away from publicly criticising or rebuking the SC, when he was convinced that the Court was lacking in its expected constitutional role. Even though he helped shape the creation and the functioning of the collegium system by arguing in favour of it as a protector of judicial independence, he publicly criticised its functioning quite often. Most recently in September 2023, he questioned the collegium's decision not to elevate Justice Muralidhar to the SC.

He also called out the SC's recent decision on Article 370 as "politically acceptable but constitutionally incorrect", and lamented the fact that out of the five judges on the Bench, not one dissented. According to him, dissent in contested matters is an indication to the public that even though one view prevails for the day, the Court itself is in good health as multitudes of views exist and are not able to overpower each other.

Crucially, his moral compass was not just meant for others. One of his errors of professional judgment in his 74-year legal

The writer is a counsel practising in the Supreme Court of India

SENSEX: 72,623.09 ▼ 434.31 (0.59%) NIFTY: 22,055.05 ▼ 141.90 (0.64%) NIKKEI: 38,262.16 ▼ 101.45 HANG SENG: 16,503.10 ▼ 255.59 FTSE: 7,475.92 ▼ 56.70 DAX: 17,118.12 ▲ 49.69



GOLD

₹62,850



USD RATE

₹82.96



OIL

\$83.27



SILVER

₹75,700

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of February 20

International market data till 1900 IST

EPFO data breached in 2018 'repackaged' by Chinese cyber agency, probe finds

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

A DATA breach that impacted the systems of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in 2018 exposing the personal data of millions of Indians was found to have been "repackaged" by a Chinese cyber agency, as per a preliminary probe by New Delhi's cybersecurity agency, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

However, in 2018, when reports about the alleged breach had first surfaced, the EPFO had denied that its systems were compromised, and had instead said that the vulnerability was exploited from the systems of Common Service Centres (CSCs).

On Monday, a big trove of information was leaked on Github as part of documents relating to Chinese cyber agencies - indicating that these agencies were either responsible for the initial breach, or acquired the compromised data after that, a senior government official said.

Following that, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) began an investigation on whether the data in these documents was new or collated from breaches in the past.

According to information that has been uploaded to Github, the leaked database claims to have information from across Indian institutions - both government and private. It claims to have data pertaining to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), data of users of BSNL, and information with companies including Air India and Reliance.

"Cert-In had carried out a preliminary probe into the claims and it appears that the EPFO data present in the documents is from 2018 when its systems were impacted," a senior government official said. EPFO's CEO did not respond to a request for comment until publication.

At the time of the breach in 2018, a senior official of the EPFO had told this paper that the suspected data leak "did not happen on the server or software run by EPFO," but "on the CSC software".

However, an official of the CSC had denied the claims and said that the concerned application was on the EPFO server and that

Over the last few years, India has faced a barrage of cybersecurity-related incidents – most recently a high-profile attack on the systems of AIIMS Delhi in 2022

the CSCs did not have anything to do with the incident.

"...No confirmed data leakage has been established or observed so far. As part of the data security and protection, EPFO has taken advance action by closing the server and host service through Common Service Centres pending vulnerability checks," the EPFO had said at the time.

However, the Cert-In's initial findings all but confirm that the EPFO system was indeed compromised in 2018.

Over the last few years, India has faced a barrage of cybersecurity-related incidents – most recently a high-profile attack on the systems of AIIMS Delhi in 2022 – which pose a major challenge to New Delhi's national security imperatives.

According to the 2023 India Threat Landscape Report by Singapore-based cybersecurity firm Cyfirma, India is the most targeted country globally, facing 13.7 per cent of all cyberattacks.

The US is the second most targeted country, with 9.6 per cent of all attacks. Indonesia and China follow, with 9.3 per cent and 4.5 per cent of all attacks, respectively.

Recognising the need to strengthen the cybersecurity landscape of critical sectors in the country, the Centre has drawn up a policy recommending enterprises – especially those in critical sectors like banking, telecom, and energy – to use only security products and services developed in India, *The Indian Express* had earlier reported.

Called the National Cybersecurity Reference Framework (NCRF), the policy is an attempt to provide an implementable measure – with clear articulation of roles and responsibilities for cybersecurity – based on existing legislations, policies and guidelines.

BRIEFLY

PFRDA notifies amendments to NPS Trust

New Delhi: The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has notified amendments to regulations to National Pension System Trust and Pension Fund. The amendments to NPS Trust Regulations simplify the provisions related to appointment of trustees, their terms and conditions, holding of meetings of the Board of Trustees, and appointment of CEO – NPS Trust, PFRDA said in a statement on Wednesday. PTI

Moody's affirms Axis Bank deposit rating

New Delhi: Moody's on Wednesday affirmed Axis Bank's deposit ratings with a stable outlook saying India's favourable operating environment offers the bank an opportunity to further strengthen its market position. The bank's diversified loan portfolio and above-industry average profitability will support internal capital generation and its strong solvency. In addition, Axis' strong retail franchise, access to low-cost deposits and sufficient holdings of liquid government securities will support its funding and liquidity, it said. PTI

GDP growth may slow down to 6.5% in FY25

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 21

GLOBAL BANKING group Morgan Stanley has said India's economic growth is expected to slow down to 6.5 per cent in the financial year (FY) 2025 from 6.9 per cent forecast for FY2024.

"On growth, we expect GDP growth to remain healthy, and we are tracking December 2023 GDP at 6.5 per cent, even as it slows from 7.7 per cent in the first half of FY2024. We expect GDP to average 6.9 per cent in FY2024

and 6.5 per cent in FY2025," Morgan Stanley said in its latest research report on the Indian economy.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee recently projected a lower GDP growth of 7 per cent for FY 2025, down from 7.3 per cent projected by the National Statistical Office for FY24.

Significantly, the government has projected higher a nominal GDP growth – without excluding the pace of inflation – of 10.5 per cent in the interim Budget presented on February 1 as against 8.9 per cent in 2023-24

"With regard to macro-stability, we anticipate headline inflation to remain range-bound around 5.0-5.2 per cent in first quarter of FY24, supported by favourable base effect, and average 5.4 per cent in FY2024 and 4.5 per cent in FY2025," Morgan Stanley said.

The current account deficit is likely to remain benign, supported by strength in services exports and softening global commodity prices, especially oil, and track at 1.2 per cent of GDP in F24 and 1.3 per cent of GDP in FY25. "On monetary policy, we build in

a shallow rate cut cycle of 50 basis points from June 2024, in our base case, even as we continue to remain watchful of risks from stronger-than-expected growth (strong credit growth), which could defer the rate easing cycle," Morgan Stanley said.

Morgan Stanley said domestic demand improved in January, while macro stability remains comfortable, reflecting strength in the fundamentals. "We maintain our constructive outlook on the economy. Risks emanate from global factors and elections in May 2024," it said.

'They will be proud iOS representatives': Students impress top Apple executive Joswiak with their apps

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN
NOIDA, FEBRUARY 21

"Wow! How did you make that happen?" Greg Joswiak asks Galgotia.

Joswiak, popular in tech circles as Joz, is at the Greater Noida campus to visit the new iOS Development Centre, which now has a pride of place at the heart of the private university, overlooking an arterial path where students from more than 30 countries walk through daily.

As Joswiak steps into the spanking new iOS Development centre, there is palpable excitement among the students who seem eager to showcase their work. The layout of the facility is different from regular classrooms and is more like a corporate office. This, Galgotia explains to Joswiak, makes it easier for faculty to interact with any student



Greg Joswiak, Senior Vice President (Worldwide Marketing), Apple, at the Galgotias University campus. Apple

second year.

After Vashishta Agarwala of SRM takes the Apple team through a very hands-on demo of Circles, a mobile application he created to help groups plan travel and meet-ups, teams of Galgotias University students show Joswiak and others their apps which are in different stages of

development. They range from Sakhi, an app to help women track their periods and get assistance with related issues, to VibroPlay, a music learning app for those with hearing challenges.

"It's unbelievably impressive..." Joswiak tells *indianexpress.com* soon after. "These kids were so well spoken, they have thought out what they could do and they were taking advantage of all modern technologies... and to explain it with such competence," he adds, underlining the fact that most of these demos were based on just a few days of development.

After Vashishta Agarwala of SRM takes the Apple team through a very hands-on demo of Circles, a mobile application he created to help groups plan travel and meet-ups, teams of Galgotias University students show Joswiak and others their apps which are in different stages of

"iOS is one of the largest platforms... it's really what has driven the app economy around the world. There is a need to fulfil development requirements within companies and within the user base within India," Joswiak explains why Apple has given so

much importance to the Student Developer programme. "What I saw here with these kids, they are gonna to be proud representatives of iOS development."

During his India visit last year to mark 25 years of Apple in the country, CEO Tim Cook had underlined how the 1 million jobs iOS supports here was a "testament to the tremendous growth of the developers in India".

On the importance of Swift, especially among student developers, Joswiak highlights it is a modern programming language as compared to Objective C and others which "just didn't allow developers to move as quickly as they need to". "Swift allows them to move fast, to have interactivity while they are developing and be more creative without fear of mistakes. It has a more forgiving syntax if they make some mistakes," he says.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](#)

AHEAD OF EGM: Byju's \$200 mn rights issue subscribed, board rejig likely

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 21

AHEAD OF the crucial extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of beleaguered edutech firm Think & Learn Pvt Ltd sought by a group of shareholders for the ouster of founder and CEO, Byju Raveendran on Friday, a rights issue by the beleaguered firm – popularly known as Byju's – to raise \$200 million at a valuation cut of 99 per cent has been fully subscribed. The startup also offered to restructure the board by inducting two Directors in consultation with the shareholders.

To ensure transparency with regard to the usage of funds raised through the rights issue, Byju's will appoint a third-party agency to monitor the usage of funds. File



Byju's will appoint a third-party agency to monitor the usage of funds. File

value preservation is maintained," Raveendran said in the letter to the shareholders. Raveendran reportedly put around \$45 million in the rights issue.

"In order to increase shareholder representation, I commit to restructuring the board and appointing two non-executive directors to the board by the mutual consent of the founder and shareholders -- right after the FY23 Audit, which we expect to close by the end of this quarter," Raveendran said. "I believe this will be in the best interest of the company and allow for greater engagement with shareholders."

The company and its founders were battling for survival with a group of shareholders seeking an EGM for the removal of

Raveendran and family members from the board of the company. However, Byju's has said these shareholders don't have voting rights. "We would emphasise that the shareholder's agreement does not give them the right to vote on CEO or management change," the company said in an earlier statement.

"As the largest shareholder and provider of capital to the company, it would have been in my best interest to price this rights issue high. But that would not be in the best interest of the company," Raveendran said, on the low valuation.

"I choose to go ahead and invest because of my belief in the resilience of our team and the strength of our business model to bounce back higher with even more rigour," he said in the letter.

Raveendran said he personally put in \$1.1 billion in the company over the last two years to pay salaries and maintain operations. "I view this not as an obligation, but as my Dharma and duty," he said. Byju's is pinning its hopes on the rights issue funding and board restructuring. "I understand that participating in this rights issue may seem like a Hobson's choice. However, this is the only viable option in front of us today to prevent permanent value erosion," Raveendran said in the letter.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](#)

Partial relief to Byju's on EGM resolutions

Mumbai: The Karnataka High Court (HC), in response to a plea filed by Think & Learn Pvt Ltd (the parent company of Byju's), has passed an order stating that any resolutions proposed to be passed in the February 23 EGM called by select investors as invalid until the final hearing and disposition of this petition.

However, the HC has allowed EGM to go ahead as scheduled.

Byju's filed the petition arguing that certain investors, including General Atlantic, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, MIH EdTech Investments, OwnVenture, Peak XV Partners, SCI Investments, SCHF PV Mauritius, Sands Capital Global Innovation Fund, Sofina and T. Rowe Price Associates, had violated the Articles of Association, the Shareholders' Agreement, and the Companies Act, 2013 by calling for an EGM. ENS

Legal scrubbing of India-Oman free trade pact underway

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

THE PROPOSED India-Oman free trade agreement (FTA) that could boost Indian exports into the West Asia region is likely to be announced soon as pending issues have been settled and a legal scrubbing of the deal is underway, a person aware of the development told *The Indian Express*.

"While Oman is looking to diversify its economy by reducing its dependence on the oil and gas sector, India is looking for greater market access into diverse markets for its pharmaceuticals and textiles to technology and agricultural products. Currently, India relies on only half a dozen countries opening it up to external shocks.

"The India-Oman FTA should be announced soon as most of the issues have been settled and the deal is undergoing legal scrubbing. Once that is done, the leadership will take a decision on its announcement. The commerce ministry intends to sign the pact before the general elections," the person quoted above stated. This would potentially be India's second FTA with a West Asian country after signing a trade deal with the UAE. India also furthered its economic integration with UAE by completing a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) with UAE earlier this month. Global Trade Research

Initiative (GTRI) said that the India-Oman CEPA, while offering direct economic benefits through import duty reductions, also serves a larger strategic role in India's foreign policy.

"While acknowledging the limitations set by Oman's smaller economic size and population, the agreement's true value lies in its potential to open doors for India in the West Asia, fostering economic and strategic ties in a region of critical importance," GTRI said.

In FY23, India's merchandise exports to Oman were valued at \$4.5 billion. India supplies 6.6 per cent of Oman's imports. Petroleum products with \$2.2 billion account for 49 per cent of India's exports. Motor Gasoline or petrol with \$1.7 billion is the largest petroleum product.

Over 83.5 per cent of India's goods exports, valued at \$3.7 billion, currently face a 5 per cent import duty in Oman. With the new FTA, these products, including major exports like motor gasoline, iron, steel and products, Electronics, Machinery, Aluminum oxide and Textiles will benefit from duty elimination, GTRI said.

However, about 16.5 per cent of Indian exports to Oman, worth \$800 million and already entering duty-free, will not see additional benefits from the FTA. These include wheat, Basmati rice, Fruits, vegetables, medicines, fish, tea, coffee.

FM asks financial sector regulators to take more steps to curb unauthorised lending via apps

ENR ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

UNION FINANCE minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday stressed the need to take more steps to check the spread of unauthorised lending through online apps. Chairing the meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) that comprises financial-sector regulators including the RBI and Sebi, the minister has also urged them to formulate a strategy to simplify and completely digitalise the know-your-customer (KYC) process in the financial sector, with the larger objective of greater financial inclusion.

The move comes in the wake of the concerns over violation of KYC compliance by fintech firms, and the restrictions imposed by the RBI on Paytm Payment Bank (PPB). According to an official statement issued after the FSDC meeting, the council also resolved to proactively detect emerging financial stability risks and take necessary measures to maintain the resilience of the sector. The Council also decided to kick-start fund-raising by social enterprises through social stock exchanges.

Sitharaman will be meeting heads of prominent fintech firms including payment apps and loan apps on Monday with a view to

addressing their concerns in the aftermath of curbs imposed by the RBI on PPB for regulatory violations and urge them to comply with regulations, sources said.

Frauds by loan apps have also become a big headache for the government. A list of 442 loan apps provided by RBI through the ministry of electronics and information Technology (MeitY) has been given to Google for white-listing. Based on that Google reviewed 3,500 loan apps and removed around 2,200 digital lending apps (DLAs) from its Play Store. The FSDC considered the domestic and global macro-financial situation and emphasised that the members need to maintain constant vigilance and continue their proactive efforts towards detecting emerging financial stability risks and taking the necessary

Social stock exchanges, which were proposed in the 2019-20 budget, are trading platforms that allow social businesses and nonprofits to raise capital by attracting ethical investors willing to invest in organisations that have a dual corporate and social mission. The scheme is yet to take off in a meaningful way in India. FE

Classifieds

PERSONAL

My actual/Correct name is Manju Bish instead-of Manju Devi which was wrongly-written in my husband(Kharan Singh)documents.R/o-New Shera-Pata, Pithoragarh,Uttarakhand-26201. 0040715578-8

Lost my original PROPERTY DOCUMENT DDA DEMAND LETTER AGAINST 5TH AND FINAL INSTALLMENT DATED-09.11.92.Finder contact:VIKAS AHLUWALIA,S/D/W/O MADAN MOHAN AHLUWALIA,B 5/6,?/?4036,Vasant Kunj.Mobile.No.9718323400. 0040715594-10

It is general information that I,Joyce Milton,D/o Sh.Milton Daniel,R/o-20/92/Subhash Nagar,Meerut-Cantt.U.P.-250001,I declare that my name has been wrongly-written as Joyce Milton in my previous High-School Marks Sheet-Certificate No.1557893.U.P.Now after correction I got my new High-School Marks Sheet Certificate.No.1334488,U.P.Actual-name of my is Joyce Milton,which may be amended accordingly. 0040715587-10

I,hitherto known as Sunil Kumar alias Sunil Kumar Makjhia alias Sunil Makjhia,S/o-Late Ram Lal,residing at Flat no.33,Excellence Apartments,Plot No.4, Sector-18A,Dwarka, Delhi-110075,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sunil Makjhia.It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040715565-2

I,Vijay Kumar,S/o-Ramkrat Verma,R/o-F-35,Shastri Nagar,Delhi-52,declare that, name of my father,has been wrongly-written,as Ram Kirti.The correct,name of my father is Ramkrat Verma,for all future,purposes. 0040715653-6

I,Vidya Vati,W/o Chander Shekar Kalra,R/o H.No.1067, Sector-31,Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Vidya Vati Kalra. 0040715633-3

I,Uma Maheshwari wife of JC-820547L Sub(MP) Sreenivasa Reddy Y/R/o Village-Thati Reddy Palli,PS-Giddalur,Tehsil-Giddalur,District-Prakasam, State-Andhra-Pradesh-523373, have changed my name from Uma Maheshwari to Yaraboina Umamaheswari for all future pposes. 0040715566-4

I,Thirumala Reddy Father of JC-820547L Sub(MP) Sreenivasa Reddy Y/R/o Village-Thati Reddy Palli,PS-Giddalur,Tehsil-Giddalur,District-Prakasam, State-Andhra-Pradesh-523373, have changed my name from Thirumala Reddy to Yaraboina Thirumala Reddy for all future ppuses. 0040715566-5

I,Tabish,S/o-Mohd Akhlaq, Address-E-116, first-floor left-hand side Hari kothi Abul-Fazal enclave-1 Jamia-nagar okhla Delhi 110025, changed my name to Mohd Tabish 0040715587-7

I,Sumit Virmani S/o Devender Singh Virmani R/o-YP-26C Pitampura Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Sumit Varmani. 0040715653-2

I,Sandeep Girdher,S/o Som Prakash Girdher R/o-A/3/223, SF,Paschim Vihar,Delhi-63,have changed my name to Sandeep Girdher. 0040715587-1

I,Samiksha Bailyan,D/o Sushil Garg, W/o Vineet Bailyan,R/o A-234,DLF The Primus, Sector-82,Aurangabad(Haryana)-122004, have changed my name to Samiksha V Bailyan. 0040715633-5

I,SIMER JEET KAUR MALHOTRA, W/O PARMINDER SINGH R/O FLAT NO.-384, THIRD-FLOOR, POCKET-10,SECTOR-11, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, have changed my name to HARSIMRAN KAUR 0040715652-8

I,SHIV SHANKAR,S/O FAQIR CHAND,ADD CD-10 VISHAKHA-ENCLAVE PITAMPURA DELHI-110034,have changed my name to SHIV SHANKER JINDAL,for all,future purposes. 0040715587-5

I,SAEED S/O MOHAMMAD SAAD,R/o.168, BASTI-HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN,NEW DELHI-110013, HAVE CORRECT/CHANGE MY NAME AS MUHAMMAD SAEED SIDDIQUI,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040715645-1

I,SACHIN KUMAR BHARDWAJ, S/o Satya Parkash Sharma, R/o,H.no.137-C,Mian-Wali Colony,New Railway-Road, Near-Bus Stand Gurgaon, Haryana-122001,have changed my name to SACHIN BHARDWAJ. 0040715652-6

I,Rashmi W/o,Brij Bhushan Lal R/o,H.no.5402, Laddu-Ghati, Parahangri, Swami-Ram Tirath-Nagar, Central-Delhi-110055, inform-that Rashmi and Renu Devi both are one and same-person. 0040715654-2

I,Namrata Rawkra D/o Nathe Khan and W/o Lalit Kumar Ra J R/o 2398/3, Bedi Nagar, Jalpur, Madhya Pradesh-482001, have changed my name to Naphisha Begum.I have changed only my name not my Religion 0070890232-1

I,hitherto known as Bhushan S/o HOSHIYAR SINGH residing at House No. F-47, Adhyapak Nagar, Nangli, West Delhi-110041 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GOVIND. 0040715457-2

CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

PERSONAL

I,Ramalamma Mother of JC-820547L Sub(MP) Sreenivasa Reddy Y/R/o Village-Thati Reddy Palli,PS-Giddalur,Tehsil-Giddalur,District-Prakasam,State-Andhra-Pradesh-523373,have changed my name from Ramalamma to Yaraboina Ramalamma for all future ppres. 0040715566-1

I,Rakesh Dagur Rathee,spouse of Late Shri Sahab Singh Rath resident of Flat no.B-503,PNB Apartments,Plot No.11,Sector-4,Dwarka,New Delhi,South West Delhi,Delhi-110078,have changed my name from Rakesh Dagur Rathee to Rakesh Rathie wide affidavit dated 21-Feb 2024 at Delhi. 0040715655-1

I,ROHIT S/O RAJ PAL SINGH,R/O H.NO.37, MOOL CHAND COLONY, ADARSH-NAGAR, NAI SUBJI MANDI, DELHI-110033, have changed my minor son's name,from PUSHKAR RAJ to PUSHKAR RAJ KHADIYALA. 0040715653-7

I,RAVIKANT,S/O SH. BAL KISHAN,R/O M-34-C-1-M-BLOCK,DILSHAD GARDEN, DELHI-110095,inform that in my,Daughter Birth-Certificate her name R DHANSHIKA wrongly-written instead of correct name DHANSHIKA RAVI,both names are same persons. 0040715645-7

I,RAJINDER KUMAR'S/O RAM/LAL R/O 185/11, RAILWAY COLONY,KISHAN GANJ,DELHI-110037, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJENDER KUMAR. 0040715578-4

I,Kulbir Virmani W/o Davinder Singh R/o AM-172, 4th-Floor Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Kulbir Varmani. 0040715653-3

I,Prempal S/o-Raghuraj,R/o-1-146,Vijay Vihar,Phase-1,Delhi-85,inform that in my,some documents my.name Prempal Singh and my,father's name Raghuraj Singh wrongly-written.My correct name Prempal and my,father as Raghuraj,for all,future purposes. 0040715645-6

I,Vijay Kumar,S/o-Ramkrat Verma,R/o-F-35,Shastri Nagar,Delhi-52,declare that, name of my father,has been wrongly-written,as Ram Kirti. The correct,name of my father is Ramkrat Verma,for all future,purposes. 0040715653-6

I,Pramod Nagar,S/o Bhoole Ram,R/o Village Lakhnawali Gautam Budh Nagar,have changed my name to Pramod Singh. 0040715578-3

I,PRADEEP RANA,S/O.DARSHAN LAL RANA,ADD-20/15,THIRD-FLOOR,ASHOK NAGAR TILAK NAGAR,WEST DELHI-110018,changed my name to PARDEEP RANA,for all,future purposes. 0040715565-3

I,NIRMAL BAISOYA,W/O Ashok Baisoya,R/o P-203,Pilanji Village,Sarojini Nagar,Delhi-110023,have changed my name to NIRMAL. 0040715652-4

I,Nitin Kumar Mittal,S/O Mahabir Prasad R/o O House No-267-268,Block-B,Pocket-3, Sector-29,Rohini,Delhi-110042,have changed my name to Nitin Mittal. 0040715652-1

I,NIROTAM SINGH,S/O TEJPAL,R/O HAMEER THOK CHHATA,MATHURA,UTTAR PRADESH-281401,changed my daughter's name from Anoosha to Yaraboina Anoosha for all future ppres. 0040715578-10

I,Mukesh Kumar Sharma,S/o Man Singh Sharma,H.no.B-184A, Street.no.-7,Hardev Puri,Shahdara Delhi-110093,changed my name to Mukesh Sharma. 0040715578-2

I,JAYASREE A,W/o Sreejith V,R/o 167G, Pocket-II,Mayur Vihar Phase-I,Delhi-110091,have changed my name from JAYASREE SREEJITH to JAYASREE A,for all,future purposes. 0040715578-9

I,ISRAIL S/O.NASRUDDIN,HOUSE #N-63, SUBEDAR-BILDING MATEREAL SAPLAYER,NEAR DHANA-MOOR,WARD.NO.15, PINAGWAN(127)MEWAT,HARYA NA 122508,changed my name to MOHAMMAD ISRAIL,for all,future purposes. 0040715587-4

I,MOHD YUSUF,S/O.MOHD SAAD,R/o.168,BASTI HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN,NEW DELHI-110013, HAVE CORRECT/CHANGE MY NAME AS MUHAMMAD YUSUF SIDDIQUI,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040715645-2

I,MOHAMMAD ILYAS,S/O. MOHAMMAD SAAD,R/o.168, BASTI-HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN, NEW DELHI-110013, HAVE CORRECT/CHANGE MY NAME AS MUHAMMAD ILYAS SIDDIQUI,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040715645-3

I,MAHINDER SINGH SAINI,S/o Late Chatar Singh,R/o 32/1, NEAR THAPAR CHAMBER KILOKARI SOUTH,DELHI-110014,have changed my name to MAHENDER SINGH. 0040715653-2

I,Devender Singh Virmani S/o Harmohinder Singh Varmani R/o-WP-174A Pitampura Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Davinder Varmani. 0040715653-4

I,Lalit Kumar S/o Kailash Narayan,R/o Near Shiv Mandir,Ward-No.-5-Shiv-Colony,Sohna, Gurgaon (Haryana),have changed my name to Lalit Kumar Sharma, for all Purposes. 0040715633-6

I,LOV KUMAR,S/O HARI OM GUPTA,R/O-1/1076, STREET. NO.8,APARTSHI MARG, SUBHASH-PARK SHAHDARA,DELHI 110032, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME LOVE KUMAR GUPTA,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040715578-1

I,PARGAT SINGH,R/O SMQ.N-68,CAMERO COMPLEX SUBROTO-PARK,NEW DELHI-110010,HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON'S NAME MANSAHIBPREET SINGH TO MANSAHIB SINGH,VIDE-AFFIDAVIT IN- DL4721449804014W DATED-2102/2024 BEFORE-NCT-DELHI. 0040715645-9

I,Ekta W/o Khem Chand R/o-B-20,Delhi citizen Society Sector-13,Rohini Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Ekta Sachdeva. 0040715438-1

I,LOKESH GARG,S/O MOOL CHAND GARG R/O W/Z 77,PHASE-2,OM VIHAR,UTTAM NAGAR,DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO LOKESH KUMAR. 0040715578-5

I,Harsh Sharma,S/o Nandu Vishwakarma,R/o C-177,J.J colony Khyala Tilak-nagar Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Harsh Vishwakarma. 0040715653-5

I,Kumud S/o Laxman Kohli R/o 8/2,Third-Floor, 41-Block, Singh Sabha Road, Shakti Nagar,Delhi-110007,changed my name to Kumud Kohli. 0040715652-3

I,Kripa Sindhu,S/O Choudhary Rajiv Nayani,R/o-Flat No.432,Second Floor Sanskrit Apartment,Pocket GH-1,Sector-28,Opposite Shalihad Dairiy,Rohini,North West-Delhi,Delhi-110042,declare that name of my wife has been wrongly-written as NEERJA NAYAN in my minor SON SIDDHANT SINDHU, aged-17-years in his 10th-Class Educational-Documents and Birth-certificate No.9603.The actual-name of my wife is NIRJA NAYAN. 0040715645-4

I,Kamesh Gupta S/o Gopal prasad,R/o H. No. 132, WARD no.3, PECH colony mahal ke pass, Hodal dist palwal(HR) have changed my name to Jitender 0070890183-1

I,Vinayak Khushalani S/O Vivek Khushalani, R/o 3/5, Shanti Niketan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Vinayak Singhal. 0070890257-1

I,Deepak Gupta S/o Hari Prakash R/o 300, Deepali Enclave, Pitampura,Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Deepak 0040715587-6

I,Chetan,S/O ASHOK KUMAR R/O 126-B, GALI NO-2, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, GOVINDPURI, KALKAJI, NEW DELHI-110019 have changed my name to CHETAN KUMAR. 0070890194-1

I,Binay Kumar Gupta S/o Babban Prasad R/o H.No.-1701, Tower CB-2,SuperTech Capetown, Sector-74, Noida, UP-201301 have changed my minor daughter's name from INAAAYA to INAAYA GUPTA for all future purposes. 0070890239-1

I,Ashish Kumar Awadhya S/O Sitara Amritawati, R/o D-06, Type III, Maidan Garhi, IGNOU Residential Complex, Maidan Garhi, South Delhi-110068, Declare that name of Mine & My Wife and My Minor Daughter has been wrongly written as Awadhya Ashish Kumar & Awadhya Poonam A and Samyukta in my minor Daughter Samyukta Awadhya, aged about 13 Years, in Her Birth Certificate. The actual name of Mine & My Minor Daughter are Ashish Kumar Awadhya & Poonam Awadhya, which may be amended accordingly. 0070890226-1

I,Syed Mohammed Ali Murtuza S/o Syed Mohammed Nadeem Hossain,R/o 96 A, Zakir Bagh, Maulana Mohammed Ali Jouhar Marg, New Delhi-110025 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SM ALI MURTUZA in my all Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is SYED MOHAMMED ALI MURTUZA, which may be amended accordingly. 0070890228-1

I,JJC-820547L Sub(MP) Sreenivasa Reddy Y/R/o Village-Thati Reddy Palli,PS-Giddalur,Tehsil-Giddalur,District-Prakasam,State-Andhra-Pradesh-523373,have changed my name to Yaraboina Harshitha for all future ppres. 0040715576-1

I,Satpal Singh Rana S/O Shri Ram Chander Rana, R/o BU- 19, SFS Flats, Outer Ring Road, Pitampura, Saraswati vihar, North West Delhi-110034, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Soniya Gupta 0070890228-1

I,Shah Ghazal W/o Syed Abdul Arif R/o,D-249, Second-Floor, Front-Side,Abdul-Fazal Enclave-Jamia-Nagar, New-Delhi-110025,have changed my name to Shah Ghazala. 0040715654-1

I,Satpal Singh Rana S/O Shri Ram Chander Rana, R/o BU- 19, SFS Flats, Outer Ring Road, Pitampura, Saraswati vihar, North West Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Sunita Agarwal for all purposes. 0040715567-1

I,Avinash S/O Sh. Shyam Sunder R/o #87, Subhash Camp,Dakshinpuri Ext. Dr. Amedkar Nagar, South Delhi, have changed my name to Avinash Poply. 0020472588-1

I,Aastha Ananya D/o Sushil Kumar Srivastava R/o Surekha Niyan, Beside Lane Union Bank Of India Gola Road, Bailey Road, Danapur, Patna, Bihar-801503, have changed my name to Aastha Srivastava 0070890236-1

I,Ramesh Kumar Yadav S/o Ram Chand Yadav R/o RHZ686 Gali-15, Palam Colony, Rajnagar-2, Delhi have changed my name to MOHAMMAD ARMAN,for all,future purposes. 0040715587-3

I,RADHA KRISHNA PILLAI dependent (Father) of Rajesh R/o Ambady, Palavila, Edanadu, Chathannoor, Kollam, Kerala-691579 have changed my name from RADHA KRISHNA PILLAI to TRADHAKRISHNA PILLAI vide affidavit IN- DL4560594168591W dated 17 Feb 2024. 0070890185-1

I,Pankaj Kumar S/o Santosh Kumar, R/o 34, Surya Nagar-2, Bulandshah, Uttar Pradesh-203001. I have changed the name of my minor Son Dhiren Pratap Chaudhary aged about 8 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Vrishank Chaudhary. 0070890229-1

I,HARJEET SINGH,HARJEET SAINI, and HARJEET SINGH,S/O SH.RANJEET SINGH,R/O,VILLAGE-KURANI 67,NEAR-MCD SCHOOL KURANI,NARELA, DIST-NORTH WEST-DELHI,DELHI-110040,Have changed my name to HARJEET SINGH,for all,purposes in future. 0040715578-6

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 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

TMC vs BJP in Bengal: what is happening in Sandeshkhali?

ATRI MITRA
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 21

FOR A month and a half, a small island in the Sundarbans delta in West Bengal's North 24-Parganas district has been at the centre of BJP-TMC politics in the state. Here's what has been happening in Sandeshkhali village, and the larger Sandeshkhali-I block of the district.

An ED raid and an absconding Trinamool strongman

On January 5, a team of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) went to Sandeshkhali-I to raid the home of Sheikh Shahjahan, a local strongman and Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader, in connection with the ongoing investigation into alleged irregularities in the state's public distribution system.

Shahjahan's supporters attacked the ED team and injured three officials. They also helped Shahjahan escape.

Allegations of sexual abuse and land-grab against TMC leaders

On February 8, some local women carrying brooms and sticks blocked the main road in Sandeshkhali and demanded the immediate arrest of Shahjahan and his two aides, Shiba Prasad Hazra and Uttam Sardar, whom they accused of sexual abuse and harassment.

"They would pull my sari and touch me inappropriately. I kept quiet because I knew what would happen if I protested," one of these women told *The Indian Express*.

The next day, women protesters attacked Hazra's properties and set fire to his poultry farm which they said had been set up on illegally grabbed land.

Explained Politics

Political economy of a Sundarbans island

How did Shahjahan and his men come to run their alleged reign of terror in Sandeshkhali?

Sandeshkhali is one among the hundreds of islands in the Sundarbans delta, where the Ganga-Meghna-Brahmaputra system falls into the Bay of Bengal. It is surrounded by a web of tidal waterways, rivers, canals, and creeks lined with mangrove patches. The island's water ecosystem is rich in nutrients,



and ideal for farming fish.

The 2011 Census recorded about 49% Hindus, 30% Muslims, and 15% Christians in Sandeshkhali-I block. Around 30% of the non-Muslim population were Scheduled Castes (SC) and 26% Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Sandeshkhali island itself is mostly inhabited by SC and ST farmers and fisherfolk. Once the heartland of the Tebhaga move-

ment (1946-47) that saw peasants agitate for a bigger share of the agricultural output, Sandeshkhali was a CPI(M) stronghold till about the 2010s. The CPI(M)-led Left Front government gave land *pattas* (titles) to its inhabitants, many of whom had migrated from East Bengal following Partition, and enjoyed their unwavering support in return.

Things changed after the Left's defeat in 2011. By 2016, the TMC was the dominant force in the area. The significant Muslim population in Sandeshkhali was a major TMC vote bank. Sheikh Shahjahan joined the party in 2013.

As the district's *matya karmadhakshya* (in charge of fisheries development), Shahjahan, along with his henchmen, all of whom were patronised by the ruling party, allegedly began to grab the lands of farmers to convert them into lucrative fish farms. Those who resisted were allegedly targeted, while those who gave in did not receive fair compensation.

As things came to a head, the politicians moved in

The long simmering anger against Shahjahan and his goons bubbled over after the failure of the police in apprehending him.

After Hazra's farm was set ablaze, police imposed prohibitory orders, and several women allegedly received threats from TMC goons. The police, who have arrested Sardar and Hazra but not Shahjahan, initially denied allegations that the women were raped, but later filed cases against local TMC leaders. The BJP, smelling a strong political opportunity ahead of elections, moved in aggressively.

Governor C V Ananda Bose visited Sandeshkhali on February 12, described the situation as "ghastly, shocking, and shattering", and announced that "the doors of Raj Bhavan are open for victimised women who can come and stay here". He submitted a report to the Union Home Ministry and called for a judicial inquiry.

Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari visited on Tuesday and said there was "no democracy" there. CPI(M) veteran Brinda Karat visited too, and said local TMC leaders were running a "reign of terror" in Sandeshkhali.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told the state Assembly on February 15 that the BJP had "brought in" people to "instigate" violence in Sandeshkhali, and had "fabricated an *adivasi* (ST) versus minorities (Muslim) fight".

"It is not new. The RSS has a base there."

There were communal riots there seven-eight years ago. We handled the situation firmly during Saraswati Puja, because they had other plans... A sinister design is at play," she said.

Meanwhile, Calcutta High Court on Tuesday expressed surprise that "the person who is said to be the core of the problem (Shahjahan) could not be apprehended till date".

'Khalistani' controversy: a new escalation in Sandeshkhali

On Monday, a Sikh IPS officer was allegedly called "Khalistani" by Adhikari. The officer, SSP (IB) Jaspreet Singh, was part of a police contingent that had stopped BJP workers and leaders from entering Sandeshkhali.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee "vehemently condemned" the BJP's "divisive politics" and "attempt to undermine the reputation of our Sikh brothers & sisters", and vowed to protect "Bengal's social harmony".

The West Bengal Police issued a statement expressing outrage against the alleged slur used by Adhikari, and said Singh was "both a proud Sikh and a capable police officer who was trying to enforce the law".

Adhikari has denied using the slur.

Explained Global

IN CANADA PARLIAMENT: WHY OPPN LEADER DEMANDED TO KNOW 'WTF!'

RISHIKA SINGH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

Conservative Party of Canada leader Pierre Poilievre in Ottawa. Reuters

CANADA'S LEADER of Opposition Pierre Poilievre said in Parliament on Wednesday that the government paid \$258 million over several years to a small company. The firm was involved, among other contracts, in creating an app for safe travel during the Covid-19 pandemic, as per a report by the country's Auditor General.

Targeting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Poilievre said: "One ArriveCAN company (referring to the company that was asked to build the app) received a quarter of a billion dollars in contracts. Let's get this straight, this is a company with four employees, headquartered in the basement of a tiny cottage. They got IT contracts even though they admit they do not IT work. A quarter of a billion dollars? WTF!"

When Speaker Greg Fergus asked Poilievre to not use unparliamentary language, he replied: "Where's The Funds?"

The Opposition leader also said that the company, GC Services, had begun to receive government contracts soon after Trudeau became Prime Minister. Canadian media have reported that GC Services won approximately 140 Canadian federal government contracts worth a total \$258 million (about Rs 1,585 crore) since 2015, the year Trudeau came to power.

What are the irregularities?

On November 2, 2022, the Canadian House of Commons passed a motion for the AG to conduct a performance audit of the entire process. The report that came out this month said: "Overall, the Canada Border Services Agency, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and Public Services and Procurement Canada repeatedly failed to follow good management practices in the contracting, development, and implementation of the ArriveCAN application."

AG Karen Hogan said: "Government organisations needed to be flexible and fast in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, but they still needed to document their decisions and demonstrate the prudent use of public funds. In this audit, we found disappointing failures and omissions everywhere we looked."

On the matter of awarding contracts for developing the app, she said, "We saw little documentation to support how and why the Canada Border Services Agency initially awarded GC Strategies the ArriveCAN contract through a non-competitive process. Only one potential contractor submitted a proposal, and that proposal did not come from GC Strategies."

How has Trudeau govt responded?

Trudeau said in Parliament, "The Auditor General has highlighted some very concerning questions that need to be answered."

He said during the pandemic, the government "did everything it could to keep Canadians safe and protected", but "even in the most trying times perhaps, especially in the most trying times, all the rules need to be followed in this case." He said they would support authorities in following up on irregular contracting and potential "breaking of the rules".

2 THE THIRD JUDGES CASE: CJ must consult other SC judges before making recommendations for judicial appointments

In 1998, President K R Narayanan sought a clarification from the Supreme Court on the procedure for appointment of judges by issuing Presidential Reference under Article 143 of the Constitution.

Nariman made submissions to assist the court in the case. The Supreme Court clarified that the CJ must consult other judges of the top court before making any recommendations for judicial appointments. It also expanded the size of the collegium to five senior-most judges from the existing three.

3 THE NJAC CASE: SC struck down the NJAC Act as 'unconstitutional and void'

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

EMINENT JURIST and Senior Advocate Fali S Nariman passed away on Wednesday. He was 95 years old. His career as a lawyer spanned more than 75 years, with the last half-century spent as a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India. During this time, he left an imprint on the law and the legal profession in a vast array of landmark cases.

1 THE SECOND JUDGES CASE: Establishment of the Supreme Court collegium system

In 1981, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court gave the Centre the final say in judicial appointments and transfers. The court did this by allowing the President to refuse recommendations made by the Chief Justice of India (CJI). The apex court held that the requirement under Article 124 of the Constitution — that the CJI must be "consulted" — means there must be an exchange of views between the CJI and the President. There is, however, no necessity for "concurrence" between them.

The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) challenged the decision in 1987. It was represented by Senior Advocate Nariman among others. Nariman argued that "consultation" in the context of judicial appointments means more than merely seeking advice. Instead, it must be seen as binding, to protect judicial independence.

In 1993, the nine-judge Bench agreed with his arguments and established the Supreme Court collegium system, still in place.

2 THE THIRD JUDGES CASE: CJ must consult other SC judges before making recommendations for judicial appointments

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3 THE NJAC CASE: SC struck down the NJAC Act as 'unconstitutional and void'

Nariman also appeared in the case of *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India* that challenged the National Judicial Appointment Commission Act, 2014 (NJAC). The NJAC amended the Constitution to insert Article 124A, which created a six-person commission for judicial appointments. The commission would comprise the CJI, two other senior Supreme Court Judges, the Union Minister of Law and Justice, and two "eminent persons" who would be nominated by a committee comprising the CJI, Prime Minister and Leader of Opposition.

Nariman argued that the NJAC would impinge upon judicial independence if the central government and the legislature were allowed to participate in the selection and appointment of judges. In 2015, the court struck down the NJAC Act.

4 THE GOLAKNATH CASE: SC ruled that Parliament can't curtail fundamental rights

In the 1967 *Golaknath v. State of Punjab* case, two brothers challenged the 17th Amendment of the Constitution, which diluted the right to property. The amendment did so by modifying Article 31A, that deals with the acquisition of estates and can be found in the fundamental rights chapter.

Nariman appeared on behalf of the intervenors who supported the petitioners. They argued that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution under Article 368 did not include Articles contained in the fundamental rights chapter. The Bench agreed, pointing

out that Article 13(2) states that Parliament cannot make a law that infringes upon fundamental rights.

5 THE UNION CARBIDE CASE: Compensation worth \$470 million paid to Bhopal gas tragedy victims

In December 1984, toxic chemicals leaked from a Union Carbide-owned pesticide plant in Bhopal, killing thousands of people and causing wide-scale environmental damages. The Supreme Court began hearing the case for compensation to the victims in 1988. Nariman appeared for Union Carbide and offered to pay \$426 million as compensation. Next year, the company reached a settlement with the Centre and agreed to pay \$470 million.

6 THE TMA PAI FOUNDATION CASE: Minorities have the right to establish and administer education institutions

In the *TMA Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka* case, Nariman argued in support of the rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.

In 2002, the SC held that linguistic and religious minorities have to be determined on a state-by-state basis and the government has the power to frame regulations which will apply to minority-run educational institutions. The court, however, clarified that these regulations cannot "destroy the minority character of the institution or make the right to establish and administer a mere illusion".

7 THE ARUNACHAL POLITICAL CRISIS CASE: Governor to act upon aid and advice of the council of ministers, CM

In 2016, the SC was tasked with navigating the political crisis in Arunachal Pradesh, following the rebellion of 21 Congress MLAs the previous year. Governor Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa advanced the Assembly session so a floor test could be conducted.

Nariman appeared in the case — *Nabam Rebia, and Bamang Felix v. Deputy Speaker* — on behalf of the house whip Bamang Felix. He argued that the governor did not have the power to advance the Assembly session as it could only be done upon the aid and advice of the council of ministers and the chief minister. The court agreed and restored the Congress government led by CM Nabam Tuki.

8 THE JAYALALITHAA CORRUPTION CASE: Bail for the former CM

A Bengaluru Sessions Court in September 2014 found that former Tamil Nadu CM Jayalalithaa had acquired property disproportionate to her known income. The court sentenced Jayalalithaa to four years of jail and imposed a Rs 100 crore fine. The sentence was upheld by the Karnataka HC, leading to an appeal at the Supreme Court. Nariman appeared on behalf of Jayalalithaa. He convinced the court to grant her bail against executing the fine and suspend the sentence passed by the Bengaluru court.

9 CAUVERY WATER DISPUTE CASE: On questions of federalism

From river-water disputes Tribunal to the Supreme Court, Nariman represented Karnataka for over 30 years in the Cauvery water-sharing dispute with Tamil Nadu. In 2016, the Supreme Court ordered Karnataka to release 6,000 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water from September 21 to September 27. Nariman skillfully negotiated several interim orders for Karnataka on the quantum of water to be released to Tamil Nadu. Even as tensions rose before every hearing, Nariman ensured that Karnataka complied with the court's orders.

In the final judgement, passed in February 2018, the apex court took note of Nariman's stand on the issue. It observed: "We think it necessary to state here that Mr Nariman had courageously lived upto the highest tradition of the Bar". The court then reduced Karnataka's annual water releases to 177.25 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) from 192 TMC.

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8010 440 440 Or Visit Our Karol Bagh Centre at 21, Pusa Road, Delhi

Explained Aviation

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

AIR INDIA Express has launched 'cabin baggage-only' fares, a fresh attempt after years by an Indian carrier to unbundle the check-in baggage service for lower fare categories.

'Zero baggage' or 'no check-in baggage' fares are offered by several low-cost carriers in North America, Europe, and Southeast Asia. But these fares never took off in India due to a combination of factors, including regulatory constraints that would have blunted their competitive edge.

While a regulatory limitation that effectively capped the additional charge for check-in luggage at Rs 200 for the standard 15-kg allowance was removed in 2021, airlines chose to wait and watch. Indian consumers were seen as habituated to the luggage allowance, and the carriers saw a gradual change of habit as a prerequisite for 'no

check-in baggage' fares to become the norm.

But the introduction of this fare category by Air India Express could now nudge other Indian airlines, particularly no-frills carriers such as IndiGo, Akasa Air, and SpiceJet, to follow suit, which, industry experts believe could significantly change the structure of airfares in India going forward.

How will Air India Express's new fare category work?

Air India Express on Tuesday announced "Xpress Lite fares", which are essentially 'zero check-in baggage' fares that the airline says will be lower than regular fares (which include a free check-in baggage allowance).

To sweeten the deal, Air India Express is offering 3 kg complimentary cabin baggage allowance in addition to the regulation 7 kg, taking the total allowance to 10 kg.

Those who book tickets at Xpress Lite fares have the option of separately pre-booking check-in baggage allowance at

<p

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा

प्रपत्र संख्या-01

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना-11/2023-24/WRD/M.I.Division,Jamtara

दिनांक - 20.02.2024

विभाग का नाम : जल संसाधन (लघु सिंचाई) विभाग, झारखण्ड

विज्ञापनदाता का नाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियन्ता लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा

कार्य की विवरणी

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	प्रखण्ड	प्राकलित राशि (लाख में)	अग्रधन की राशि (लाख में)	परिमाण मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	झिन्नुआ जोरिया पर श्रृंखलाबद्द चेकडैम	नारायणपुर	121.537	2,44,000.00	10,00,000	11 माह
2	बेलाटोड-शिमला एकसिंचा जोरिया पर श्रृंखलाबद्द चेकडैम	नारायणपुर	113.837	2,28,000.00	10,00,000	11 माह
3	चेमालीही जोरिया पर एकल चेकडैम निर्माण	जामताड़ा	62.80	1,26,000.00	10,00,000	9 माह
4	खेंगा जोरिया पर एकल चेकडैम निर्माण	नाला	61.234	1,23,000.00	10,00,000	9 माह
5	संगजोरिया जोरिया पर एकल चेकडैम निर्माण	नाला	69.339	1,39,000.00	10,00,000	9 माह
6	सपरिया जोरिया पर एकल चेकडैम निर्माण	कुण्डहिंत	60.714	1,21,500.00	10,00,000	9 माह
7	जगन्नाथपुर जोरिया पर एकल चेकडैम निर्माण	कुण्डहिंत	60.965	1,22,000.00	10,00,000	9 माह
2	ई-निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक-11.03.2024(अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक)				
3	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	दिनांक-13.03.2024(अपराह्न 12.30 बजे तक)				
4	वेसाइट पर निविदा अपलोड करने की तिथि	दिनांक-27.02.2024(पूर्णांन 10.30 बजे से)				
5	निविदा आमंत्रण करने वाले प्रकाशिकारी का नाम	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा				
6	निविदा से संबंधित जानकारी हेतु मोबाइल नंबर	9835534822				
7	ई-प्रोक्ष्यूर्मेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन नंबर	0651-2491232				

PR 319795 Minor Irrigation(23-24)#D

रजिस्ट्री सं. ३० ई.एन. ३००४ / ९९



REGD. NO. D. L. - 33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-३.ए.ल.-अ.-19022024-252224

असाधारण

माय-॥-खण्ड ३-चप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II-Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. ६७४] नई दिल्ली, बुद्धपालियार, फरवरी 15, 2024 / माघ 26, 1945
No.678] NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024/MAGHA 26, 1945MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(Northern Railway)
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATION)
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 15th February, 2024

S.O. 714(E).— Whereas, by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Railways, number S.O. 1620 (E), dated 31 March' 2023 issued under sub section (1) of the Section 20 A of the Railway Act 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for the purpose of execution, maintenance, management and operation of the Special Railway Project namely, Development of Freight & Coaching Terminal at Bijwasan in the state of Delhi.

And whereas, the substance of the said notification has been published in the daily local newspapers, namely Danik Jagran & Indian Express dt. 14 Sept 2023 and revised gazette notification published on 10 October 2023, under sub section (4) of section 20A of the said Act.

And whereas, objection was received in this office vide diary no. 63758 dt. 27.09.2023, 67188 dt. 19.10.2023 and 67189 dt. 19.10.2023 same has been dismissed by CALA vide order No. ADM/LAC/SW/2023-24/8556 dated 27.01.2024. And objection received vide Diary No. 84154 dt. 22.12.2023, being time barred, was rejected.

And whereas, pursuance of section (1) of section 20-E of the said Act, the Competent Authority has submitted its report to the Central Govt.

Now therefore, upon receipt of the report of the competent authority and in the exercise of the power conferred by sub section (1) of section 20-E of the said act the Central Govt. hereby declares that the land specified in the schedule annexed hereto shall be acquired for the aforesaid purpose.

And further in pursuance to sub section (2) of section 20-E of the said act the Central Govt. hereby declares that on publication of this notification in official gazette the land specified in the schedule annexed hereto shall vest absolutely in the Central Government free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the District-South West of Delhi for special Railway project namely Development of Freight & Coaching Terminal at Bijwasan.

Sl. No.	Name of District/State	Name of Village/Hadbast No./Museel	Khasra No.	Area to be acquired in E3igha-Biswa
1	District-South West, Delhi	Kapeshera	Bharthal,	51/24 4-16
2			52/4/2	1-10
3			52/26/1	0-6
4			52/4/1	3-0
			Total:	9-12 (0.8075 hectare)

[F. No. 190-W/Land/Misc-CSB-1(Kapasheda)]

A. K. SINGHAL, Chief Administrative Officer/Const.

Government of Jharkhand
Rural Works Department
JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRDA)
3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)

Re-e-Tender No.- 331/2023-24-748 Dated: 20.02.2024

PR No. 316081 dated 13.01.2024

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State / Central Government Organization for construction and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY-I).

The bid should be submitted online in the website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in. The bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate for online submission of bid.

PMGSY-I (2018-19)

Sl. No.	District/Block	Repackage	Road Name	Length (in M)	Cons. Cost (in Lakh)	Maint. cost (in Lakh)	Total (in Lakh)	E/M (in Lakh)	Time Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1	Giridih /Gawan	JH8MAR300	Const. of High level Bridge over Local River in L026 to Belakhuta road	100.00	502.04	35.62	537.66	10.75	06 Months

Details of bid submission is as under:

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding	Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chief Engineer, JSRDA, Ranchi	Chief Engineer, JSRDA, Ranchi	22.02.2024 at 10.00 AM	05.03.2024 upto 5.00 PM	06.03.2024 at 5.30 PM	To be informed later		

* Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.

Note:-

1. Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.

2. Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10,000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d). Online payment through RTGS / NEFT should not be made through SBI.

3. In case, it is found, even after the award of work that the bidder has submitted/ uploaded any false/erroneous/fraudulent statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.

4. Bidders must submit GST registration certificate without which bid is liable to be rejected.

5. Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD, any department of GoJ/GoI (including JSRDA) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.

6. Bids submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s) / made inordinate delay in execution of earlier allotted construction/ maintenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected summarily.

7. In case of any discrepancy/dispute about units in BOQ, units as mentioned in Current SOR on which BOQ has been prepared shall prevail.

8. Participating bidders are free to submit grievances, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five working days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at jh-ce@pmgsy.nic.in. Grievances submitted after stipulated period shall not be considered.

9. Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fund organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 failing which the bid shall be rejected.

10. Bidders must not quote rate for routine maintenance. The amount for routine maintenance as indicated in the Bill of Quantities must be acceptable to bidders.

11. For unbalanced bids, extra security will be required to be deposited by the bidder by the time of Agreement.

All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in as per schedule mentioned above.

Chief Engineer JSRDA, Ranchi

PR 319867 (Rural Work Department) 23-24 (D)

यूको बैंक

UCO BANK

सम्मान आपके विवाह का

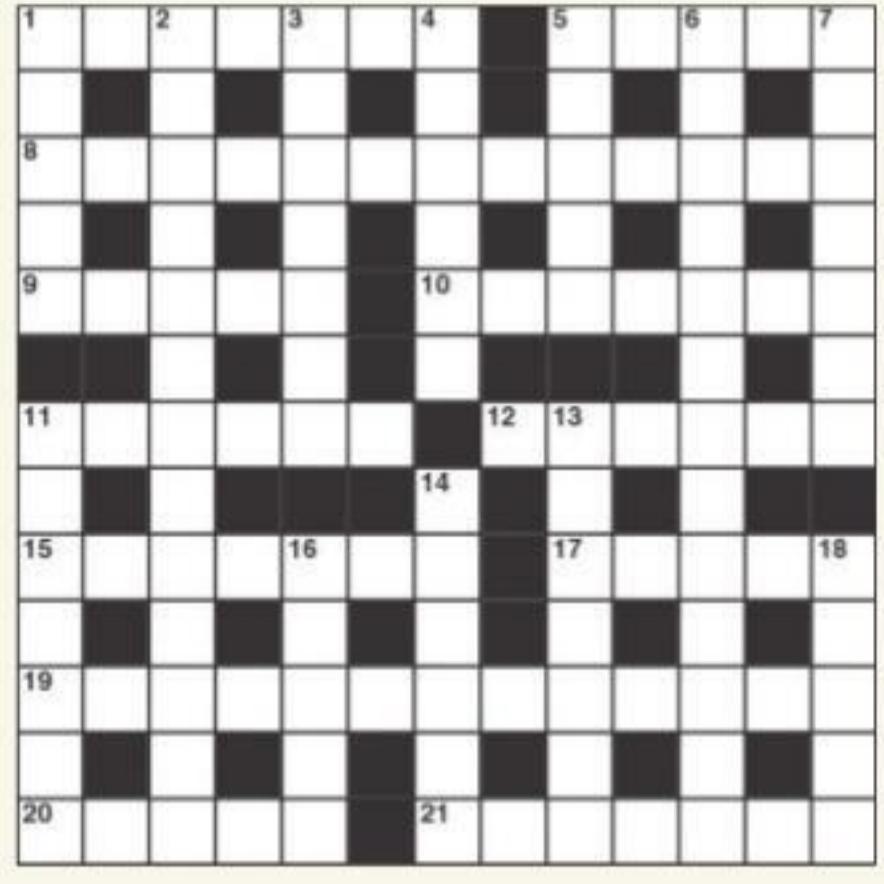
Zonal Office : 75/4, Siddhi Sadan, Halsey Road Near Badshahi Naka Police Station, Kanpur - 208001

e-mail : zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) APPENDIX-IX [Rule – 8(I)]

Whereas, the undersigned is the Authorised officer of the UCO Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated (details mentioned here in below) calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) (details mentioned herein below) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being (details mentioned herein below) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank,

CROSSWORD 5294



ACROSS

- 1 He gets French wine at a minimal charge (7)
5 Be inclined to give it back to the little dog (3,2)
8 A bit rusty like a retired doctor (3,2,8)
9 Marie Louise embraces the spirit of Shakespeare (5)
10 Unusual seaside shingles for instance (7)
11 Get Sid to make a summary (6)
12 Eager to change a trend (6)
13 A warning to those who are too introspective (4,3)
17 Pole taking meat around for sale? (5)
19 It cuts both ways (3-5,5)
20 He gave the rondo new form (5)
21 Infuriates with fresh demands (7)

Solutions Crossword 5293 Across: 1 Holes, 8 Attacks, 9 Reach, 10 Material, 11 Medal, 12 Ann, 16 Stages, 17 Intern, 18 Pip, 23 Trust, 24 Amputate, 25 Films, 26 Rallying, 27 Agony Down: 2 Operetta, 3 Exchange, 4 Strain, 5 Eaton, 6 Chair, 7 Psalm, 12 Asp, 13 Nip, 14 Starling, 15 Pressman, 19 Intend, 20 Pairs, 21 Spell, 22 Stays

DOWN

- 1 Old instrument is superior to a modern one (5)
2 No criterion for what a danger signal should be (7,2,2)
3 Gathers and puts the sheep bed? (7)
4 Tried a form of abuse (6)
5 Temporarily secures what's said to be an obligation (5)
6 Soldier gets pay for work. Others may get it without work (7,6)
7 Here for the time being (7)
11 Not straight (7)
13 New verse I'd corrected (7)
14 A term's misused in a rush (6)
16 The brotherhood expresses a reservation (5)
18 Swimming pools in solid form (5)

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLE WORDS

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

People don't buy for logical reasons. They buy for emotional reasons. - Zig Ziglar (9)

BDAEO

SLEUTH

PRRIO

IISUMN

Answers: People don't buy for logical reasons. They buy for emotional reasons. -Zig Ziglar
SOLUTION: ABODE/DEPIRE/HUSTLE/MURKIN

SUDOKU 5480

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

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

	9			5				
1		6	8					
				4				
6		4	8					3
				7	1	5		
2		7	5			4		1
7			5					
		9	6			3		
8					3			

Difficulty Level

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5479

8	5	3	1	2	7	9	4	6
2	9	1	4	6	5	8	7	3
4	6	7	9	8	3	5	1	2
7	1	5	6	4	8	3	2	9
9	3	2	5	7	1	6	8	4
6	8	4	3	9	2	7	5	1
5	2	6	8	1	9	4	3	7
1	4	8	7	3	6	2	9	5
3	7	9	2	5	4	1	6	8

In many ways you are absolutely spot on and completely right, but sometimes even you have to admit to having been wrong. On the other hand, there is more than a grain of truth in your opinions and beliefs, so get the balance right if you can find it.

It will be a rare and completely blinkered Capricorn who cannot now sense that emotional conditions are about to improve. The most intuitive amongst you will already realise that a happy encounter is just around the corner. All you have to do is recognise it when it comes.

Although there are a couple of decidedly difficult aspects to contend with, the general planetary situation is relatively easy. The reason is that anyone who launches an attack is liable to hit the wrong target. But if you do spot an approaching emotional missile, why don't you duck?

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Don't spend too much time going over old ground, because this week's planetary aspects do advise you to adopt a commonsense approach. And that means recognising that what's past is past. You can now possibly concentrate on creating a much brighter future.

Someone seems to have the bit between his, or her, teeth, possibly over a legal question or an overseas connection, or even over a matter of principle. Only if you persist in a special course of action will you achieve your personal goals.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

This ought to be a relatively straightforward time, but someone, somewhere, is still looking just a little irrational. You'd be advised to treat all sensitive individuals with kid gloves - just in case. If at all possible, why don't you give them the benefit of the doubt?

Some kind of battle or wrangle over finances may seem to be inevitable but is in fact quite avoidable. It's down to you to set an example by being clear and playing fair. There is no time for hesitation, and no reason to delay all your important preparations.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

It's always good to remember that, although you may be especially enthusiastic about a particular project, other people may see the world through totally different eyes. So don't try to bulldoze reluctant partners, but wait for them to catch up with you.

You have every reason to nurture certain suspicions, perhaps that you have been duped. Undermined or betrayed. However, there may be no need to consider retaliation, as the time for action may have passed. The reason is that other people may have been acting in good faith.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

No matter whether current questions, issues or problems be of a domestic or professional nature, you can be assured that if you follow a traditional Cancerian approach, delicate, sensitive and kind, you will serve your own best interests. Remember the old saying, as you sow, so shall you reap.

It will be a rare and completely blinkered Capricorn who cannot now sense that emotional conditions are about to improve. The most intuitive amongst you will already realise that a happy encounter is just around the corner. All you have to do is recognise it when it comes.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Personally and financially, everything points to this being a phase for individual contemplation. If anything is troubling you, the root cause might be lingering worries over your security. That's why you should look for reassurance wherever you can find it.

Aquarius (Jan 21 - Feb 19) In many ways you are absolutely spot on and completely right, but sometimes even you have to admit to having been wrong. On the other hand, there is more than a grain of truth in your opinions and beliefs, so get the balance right if you can. And do it now.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Yesterday's Solar alignments should already have clarified certain issues. At the centre of current affairs lies the whole manner in which you relate to other people. You may feel that you haven't been sufficiently assertive in the past, but that can be put right, now.

Although there are a couple of decidedly difficult aspects to contend with, the general planetary situation is relatively easy. The reason is that anyone who launches an attack is liable to hit the wrong target. But if you do spot an approaching emotional missile, why don't you duck?

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Personally and financially, everything points to this being a phase for individual contemplation. If anything is troubling you, the root cause might be lingering worries over your security. That's why you should look for reassurance wherever you can find it.

In many ways you are absolutely spot on and completely right, but sometimes even you have to admit to having been wrong. On the other hand, there is more than a grain of truth in your opinions and beliefs, so get the balance right if you can. And do it now.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Yesterday's Solar alignments should already have clarified certain issues. At the centre of current affairs lies the whole manner in which you relate to other people. You may feel that you haven't been sufficiently assertive in the past, but that can be put right, now.

Although there are a couple of decidedly difficult aspects to contend with, the general planetary situation is relatively easy. The reason is that anyone who launches an attack is liable to hit the wrong target. But if you do spot an approaching emotional missile, why don't you duck?

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DIPR No.: 966-PP-CL-AGENCY/ADVT/I/2023-24

CHIEF ENGINEER/TRANSMISSION

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED

The Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited invites sealed bids for the following works:

Bid document is available from 27.02.2024 at 17.00 hrs

Name of the works: Spec.No.TST-TRANS-03/2023-24: Supply installation & Commissioning of 22 nos portable Online Transformer Moisture Absorption Systems

NOTE:- Further details can be seen @ http://www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in in PHONE NO. 040-23396000, Extn: 3365,3322, e-mail: id: ce.trans@tsttransco.in, Sd/-

DIPR No.: 966-PP-CL-AGENCY/ADVT/I/2023-24

CHIEF ENGINEER/TRANSMISSION

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.

(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
(Civil Engineering Department)

Regd. Office: JUSNL (SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 e-mail: ceciviljusnl@gmail.com

CANCELLAION NOTICE

Tender invited vide e-NIT No. 390/PR/JUSNL/2023-24 is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable reasons.

Sd/- General Manager (Civil) JUSNL, Ranchi Pr 316505 PR 319884 (Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd)23-24*D

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

BESCOM invites tender against Enquiry No. BESCOM/GM/QS&S/23-24/19 for Procurement of Potential Detector with FRP Telescopic Rod suitable for detection of liveness of 240V to 400KV overhead line.

The tender documents can be obtained through KPP portal from the tendering website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 26.02.2024. Aspiring bidders need to register in the KPP portal. Further, Bidders can take assistance with e-procurement helpdesk +918046010000, +918068948777 or e-mail to support@eprochelpdesk.com for any issue.

Sd/- General Manager, (Ele.), Quality Standards & Safety K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 001.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912

Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

ELS_SRE_T-43 dt. 21/02/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on web site www.ireps.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter-

Open Tender No. ELS_SRE_T-43 Date 21/02/2024

Name of work : Reconditioning of Points and Xings & SEJ in the Jurisdiction of Sr.DEN-III/DLII.

Safety audit in M/s MELPL Saharanpur premises and WAG-12 locomotives.

Date of Closing/Opening : 15.03.2024

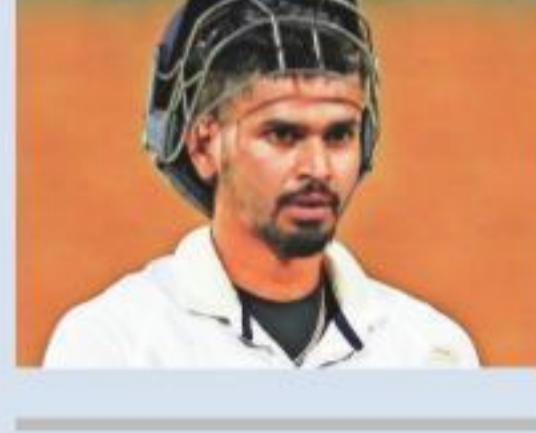
Rs. 1,62,840/-

Approx. Cost : Rs. 89,80,880.55/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Lakh Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty and Fifty Five Paise only)

Earnest Money to be deposited : Six Hundred Rupees)

Cost of Tender Document : Rs. 0.0

Iyer opts out of Ranji, NCA says he is fit



DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 21

A DAY after Test-capped Shreyas Iyer informed the Mumbai Cricket Association that he was not available for selection for the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals, Nitin Patel, the head of sports science and medicine at the National Cricket Academy, in an email to selectors, confirmed that there was 'no fresh injury' and he was 'fit'.

According to Mumbai Cricket Association sources, Iyer had cited back pain as a reason for sitting out of the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal game versus Baroda, which begins on Friday. But Patel in his email, which was seen by *The Indian Express*, wrote: "Shreyas Iyer was fit and available for selection as per the handover report of the Indian team after the 2nd Test match against England. There are currently no fresh injuries reported as well after his departure from Team India."

Last week BCCI secretary Jay Shah had warned centrally-contracted and India A cricketers that non-participation in domestic cricket would have 'severe implications'. Wicket-keeper Ishan Kishan, who pulled out of the Test tour of South Africa citing 'personal reasons' did not play Jharkhand's final group game against Rajasthan.

Iyer scored 35, 13, 27 and 39 in the first two Tests against England. He was dropped when the squad was announced for the last three Test matches. *The Indian Express* understands that Iyer had complained of back spasms during the second Test. Patel's letter to the selectors says that he was available for selection after the second Test.

The national selectors, after taking inputs from the BCCI medical team, told Iyer to play Ranji Trophy so that his back gets used to the strain of batting and being on the field for an extended period of time.

Iyer had missed last year's IPL because of a back injury and made a comeback during the Asia Cup before scoring 530 runs in the World Cup at home at an average of 66.25.

Last Friday, BCCI secretary Shah in a letter to top cricketers said that domestic cricket remains a 'critical yardstick for selection' to the national team.

The reason for the communication, according to the letter, was 'the concerning trend of players prioritising the IPL over domestic red-ball cricket'. 'There is a recent trend that has started to emerge and is a cause for concern. Some players have begun prioritising the IPL over domestic cricket, a shift that was not anticipated. Domestic cricket has always been the foundation upon which Indian cricket stands, and it has never been undervalued in our vision for the sport,' Shah said in the letter.

He also said that 'domestic cricket forms the backbone of Indian cricket and serves as the feeder line to Team India'.

'Our vision for Indian cricket has been clear from the outset – every cricketer aspiring to play for India must prove themselves in domestic cricket. Performance in domestic cricket remains a critical yardstick for selection and non-participation in domestic cricket will carry severe implications,' wrote the BCCI secretary.

STAYING GROUNDED

Standing guard at Ranchi airport is dad of first tribal player with IPL contract

SANDIP G
RANCHI, FEBRUARY 21

AT THE exit point of the arrival hall at the Birsa Munda International Airport in Ranchi stands Francis Xavier Minz, attentively watching every passenger filing in and out of the building. In a philosophical tone, he sums up the nature of the job: "I see everyone coming out of the airport, but hardly anyone notices me. Why should they? I'm just a security guy here, one of the many."

Some hours ago, he had just watched the India cricketers stream past him after landing in their private jet. No one recognised him, even though he watched them in admiration, as they tugged their kit-bags along. But his heart swelled with joy and pride. For now, he hopes, his son Robin would be one among them.

The 19-year-old batsman, the first tribal cricketer with an IPL contract, already has become one of the league's million-dollar babies, after Gujarat Titans shelled out Rs 3.60 crore to acquire his signature in the auction a few months ago. But Francis knows

Ranchi rolls out two-faced pitch

England batsman Ollie Pope says 'pitch looks interesting, very platey... ball could deviate more if cracks open up'

SANDIP G
RANCHI, FEBRUARY 21

LIKE A pair of inquisitive sleuths on a crime scene, Brendon McCullum and Jonny Bairstow squeezed through the ropes strung around the 22-yard strip and devoted the next 20 minutes deducing its nature. The duo bent, kneeled and craned their necks, probing the surface from every possible angle. Joe Root and **Ollie Pope** (in pic), too, joined them in their forensic examination, even as the two national curators and the local counterpart watched bemusedly from their pitch-side perch.

What intrigued the Englishmen, Pope would confess later, was the two-faced appearance of the surface. One half of the pitch, when viewed vertically, is smattered with spots of dry grass; the other half is bald and brown, with "platey" cracks. "The top layer looked crusty. The cracks in the wicket aren't just cracks, there are separate bits of ground that could open up with a lot of sun on them. The ball could deviate more off them if they open up like we expect them to," he would detail his assessment of the surface.

None of the decks in this series has been a rank turner. Typically, the pitch would be mostly true for the first two days, before it begins to deteriorate, offer turn, albeit slow, and invariable bounce. But Pope, and England fear that Ranchi would be the one India might look to twist the knife and serve up a spiteful turner.

One reason, Pope feels the hosts would seek the extreme, is the absence of Jasprit Bumrah, who terrorised the English batsmen more than the spinners did, and is the leading wicket-taker of the series. "With Jasprit missing the Test, they could go down the avenue of dishing out a turner and unleashing four spinners," he notes.

He offers a more scientific reason too. "When we looked at the pitch, it was recently watered and moist. It was kept under the sun too. So it won't be a better for sure," he says.

Selective watering and exposure to sunlight—the sun is more benign than harsh—could accelerate the cracking up process. The grass, more grey than green, is kept to bind the surface from not breaking up prematurely. "It depends on what India want, how they see it, if they want to leave a bit of grass on it, or shave it off. There is every chance they would do that (shave off the grass)."

Ranchi's googly

It's not the first time that the appearance of the Ranchi surface has spooked a travelling side. Back in 2017, the Australians fumed when they cast their eyes on the surface, which looked fearfully dark. But the supposed crack-laden pitch, "prepared of soil from Mars", as an Australian daily put out, played just fine and produced a thrilling draw. The surface held up, the turn was slow, and there was some assistance for fast bowlers in the first hour of Days 1 and 2.

The sinisterness of the pitch owed to the peculiar nature of the black soil here, which when watered assumes a deep, dark shade. Black soil is inherently slow in nature, unless it is over-exposed to sun. Batsmen get time to react to the amount of turn. Even when the ball keeps low, an inevitability when the pitch wears, it does not skid as waspishly as clayey red-soil surfaces would.

The Test against South Africa in 2019 produced a result. The duration—it lasted three days and a session—could raise eyebrows. But it was not the surface that abetted the visitors' capitulation, but their own inept



Head coach Rahul Dravid inspects the Ranchi pitch during a practice session at the JSCA International Stadium. PTI

None of the decks in this series has been a rank turner. Typically, the pitch would be mostly true for the first two days, before it begins to deteriorate, offer turn, albeit slow, and invariable bounce.

batting against India's pacers Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav, who accounted for half of South Africa's wickets.

Some turn, though, is inevitable. Shubman Gill reminds: "This is India, you expect the ball to turn." But when the ball begins to turn—and how much it does—is the abiding question. If it turns out to be a rank turner, Pope says, England would not be complaining. "If it does spin from ball one I guess it's an even playing field. It doesn't define the result, but it does give you an advantage if you win the toss and bat on the slightly flatter wickets," he says.

Turners, however, are a double-edge sword for India in the recent past. Earlier this year, India lost to Australia on a pitch that helped spinners.

Meanwhile, India coach Rahul Dravid too moved anxiously around the wicket—perhaps the most ubiquitous image of the series—before he suddenly paused and stared meditatively on something that caught his attention. The curators would converge, listening to what the coach had to tell them and nodding their heads. As soon as the coach left, the curators instructed his groundsman, scattered for lunch, to cover the pitch.

They hastily obeyed the orders, wrapping the pitch that has intrigued the English cricketers, perhaps with another layer of potential mystery.

A ripple of applause peeled the crisp forenoon air when Ben Stokes suddenly made one ball leap off a good length and beat Jonny Bairstow. Encouraged, Stokes would amplify his aggression, crank up his pace by a few notches and keep Bairstow entirely

Who'll replace Bumrah? Will Stokes bowl? Net session provides answers

SANDIP G
RANCHI, FEBRUARY 21

A BRIGHT smile flashed on Bengal pacer Akash Deep's face when a member of the support staff flung a new ball towards him. He immediately measured his run-up and stood tossing the ball restlessly in his palms for his turn to come. And when it came, he bristled in and worked up a steady pace that once hustled Yashasvi Jaiswal and kept Rohit Sharma wary. He consistently hit the hard lengths and generated more bounce and pace than his Bengal teammate Mukesh Kumar, a dimension that would be factored in when choosing one among the two to partner Mohammed Siraj in the absence of the rested Jasprit Bumrah. If Wednesday's nets session was an audition, Akash Deep would be the runaway winner.

But India would weigh other options too. Like playing a fourth spinner, should the pitch facilitate spin bowling early in the piece. In such an eventuality, Washington Sundar could get a look-in, after three years in this format. Washington began with a few laps around the ground, before padding up and hitting the nets, where he batted as fluently as he had in his last Test outing, wherein he remained unbeaten on 96, striding out emphatically to defend and pressing back to launch his raspy cuts. His chief threat though would be Axar Patel, whose batting stocks have risen and bowling utility dipped.

A ripple of applause peeled the crisp forenoon air when Ben Stokes suddenly made one ball leap off a good length and beat Jonny Bairstow. Encouraged, Stokes would amplify his aggression, crank up his pace by a few notches and keep Bairstow entirely

shut, despite his efforts to unleash attacking strokes. He would beat him a few times and also hurry him into defensive prods on a couple of instances.

After every ball, a member of the medical staff would rush by Stokes's side and ask if he felt any physical strain. In case he did, he did not show, as he regathered to bowl another ball. After a point, they stopped both-bowling and Stokes would bowl as intensely as he would in a Test match.

The England skipper regaining his bowling fitness would not have been better timed, with his side in dire need of a seam-bowling option if they are to continue their strategy of

fielding three spinners. With the possibility of Ollie Robinson featuring in the game, giving a breather to James Anderson and Mark Wood, England would enjoy the fire and experience of Stokes, who last bowled against Australia at Lord's last year. He was then operated on his left knee after the World Cup.

The final word, though, would be of the doctor and the physios, his colleague Ollie Pope would say: "We know what Stokes is like, he's got that competitive edge. There's every chance he'll bowl, but he's not convinced it yet."

Jonny Bairstow perished to his daring tool, the reverse scoop, in the last Test. The stroke incensed England's former players, pundits and baffled spectators. He didn't attempt that particular stroke in the nets again, but did summon the reverse variants, the sweep and the paddle sweep. Once he even shadow-practised a switch hit. Later he essayed a vast array of orthodox cricketing strokes. The checked straight-drive stood out, as did his square-drives. So much so that it seemed not so much a case of him out-of-touch than finding outrageous ways to get out. Root was as calm and relaxed as he always is. With his arch-nemesis Jasprit Bumrah too not around, Ranchi could be where he stands up to be counted and ends his drought.

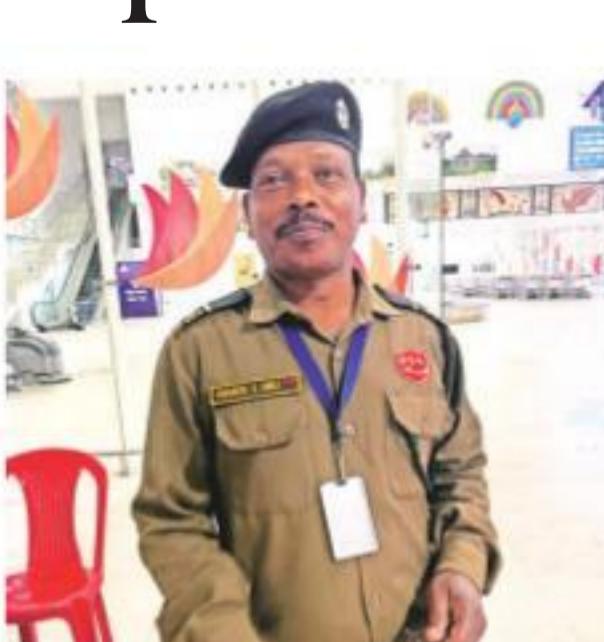
Bairstow was gritting himself out from an indifferent patch at the nets. He was literally the first man to hit the nets and the last to leave. He would devote the first half of his session to defensive shots, getting his alignment right, playing as straight as he could and resisting the loose flashes outside the off-stump. Streaky in the earlier exchanges, he would grow in confidence as the session dragged on, whereupon he would lash out his expansive strokes.

Akash Deep could partner pacer Mohammed Siraj in the absence of the rested Jasprit Bumrah. PTI

hain (all of us are)." For a long time, Dhoni has known him. He used to give Robin cricket shoes and gear. A few days before the auction, the former India captain assured him that if no team picked him, Chennai Super Kings would.

Such a day though was unimaginable when Francis carved a bat out of wood for his son when he was a child. Seeing how good he was – "a natural hitter" – he brought him a tennis-ball cricket bat. "He always played cricket and then the idea struck me to put him in a coaching academy. And God bless, it worked," he says.

Then he simply let him be, let his son find out how good or bad he was at the game. He was not a pushy father, who would watch every practice session of him or ask him how much he scored in a game. He offered just one piece of advice: "Whatever you do, do it with love and heart, 100 percent commitment." So far, his son has lived up to his father's words. And one day, he hopes to see him pass through these same gates as an India cricketer. And one day, more people would recognise him as the father of Robin Minz.



Robin Minz was roped in for Rs 3.60 crore by Gujarat Titans. Father Francis Xavier Minz is a retired army man posted at the Ranchi airport. Express/Instagram

how long and arduous the path to the Indian team is. "He has just started. The world has just about registered his name. Raasta abhi bhi lamba hain (the route to the Indian team is still a long way away)," he says.

Just then a couple of youngsters pass



through the entrance. He stops and asks them to show their IDs, which he inspects attentively. "This is my job, to ensure that no one who has left the airport re-enters without an ID. You never know who has a gun in his hand. One lapse and I would lose my job," he says.

Financial stability

As an afterthought, he adds: "I cannot be lax because my son is an IPL cricketer. Of course, there is more financial security in the family, but you never know how life would turn out to be. A lot of my colleagues ask me why I need to work anymore. But I tell them I will keep working as long as I feel like working and I am healthy," he says.

Francis has been working and earning as long as he can remember. In his early teens, he performed odd jobs to sustain the family in his ancestral village, Telgaon in Gumla dis-

The more life has changed on the outside, the more it has remained the same. "We still live in the same house. I still drive the same bike. It's a decent house, so we have not even thought of moving or buying a bigger one. Fortunately, Robin too has remained the same. He knows he has to keep working hard, and cannot be carried away. He is still the same old boy of ours," he says.

Living his own dream

Somewhere deep inside, though, Francis is realising his own unfulfilled dream of becoming a sportsman. "Everyone knows the story. I played hockey and football in my village, and sometimes competed in athletics too. The SAI centre in Delhi called me for a football camp, but I couldn't join because I didn't have a photo of me at that time. My village didn't have a studio. Then I didn't pursue further. There was no time for it," he says. The struggle to earn a livelihood was staring at his face.

His love for sports, though, remained undiminished. A certain long-haired swashbuckler from Ranchi would fuel it further. Francis admits he is a Dhoni-tragic. "Ham sab

SON ACCEPTS LEE'S APOLOGY

South Korea captain Son Heung-min has asked fans to forgive team mate Lee Kang-in after the midfielder apologised "sincerely" for his involvement in an altercation between the pair on the eve of their Asian Cup semi-final. "Since that incident, Kang-in is going through a very difficult time. Please forgive him just once more with a generous heart," Son said in an *Instagram* post. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

**Asian Track Cycling:
India bag one gold,
two silver, a bronze**

New Delhi: Indian cyclists made a bright beginning to the Asian Track Cycling Championships as the women's junior team clinched gold in the sprint event here on Wednesday. In a stunning display of skill and teamwork, the Indian side comprising Sarita Kumari, Niya Sebastian and Zaina Mohammed Ali Pirkan outclassed the Korean team and secured gold in 53.383s. "It is like a dream for us to beat the strongest team of Asia. We did it with our team work," said Niya after the race. India's good run on the day extended as they grabbed two silver medals later. PTI

**Aus snatch last-ball
win over Kiwis**

Wellington: Tim David hit a four from the last ball of the match to give Australia a six-wicket win over New Zealand on Wednesday in the first Twenty20 international. New Zealand made 215 for three batting first in an innings which included 13 sixes and 10 fours. Captain Mitch Marsh piloted Australia's innings with an unbeaten 72 from 44 balls and was man of the match for his role in Australia's third-highest successful run chase. But, David took over at the end, hitting two sixes and a four from the last three balls of the 19th over to leave Australia needing 16 runs from the last six balls. AP

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand 215/3 in 20 ovs (Rachin Ravindra 68 from 35 balls); Mitchell Marsh 1/21 lost to Australia 216/4 in 20 ovs (Mitchell Marsh 72 from 44 balls; Mitchell Santner 2/42) by 6 wickets.

**Arunachal Pradesh
hold Goa to 3-3 draw**

Yupia: Hosts Arunachal Pradesh and Goa split points after a thrilling 3-3 draw in the 77th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy here on Wednesday. The match did not disappoint as Rahul Goju Singpho's last-minute header clinched a point for the hosts. Singpho was the star of the show for Arunachal Pradesh, heading in an equaliser in the first half as well after Nocio Fernandes's opening goal for Goa in the 20th minute. Meanwhile, Kerala, the champions from 2022, got off to the perfect start with a 3-1 win over Assam. PTI

Flawed & fabulous

Fulton's wards draw 1-1 vs Dutch but succumb to shootout loss in FIH Pro League

MIHIR VASAVDA
ROURKELA, FEBRUARY 21

LALIT UPADHYAY leapt so high above the defence he might as well have been a footballer trying to head home a hopeful cross into the box. A second ago, the ball was in India's half with Harmanpreet Singh stopping in his tracks to find passing options. None available, with all closely marked by the Dutch who were one-up, he turned to India's Man Friday Hardik Singh to his right.

Hardik spotted Lalit taking a step forward and lobbed a ball that travelled almost three-fourths the length of the pitch and kept on sailing. It was destined to land on the advertising boards until, like a superhero popping from nowhere to save a distressed soul's life, Lalit jumped high, put his stick above his head and plucked the ball from the cool Rourkela air.

The defender had to react else Lalit would have been through on goal but in trying to stop him, he also encroached on the attacker's territory – violating the 5m rule – and India were awarded a penalty corner.

Minutes later, Hardik – who started the move from the right of India's defence – was there on the left side of the goal near the baseline to tap the ball into the goal. The all-rounder's 11th career goal ensured India got something out of the match in which they were both flawed and fabulous.

Trailing 1-0 at half-time, the FIH Pro League

It was an evening when the backline defence shone. Barring the early exchanges, where they were guilty of starting slow, which led to a goal in the second minute, the defence was flawless.

Harman, the midfielder

There must have been a tinge of astonishment within the Dutch camp when they would've seen Harmanpreet Singh, the bedrock of the defence, scurrying in the centre of the midfield, pushing forward and having India's first real shot at goal. A tomahawk, no less. Not a drag-flick, the captain's speciality.

In a series of experiments that the FIH Pro League has been, this was one of the more profound ones for it had a domino effect on other areas of the field. Amit Rohidas had to step in



Hardik Singh celebrates after scoring against the Netherlands. Hockey India

and marshal the defence. Sumit played one of his best games in an India shirt. Harmanpreet Singh imposed himself on the right. Rotating, inter-changing and constantly on the move, not just in the defence but different parts of the field, although the coordination wasn't always smooth – when India got going, it was a spectacle.

It was an evening when the back-line defence shone. Barring the early exchanges, where they were once again guilty of starting slowly which led to them conceding a goal in the second minute, the defence was flawless. It gave Harmanpreet and Hardik the push forward more freely to join the attack.

There were phases, especially in the second quarter when India came back well after falling behind early and the third where they continued to put pressure on the Netherlands when the attack looked irresistible with the forwards showcasing their wide-ranging skills.

It was a phase from which India would have preferred to get something more than just the Hardik goal. But the home team couldn't convert their circle entries into goals. The for-

wards found it tough to find space inside the crowded Dutch 'D' and at other times, they were guilty of indulging in one pass too many.

The conversion remains one of the top problem areas but another concern raised its head during the match. As was the case against Spain, their basic skills – trapping and passing – let them down.

It allowed the Netherlands to launch counter-attacks and not let India settle on the ball. In high-stakes matches, one would expect them to be more ruthless than they were on Wednesday and punish India for losing the ball so frequently in the middle of the park.

PR Sreejesh made fine saves and Krishan Pathak, too, had to dive full-length to his right and use his stick to keep the ball out to stop the Netherlands from scoring a late winner.

But the goalkeepers' fine form in the tie-breakers finally ended. It also puts a little more spotlight on Pathak's strength, or lack of it, in the shootouts, something Fulton has noted.

Unlike Sreejesh, who makes himself big in the goal and rarely commits to a tackle, Pathak didn't look assured while saving the shots. Indeed, it was the strikers' casual attitude that led to India losing the shootout 4-2. But in a tournament where Fulton hopes to give shape to his Olympic squad, it's these fine margins that will decide which goalkeeper will be on the plane to Paris.

India table tennis teams make history, qualify for Paris Olympics

ANIL DIAS
FEBRUARY 21

DESPITE LOSING their pre-quarterfinal matches at the ITTF World Table Tennis Team Championships in Busan on Wednesday, both the Indian men's and women's teams will qualify for the Olympics for the first time ever by taking the last world ranking spot.

It's the first time that India will qualify for the team event of an Olympics since the event was included at the Beijing 2008 Games.

While the official list of team rankings will come out on March 4, as per calculations, both teams have made the cut for Paris.

"The men's and the women's teams played very well and we're proud of them. We're waiting for the official announcement that we have qualified for the Paris Olympics, which will come on the 5th of March," Kamlesh Mehta, Table Tennis Federation of India general secretary, said.

The men's team, led by 10-time national champion Sharath Kamal, were blanked 3-0 by a much better team in hosts Korea. The women put up a brave fight but lost 1-3 to the higher-ranked Chinese Taipei, which had the likes of World No.10 Cheng I-Ching and World No.41 Su Yu Chen.

Since only 16 teams qualify for the event, it's fiercely contested considering that two wins at the Olympics guarantee a medal. The women's team is currently ranked 17th while the men's team is 15th.

A team qualifying for the Olympics also gives the country two guaranteed singles entries for the Olympics.

While among the women, Manika Batra and Sreeja would've qualified as per rankings, the men would hugely benefit from this. While the Table Tennis Federation of India may take the final call, it's going to be an interesting battle among World No.67 Harmeet Desai, veteran Sharath, G Sathiyan and Manav Thakkar for the two spots. Sathiyan should also qualify for the mixed doubles event, partnering Manika Batra.

The 41-year-old Sharath, who has represented India at four Olympic Games, told *The Indian Express* recently that it would be his dream to play in a team event at the Olympics.

"I've seen this team grow. To be playing in a team event at the Olympics would be a dream come true. The camaraderie we share with each other and the way we have helped each other over so many years is just amazing. To play an event with genuine medal possibilities would be un-



This is the first time India will qualify for the TT team event of the Olympics since the event was included at Beijing. Reuters

lievable," he had said.

In the opening round of the tournament, Ahyika Mukherjee and Sreeja Akula stunned the table tennis world by beating Chinese World No.1 Sun Yingsha and World No.2 Wang Yidi respectively.

An Indian had never beaten a top Chinese before and those double victories have suddenly shown that India are capable of springing a surprise against the best, though their consistency needs to improve leaps and bounds.

Indian table tennis has been on an upswing ever since Sharath medalled at the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. Its growth only multiplied in the past decade, especially after Manika grabbed the spotlight after winning four medals at the 2018 Gold Coast CWG. She followed it up with an Asian Games mixed doubles bronze – a first for India – partnering Sharath, Sutirtha and Ahyika Mukherjee then did the unthinkable at the Hangzhou Asian, winning a women's doubles bronze, beating a top Chinese pair in their backyard.

Sathiyan, who had earlier said he let his singles rankings slide to focus on mixed doubles, will have to concentrate on improving his singles ranking again.

"To be honest, it will be very difficult to win a medal in singles. I've participated once, maybe I could go two rounds further but still, you are two to three rounds away from a medal chance. So I should concentrate on something where I stand a chance at winning," he had said.

The entire Indian contingent in Busan would celebrate making it to the Olympics, but they also know that till the qualification window ends, team spirit would have to take a backseat.

Riding on failure & disappointment, Anush wins India coveted Paris spot

SHIVANI NAIK
FEBRUARY 21

ANUSH AGARWALLA, who got India its first-ever Dressage quota in Equestrian, was once told by his German coach Hubertus Schmidt that everyone can garner sympathy, but jealousy (*die missgunst in delish Deutsch*) has to be earned. Schmidt, a former Olympic champion and now a highly-decorated trainer, retired as a rider in late 2023 at age 62. But his association with Anush, 24, had already been yielding results prior to his full-time shift, and finally gave India its first Olympic quota in the sport.

Anush is a Kolkata lad hailing from a fairly affluent family, who went to La Martiniere, rode his first pony at Tollygunge, struggled a lot with cooking-cleaning chores after landing in Dressage hub Germany at age 17 having never lifted a plate at home. He could strop off after failure and spent December 2019 ahead of Tokyo working up an almighty sulk after missing Olympic qualification. From then to now, when he's got down to working stables - cleaning boxes and saddling - Anush has come a long way, earning his envy.

The quota belongs to India, but Anush is fairly confident he'll keep his spot to represent the country. "It's not an easy journey, I don't remember the last Diwali I spent at home. Shifting to Germany where I didn't know the language or any people at 17, and learning grocery shopping and household chores... but I chose this life, no one forced me," he says.

ANUSH AGARWALLA
DRESSAGE EQUESTRIAN

four events in the last quarter of 2023. "While most medalists from the Asiad took a break after Hangzhou, I trained at the same mental levels," Anush says. He was in Wroclaw, Poland only three weeks after the Asiad team gold high. "I called up my coach and told him we will qualify." At one of Europe's biggest shows, he finished with a commendable 8th-place finish and 73.485%.

At Kronenberg in the Netherlands thereafter, he achieved his personal best score of 74.4%, finishing 5th behind the reigning World champion lady. "My mum was there so that was a good outing."

However at Frankfurt, where he and his horse Sir Caramello Old didn't click as well as he'd have liked, the atmosphere got to them, and the perfectionist in him was disheartened with 72.9%. "This time I turned disappointment



Anush Agarwalla won India's first ever Dressage Olympics quota in Equestrian. Agency

It's not an easy journey, I don't remember the last Diwali I spent at home. Shifting to Germany where I didn't know the language or any people at 17, and learning grocery shopping and household chores... but I chose this life, no one forced me."

ANUSH AGARWALLA

DRESSAGE EQUESTRIAN

into motivation." At Belgium Mechelen next, he knew there was no room for mistakes, and he coped with pressure for a 74.2%, pipping a Korean rider to the last spot in December 2023.

"When I finished in Belgium, I just looked at my coach and smiled. We said nothing. But I knew we'd achieved the impossible," he recalls, though confirmation came through only this Monday.

"Sir Caramello Old knows he's going to the Olympics, so he's happy too," Anush guesses about his mount. The chestnut gelding, now 16 years old, came to Anush in September 2019. Sir Caramello, when new, at age 3 was ridden by German Oliver Luze, then went to Eva Moller in 2011, then to Danish Andreas Helgstrand and then Russian Oleg Efremov, followed by Sergey Puzko, according to eurodressage.com. He disappeared from competition and resurfaced in USA with PJ Rizvi after a few years. After Olympian Ashley Holzer, he was sold to a German barn sale, where the Agarwallas bought him. Tokyo fetched up too soon and ended in tears for Anush, but the mount stayed steady.

An endless fount of misery for those around him after the Tokyo qualification miss where he was showered with sympathy, the rider is a far more self-assured soul now, revelling in jealous swipes coming his way. He's earned his envy. Now for nailing the trials, and fulfilling a childhood dream that was born at India's oldest riding club.

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