

**HIJAB ROW**  
Strict action if dress code not followed in govt schools, warns Rajasthan minister

**HAMZA KHAN**  
JAIPUR, JANUARY 30

A DAY after controversy erupted over girl students wearing hijab at a government school in Rajasthan, School Education Minister Madan Dilawar warned of strict action wherever the dress code was not being followed. Minister of State for Home, Jawaharsingh Bedham, said that students should not come to school in "oot-patang (absurd) attire."

Dilawar said, "Government orders (regarding dress code) will have to be followed in schools and in other government institutions and the students will have to adhere to the dress code." He said that orders to ensure adherence to dress code are already in place "and there will be action wherever irregularities are found."

On students reportedly offering namaaz in schools, Dilawar said he "will not let religious conversion take place in schools..."

## Cong leader Manvendra Singh's wife dies in Rajasthan car crash

**HAMZA KHAN**  
JAIPUR, JANUARY 30

CHITRA SINGH, the wife of Congress leader and former Lok Sabha MP Manvendra Singh, died in a road accident in Alwar on Tuesday evening, officials said.

The Congress leader, his wife, their son Hamir Singh, and a driver were in the car that met with an accident on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Alwar.

Manvendra Singh, Hamir, and the driver sustained injuries in the accident, but are said to be out of danger.

The mishap took place near Alwar's Khushpuri village, close to the Rajasthan-Haryana border. Following the accident, the four were rushed to Solanki Hospital in Alwar district headquarters, about an hour away, reaching there at about 6 pm, as per the doctors.

Alwar SP Anand Sharma said the accident took place sometime between 4.30 pm and 5 pm. "They were on their way from Delhi to Jaipur. The car went off the road and into the wall of the divider. While Manvendra's wife



Cong ex-MP Manvendra Singh at a hospital after a road accident in Alwar on Tuesday; the damaged car. PTI

passed away, the other three are out of danger."

Dr G S Solanki, chairman of Solanki Hospital, said Chitra Singh "had already passed away when she was brought to the hospital".

Upon hearing the news, top district officials rushed to the hospital to take stock of the situation. Principal Medical Officer at Alwar District Hospital, Dr Sunil Chauhan, who also reached the hospital, said that Manvendra suffered a fracture in his ribs. The doctors said that Manvendra was suffering from Pneumothorax and Hemothorax, where air and blood, respectively, enter the pleural space. Due to this, an intercostal tube has been placed. Chauhan

also said that Manvendra is "talking and his vitals are normal".

Solanki said Manvendra Singh "is in shock, but very conscious", and that he was yet to be informed about his wife's death.

According to Solanki, Hamir suffered a wrist injury, and their driver had minor injuries. Chitra Singh, however, had sustained multiple injuries, he said, adding that the exact cause of death would be known only after a post-mortem is conducted.

Principal Medical Officer Chauhan said the Singh family's relatives are on their way to the hospital and will take a call on if and where to move Manvendra and the others.

Indian student missing in US confirmed dead

**Neel Acharya** was a student at Purdue University

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, JANUARY 30

AN INDIAN student who had been missing in the US was confirmed dead by university authorities on Tuesday, a day after his mother had taken to social media to request information about his whereabouts.

Neel Acharya, a computer science and data science student at Purdue University in Indiana State, had been missing since January 28, as per a tweet by his mother Goury Acharya.

The Consulate General of India in Chicago had replied to her post, saying, "Consulate is in touch with Purdue University... Consulate will extend all possible support and help."

In a statement on its website, Purdue University said that Acharya was confirmed dead, without divulging the cause.

It said that a "college-aged" man matching Acharya's description and carrying his ID was found dead near the Maurice J Zucrow Laboratories on the campus at about 10.30 am on Sunday.

## After jawan faked death to evade repayment, BSF to list personnel with loans

**MAHENDER SINGH**  
MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Border Security Force (BSF) has ordered collation of the details of its personnel with loans from banks or insurance companies, particularly the habitual bad hats, so as to keep a close watch on them and take strict action if they default on repayments.

This comes as the force seeks to increase financial discipline among its personnel after a BSF jawan allegedly faked his death to avoid paying his loan instalments. The constable, Amit Rana (32), was arrested in June last year.

Through a letter sent on January 24, the BSF D-G has told the headquarter heads that Rana's case was taken "very seriously" as such incidents not only brought a bad name to the force but also had a bearing on its administration.

"All the headquarters heads of BSF should make a proper register with details of persons who have taken loans from banks as

well as insurance companies. They should be regularly sensitised about the financial discipline through Sainik-Sammelan, Roll-Call and during the visit of senior officers," an official said, citing the letter issued by a Commandant-rank officer of the coordination branch.

The headquarter heads have also been told to re-ascertain all off-duty deaths with the relatives of the deceased, maintain a list of the habitual bad in their respective units and conduct regular checks on them.

"Commanders at all levels should interact with the troops to find out their family background, financial hardships to know them better...they should conduct regular checks of those personnel who have taken loans and also to ascertain if they are repaying through regular instalments," the official quoted above said, citing the letter.

"The concerned unit should liaise with the banks regarding defaulters in loan repaying, if any, and strict disciplinary action be taken against the loan defaulters to avoid such incident," the letter added. Commanders

have also been asked to make the personnel aware of cases such as constable Rana's and counsel them to avoid its recurrence.

Rana, from Nurpur in Himachal's Kangra district, was arrested on July 21, 2023 while travelling from Bengaluru to Chennai in his friend's truck. It was three weeks after his charred car was found on the Chamba-Chowari road in Himachal on June 29 and he was suspected to have died in the incident. Rana's family even performed his last rites, while expressing fears he may have been murdered.

According to the BSF, however, Rana was found to have allegedly faked his death to claim insurance money after failing to pay a bank loan.

"The unit ordered a Summary Court of Inquiry (SCOI) and initiated steps to be taken in such a case. It came to fore later that Rana had taken a loan of Rs 40-45 lakh from various banks and when he failed to pay EMI, he hatched a conspiracy of his own death to claim the insurance money," the letter stated.

### Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department P. W. Division, Panvel

Telephone No. 022-27452778

E-mail address:- panvel.ec@mahapwd.gov.in Fax Number :- 022-27467440

Executive Engineer P.W. Division invite B-1 Tender From Registered Contractor with Govt. of Maharashtra Detail Tender Notice Available On www.mahapwd.gov.in and www.mahatenders.gov.in Portal.

Note :- Total 2 Work include in Tender notice.

Online Tender Download & Bid Preparation Period Date 31.01.2024 At 10.00AM To Date 07.02.2024 18.00 PM. Online Tender Bid Preparation Last Date 07.02.2024 at 18.00 PM.

E-Tender/O.No./P.W./PNL/  
Office of the Executive Engineer,  
Public work Division, Panvel.  
Dist. Raigad  
Date -

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
P. W. Division  
Panvel

DGIPR/2023-24/7416

### INSTITUTE OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR & ALLIED SCIENCES (IHBS)

Hospital based autonomous academic Institute, under Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, dealing with "Brain – Mind Problems & their Solutions"

Dilshad Garden, Delhi 110 095 (India), Tel.: 2259 7750

E-mail: purchaseihbs@gmail.com; website: www.ihbs.delhigovt.nic.in

F.No.14/19/PSOM/IHBAS/2022/

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The following tenders is being uploaded on the E-procurement site (<http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>) of Delhi Govt./IHBAS website:

**Dated:** 31/01/2024

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The following tenders is being uploaded on the E-procurement site (<http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>) of Delhi Govt./IHBAS website:

**DIP/Shabdhar/Classified/0326/23-24**

**Officer In-charge Purchase (Medical)**

Interested firms/suppliers may please see the detailed Terms & Conditions of the respective Tender from the above mentioned sites before submission of the tender.

**DIP/Shabdhar/Classified/0326/23-24**

**Govt. of Jharkhand**

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction

Department

Nirupan Bhawan, 4th floor, 56-Set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002

e-mail--- [ercdapfdran-jhr@nic.in](mailto:ercdapfdran-jhr@nic.in)

e-Procurement (Short Tender Notice)

Letter of Invitation (LOI) No.-62/2023-24

National Competitive Bidding (Two Bid System)

e-Tender Ref No-- RCD/FSD/AP/RAN/62/23-24 Dated 29.01.2024

**1 Name Of Work**

Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed project report for construction of Connecting Flyover from Kantotoli Flyover (Under-construction) to BootyMore including replacement of culverts and bridges, proposal for new culverts and bridges, complete Land Acquisition Proposal including ownership details all complete as per latest guidelines, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal with clearance of all stages etc as required, at Ranchi in the state of Jharkhand.

**2 Tentative Length**

5.00 km

**3 Period of Completion of Work**

90 Days

**4 Cost of Tender Document & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)**

**Cost of Tender Document :- Rs 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand)(Non-Refundable) through online mode only.**

**EMD :- Rs 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh) through online mode only.**

As per the Departmental Letter no.-

4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit will be received in online mode only

through e-procurement portal (<https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>) by

Internet banking/ NEFT/ RTGS facility as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 dated

03.10.2023.

**5 Mode of Bid Submission**

[e-tendering\(<http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>\)](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)

31.01.2024, 17:00 PM

**6 Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website**

06.02.2024 (In the Chamber of Executive Engineer, Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, RCD, Ranchi.) at 12.00PM

**8 Last date and Time of submission of Tender (With Tender Fee and EMD)**

15.02.2024,not later than 16:00 hrs

**9 Date of opening of Bid**

16.02.2024 at 16:30 hrs

**10 Designation and Contact no. of e-Procurement Officer**

Executive Engineer, Field Survey Division, RCD, Ranchi. Mobile No-9431591027

**Note:- Only e-Tender shall be accepted.**

**Executive Engineer,**

**Field Survey Division, A.P.**

**Road Construction Department, Ranchi**

PR 317369 Road (23-24)\_D

### MINORITY STATUS OF AMU

### Institute of national importance must reflect national structure: Govt to SC

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE CENTRE on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that an institution like Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) which is recognised as an institution of national importance by the Constitution "must reflect the national structure".

The bench also comprised Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Surya Kant, J B Pardiwalla, Dipankar Datta, Manoj Misra and Satish Chandra Sharma.

The CJI pointed out that the provision exempting minority educational institutions from the application of reservation to SC, ST and SEBC was provided by the 93rd amendment to the Constitution. [FULL REPORT ON](http://www.indianexpress.com)

[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

### Corrigendum Advt. No. 36, Dt. 30/12/2023

1. The last date for online application has been extended up to Friday, 16/02/2024 and for submission of hard copy of the application has been extended up to Thursday, 29/02/2024.

2. Policy of Social and Parallel Reservation will be implemented as per Government of Maharashtra Circular dated 25/01/2024.

For Qualifications, reservation and other details of the said posts, please log on to University website [admin.unipune.ac.in/recruitment](http://admin.unipune.ac.in/recruitment).

**Prof. (Dr.) Vijay Khare**  
Offg. Registrar

Date : 31/01/2024

Dated : 31/01/2024

Corrigendum Advt. No. 36, Dt. 30/12/2023

Supply and Installation of external development work and street light network with 03 year AMC at IA, Kosi Kotwan extension II (Mathura).

General public is hereby informed that one girl and one

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER



Name of work and its location:-	30-Elect-48-T-2023-24-E3 Electrical work in connection with repair & maintenance of electrical assets with other associated works in the jurisdiction of AEE/G4L.
Approx cost of the works in :-	Rs. 80.14 lacs
Address of the office :-	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security:-	Rs. 160300.00
Date & time of submission of tender:-	28.02.2024, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender:-	28.02.2024, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board :-	www.Ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. 314/2024

## SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

	Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala) (O/o Superintending Engineer/TL Circle Jalandhar) Address: Office Room No. 310-311, 2nd Floor, Shakti Sadan, G.T. Road, Jalandhar, Mobile No. 96461-7248. CIN: U04109PB2013SC03313
Tender Enquiry No.: 35/TL Circle Jalandhar/23-24	Dated: 30.01.2024

Dy. Chief Engineer/TL Circle, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, Room No. 310, 2nd Floor, Shakti Sadan, Jalandhar, invites one N.E-Tender of:

- Laying of tower foundations, Erection of towers and stringing & sagging of conductor with earth wire for shifting of 66 KV line Latton to Narangwal Railpole line on request of PSTCL.

For detailed NIT &amp; Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 07.01.2022 onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum &amp; addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

C72/24 31860/Pb

C72

# The Indian **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

**RAMNATH GOENKA**

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## PRICE OF DISTORTION

Government's move takes fertiliser industry back to full-control era before introduction of nutrient-based subsidy system

**T**HE CENTRE'S FERTILISER subsidy bill has more than trebled from Rs 81,124 crore to Rs 2,51,339 crore between 2019-20 and 2022-23. Even the current fiscal budget estimate of Rs 1,75,100 crore is likely to be overshot in the final numbers. Not for nothing that the Narendra Modi government wants to derive maximum mileage, political as much as economic, from this humongous spend. Since November 2022, all subsidised fertilisers are being marketed under a common Bharat brand, with companies having to print this (along with the Prime Minister's One Nation One Fertiliser scheme's logo) on two-third space of every bag and leaving only the balance one-third for their own name, logo and other product information. Now, the Modi government has capped the profit margins companies can earn from sales of diammonium phosphate (DAP), muriate of potash (MOP) and other subsidised non-urea fertilisers. The maximum retail prices (MRP) of these fertilisers cannot be more than 8-12 per cent higher than their total cost of sales.

The government's argument would be that when so much of taxpayer money is being spent on fertiliser subsidy, the benefits should also accrue to farmers. One way to ensure this is by making companies reveal their actual cost of production/imports, distribution and other expenses. Based on this self-assessed and duly audited cost data, they will be allowed to set MRP that generate "reasonable" profit. Any unreasonable profit, in excess of 8-12 per cent, will have to be refunded with interest and adjusted against future subsidy payments. In short, the current detailed cost monitoring and price control regime in urea will henceforth be extended to all other subsidised fertilisers. While urea is a controlled fertiliser — its MRP is fixed by the government — the likes of DAP, MOP and complexes (with varying nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and sulphur content) will also practically cease to be "decontrolled" fertilisers.

The flip side to the Modi government's move is that it takes the fertiliser industry back to the full-control era before the introduction of the nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) system in April 2010. Fertilisers are basically food for crops. NBS was supposed to foster product innovation, with newer and better fertilisers providing more balanced nutrition. That dream didn't materialise, as urea was excluded from NBS; its fixed MRP led to over-application, worsening nutrient imbalance and declining crop yield response. Farmer interest is better served by freeing up MRPs, encouraging balanced nutrient use and fertiliser products customised to different crop and soil-type requirements. The Rs 1,00,000-1,50,000 crore annual fertiliser subsidy can be converted into a direct income support scheme, be it on a per-farmer or per-hectare basis. Either way — India has about 10 crore farmers and 14 crore hectares net sown area — the benefits would be more than from distorted nutrient pricing.

## AFTER NIHARIKA

Student suicide in Kota points at onerous pressure on the young. PM Modi touches a chord with his advice to parents

**I**AM A loser. Worst daughter... This is the last option," wrote Niharika Solanki, who died by suicide in Rajasthan's Kota on Monday in the second such incident reported in the city this year. The 18-year-old, the eldest of three daughters of a security guard, had been preparing for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). Solanki's desperation echoes that of many other students whose inability to crack high-stakes competitive examinations such as JEE and NEET has seen a disquieting spike in student deaths in the country. Last year, Kota — the ubiquitous pit stop on this arduous road to "success" — saw 29 student deaths by suicide reported in its many coaching centres, the highest ever in a single year. The National Crime Records Bureau 2022 annual report, released in December last year, showed that students and the unemployed constituted 7.6 per cent and 9.2 per cent of the total number of suicides, respectively.

This is, of course, indicative of a deeper malaise that begins at home, often as an ambition dreamed up by parents for their children and ends with make-or-break attempts at securing a seat at one of the hallowed institutions that promise upward mobility and job security. The cost of aspiration is steep — interminable hours of studying in coaching centres away from home, loneliness and despair, and the unrelenting pressure of making it to a bigger, brighter future, not just for oneself but for one's family. In his annual Pariksha pe Charcha interaction with students, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged parents to not treat their children's report cards as their calling cards, working instead on mutual understanding and realistic goals. Reminiscent of his call to parents to hold their sons, not daughters, accountable in the context of incidents of sexual violence, in his inaugural Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort, this was a reminder from the highest office of the land that change requires everyone to own responsibility, a conscious effort to open up minds, and rethink ways of seeing.

The future need not be one of anxiety and duress, of expectations so onerous that they become the sole metric of achievement for young people like Solanki. A recognition of potential can be a gesture of confidence but it can just as easily sharpen itself into a jagged edge of despair in a country of more than 1.4 billion, where over 50 per cent of the population is under 30, and where generating employment opportunities remains a problem in a fast-growing economy. To address the crisis, a lot more needs to be done — by parents, but also by teachers, institutions and policy makers.

## MONA LISA SMILES

And no amount of soup-throwing protests will change that

**T**HE MONA LISA keeps on smiling, pumpkin soup hurled at it notwithstanding. The woman inside the painting has been witness to war, revolution, theft and vandalism, for reasons as varied as nationalism, love, climate change, disability rights, and now, the latest, food and economic security. Through it all, she smiles knowingly, and to some, annoyingly.

Earlier this week, protesters from a French group called Food Counterattack threw pumpkin soup at arguably the Louvre's most iconic exhibit. "What is more important," the protesters can be seen shouting in a video, "art or the right to healthy and sustainable food?" While the deliberately starving artist, or the penniless writer, whose only fuel is coffee and cigarettes, might disagree with the framing, most people would probably agree that food matters more. What many might also ask, though, is: What's a painting got to do with it?

In 2022 and 2023, Vincent Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*, *The Scream* by Edvard Munch, *The Girl with the Pearl Earring* by Johannes Vermeer and Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpieces were subject to food attacks — from cake smears to tomato soup — by protesters. Their causes were often just — climate change and the excesses of the fossil fuel industry, for example. Or as in the current case, the need to ensure food security and nutrition for the marginalised. But the target was wrong. Time was when protesters would protest outside the buildings and offices of the rich and powerful. Artworks on public display, on the other hand, are one of the only ways that those without means can access the rarefied world of what was once "high" culture. Perhaps in this, like so much else, social media is to blame. It seems like the all-caps scream of the troll has bled into real life, replacing for some the meaningful engagement and anger of a thoughtful protest. Whatever the case, behind her protective glass shell, the Mona Lisa smiles.

# THE EDITORIAL PAGE

## WORDLY WISE

THERE MAY BE TIMES WHEN WE ARE POWERLESS TO PREVENT INJUSTICE, BUT THERE MUST NEVER BE A TIME WHEN WE FAIL TO PROTEST. — ELIE WIESEL

# An opening for diplomacy



UPENDRA BAXI

ICJ interim ruling could end up pressuring Israel, give a much-needed chance to peace

UNSURPRISINGLY, THE INTERNATIONAL Court of Justice (ICJ) orders and opinions on South Africa's case against Israel have met with diverse reactions. Ad hoc Judge Aharon Barak's partial dissent has been viciously and vehemently trotted and has been criticised by many for not fully adopting the total dissenting opinion of Judge Julia Sebutinde. South Africa (SA) is upset by the fact that its requests were not fully taken cognisance of. The verdict is being seen by many as making Israel accountable for the first time, while others lament it as a disastrous portent for the just exercise of self-defence. Judge Barak found it "hard" to find a violation of the Genocide Convention (GC) by Israel. A Holocaust survivor, he is deeply aware of Israel's commitment to the rule of law as a "Jewish and democratic state".

The ICJ, however, decided only on the interplay of difficult realms of international law and found "plausible" some accusations of "violation of the GC." The full judgment on the indictment must await trial and evidence on issues such as jurisdiction, intervenors (already Germany, Bangladesh, Jordan, and Nicaragua are seeking intervention), genocidal intent and other related matters. It found "at this early stage... the existence of a real and imminent risk of irreparable prejudice to the rights protected" under the GC and that "Israeli conduct in the Gaza Strip to minimise harm to civilians and to respond to incitement did not sufficiently remove the risk of irreparable harm."

Of course, at the merits stage — to determine whether genocide is occurring — the Court has imposed the highest, almost insurmountable, standard of proof. In *Bosnia v. Serbia* (2007), the ICJ insisted that: "... for a pattern of conduct to be accepted as evidence of genocide of its existence it would have to be such that existence of such intent" is proved by "fully conclusive evidence" — that is, "the only inference that could reasonably be drawn from the acts in question".

But the provisional measures "need not be identical" to those requested by parties.

Notably, the Court denied the first provisional measure, namely that "the State of Israel shall immediately suspend its military operations in and against Gaza". The ICJ further maintained a stoic silence on SA's request to identify its own obligations to prevent genocide.

The foremost provisional measure binding on the parties is by a majority of 15 ICJ judges (with Judges Sebutinde and Barak dissenting) and is not about a ceasefire but about Israel acting in accordance with its obligations under the Article 2 of GC to take all measures to prevent the commission of all acts: "In particular, (a) killing members of the group,

(b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, and (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group".

With the total dissent of Judge Sebutinde, the ICJ by 16 votes obliged Israel "to take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide in relation to members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip". By 15 votes to 2, it asked Israel to take effective measures to allow humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip and prevent the destruction of evidence. The Court directed Israel to submit a report within one month on its compliance with all measures.

Judge Sebutinde holds the dispute between "the State of Israel and the people of Palestine" as "not a legal dispute" but a political one, calling for a diplomatic or negotiated settlement. And that SA "is yet to demonstrate that the acts allegedly committed by Israel... were done with the necessary genocidal intent." Besides, the Court's order will be read as its final judgment, erroneously because this may come after many years, or even decades.

Moreover, in her view, "the order to enable the provision of basic services and humanitarian aid is beyond the scope of the court's authority" under the GC because there is not a "sufficient link between the measure and the

The learned judge's dissent has been applauded by many. But is it not myopic to say that the ICJ has no power to promulgate provisional measures simply because on merits it may, after a long time, disallow a case? The potential of creative diplomacy is never to be undermined. However, law and jurisprudence have been equally known to overcome many a political stalemate. One hopes that Israel uses the month's period to abate the horrors of war, displacement, deaths, devastation, and destruction in Gaza, and gives peace a much-needed chance.

The writer is professor of law, University of Warwick, and former vice chancellor of Universities of South Gujarat and Delhi



R DINESH

BETWEEN THE LAST edition of the World Economic Forum and this one, the world has faced multiple challenges — geopolitical emergencies, climate change, dips in growth trajectories of nations and the threat of misuse of technology. Amidst all this, India has attracted attention with its standout growth trajectory. Davos 2024 was an opportunity for India to share the highlights of its successes. The CII India Business Hub buzzed with activity as business visitors took note of upcoming opportunities.

As an integrated global economy, India is impacted by geopolitical incidents. This places an extra responsibility on the country to be a partner that lives up to and secures the "trust", both from a commercial viability as well as a geopolitical strategy perspective. Let me highlight a few important conversations held at the CII venues.

First, with the government's steady and proactive reform announcements, India has been positioned as a country that has effectively used technology to develop and deliver governance solutions at a mass scale. With the conversation around Artificial Intelligence (AI) taking centre stage, discussions on how AI can benefit all and ensure that the risks of AI are at the bare minimum level have taken place at Davos. The digital leadership that India has established leads us to use AI in a smarter and better manner to make businesses focused on delivering the right value and solutions. It also gives an opportunity to India and Indian companies to take the lead in identifying where AI will be used, just like they have taken a lead in adaptation of digital technologies at scale and viable cost.

Second, India has been taking a prominent position in the discussions at Davos on key

## DELHI IN DAVOS

At World Economic Forum, India was prominent in dialogues on key global matters

global issues, especially on aspects of socio-economic importance. Participants at the women's special lounge reiterated some key facts on Indian women's participation in growth. Ninety million are currently self-employed with credit from financial institutions under the ambit of self-help groups. They manage businesses at the grassroots worth annually \$37 billion. Of the credit they take from financial institutions, their non-performing assets (NPAs) are below 2.5 per cent. They have made a solid case for investment by financial institutions in women-owned businesses.

Third, the conversations on energy are as critical as the ones on technology, especially with the thrust WEF 2024 has put on climate change. Three developmental challenges related to energy transition were stressed even as import dependence on oil is growing in tandem with the economic growth — availability, affordability, and sustainability. While for the next many years, India will remain fossil-fuel dependent, new sources such as green hydrogen can offer solutions. Any transition for India must be conducted through non-disruptive processes that will require relevant policy strategies on pricing.

In most dialogues, it was pointed out that India will continue to be among the fastest-growing economies in the world in 2024. The country's growth is trending to be equitable, which manifests in three different ways.

First, every part of the country is seeing growth with an infrastructure build-up. Second, a focus on gender inclusivity is evident, encompassing aspects such as women's employment, social security, and entrepreneurship. Third, addressing the needs of disadvantaged sections through social security measures and facilitating their integration with digital interventions.

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## JANUARY 31, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

### EX-MANIPUR CM SHOT

YANGMASHO SHAIZA, FORMER chief minister of Manipur was shot dead by three unidentified gunmen at his residence in Imphal. The gunning down of the 60-year-old popular leader, who recently joined the Manipur Peoples Party (MPP), sent shockwaves across the tiny state in the northeastern region and people gathered in hundreds at his house.

### VIOLENT PROTEST

THE FARMERS' AGITATION in Karnataka showed signs of turning violent on the fifth

day as the number of agitators courting arrest dwindled. The agitators set on fire two government vehicles and robbed a busload of Rajasthani tourists going from Bangalore to Mysore. The bus was stoned and the tourists looted. The miscreants fled after looting Rs 60,000 from the passengers.

### PUNJAB BUS TRAGEDY

IN ONE OF the worst tragedies in Punjab in recent times, about 80 passengers were feared killed when their bus fell into the 14-feet-deep Bhakra-Nangal hydro channel. The ill-fated Punjab Roadways bus was going from Paonta

Sahib in Himachal Pradesh to Nangal in Punjab. It crashed into the railings of the Sirsia bridge and plunged into the canal after the driver lost control while avoiding a cyclist.

### REAGAN FOR PRESIDENT

IN A TELEVISED announcement from the White House, Ronald Reagan declared that he will seek re-election to the American presidency. "We've begun to restore American values: dignity of work, the warmth of family, the strength of neighbourhood, and the nourishment of human freedom. But our work is not finished," the President said dramatically.



**S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER**

e-Tender Notice No. 4430-GRC-CE-C4-43-2023, dated 29.01.2024, e-Tender is invited by Chief Engineer(Con) II/Garden Reach, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work.

Following tender has been uploaded on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of Works :** Execution of earth-work in cutting & filling for making of Railway formation work including blanketing, extension of minor bridges, supply of cess ballast, p.way works, execution of protection works, diversion road works, transportation, supply of p.way fitting and other miscellaneous works between (Km : 414.734 to Km : 417.455) of Rourkela-Panpoch section for extension of Biramalrapur line upto Rourkela Yard under the jurisdiction of Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/Jharsuguda in Chakradharpur division of S.E.Railway. **Approx. Cost :** ₹ 16.41 Crore. **Bid Security :** ₹ 9.70,600/- Completion period : 12 months. **Closing Date :** 21.02.2024. Interested tenderers may visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B. :** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) to participate in all other tenders. (PR-1077)

**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

CT/DVRAM KISHORE  
HEP URI-1  
31-01-1994



CT/GD RAMSHANKAR RAI  
HEP URI-1  
31-01-1994

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with militants at Baramulla, J&K. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noble deed.

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)**  
**MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)**  
**(RAILWAY BOARD)**

No. 2022/RS(WTA)-149/TENDER/532 New Delhi, dated 30/01/2024

**TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE**

**Corrigendum No.14 to Tender No. WTA-532**

Sub :- Tender No.WTA-532 due on 31.01.2024 for "Manufacturing cum Maintenance of 100 nos. of New Generation Energy Efficient Vande Bharat Trainsets with Concentrated Power System including upgradation of the Government Manufacturing Units & Trainset Depots."

It is hereby advised that the subject tender MAY BE TREATED AS DROPPED/CANCELLED.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (RS), MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD), RAIL BHAWAN, RAISINA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 001, Email- drsm@rbs.railnet.gov.in SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

31/01/2024

**Asset Recovery Branch, D-26/28, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 (Working at M-35, First Floor, Outer Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001), Email ID - ubin54723@unionbankofindia.bank**

[Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)  
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch situated at 26/28-D, Connaught Place New Delhi-110001 [Working at M-35, First Floor, Outer Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001] under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 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 a demand notice Ref No OR/OVS/US/038/2019-20 dated 04.10.2019 calling upon the borrower M/s Sarala Surgical Products Pvt. Ltd., B-27/31 Ektta Garden, IP Extension, New Delhi-110092 Also at: 116, Durga Chamber DB Gupta Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi - 110 005 Also : Plot No. 1556, Kissam-Gharbar-2, Khata No. 838 in Mouza, KapilaPrasad, Bhubaneswar and Guarantor 1. Mrs. Sumitra Mohapatra W/o Sh. Subhransu Shekhar Mohapatra Sivyan Tulasiupur Mathasahi, PO-Bijupatnalkchhak, PS-Bidanasi, Cuttack, Khatib Sahi, Orissa - 753008 2. Mrs. Pallavi Bhardwaj W/o Mr. Deepak Bhardwaj B-2/31 Ektta Garden, IP Extension, New Delhi - 92 3. Mr. Subhransu Shekhar Mohapatra S/o Late Sh Girish Chandra Mohapatra Sivyan Tulasiupur Mathasahi, PO-Bijupatnalkchhak, PS\_Bidanasi, Cuttack, Khatib Sahi, Orissa - 753008 4. Mr. Anupam Ghosh S/o Sh. S.K. Ghosh, R/o C-6, Sector-27, Noida-201301, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 4,48,82,041.80 (Rupees Four Crore Forty Eight Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand forty one and paisa eighty only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 30th day of January 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, 26/28-D, Connaught Place New Delhi-110001 for an amount Rs 4,48,82,041.80 (Rupees Four Crore Forty Eight Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand forty one and paisa eighty only) and Interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

Immovable Property Flat No. F-102, First Floor, Tower No. F "Grand Savanna" Raj Nagar Extn., NH-58 Village-Noor Nagar, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & Distt. Ghazabadi, U.P. admeasuring 1250 Sq Ft. in the name of Smt. Pallavi Bhardwaj, Bounded as: On the North - Open Area / Park Beyond the Road, On the South - Flat No. F-101, On the East - Entrance of Flat/ Common corridor, On the West- Other's Flat

Date : 30-01-2024, Place: New Delhi Authorised Officer, UNION BANK OF INDIA

**OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER- I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL PATNA**

2nd Floor, (A & B Wing) Karpu Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karamchari Parisar (GPOA), Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-800025.

**DEMAND NOTICE**

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC/299/2023 29-01-2024

**PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK Versus M/S AMAN TRADING CO. AND OTHERS.**

To

(CD 1) M/s Aman Trading Co. and Others, through its proprietor Amina Khatun W/o Md. Nihal C/o Md. Nihal Mubarak Chak, Munger-811201

(CD 2) Amina Khatun (Borrower) W/o Md. Nihal R/o Mubarak Chak, Munger, Bihar-811202

(CD 3) MD.NIHAL (GUARANTOR-CUM MORTGAGOR) S/o Md. Jamal, R/o Mubarak Chak, Munger, Bihar-811202

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL PATNA in OA/484/2022 an amount of **Rs. 2115314.00** (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Fifteen Thousands Three Hundred Fourteen Only ) along with pendentele and future interest @ 8.20 % Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 05/09/2022 till realization and costs of **Rs 24000** (Rupees Twenty Four Thousands Only ) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 03/04/2024 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **29/01/2024**

**Recovery Officer****DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, PATNA**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at [https://www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

Mr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, ELS, Lalgudha, Secunderabad.

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at [https://www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

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**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2000**

**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE (Survey & Construction)**

Two Packet System

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)-IV, North Western Railway, Nirman Bhawan, New Railway Samudayik Bhawan, Jagatpura, Jaipur-302 017 for and on behalf of the President of India invites

Open E-Tender. Tenderer shall on-line submit their original/revised offer before the date and time of closing of E-tender. 1.

**E-Tender Notice No. : NWR/SC/CIV/102140528 2. Name of work with location :**

Laying and linking of Broad Gauge main line, including points and crossings, tamping of track, transportation of P/W Materials in connection with RE-KTWS doubling project of North western Railway, 3. Approximate cost of work :

Rs.21,15,24,813.82.4, Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 12,07,600/- 5.

Completion Period : 15 (Fifteen) Months 6. Closing Date & Time of submission of Online E-tender : Upto 15.00 Hrs. on 19.02.2024 7. Website particulars where complete details of E-tender can be seen : Tender can be seen at Web site [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) under the unit of DY.CE[CIV]-JP 8. Official E-mail Address : [Dyce4jp@gmail.com](mailto:Dyce4jp@gmail.com) Note : 1. No manual tender will be accepted 2. Bid security should be in proper form. Bid security should be submitted by the tenderer only through net banking or payment GATEWAY / or form of BG in favour of F&CAO/Construction, North Western Railway, Jaipur 114-CQ/24

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**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NCRailways) Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**Open E-Tender Notice No. : C/E.221/ELS/LGD/RC/370A/23-24/24, Dated : 30-01-2024.**

E-Tenders from the experienced Contractors are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

**S.I. No. : 1. Tender Number & Date : C/E.221/ELS/LGD/RC/370A, Dated : 30-01-2024. Description of work : Repair / Rehabilitation of MSU of 3-Phase locomotives Qty : 60 Nos.**

**Approximate Value Rs. : 2,73,93,228.00. Bid security Rs. : 2,87,000/- Cost of Tender Form Rs. : NIL. Contract Period : 24 Months. Date & Time of Closing & Opening : 26-02-2024 15:00 hours & 26-02-2024 15:15 hours.**

**Validity of offer : 63 days from the date of opening of tender.**

**Submission of tender document : Through IREPS website at "www.ireps.gov.in"**

**Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, ELS, Lalgudha, Secunderabad.**

**For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at [https://www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)**

**Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NCRailways) [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/NCRailways) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/NCRailways/)**

**G2000**

**S.E. RAILWAY – TENDER**

e-Tender Notice No. 4430-GRC-CE-C4-43-2023, dated 29.01.2024, e-Tender is invited by Chief Engineer(Con) II/Garden

Reach, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work.

Following tender has been uploaded on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of Works :** Execution of earth-work in cutting & filling for making of Railway

formation work including blanketing, extension of minor bridges, supply of cess ballast, p.way works, execution of protection works, diversion road works, transportation, supply of p.way fitting and other miscellaneous

works between (Km : 414.734 to Km : 417.455) of Rourkela-Panpoch section for extension of Biramalrapur line upto Rourkela Yard under the jurisdiction of Dy. Chief

Engineer/Con/Jharsuguda in Chakradharpur division of S.E.Railway. **Approx. Cost :**

₹ 16.41 Crore. **Bid Security :** ₹ 9.70,600/- Completion period : 12 months. **Closing Date :** 21.02.2024. Interested tenderers may visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B. :** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) to participate in all other tenders. (PR-1077)

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**G2000**

**S.E. RAILWAY – TENDER**

e-Tender Notice No. 4430-GRC-CE-C4-43-2023, dated 29.01.2024, e-Tender is invited by Chief Engineer(Con) II/Garden

Reach, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work.

Following tender has been uploaded on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of Works :** Execution of earth-work in cutting & filling for making of Railway

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works between (Km : 414.734 to Km : 417.





**AMC of 4 wheeler (02 nos.) & 8 wheeler (03 nos.) tower wagon Cummins make diesel engine (06 nos. engine) in DDU Division for 2 years**

**Open e-tender notice No. TRD/OT/12/TW/AMC/23-24**

E-tenders are invited from reputed contractors having proven experience, Authorized OEM, and sound financial standing supported by the valid documents for the work as per details given below:-  
**1. Name of work with location:** AMC of 4 wheeler (02 nos.) & 8 wheeler (03 nos.) tower wagon Cummins make diesel engine (06 nos. engine) in DDU Division for 2 years.  
**2. Approx. Cost of the work:** Rs.1,74,89,157.54,  
**3. Earnest money/ Bid Security to be deposited:** Rs. 237500/-  
**4. Last date and time for submission of tender:** Upto 20/02/2024 on 15.00 hrs.,  
**5. Website particulars from where the details of e-tender can be obtained:** www.iamps.gov.in  
**Sr. Divn. Elect. Engineer (Tr-D), DDU PR/2185/DDU/EGEN/T/23-24/36**

**OPEN TENDER THROUGH E-TENDERING 2023-24**

NIT No. 01-RM-2023 Date : 01.01.2024

**1. Name of Work :** Operation, Maintenance and Development of Rail Museum Ajmer for 05 Years, **2. Estimated cost of work:** Rs. 62,65,800/-, **3. Place of work :** Rail Museum, Nasirabad Road, Ajmer. **4. Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit :** Rs. 6,26,600/- (Rs. Six Lakh Twenty Six thousand Six hundred only) 5. **Last Date and time for submission and opening of E-tender:** 16.02.2024 up to 11.00 AM-E-tender will be opened at 11.15 AM on same day. Due to indispensable reasons bid opening schedule may change. **6. Website particular where complete details of e-tender can be seen and participated :** www.iamps.gov.in. (Note- This is E-tender so tenderer can participate through e-tendering process only mentioned website within bidding period). **7. Earnest Money/ Bid Security to be deposited :** Rs. 237500/-, **8. Last date and time for submission of tender :** Upto 20/02/2024 on 15.00 hrs., **9. Website particulars from where the details of e-tender can be obtained :** www.iamps.gov.in  
**Sr. Divn. Elect. Engineer (Tr-D), DDU PR/2185/DDU/EGEN/T/23-24/36**

**Open E-Tender Notice**

Divil.Rly. Manager, N.W.Railway, Jaipur for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works upto 15.30 hours on the date shown as below:- **Sr. No. 1 Name of work with location :** ENGG-JP-2023-24-111 ADEN (RGS) Sub Division-Construction of Boundary wall at Narnala (NNL), Pacharmirkura (GND), Chomu Samod (COM) station and Rewari (RE) station approach to protect Railway land from encroachment.

**Approx. Cost of work :** 21688668.49 **Earnest Money Rs.:** 258500.00 **Sr. No. 2 Name of work with location :** ENGG-JP-2023-24-112 Sr. DEN (N)JP Section - Raising of PF No. 2 from RL to HL at station Dabla & Amarpur Jorasi and extension of PF No. 1 at station Dabla with toilet and water booth in the jurisdiction of ADEN-RGS. **Approx. Cost of work :** 30545337.94 **Earnest Money Rs.:** 302700.00 **Sr. No. 3 Name of work with location :** ENGG-JP-2023-24-116 ADEN/HQ-II/JP Sub Division- Construction of Video Surveillance System Control Room, Central air conditioned work at RRI Tower & various Relay room buildings 10 nos use of Green building features in built up area by SRI paint of roof floor & Double glass windows and Repair / Renovation work in RPF -1 barrack at Loco colony. **Approx. Cost of work :** 4603340.93 **Earnest Money Rs.:** 92100.00 **Sr. No. 4 Name of work with location :** ENGG-JP-2023-24-117 Construction of separated medical store building adjacent existing conference building of central hospital JH. **Approx. Cost of work :** 911527.49 **Earnest Money Rs.:** 182300.00 **Sr. No. 5 Name of work with location :** ENGG-JP-2023-24-118 ADEN-HQ-II-Jaipur sub division - Cleaning of Overhead and under ground water tanks (Sumps) at Jaipur in SSE (WV) S-1/JP jurisdiction. (For Two Years). **Approx. Cost of work :** 2638555.63 **Earnest Money Rs.:** 52800.00 **1. Detail is available on N.W.Rly. website- www.iamps.gov.in and Notice Board in WA section, DRM Office, NWR/Jaipur. 2. Tender No. ENGG-JP-2023-24-116, 117, 118 is to be closed on 19.02.2024 at 15.30 hrs and opened on 19.02.2024 at 16.00 hrs. and opening at 16.00 hrs. on 16-02-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs on 16-02-2024 in website www.iamps.gov.in.**

**113-CQ/24**

Please join us on

**DRM (W), Tinsukia**

**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

**Serving Customers With A Smile**

PR/2017/SPJ/ENGG/T/23-24/40

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE WORKS AT TINSUKIA DIVISION**

Tender Notice No. : TSK/Engg/05 of 2024, Dated: 25-01-2024; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; Item No. 1; Brief Description of Item : Operation and maintenance of Iron Removal Plants & water supply system under jurisdiction of ADEN/Simaluguri Jn for 02 years (Simaluguri Jn -1, Bhoj-1 Moranhat-1, Sibsagar Town-1, Namrup-1, Naharkatiya-1, Borhat-1 & Sapekhat-1) Total-8 Nos including provision of one new deep tube well at Simaluguri Jn. **Tender Value:** ₹1,33,14,123/- **Earnest Money:** ₹2,16,600/- **Item No. 2; Brief Description of Item :** Operation and maintenance of Iron Removal Plants & water supply system under jurisdiction of ADEN/Mariani Junction for 02 years, **Tender Value:** ₹1,22,99,772.50 (Rs. One crore twenty two lakh ninety nine thousand seven hundred seventy two and five only). **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,11,500.00 (Rs. Two lakh eleven thousand five hundred only). **Completion period of the work:** 36 Months. 1. Receiving date and time for e-tender mode on IREPS web portal : 16.02.2024 up to 12:00 hrs., 2. Opening date and time for e-tender: 16.02.2024 at 12.30 hrs., 3. Web site particulars where complete details of tender and tender document can be seen on Website: www.iamps.gov.in.

**Sr. DME(C&W)**

**East Central Railway, Samastipur**

PR/2017/SPJ/ENGG/T/23-24/40

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**

RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA

06670-235504, E-Mail: serwpt@yahoo.com

Bid identification No.: BPT/Online-47/2023-24 Date-30.01.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR BRIDGE WORKS IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Nature of Work	:- Construction of Bridge Works in the District of Kalahandi.
2. No of Works	:- 2 Nos
3. Location details	:- Kalahandi District
4. Estimated Cost	:- As per NIT.
5. Period of Completion	:- As per NIT.
6. Cost of tender paper	:- Rs.10,000/- per set.
7. Other details	

Availability of tender for online bidding	Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From 02.02.2024 11.00 A.M.	To 16.02.2024 5.00 P.M.	15.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site "www.tendersorissa.gov.in"

Sd/-  
Chief Construction Engineer  
Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna

OIPR-25102/11/0063/2324

Regional Office Samastipur :  
Panchvati Complex, Mohanpur  
Road, Samastipur (Bihar)-848101

**यूनियन बँक**  
Union Bank  
of India  
www.unibankindia.org A Government of India Undertaking

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(For immovable property)

**Whereas:**  
The undersigned being the authorised officer of **Union Bank of India**, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the following borrowers and guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and as stated below. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Union Bank of India**, for an amount mentioned as stated below and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Main Branch, Muzaffarpur	Name of the Borrower Name of the Mortgagor/Guarantor	Description of the Secured Assets	1. Amount of Demand Notice 2. Date of Demand Notice 3. Date of Possession
	1. Borrower: M/s Banni Fashion, Proprietor Sri Amit Kumar, At Fardo Gola Road, Bhagwanpur, Muzaffarpur, Bihar- 842002, 2. Borrower: Sri Amit Kumar (Proprietor) Proprietor of M/s Banni Fashion, S/o Sri Shrawan Kumar Thakur, Ward Maiza-Patahi Rup, Muzaffarpur, Bihar, both (2 & 3) at Maiza Rup, PS Sadar, Muzaffarpur, Bihar- 843113, 3. Guarantor: Sri Prashant Kumar S/o- Sri Vinay Kumar Thakur at Kharana Dih, Muzaffarpur, Bihar 843113	Land & building in the name of Sri Satish Kumar Thakur S/o Late Siyaram Thakur situated at Maiza-Patahi Rup, Ward/Taluka-Muradpur Dullah, Muzaffarpur, Bihar bearing land detail as under- Thana No. -355, Khata No. 1027, Khesra No. - 4352, Area 22 Decimel, Boundary- N- Sunmangal Thakur, S- Sarwan Kumar Thakur, E- Paras Thakur, W- Pakki Road	1. Rs. 1,70,52,850.44/- 2. 14.11.2023 3. 29.01.2024

Authorised officer  
Union bank of India

**झारखण्ड सरकार**

**कार्यपालक अधिकारी का कार्यालय**

**ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग , कार्य प्रमण्डल,लोहरदगा**

**ई – अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

**ई – अल्पकालीन निविदा संख्या :- 10 /2023-24 / RWD /LOHARDAGA** दिनांक 29.01.2024  
कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग , कार्य प्रमण्डल, लोहरदगा द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से पैकेज के रूप में निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्रम संख्या	आइडेन्टिफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्रावकालित राशि (रुपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि	टेन्डर कॉल नं	
			अंक में	आक्षर में			
1	EE RWD/ LOHARDA GA/ 02/ STPKG - 02/ 2023-24	1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of the Bridge works as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.	11,98,82,600.00	11,98,82,600.00	ग्रामीण कार्यवाही के लिए विविद विवरण की तिथि :- 31.01.2024   एन्ड- निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय :- 10.02.2024 05.00 बजे   5. निविदा खालीने की तिथि एवं समय 17.02.2024 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे   6. इ- निविदा प्रक्रोष्ट का दरमाना ₹ 500 किमी 10.00 भवन, लोहरदगा, पिन कोड- 835302 7. निविदा शुल्क एवं अधारन की राशि विभागीय पत्रांक 3130 (अनु ) दिनांक 09.10.2023 के निवेदानुसार केवल Online Mode द्वारा आपात्मक रूप से दिया जाएगा   8. निविदा शुल्क एवं अधारन की राशि योगीराम जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अधारन की राशि वापस होगी   अगर खाता का बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जबावदेही निविदादाता की होगी   विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट Jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है	09 माह	द्वितीय

PR 317405 Lohardaga(23-24).D

Block	Panchayata	Ward	Scheme	169	7358.051	83.600	10000	5900	15



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SENSEX: 71,139.90 ▼ 801.67 (1.11%) NIFTY: 21,522.10 ▼ 215.50 (0.99%) NIKKEI: 36,065.86 ▲ 38.92 HANG SENG: 15,703.45 ▼ 373.79 FTSE: 7,675.49 ▲ 42.75 DAX: 16,951.34 ▲ 9.63



GOLD

₹63,300



USD RATE

₹83.11



OIL

\$83.47



SILVER

₹76,700

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of January 29

International market data till 1900 IST

## AMID RED SEA TENSIONS

## Asian fuel exports to Europe hit, Russian oil cargoes sail strong

SUKALP SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

EVEN AS west-to-east crude oil flows — mainly Russian oil headed to India and China — via the Suez Canal have not been majorly impacted by the Red Sea troubles, refined petroleum product exports to Europe through the crucial trade route have seen disruptions, according to commodity market analytics firm Kpler. The trend is significant for India as the country is a top destination for Russian crude and also an important source market for fuels, particularly aviation turbine fuel (ATF) or jet fuel, for Europe.

Over the past couple of months, a number of cargo ships have come under attack from the Iran-backed Houthi rebels of Yemen around the Bab el-Mandeb strait, which leads to the Red Sea and Suez Canal, forming the shortest, albeit narrow route to the Mediterranean Sea and beyond from the Arab Peninsula, North-East Africa, and the Arabian Sea. The route is seen as an important artery of global goods and energy supplies. The Houthis have so far claimed that they are targeting vessels with links to Israel and its allies in view of its military offensive in Gaza.

"West-to-east flows via the Suez Canal, mainly made of Russian crude, have been less impacted, remaining steady at around 1.4 Mbd (million barrels per day). So far this month all cargo ships to Asia from Western Russian ports have travelled via the Suez Canal," Kpler said in a report. It also noted that Russian refined fuel cargoes headed to Asia via the



Over the past couple of months, a number of cargo ships have come under attack from the Iran-backed Houthi rebels of Yemen in the Red Sea. Reuters

Suez Canal, too, appear to be "undeterred by the escalating hostilities in the Red Sea".

While Kpler did caution that the recent attack on a tanker carrying Russian naphtha could see tanker transits through the Red Sea fall relatively more steeply in the coming weeks, it also noted that there has been no immediate change in tanker approaches since the attack and four tankers carrying Russia's flagship Urals crude passed through the Bab el-Mandeb strait with another three heading south through the Red Sea.

As reported earlier by *The Indian Express*, tankers carrying Russian crude have largely been immune to the security situation in the Red Sea region, which has forced a number of major shipping lines and Western oil companies to shun the route and

instead take the much longer route around Africa via the Cape of Good Hope. Higher risk premiums and longer voyages have hit movement of goods between Asia and Europe in terms of higher freight rates.

Russian oil cargoes departing from the North Sea and Black Sea ports take the Suez Canal-Red Sea route to reach Asia, specifically India and China, which are currently the biggest buyers of Russian crude. Oil and shipping analysts do not foresee tankers carrying Russian oil coming under attack in the region as Russia is perceived as Iran's ally. The Houthi rebels are widely believed to be backed by Tehran. In contrast, crude oil flows from West Asia to Europe via the Suez Canal have seen a "substantial decline since October 2023," Kpler said.

But unlike India's inbound

cargoes of Russian crude, tankers hauling refined fuels from India and other parts of Asia to Europe, do not appear to be comfortable transiting the Suez Canal.

"Last year, 3.5 Mbd of refined product flows was shipped via the Suez, a record annual high, making up 14 per cent of total refined product flows. Jet fuel is the most exposed, with 33 per cent of exports utilising the canal. Flows of these products are already disrupted with some cargoes travelling via the Cape of Good Hope, while others are waiting in the Arabian Sea. The surge in freight rates has also closed arbitrages which will restrict long haul flows to Europe," Kpler said, but did not quantify the impact.

The majority of Indian and Middle Eastern ATF exports to Europe are now going around Africa, adding 15-20 days to the voyage length. In the aftermath of Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, as Europe started shunning Russian crude oil and fuel, India emerged as the largest buyer of Russian seaborne crude and also a major fuel supplier to Europe with all such shipments passing through the Red Sea.

"The main jet (fuel) trade flow is from the Middle East and India to Europe, averaging 400 kbd in 2023. Europe is the most reliant on the flow of products through the Suez with 1.3 Mbd arriving via this route, 24 per cent of the total. This share has increased in recent years after Europe banned the import of Russian oil products, forcing a greater volume...to be sourced from the east of Suez," Kpler said.

FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## EPFO's new survey seeks details on women workers to boost their share in workforce

ANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

AMID CONCERN over the sub-optimal rate of female labour force participation in the country, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) have launched a new survey on "increasing women participation in the workforce". The EPFO, which is the retirement fund body for organised sector workers under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, has reached out to its subscribers seeking details regarding the working facilities available for women workers in companies across the country, including provision of flexibility in working hours for women and 'equal pay' for female workers.

The survey has a detailed questionnaire seeking organisation details, including whether the company provides an internal

complaints committee for addressing Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) formalities, crèche facilities for children, and transportation facilities during late hours. The survey has also sought answers on whether there's equal pay for equal work for male and female workers along with a query on availability of flexible or remote working hours for women.

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, female LFPR reduced to 8.73 per cent in 2022-23 from 11.80 per cent in 2017-18. Female LFPR in rural areas slowed to 9.68 per cent in 2022-23 from 12.16 per cent in 2017-18, while that in urban areas moderated to 6.90 per cent in 2022-23 from 11.10 per cent in 2017-18.

Globally, the South Asia region had a female labour force participation rate of 26 per cent in 2022, with India's neighbouring countries registering female LFPR of 33 per cent in Sri Lanka, 25 per cent in

Pakistan, 29 per cent in Nepal, 38 per cent in Bangladesh and 61 per cent in China, as per World Bank.

In the proposed four labour codes, which are expected to replace a set of 44 central labour laws and are likely to come into effect after elections, the government has incorporated specific provisions for safeguarding the employment of women workers.

The Code on Social Security, 2020 provides for enhanced paid maternity leave, provision for mandatory crèche facilities in establishments having 50 or more employees, permitting women workers in the night shifts with adequate safety measures, etc.

The Code on Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions (OSH), 2020 has proposed tweaks in employment terms and conditions for women workers in the above-ground mines. The Code on Wages, 2019 has provisions for no gender-based discrimination for wages in an establishment for similar nature of work.

Analysts expect the US Fed to keep the interest rates unchanged in the policy, which will be announced on January 31, but

the

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Fumio Kishida

**JAPAN**  
PM says will break party from money politics

Tokyo: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida stressed Tuesday he was determined to make a clear break from money politics as he renewed an apology for the latest major corruption scandal in the governing party, which has eclipsed his key policies such as strengthening the military and Japan's alliance with the United States. His policy speech had been due last week when the new parliamentary session opened, but Kishida broke with tradition and instead faced an intensive session on the scandal first. Kishida said he must admit that factions in the Liberal Democratic Party seemed to work for money and favors rather than policy, and he vowed to lead reforms. AP

**VIETNAM**  
Deal signed with Philippines on South China Sea

Hanoi: Vietnam and the Philippines agreed on Tuesday to boost cooperation between their coastguards and to prevent untoward incidents in the South China Sea, in an announcement during a state visit to Hanoi by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The two Southeast Asian countries have competing claims over some parts of the South China Sea, a conduit for \$3 trillion of annual ship-borne trade that China claims almost in its entirety. The two memoranda of understanding on security covered "incident prevention in the South China Sea" and "maritime cooperation" among coastguards. REUTERS

**AMERICAS**  
US sanctions on Venezuela start, oil could be next

Washington: The U.S. on Monday began reinstating sanctions on Venezuela and a Biden administration source said a roll-back of restrictions on the oil industry could be allowed to expire, after the South American country's top court upheld a ban blocking the candidacy of the leading opposition hopeful in presidential elections. The United States had granted sanctions relief for OPEC member Venezuela in October in recognition of a deal for elections this year. REUTERS

**FRANCE**  
Govt prepares new measures to calm farmers

Paris: With protesting farmers camped out at barricades around Paris, France's government hoped to calm their anger with more concessions Tuesday to their complaints that growing and rearing food has become too difficult and not sufficiently lucrative. Attention was focusing on an address that new Prime Minister Gabriel Attal was to give in the afternoon to France's parliament, laying out government's priorities. The farmers' campaign for better pay blew up into major crisis. AP

## THE WORLD

CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL MADE BY QATAR PM, INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS OF U.S., EGYPT, ISRAEL

## Studying three-stage truce scheme made in Paris, says Hamas leader

REUTERS

DUBAI, JANUARY 30

HAMAS SAID on Tuesday it had received and was studying a new proposal for a ceasefire and release of hostages in Gaza, presented by mediators after talks with Israel, in what appeared to be the most serious peace initiative for months.

A senior Hamas official said the proposal involved a three-stage truce, during which the group would first release remaining civilian hostages it captured, then soldiers, and finally the bodies of hostages that were killed.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not indicate how long the three stages would last or what was envisioned to follow the final stage.

It was the first time since the collapse of the only brief truce of the war so far, that details were released of a new proposal being considered by both sides.

The ceasefire proposal followed talks in Paris involving CIA Director William Burns, Qatar's prime minister, the chief of Israel's Mossad intelligence service and the head of Egyptian intelligence. In a mark of the seriousness of the negotiations, Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh said he was going to Cairo to discuss it, his first public trip there for more than a month.

But Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu repeated his vow not to pull troops out of Gaza until "total victory".

**After two-year hiatus, Northern Irish govt could return in days**

REUTERS

BELFAST, JANUARY 30

NORTHERN IRISH and British politicians voiced optimism on Tuesday that the regional power-sharing government could be restored quickly following a breakthrough overnight, ending a near two-year crisis that threatened a key part of the 1998 peace deal.

After months of negotiations, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) said the party had endorsed proposals agreed with London on post-Brexit trade rules to end its boycott of the government which it quit in February 2022.

The DUP, the region's largest pro-British party, had argued that London's Brexit deal with the European Union undermined Northern Ireland's place in the UK by demanding checks on some goods coming from Britain.

But London's offer to cement Northern Ireland's position in the UK in law, plus a 3.3 billion pound (\$4.2 billion) financial package, looked set to win over the DUP.

The three other parties set to form a new executive - Sinn Fein, the Alliance Party and the Ulster Unionist Party - broadly welcomed the developments and said they were ready to go back into government.

REUTERS

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JANUARY 30

AS A child, Heriberto Vela, an Indigenous resident of Loreto, Peru, watched his father pull nests of wild stingless bees from trees in the Amazon forest.

Today, the two then extracted honey from the nests to help cure colds and other ailments.

Stingless bees are native to the Amazon, unlike the more familiar but invasive honey bees from Africa and Europe that have spread through the Americas.

The most obvious difference, perhaps, is that stingless bees don't sting. Their honey, which



Displaced Palestinians move from Khan Younis to Rafah as Israel hardens its strikes. Reuters

## Israel hands over Palestinian bodies in Gaza, raids hospital in West Bank

REUTERS

GAZA, JANUARY 30

ISRAEL ON Tuesday handed over to Palestinian authorities the bodies of dozens of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in the Gaza war in recent weeks, health officials in the Palestinian enclave said.

The bodies, which had been held in Israel, were handed over through the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing and will be buried in mass graves in the

city of Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip, the officials said.

The Gaza health officials confirmed they had received 100 bodies, "including full bodies, half bodies and body parts."

The bodies arrived at an open space in Rafah where workers and medics waited next to a long line of newly dug graves.

The bodies, wrapped in blue plastic bags, were transferred to the location in a cooler truck.

On Tuesday, Israeli police and military said that Israeli com-

mandos disguised as Palestinians killed three Palestinian militants in a hospital in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday. The hospital's medical director said the three were "executed in cold blood".

The Israeli military identified one of them as a Hamas member who, it said, planned an "attack inspired by October 7 massacre".

The second Palestinian killed was a member of the Hamas-aligned Islamic Jihad (IJ) and the third belonged to a Jenin-based group, a military statement said.



## LANKA OPP PROTESTS ECONOMIC CRUNCH

Workers of the main opposition United People's Power party protesting Sri Lanka's dire economic conditions in Colombo, on Tuesday. Police used tear gas and water cannons Tuesday to disperse the protesters, as the country gears for elections later this year. AP

Nicole Kidman's *Expats* was filmed in Hong Kong, but can't be watched there

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONG KONG, JANUARY 30

NICOLE KIDMAN'S latest project is set in Hong Kong, but people who live there are blocked from seeing it, prompting speculation about censorship in a city where civil liberties are shrinking fast.

First two episodes of "Expats," a drama series about expat women, were released on Amazon Prime on January 26. When viewers in Hong Kong try to watch it, they see "this video is unavailable in your location."

The city has hardened its controls over political speech af-

A still from *Expats*. AP

ter 2019 protests rocked the city.

The first episode of "Expats" includes a brief scene in which people at a rally chant "I want real general elections." The show's trailer also refers to the 2014 Umbrella Movement.

## HONG KONG BEGINS WORK ON NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

Hong Kong: Hong Kong began work on a local National Security Law on Tuesday, more than three years after Beijing imposed a similar law that has all but wiped out dissent in the semi-autonomous city. Hong Kong's mini-constitution, the Basic Law, calls for the city to enact a national security law, but it's been delayed for decades due to widespread public opposition. AP

VERDICT 9 DAYS BEFORE NATIONAL POLLS

## Imran, ex-minister Qureshi get 10 years prison in cipher case

Only waved piece of paper in rally, Khan tells court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 30

JAILED FORMER Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan was sentenced to 10 years in prison by a special court on Tuesday for leaking sensitive state secrets, in another blow to his bid to return to power in the February 8 general elections.

The decision to sentence Khan and ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was announced by a special court judge during the hearing of the case held at the special court in Adiala jail at Rawalpindi.

The 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician is already serving a three-year jail term after being convicted of corruption.

Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has faced numerous troubles starting with the denial of its election symbol, the cricket bat, to the rejection of nomination papers of Khan, Qureshi, 67, and a number of other party leaders. The verdict comes nine days before the February 8 general elections.

The controversy first emerged on March 27, 2022, when Khan while addressing a public rally waved a letter before the crowd, claiming that it was a cipher from a foreign nation that had conspired with his political rivals to overthrow him.

Khan has reportedly informed the court that he had only waved a "piece of paper" during his party rally to expose a conspiracy against his government.

Officials said that police reached the spot of the attack and launched a search for the



Police detains a PTI supporter outside the Sindh High Court in Karachi, on Tuesday. AP

## Blast at PTI rally in Balochistan kills four

perpetrators.

In a statement, the PTI party said the bombing attacked an election rally of party-backed candidate Saddam Tareen, who is contesting the upcoming polls from the constituency. The party claimed that the victims were its workers.

"We strongly condemn this heartbreaking incident and demand that attention should be given to suppressing terrorists instead of PTI workers," it said in a post on social media platform X.

Terming the incident a "criminal failure" of the provincial and federal governments, the party said, "A full investigation of the incident should be conducted, and the criminal negligence of the supervising governments should also be investigated".

An emergency was imposed in all hospitals of Quetta and Sibi following the incident, a health department statement said.

## S Korea's Yoon vetoes fresh probe of 2022 crowd crush

Seoul: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol blocked on Tuesday a bill to launch a new probe into a Halloween crowd crush that killed 159 people in Seoul's Itaewon district in 2022, in a move slammed by the opposition and relatives of the victims.

Yoon's office announced his veto of conducting an independent panel hours after the prime minister described the opposition-backed bill as politicized and potentially in breach of the constitution.

"The pain from the disaster cannot be used as a tool to justify political strife and a possibility of unconstitutionality," Prime Minister Han Duck-soo told a cabinet meeting, denying an earlier probe by police and prosecutors was flawed. REUTERS



Republican candidate Nikki Haley

the New Hampshire primary suggests Haley is struggling to win over conservatives who backed her twice for governor but haven't soured on Trump for president.

The winner of South Carolina's primary has won the nomination all but one time since 1980.

But Trump's campaign remains confident of another victory, with his top advisers releasing a memo Monday to supporters and media predicting a "humiliation at home" for Haley.

The pressure to convert Trump voters was evident in Haley's first South Carolina campaign since outlasting Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and finishing second in New Hampshire.

"The pain from the disaster cannot be used as a tool to justify political strife and a possibility of unconstitutionality," Prime Minister Han Duck-soo told a cabinet meeting, denying an earlier probe by police and prosecutors was flawed. REUTERS

ATTEMPT IN PERU TO PROTECT BEE VARIETY THAT FACES THREAT DUE TO PESTICIDES, CLIMATE CHANGE

## To protect Amazon, conservators try to save pollinator: Stingless bees

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JANUARY 30

is runny enough to be drunk like a liquid and is said to have a citrusy aftertaste, is used by many Indigenous Peruvians as a natural medicine.

Today, Vela's methods are more sophisticated. His family keeps 76 nests of stingless bees in square wooden boxes perched on sticks and scattered around his home. Each artificial nest has multiple drawers, but Vela only harvests honey from one, which he calls the mielera, or honey pot, leaving the rest for the bees.

"They need it to live," he explained. "If I take it away from them, they may flee."

The Amazon is home to hundreds of species of stingless bee,



but as deforestation converts the tropical landscape into farms and ranches, these and other native pollinators are in danger of disappearing. Pesticides, climate change and competition with the honey bee, which is adapted to agricultural areas than the stingless bee, introduces more strain.

Mr. Vela's family is among the few who keep stingless bees and live off the income they provide. César Delgado, an entomologist at the Peruvian Amazon Research Institute who helped Mr. Vela refine his practice, wants to widen the appeal. "Beekeeping is a very good way for the forest and communities to adapt to climate change," he said.

Building an economy around stingless bees, which pollinate much of the Amazon's native flora, is a creative way to fight deforestation, said Rosa Vásquez Espinoza, a chemical biologist and founder of Amazon Research International. But for the effort to work, Dr. Vásquez Espinoza stressed, it must incorporate the knowledge and ways of life of the Indigenous peoples who call the rainforest home. It must be "a process that is self-sustaining, and aligned with the culture of the communities," she said.

The Amazon is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world. But widespread deforestation threatens the protection of

Indigenous communities as well as the animals and plants that live there, and it reduces the habitat's function as a major carbon sink amid the growing climate crisis.

"We are losing species that have never even been documented," said Adrian Forsyth, a tropical ecologist who founded the Andes Amazon Fund and is not involved in the beekeeping effort. "It's not just that we're burning the book of life," he added. "It's that we haven't even read the first few pages."

A sustainable conservation program requires funding, government backing, and the integration of local knowledge and practices, Dr. Forsyth said.

# Issues with EVs, and possible hybrid solution

Overall, hybrids could work out to be cleaner for India in the medium term. Subsidy policy, charging, and power source are significant challenges to EV adoption

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK & ANIL SASI**

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

INDIA MUST "embrace" hybrid vehicles over the next 5-10 years on the way to full electrification, says a new research note. Hybrids are the more practical medium-term solution for India's decarbonisation efforts and, more importantly, less polluting, according to the note.

According to HSBC Research, currently overall carbon emissions are lower in hybrids compared to both electrics and those that run on petrol and diesel for similarly proportioned vehicles. In fact, it could take as long as a decade for EV and hybrid vehicle emissions to come to the same level, the note says.

Hybrids have both an internal combustion engine and an onboard electric motor, which work in tandem to provide motive power. Countries including India are pushing toward electrification. In India, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra and Hyundai Motor have been betting big on EVs. But passenger car market leader Maruti Suzuki has taken a more conservative approach, and has no battery-electric vehicle (BEV) in the market so

far. It has, however, prioritised hybrids in its portfolio in partnership with Toyota Kirloskar.

The Centre currently offers clear tax incentives for primarily one category of cars, with almost all other vehicular technological platforms clubbed together towards the upper end of the tax bracket.

India's electric mobility plan is largely focused on BEVs replacing internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. Li-ion is seen as the most viable battery option for now.

#### Why do the researchers believe hybrids are a good medium-term solution?

"We have a long-standing belief that hybrid and compressed natural gas cars are a practical medium-term (5-10 years) solution for India, while the country moves towards eventual electrification. Hybrids are critical not just from a cost-of-ownership perspective, but also for India's decarbonisation drive," the HSBC note issued to investors said.

The note says total (wheel-to-wheel, or WTW) carbon emissions from an EV is currently 158 g/km, compared to 133 g/km for hybrids — so, a hybrid is at least 16% less polluting than the corresponding EV. The numbers for corresponding petrol and diesel vehicles are

176 g/km and 201 g/km respectively.

The analysis does not focus only on tailpipe emissions; it includes vehicle emissions (tank-to-wheel, or TTW) and emissions from crude mining, refining, and power generation as well.

"In the case of EVs we have only incorporated power generation emissions and not coal production emissions, which would have skewed the equation further in favour of hybrids," HSBC said in the note.

#### How long could this situation continue?

EV and hybrid emissions could converge after 7-10 years, according to the estimates.

The non-fossil share of power generation in India in FY23 was 26%, and the blended power generation emission was 716g/kWh. According to the note, total emissions from hybrid cars and EVs will converge if non-fossil power generation in India moves up to 44%.

By 2030, even if India's share of non-fossil fuels is 40%, hybrids will still release 8% less emissions than EVs, which, however, will be half of the 16% of today, the note said.

Authors of the note at HSBC Research did not respond to a request for comment.

#### How is the global push for BEVs faring?

There are a few speed bumps on the way to rapid adoption of battery electrics at scale.

**UPFRONT SUBSIDY:** The experience in markets from Norway to the US and China shows that the electric push works only if it is backed by state subsidies.

An elaborate system of incentives is central to Norway's EV policy, which has fostered the world's most advanced EV market. The government waives the high taxes it imposes on the sale of non-electrics; it lets electric cars run in bus lanes; toll roads are free for EVs; and parking lots offer a free charge.

The problem with this kind of overt subsidisation of EVs, especially in developing countries like India, is that much of the subsidy, especially the one offered as tax breaks for cars, ends up in the hands of the middle or upper middle classes, who are typically the buyers of battery electric four-wheelers.

**CHARGING NETWORK:** A World Bank analysis has found that investing in charging infrastructure is between four and seven times more effective in ensuring EV adoption compared with providing purchase subsidies.

Both Norway and China, while offering purchase subsidies, have seen faster adoption of EVs as a result of sustained efforts at

expanding the public charging infrastructure. China, the leader in the number of publicly available chargers, accounts for 85% of global fast chargers and 55% slow chargers.

The situation in India is very different. While the number of EVs had crossed 1 million by mid-2022 and will likely grow to 45-50 million by 2030, only about 2,000 public charging stations are currently operational across the country.

Also, as a report by KPMG (*Electric vehicle charging – the next big opportunity*) pointed out, India faces a unique challenge in building charging infrastructure because the vehicle mix in the country is dominated by two- and three-wheelers.

Given that cars and these smaller vehicles have different charging requirements – two- and three-wheelers have small, low-voltage batteries for which normal AC power charging is adequate, while four-wheelers have varying battery sizes and use different charging standards – the charging network strategy has to be tweaked.

**ELECTRICITY SOURCE:** In several countries that have pushed EVs, much of the electricity is generated from renewables – Norway, for example, has 99% hydroelectric power. In India, the grid is still fed largely by coal-fired thermal plants.

Unless the generation mix changes significantly, India would be effectively using fossil fuels to power EVs. Theoretically, this would mean reduced tailpipe emissions in cities, but continuing pollution from the running of thermal plants. There is the advantage of substitution of oil imports, though.

**VALUE CHAIN:** As India struggles to make inroads into the global lithium value chain, there is discussion on the need to diversify the country's dependency on Li-ion batteries in the EV mix. The demand for Li-ion batteries from India is projected to grow at a CAGR of more than 30% by volume up to 2030, which translates to more than 50,000 tonnes of lithium requirement for the country to manufacture EV batteries alone.

However, more than 90% of global Li production is concentrated in Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia, alongside Australia and China. Other key inputs such as cobalt and nickel are mined in the Congo and Indonesia. India would, therefore, be almost entirely dependent on imports from a small pool of countries to cater to its demand. While other options to Li-ion are being explored, viability remains a key factor.

## EXPLAINED LAW

### DEATH PENALTY TO 15: THE KERALA BJP LEADER MURDER CASE OF 2021

**SHAJU PHILIP**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 30



Police escort convicted PFI men in Alappuzha on Tuesday. PTI

daughter. His face was disfigured.

#### What was the background of this?

Tensions between the Sangh Parivar and PFI had been running high in Alappuzha in 2021. In February of that year, an RSS worker, Nandu R Krishna, was murdered in Vayalar allegedly by an SDPI-PFI gang. This came after the SDPI took out a march in Vayalar against the Kerala unit of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The RSS also marched against the PFI, allegedly raising "provocative slogans".

Shan's murder was believed to be in retaliation to Nandu's killing.

#### What about the Shan case trial?

The police submitted chargesheets in both murders on March 17, 2022. In the Shan murder case, the chargesheet named 15 persons belonging to the RSS. However, the trial in this case is yet to begin for want of a special prosecutor.

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**JAY MAZOOMDAAR**

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE DEATH of the last male in 2018 made the extinction of the northern white rhino an inevitability. But already in 2015, a group of 20 scientists from five continents had launched an audacious and expensive project to rebuild the subspecies through in vitro fertilisation (IVF).

Last week, the scientists announced the first-ever rhino pregnancy achieved by transferring a lab-made rhino embryo into a surrogate mother. It took 13 attempts for the breakthrough with a southern white rhino, a closely-related subspecies that branched away from the northern whites about a million years ago.

The international consortium of scientists, named BioRescue, is confident that the success can be replicated with 30 embryos of the northern white stored in liquid nitrogen. However, rebuilding a species is easier than done.

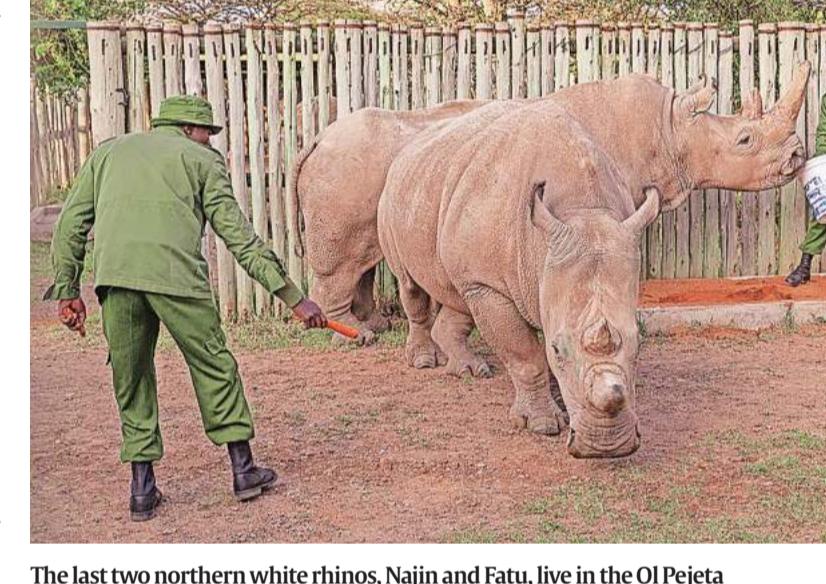
#### Process is the challenge

In 2009, four northern white rhinos were brought from a zoo in the Czech Republic to a conservancy in Kenya in the hope that they might breed in their natural environment. The two males – Suni and Sudan – have died since, and the two females – Najin and her daughter Fatu – turned out to be incapable of reproduction for pathological reasons.

This meant surrogacy was the only option to produce a northern white calf through IVF.

Preparing a southern white female, the natural choice for a surrogate mother, is an elaborate process. The first step is to isolate her and put a protocol in place to guard against bacterial infections. The real challenge, though, is to spot when the animal is in oestrus – the fertile window for implanting the embryo.

This requires the services of a 'teaser' – a scrubbed and sterilised rhino bull to check when the designated surrogate mother gets interested. Mating also triggers an array of hormonal reactions that primes the female for the embryo implant, Thomas Hildebrandt



The last two northern white rhinos, Najin and Fatu, live in the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. BioRescue

#### Issue of genetic viability

In this case, since the embryos are all from eggs harvested from two females and sperm taken from a few deceased zoo males, even multiple successes with IVF and surrogacy cannot build a gene pool large enough for a viable northern white population.

One solution is to broaden the breeding pool by creating sperm and eggs from stem cells extracted from preserved tissue samples stored in zoos. The science has worked in lab mice, but it may not be easily replicable in rhinos.

Another optimistic argument is based on the natural resilience witnessed in the wild. Rampant hunting had resulted in the southern white rhino population crashing drastically in the 19th century when their numbers had possibly dropped to as low as 20.

However, thanks to armed protection and multilateral conservation efforts, the subspecies has made a significant recovery since then, and now numbers more than 17,000.

But even favourable outcomes from experiments with stem cell techniques cannot stretch the northern white rhino gene pool beyond 12 animals, BioRescue project coordinator Jan Stejskal told BBC.

Crossbreeding the northern and southern subspecies is not a solution since this will result in the loss of certain unique attributes, such as hairier ears and feet, that make the northern white better adapted for swampy habitats.

#### Being a northern white

Breakthroughs in IVF or stem cell technologies can in theory produce northern white rhino calves long after the species is extinct. However, babies are not born genetically hardwired to behave as one of the species. They pick up those traits from fam-

ily and social interactions.

So the first batch of IVF northern white calves born to surrogate southern white mothers needs to be raised by northern white adults to learn to be northern whites and carry that legacy for the next batch of IVF calves and, if the species indeed survives, future generations.

That is why scientists consider it absolutely vital that the first IVF calves are born in time to learn the social and behavioural skills of northern whites from the last two surviving females in Kenya. Najin is 35, and Fatu 24. Given that northern white rhinos rarely live beyond 40 in captivity, that window will be closing soon.

#### Is it worth the money?

The Biorescue consortium, which is led by the Leibniz-IZW, is funded by the German government and several other public and private donors. Millions of dollars have been spent on the project that aims to make "the seemingly impossible a reality".

Questions have been asked on whether the project takes focus and resources away from other endangered species that could still be saved.

Some critics have also questioned the purpose of rebuilding a northern white population without addressing the threats to its natural habitat, which may jeopardise its future in the wild all over again.

A victim of organised hunting for its horns, the northern white was officially declared extinct in the wild in 2008. In 2015, when Biosecure was launched, only three individuals survived in a Kenyan conservancy. The effort to rebuild the species was inspired by an obligation to try and undo the damage caused by the greed of humans.

One rhino is poached every 16 hours on average in Africa. While the southern whites form the largest surviving rhino species, there are fewer than 7,000 black rhinos in Africa, and only 4,000 one-horned rhinos in Asia.

Populations of the other two rhino species – the Javan and the Sumatran – are down to fewer than 100 each. But there may still be time to help them in the wild before test tubes become their future too.

# What is the cipher case, in which former Pak PM Imran got 10 years in jail

**ALIND CHAUHAN**

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

FORMER PAKISTAN Prime Minister Imran Khan and ex-Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi were on Tuesday sentenced to 10 years in jail by a special court in the cipher case, which pertains to the disclosure of a classified cable sent to Islamabad by Pakistan's ambassador in Washington in early 2022. Imran and Qureshi have been found guilty of making the document public.

Imran has claimed that the cable is proof of a US conspiracy to oust him in a parliamentary vote in 2022. He has, however, denied revealing the document's content publicly – the former PM has said news outlets got the document from other sources. Soon after the court's ruling, Imran's

party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) posted a statement on X, saying "Pakistan stands with Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who defended Pakistan and stood for Haqqiqi Azadi... A complete mockery and disregard of law in the cipher case shall not lead us to forget our primary responsibility in order to provide justice to IK and SMQ".

#### The classified cable

The document at the centre of the controversy contained an account of a meeting that took place on March 7, 2022, among US State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, and then Pakistani ambassador to US Asad Majeed Khan.

The complete text of the purported cable hasn't been disclosed yet as it is protected under Section 5 of the Official Secrets



Imran claimed the cable was proof of a US conspiracy to oust him. Reuters/file

Act 1923 of Pakistan. In August 2023, American news organisation *The Intercept* reproduced a section of the document. The outlet said that it received the document from a source in Pakistan's military.

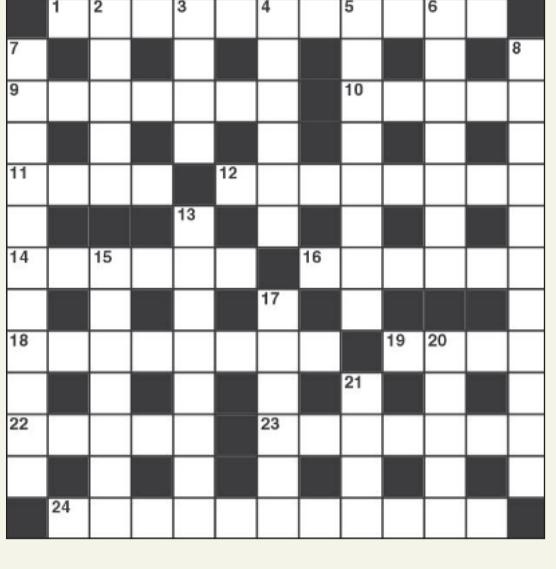
In the meeting, the US officials purport-

edly expressed their displeasure regarding Imran's neutrality on the Russian invasion of Ukraine – the then PM was in Moscow on February 24, 2022, when President Vladimir Putin announced the invasion of Ukraine, according to *The Intercept* report.

Lu purportedly said: "I think if the no-confidence vote against the Prime Minister succeeds, all will be forgiven in Washington because the Russia visit is being looked at as a decision by the Prime Minister. Otherwise, I think it will be tough going ahead."

Asad Majeed sent the details of the

## CROSSWORD 5275



## ACROSS

- 1 He shouldn't leave any wrong impressions (11)  
9 He's clear about fish (7)  
10 It's erect whichever way you look at it (3,2)  
11 The permit is to reside in Virginia (4)  
12 He has a telling part in play (8)  
14 Gather the woman's hellish (6)  
16 She and men get involved and become engaged (6)  
18 Negligent woman coming second in extremities (8)  
19 It changes me in appearance (4)  
22 Wakes all awry (5)  
23 Prohibited sort of beard (7)  
24 Will the orator be speechless if he loses it? (7,4)

Solutions Crossword 5274 Across: 1 Astray, 4 Big wheel, 9 Austin, 10 Asteroid, 12 Buck, 13 Meant, 14 Chin, 17 Desert island, 20 Relief worker, 23 Lied, 24 Scale, 25 Frau, 28 Slacking, 29 Senior, 30 Satiated, 31 Cachou Down: 1 Adam Bede, 2 Test case, 3 Ard, 5 In single file, 6 When, 8 Elisha, 8 Likin, 11 Reminiscence, 15 Tried, 16 Annoy, 18 Skirmish, 19 Frou-frou, 21 Clasps, 22 Pedant, 26 Skua, 27 Vera

## JUMBLED WORDS

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

We are shifting from a managerial society to an \_\_\_\_\_ society. -John Naisbitt (15)

RVEEE  
DAERR  
HLILRT  
PANNUS

Answers: REEDER-DEBTER-THIRL-UNSPAP  
Jumble: WE ARE SHIFTING FROM A MANAGERIAL SOCIETY TO AN ENTERPRENEURIAL SOCIETY

## Office of Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, P.W.D. Rampur

## E-Procurement Tender Notice

No.: 239 /E-Nivida-R.Cirle/23-24

Date: 16-01-2024

1. On behalf of the Governor of UP, tenders for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from registered contractors Category as per column No.8 from date 01.02.2024 at 10.00 am to 07.02.2024 at 12.00 pm. Technical bid /Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 07.02.2024 at 12.30 pm in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders' who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day.

## 2. Details of the works are following:

SL No	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.in Lakh)	Bid Security (Rs.in Lakh)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Cost of tender documents including GST (Rs.)	Category of road contractor eligible	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintendent Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Bijnor	Renewal of Panjoli & Metalfurnagar Bijnor Kashipur Khatima Road	55.70	4.79	03 Months (including Rainy season)	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A,B,C, Road category	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad
2	Bijnor	Renewal of Balawali Kiratpur Nehtaur Chandpur Feena Road	162.18	10.11	02 Months (including Rainy season)	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A,B, Road category	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad
3	Bijnor	Renewal of Dhampur Abadi Road	52.48	4.62	02 Months (including Rainy season)	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A,B,C, Road category	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad
4	Bijnor	Renewal of DN Road KM 12 to Pamarwala Road	117.54	7.88	03 Months (including Rainy season)	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A,B, Road category	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad
5	Bijnor	Renewal of Chachri Mod to Jaleelpur Road	98.03	6.90	02 Months (including Rainy season)	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A,B, Road category	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad
6	Bijnor	Renewal of Jhalu Nehtaur Road	119.25	7.96	02 Months (including Rainy season)	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A,B, Road category	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad
7	Bijnor	Renewal of Mahamuda Vidur Road	99.81	6.99	02 Months (including Rainy season)	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A,B, Road category	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad
8	Bijnor	Renewal of Bijnor Chakkar Road	195.12	11.76	02 Months (including Rainy season)	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A,B, Road category	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad
9	Bijnor	Renewal of Chandpur Basta Manpur Ahrantra Road	89.89	6.49	02 Months (including Rainy season)	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A,B, Road category	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad
10	Bijnor	Renewal of Feena Dhanara Road	197.96	11.90	02 Months (including Rainy season)	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A,B, Road category	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad
11	Bijnor	Renewal of Chandpur Road & SH 76 KM 36 to SH 76 KM 44 via Seema Camri Sarfuddin nager	79.03	5.95	02 Months (including Rainy season)	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A,B, Road category	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad
12	Bijnor	Renewal of SH 77 KM 36 to SH 76 KM 44 via Seema Camri Sarfuddin nager	83.62	6.18	02 Months (including Rainy season)	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only through net banking)	A,B, Road category	Provincial Division PWD Bijnor	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad

The Rates adopted in the BOQ are including all other taxes but excluding GST.

The Bid Security and tender cost should be deposited online through Net Banking as per Column 5 & 7 in the table.

All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> The bidder have to login on Prahari URL <http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari> to upload required documents as per Government order no. 879(1)23-2020 dt. 25.08.2020 & E.N.C.H.O.D.'s up pwd order No. 4859/4M-LC/2020 dt. 27.08.2020.

Superintending Engineer

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Ph. 0595 - 2351163

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Executive Engineer

PWD, Bijnor

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Email – [pdbijnor@gmail.com](mailto:pdbijnor@gmail.com)

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry &amp; T Lewis



## CALVIN &amp; HOBBES by Bill Watterson



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

## ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

This time of year is often significant for your financial affairs. Now that fantastic planetary activity offers you a chance to make important strides, delay no longer. But if you don't reach a conclusion this time, you'll have another chance within about three months.

## TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

After many trials and tribulations, Venus is on your side. The planets are determined to set you back on top. A dispute over who owns what should now be settled to your deep satisfaction. You'll probably soon discover that in one important respect, you were wrong. But there's no need to tell anyone - yet.

## GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

At the moment you are both teaching, and being taught, a number of tough and useful lessons. There are both givers and takers in this world and right now you must decide which side you are on. Do best to let partners take the lead.

## CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Happily, you have the power to lighten your load and you are only a breath away from a life which is happier, more contented and relaxed. Live for today and put long-term questions on the back-burner. Put a little thought into your health and find ways to get rid of some of that nervous energy.

## LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

There is a build-up of planetary activity in the region of your solar chart symbolising your prestige and public achievements. It is important that you now feel you are making your mark in a worthwhile and permanent manner. You need that sense of long-range purpose.

## VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You must expect the field of ideas to become something of a battleground, because neither you nor your partners are prepared to reach a compromise. Stand your ground, but not at the expense of a valued relationship. You're bothered about your financial prospects, but your worries will be resolved next month.

## PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

This simply has to be an exciting period for you, though not one which is necessarily destined to have a great impact on your future. Instead, you will soon be concentrating on activities which you enjoy - and which will open up new contacts.

## AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Precautionary measures taken now will help keep you on the right path and ensure that you cope well with exciting possibilities in the coming weeks. Tact and diplomacy must be your most important and necessary qualities. I know they may not come easily, but do try.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

You are now poised to implement some quite remarkable changes at work, or in your routine affairs. One thing is certain, though: the consent and assistance of friends and partners is absolutely essential. And I don't think you'll have any trouble persuading them.

## CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

These are stirring times and it does now seem that all your willingness to meet others halfway is about to pay off handsomely. Your prospects are excellent and your life is now becoming more fulfilled, both in the personal and professional spheres.

## GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender Notice No.: EL-GH-932R2 of 2023-24; Dated: 25-01-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No.: EL-GH-932R2; dated: 25-01-2024. Name of work: Rampur Circle : Provision of 384 kWp On grid Roof Top Solar Power Plant At NFRSA Complex, Malaigaon. Advertised Value: ₹2,04,93,901/-; Earnest Money: ₹2,52,500/-; E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 16-02-2024. For details please visit: [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in).

Sr. DEE/Guwahati

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Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

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Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508

CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:[www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

Letter No:140 e-TENDER NOTICE Date: 30/01/2024

The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhalai Stage-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No: NIT-60/EE (M)/MB-II/2023-24

Name of work / Supply/Services: Strengthening of 11 KV Chinyalisaur Line-2 from DPH Dharaslu to Shaktipuram Colony Chinyalisaur

Estimated cost: Rs 42,74,733/- only \* GST extra.

Date of availability of bid document on website: 31.01.2024 from 16:00 Hrs

Last date for submission of bids on website: 21.02.2024 up to 16:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal

<http://uktenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/END (AP

## BRIEFLY

Jolly-Gopichand enter Thailand Masters doubles 2nd round

Bangkok: Indian pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand had to sweat it out to get the better of Hong Kong's duo of Lok Lok Lui and Wing Yung NG as they entered the second round of the women's doubles event at the Thailand Masters on Tuesday. The sixth seeded Indian pair battled it out for one hour and 14 minutes to beat their first-round opponents 16-21 21-10 21-18. Jolly and Gopichand will play compatriots Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa in the next round. Crasto and Ponnappa defeated Chinese Taipei's Ling Fang Hu and Xiao Min Lin 21-13 21-17. PTI

Messi, Inter Miami lose to Al-Hilal

Riyadh: Lionel Messi and Inter Miami kicked off their tour of Saudi Arabia by losing to Al-Hilal 4-3. The Major League Soccer team is playing two games in the oil-rich kingdom as part of its pre-season preparations, but even Messi could not inspire it to victory in Riyadh. While Messi got on the score sheet with a second-half penalty, Malcom came up with the decisive goal to win the match in the 88th. Al-Hilal had been strongly linked with a move for Messi when he left Paris Saint-Germain and became the most sought-after free agent in the sport last year. AP

Ivory Coast knock Senegal out of AFCON

Abidjan: Moussa Niakhate missed his penalty in the shoot-out as holders Senegal tumbled out of the Africa Cup of Nations after a drama-filled 5-4 loss to hosts Ivory Coast following a 1-1 draw at the Charles Konan Banny Stadium on Monday. Senegal were quick out the blocks and took the lead inside four minutes as Sadio Mane's cross from the left was chested down by Habib Diallo, whose shot from 10-yards settled in the top corner of the net. The Ivorians were awarded a penalty and equalised through Franck Kessie four minutes from the end of the 90 minutes. REUTERS

PKL: Puneri Paltan thrash Telugu Titans

Patna: Puneri Paltan bounced back to winning ways and soared to the top of the standings as they handed Telugu Titans a 60-29 loss in the Pro Kabaddi League here on Tuesday. Puneri Paltan came into the game on the back of two consecutive wins and were eager to claim all points available from this game. Akash Shinde (11 raid points), Mohammadreza Chiyaneh Shahdouli (7 points) and Abinesh Nadarajan (5 tackle points) were the key players for Puneri Paltan in their win. AP

Bhutia demands AIFF president's resignation

New Delhi: Bhaichung Bhutia demanded the resignation of AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, holding him responsible for the "current mess" in the administration. "I told the executive committee members that Kalyan Chaubey and treasurer Kipa Ajay should resign. Shaji Prabhakaran should not be made the scapegoat. All three of them are equally responsible for taking decisions without the approval of executive committee," Bhutia said. PTI

## HAALAND TO MAKE CITY RETURN

Manchester: Manchester City will finally have striker Erling Haaland back in the squad when they play Burnley on Wednesday, manager Pep Guardiola said. Haaland is the joint-top goalscorer in the league with 14, level with Mohamed Salah, but has not played since fracturing a bone in his foot. REUTERS

# Discard fear, embrace risk

In tough conditions, Indian players have lacked commitment to their plans and have fallen prey to a lack of clarity, courage and skill

VENKATA KRISHNAB  
VISAKHAPATNAM, JANUARY 30

SHORTLY AFTER India's batting line-up busted against a debutant spinner in Hyderabad, head coach Rahul Dravid spoke about the shots that would have worked on pitches like this on Day 4. "I think using your feet to the left-hand spinner with these kinds of conditions is fraught with risk, you probably have to play a little bit more square the wicket. Having said that, that is a high risk shot as well," Dravid said. One risky shot to be avoided and another risky shot to be played?

It's this kind of psychological-dawdle that has perhaps been a factor in Indian batting's iffy approach during the first Test. Dravid and captain Rohit Sharma allow their batsmen to formulate their own style and interestingly it is exactly what England coach Brendon McCullum advocates. But Bazball stands with the mental preparation for the aggressive brand of cricket and the hours spent honing the required skill-sets in walking that risky path. Clarity, courage and skill; Indians often forget at least a couple of those traits in tough conditions in recent times.

Shortly after Dravid vacated the seat in the media room, England skipper Ben Stokes arrived with Ollie Pope. It was a study in contrast. On the way to 196, Pope revealed on this surface, he believed the reverse-sweep was as safe as a defensive shot. But there was something more striking. "We practise those shots enough and if you get out for none playing a reverse sweep you're not going to get a load of chat in the changing room about that. You can go and commit to it," he would say.

That committing was absent in the Indian approach. In the second innings, Yashavini Jaiswal went down the track but turned coy after not finding the ball in his area. Shubman Gill was worse, tamely guiding a ball straight to silly point as if he were giving catching practice. Even Shreyas Iyer, usually so proactive against spin, had a weak flail at a ball leaving him and to none's surprise, it nestled in the slips. Axar Patel's was a soft dismissal, patting a ball straight to the bowler. And on it went.

Rohit is kind of a captain who likes to lead by example and believes that this belief would filter down to his team. Even during last year's ODI World Cup, it came down to Rohit's pre-tournament talk to his team-mates about how he was going to adopt an attacking approach.

They followed him. In the second innings, he did try to set the agenda; playing reverse sweeps and reverse laps. But such is his stature that he doesn't always need to set the agenda himself; he can help frame a committed approach for his younger players and guide them, along with Dravid, on the ways to go about it.

Like how Stokes and McCullum do. It's not just a one-time philosophical talk about self-expression as batsmen but they actually created conditions in UAE ahead of this series, spending hours honing their skills in identifying shots to play. It might not come off again in the second Test, but that's beside the point; they had a carefully cultivated plan and clarity, which is lacking in India. If it takes an end of Test to come up with going down the track is not wise, but playing square is also risky, it can't help.

It says much about the Bazball effect that a batsman such as Pope has had a rebirth of sorts under the new management. The first thing that McCullum did after taking over as coach was to ring Pope. "I was down in Cornwall when I got a call from Baz (McCullum). He said, 'you're going to be in the squad and you're go-



Shubman Gill was dismissed after he tamely guided a ball to silly point and failed to control England's spinners in the second innings of the first Test. PTI

We practise those shots enough and if you get out for none playing a reverse sweep you're not going to get a load of chat in the changing room about that. You can go and commit to it.

OLLIE POPE  
ON THE REVERSE SWEEP SHOT

ing to bat three as well! Whatever you call it, the red-ball reset or whatever, I'm loving every minute of it. This is the first time I've felt like I can be a No 3 in red-ball cricket," Pope has said.

And that's how Pope came into the Bazball Universe. McCullum and Stokes have worked the charm on veterans like Jonny Bairstow and Joe Root as well. "I've gone back to young Jonny, where you're just watching the ball and seeing the ball." Sample this from Root: "The Yorkshireman inside me is still saying 'dig in, play straight and get behind it'. Then there's the captain on my shoulder saying 'be a rock star'."

"Doubt kills more dreams than failure," McCullum told Forbes magazine recently. "I genuinely believe that even if you fail, you'll learn something from it. So you progress, you get better. It's okay to fail, for me it's not okay to not have a go at something, it's not okay to leave your talent unflourished because you're scared to do something. The key from a leadership point of view is that when failure does arise, I'd still be there to pick them up, I'd still be there to encourage them to have a go next time," McCullum said of his coaching philosophy.

Now with England as a head coach, he has a similar thinking captain in Stokes, he is leading their charge from the dressing room. Against an attacking team like England, opposition teams' response has been to go on the defensive. Even India erred in the same aspect, particularly with the bat in the second innings, where they let an inexperienced set of spinners to dictate their pace. Having landed a bloody blow straight up, India has a daunting task ahead. And at Vizag in the second Test, they have to be a lot more aggressive in the absence of Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul. Their route is fraught with risk. Whether they embrace it or not lies the question.

McCullum has admitted that they took a punt on left-arm spinner Tom Hartley and it paid off.

"Hartley on debut, who has only played a handful of first-class games stepped up with the bowl. It was a punt selection," McCullum said. "We saw something in him that we thought will work over here. He is a tough character and the way skipper handled him was quite remarkable as well. He obviously bowled us to the Test win."

"There are so many different emotions. Guys have taken a lots of confidence with the Hyderabad win but we also know that

McCullum says he still felt that 246 in

was a pretty good score on that surface. I think the wicket was kind of tacky to start.

It turned a little bit more and we felt that it slowed up a little bit and batting became a little bit easier. We were content with 240 odd.

"Few tight calls didn't go our way, but we knew of hung up there and I thought the attitude was fantastic. We were able to see one of the greatest innings in the sub-continent from Ollie Pope. The guys chipped it around him as well," he said.

"When you see guys who are good enough and the conditions will suit them, it is like horses for courses. You have to back your judgement on things like that. If you like the skillsets and the character you need to be brave with the selection call as well.

The way Ben Stokes handled him and bowled him an extended spell regardless of him being put under pressure by the India batters.

"I thought that was a real sign of leadership and also it was a clear message to those around the squad that you are not going to cast aside or take off the crease after the first sign of danger."

McCullum says he still felt that 246 in

a five-match series."

## How Hartley watched Jadeja, Axar bowling videos to upstage them

VENKATA KRISHNAB  
VISAKHAPATNAM, JANUARY 30

FROM THE time Lancashire spin bowling coach Carl Crowe met Tom Hartley, there has been one ritual that has been followed till date. After discussing everything under the sun, the conversation would gradually veer towards spin bowling. And it will ultimately end with Crowe and Hartley studying the footage of Ravindra Jadeja. At times, even Instagram reels of the all-rounder outfoxing batsmen are shared. Ahead of the ongoing tour to India, the two even watched a lot of videos of Axar Patel.

When England picked three inexperienced spinners to partner Jack Leach, Hartley was mostly seen as a back-up to the frontline left-arm spinner. But during the two trips that Hartley made to the UAE in December and January – first with England Lions and then with the senior team for a pre-series camp – would turn into a game-changer.

And in the first Test at Hyderabad, despite looking out of place in the first innings, Hartley would walk away with 7/62 in the second and bowl England to victory.

Like most English spinners, Hartley doesn't have a side-on run-up, and his approach to the stumps is at times quick. More importantly, he seldom flights the ball. But these factors worked in his favour in India, rather than just relying on the revs. It is the reason why Hartley and Crowe have been analysing the footage of India's two spinners for a while.

"We watch a lot of Jadeja and Axar, especially in terms of how they vary their speeds and the approach they have when it comes to bowling across conditions. With a repeatable action, they are able to be consistent. And the idea for us is not to copy them, but learn what they are doing to be successful. That is what we impart in his bowling," Crowe adds.

And one of the key learnings was that in spin-friendly conditions, the straighter



Tom Hartley picked 7 wickets to take down India's batting in the 1st Test. PTI

one is as lethal as the one that turns sharply. It is what Jadeja and Axar rely on to outfox batsmen, who are often trapped in front or end up losing their stumps.

"On such pitches, you need to have those. While the delivery to KS Bharat (bowled by a big-turning delivery in the second innings) was indeed special, we enjoyed the one to Rohit (Sharma) much more as it went in with the angle. Those subtle variations would keep you in the game," Crowe adds.

### Willing to learn

That Crowe also knows the conditions in India also played its part. Having been part of Kolkata Knight Riders' support staff in the past, Crowe would pass on whatever he picked up from his stint. "He is a very coachable player, one who wants to talk and learn about spin. It just doesn't end with the net session. He is very craft-oriented even off the field. A couple of seasons ago, when Washington Sundar was here, Tom spent a lot of time with him and learnt new things," Crowe adds.

While the manner in which Hartley bounced back after being hit all over the park in the first innings and returning with figures of 131/2 in 25 overs, back home in

Lancashire, they weren't a worried lot. "Of course, Test cricket is always challenging. But one thing we knew was, he would bounce back very quickly. Because that is what he is used to doing here. At Old Trafford, we have a short boundary on one side. And invariably, when we play white-ball games, Hartley always puts his hand up to bowl from the end where the leg-side boundary is short. He is a very level-headed fellow, whose attitude stands out. He is a very relaxed person and you need that as a spinner," Crowe says.

### Family of athletes

Despite playing top-flight cricket in England, the other stand-out quality of Hartley, according to Crowe, is how he still keeps connections with his roots. A product of the Ormskirk Cricket Club, a small team in the west side of Lancashire, he maintains his membership despite turning out for the Red Rose county.

Son of Bill Hartley, a former European Championship gold medallist in 4x400m relay, during the off-season, he is used to spending time at the family's nursery, taking care of the plants on a daily basis.

"He has acquired a lot of qualities from his father," Mark Chilton, Lancashire's director of cricket, tells this daily. "That he comes from a family which knows what it takes to be a high-performance athlete has a lot of bearing on him. His father has had a huge influence on him and it especially shows when he is handling adversity. He never flinches even in high-pressure moments," Chilton says.

During his time at Lancashire, first as a coach and now as a director, Chilton has seen Hartley grow. There was a time when it seemed that Hartley would not make it beyond the youth team. Chilton says he just about made it to the academy.

"When he was 19-20, he went to Australia to play some club cricket. He came back as a different cricketer and just established himself from there on," Chilton adds.

## Agarwal admitted to hospital after drinking suspicious liquid

KARNATAKA RANJIT team captain Mayank Agarwal was rushed to a hospital in Agartala on Tuesday after he fell sick on board a New Delhi-bound flight.

"He (Agarwal) is not in any kind of danger. He is under observation currently in a hospital at Agartala, and we will fly him back to Bengaluru once we get an update from the doctors, which we are expecting tonight," said a Karnataka State Cricket Association official to PTI before confirming that Agarwal will be missing out on Karnataka's Ranji Trophy game against Railways in Surat starting February 2.

Expanding on the incident, Kiran Kumar K, Superintendent of Police of West Tripura – who was reached out by the player's manager to register a complaint – told the agency, "(Mayank) while sitting on a flight saw a pouch in front of him and thinking of it as water, drank it. He had swelling and ulcers in his mouth. His condition is normal, and his vitals are stable. His manager has made a complaint. We are registering the complaint and will investigate the matter."



If the wickets continue to spin as much as what we saw in the first Test as the series goes on, look, we won't be afraid to play all spinners or a balance of what we've got.

-BRENDON MCCULLUM  
ENGLAND HEAD COACH

McCullum has admitted that they took a punt on left-arm spinner Tom Hartley and it paid off.

"Hartley on debut, who has only played a handful of first-class games stepped up with the bowl. It was a punt selection," McCullum said. "We saw something in him that we thought will work over here. He is a tough character and the way skipper handled him was quite remarkable as well. He obviously bowled us to the Test win."

"There are so many different emotions. Guys have taken a lots of confidence with the Hyderabad win but we also know that

McCullum says he still felt that 246 in

a five-match series."

Shoaib Bashir will be 'in the calculations' for the second Test, said England coach

Brendon McCullum. PTI

He fitted in seamlessly within the group, and he's a guy who's got an immense amount of enthusiasm, albeit at a young age and pretty limited in his first-class experience. When he arrived, boys gave him a huge cheer, and he got to witness something pretty special with the fel-

## U-19 WORLD CUP

# India squash Kiwis

Musheer scores second ton of the tournament, while Saumy stars with the ball in 214-run victory

**PRATYUSH RAJ**  
JANUARY 30

INDIA HAVE found two heroes in Musheer Khan and Saumy Pandey. Musheer was the standout performer with the bat, scoring his second century in three innings (126-ball 131; 2 for 10), and Pandey was at his incisive best with his left-arm spin, picking up 4 for 19 as they hammered New Zealand by 214 runs in their first Super Six match.

India posted a massive 295 for 8 after being put into bat before bundled out New Zealand for a paltry 81. It was India's third straight time of winning a game by more than 200 runs and New Zealand's worst defeat in the Youth ODIs.

Musheer and Pandey have been pivotal in India's dominance in the tournament. With 325 runs Musheer is leading the highest run-getter chart, while Pandey, the joint leading wicket-taker alongside Pakistan's Ubaid Shah, has scalped 12 wickets with an economy rate of less than two.

## A+ Saumy

Saumy Pandey's coach Aril Anthony says the biggest strength of his ward is his ability to bowl wicket to wicket and not give an inch to the batsmen.

"His intent is unreal. He is a spinner with a mindset of a fast bowler and that's why you can see a bit of aggression in his bowling," Anthony told *The Indian Express*.

Anthony, who has coached the likes of Ishwar Pandey, and Kuldeep Sen, feels the biggest strength of Saumy is his ability to quickly assess the conditions. "He is excellent in reading conditions and situations. It might have something to do with his sharp mind. He is a plus student, has been a topper throughout, and likes science a bit too much, and that you can see in his bowling," Anthony said.

"People are saying that he only bowls at one trajectory. I disagree with this. If you see him bowling, you can easily point out that he is using the crease every second ball. It is not easy to pick him, he is a wicket-taker and his figures are proof," he said.

In this tournament, Saumy has bowled



Musheer Khan slammed 13 fours and three sixes in his 126-ball 131.

39.5 overs and has given away only 78 runs. He has already been compared to Ravindra Jadeja because of the trajectory he bowls at.

"I hate such comparisons. What Jadeja has achieved is immense. Let him be Saumy Pandey. His real test will come in the knockout games and then when starts bowling with red ball in first-class cricket. He has a long way to go before getting compared with someone of Jadeja's stature," said Anthony.

Such has been Saumy's performance in this tournament that skipper Uday Saharan gave him the new ball against the Kiwis. Raj Limbani had already wreaked havoc in the first over after he removed Tom Jones and in-form Snehit Reddy. Saumy didn't let down his captain, picking up two wickets

with the new ball to leave New Zealand reeling at 22 for 4 in 7.4 overs.

## Red-hot Musheer

Musheer Khan has given everyone a glimpse of his elder brother Sarfaraz Khan with the way he is bullying the bowlers in the U-19 World Cup.

The ICC on their social media handles

also shared a clip, showing the similarity in their batting. Sarfaraz has scored seven fifties in the two U-19 World Cups. And Musheer, a top order batsman became only the second Indian after Shikhar Dhawan to score multiple centuries in the same event.

However, their father Naushad feels the duo are completely different from each other. "Sarfaraz bats at 5 and 6, so there you

hardly get time to build the innings. You need to play the situation. Whereas, Musheer has played as an opener, where he has the luxury of taking his time. Musheer has a great ability to shift gears, he can play the anchor role and at the same time hit sixes at will," Naushad had said. All of those traits were visible on Tuesday when Musheer scored his second century in three innings.

In four innings, Musheer's only failure came against Bangladesh, where he managed only three runs. After scoring a century against Ireland in the next match he admitted to being in a "hurry" to score quick runs and decided to give himself "some time". In his last three knocks, his scores are 118, 73 and 131.

"I want to continue this form in the coming matches. Hitting a century gives you confidence and I want to carry it forward," Musheer told the broadcasters.

## Shades of Sehwag and Dhoni

Musheer teed off with an uppercut straight out of Virender Sehwag's book and once he completed his century he pulled out MS Dhoni's helicopter shot for a six. Musheer's knock was studded with 13 fours and three sixes and all those big hits came after he had played 82 balls. He took his time, completing his fifty in 62 balls.

The other impressive aspect of Musheer's batting has been his ability to build partnerships.

He put on a 77-run stand for the second wicket with opener Adarsh Singh (52), and was involved in a 87-run partnership for the third wicket with skipper Uday Saharan (34).

He then added 27 runs for the fourth, 38 for the fifth, and 18 for the sixth before he got out to Mason Clarke (4 for 62), who was New Zealand's pick of the bowlers. Not much went right for New Zealand on a day when India bossed them.

**Brief scores:** India U-19 295/8 in 50 overs (A Singh 52, M Khan 131, Uday Saharan 35; Mason Clarke 4/64) beat New Zealand U-19 81 in 28.1 overs (O Jackson 19; Raj Limbani 2/17, Saumy Pandey 4/19) by 214 runs.

Asian Games. "I was in fine form and was expecting a fine season before the knee injury. At the Asian games, the gold medal timing was one minute and 23 seconds, a mark which I could have achieved. Apart from the medal, I also missed out on the prize money. It's a huge amount for any budding athlete," Akshdeep said.

Second place finisher Suraj, a Dehradun native, was just six months old when his father, a forest guard, died during a shootout with the mafias. Suraj, the youngest of three siblings, started off with long distance races. In 2018, Suraj won a silver medal in the men's 5,000m race walk in the Youth Olympics in Argentina. When he progressed to the senior level, he won a silver at the National Games in 2022 and then finished atop the podium in the next edition in Goa.

"It took me some time to adjust from 5000m and 10,000m junior events to 20km race walk. I had to work on my endurance as well as speed and making it to the national level was a big thing in my career. I did not have to worry about training expenses," Suraj said. While Selvin and Arshpreet are army men and train in Pune, the other four are part of the national camp. Only the best three – based on form – will make the cut for the Paris Olympics. At the national camp they are coached by foreign coach Tatiana Sibileva.

Sibileva has been focusing on ensuring that the walkers improve their technique. Walkers are required to have one foot in contact with ground at all times while the supporting leg should be straight and not bent. There have been instances when even world's top-ranked walkers are disqualified.

"At last year's world championship in Hungary, Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Massimo Stano was disqualified. So even top athletes can falter. But then we have to get our technique as foolproof as we can. Tatiana has been focusing on right hip and arm movements of each one of us apart from sand and track training to make the right balance," Akshdeep said. Suraj too weighs in on the matter. "Tatiana coach has been specific with our training and sometimes we also work on the treadmill to understand where we are making the fault. We are constantly trying to improve."

# Akshdeep breaks own 20km race walk record

**NITIN SHARMA**  
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 30

ON TUESDAY morning, Akshdeep Singh of Punjab rewrote his national record in the 20Km race walk. He clocked one hour, 19 minutes and 38 seconds to better his previous mark of 1:19.55. Akshdeep had already qualified for the Paris Olympics at last year's National Open Race Walk Championships in Ranchi.

Tuesday, however, was a special day for Indian race walkers.

Three more walkers met the qualifying standard for this year's Olympics during the 11th National Open Race Walking Championship. Uttarakhand's Suraj Panwar (1:19:44s) Tamil Nadu's Servin Sebastian (1:20:03s) and Punjab's Arshpreet Singh (1:20:04s) were also faster than the qualifying mark of 1:20:10s.

At the finish line Suraj hugged Akshdeep before the group had a long chat.

"Each one of us feels the joy in each other's success and to see Suraj, Servin and Arshpreet achieving the Paris Olympics standard here today motivates me too. 20 Km race walk is a tactical event and I am glad that I was right with my tactics today to better my national record mark," Akshdeep said.

In all six race walkers have met the qualifying standard for the Paris Olympics.

Vikash Singh and Paramjeet Malik too made themselves eligible to participate in the Olympics at the All Japan Race Walking Championship in 2023. Tuesday's winner Akshdeep is a native of Kanhe Ka village. The son of a farmer, Akshdeep started running 800 metre races after seeing youngsters in his village train for army recruitment rallies.

A chance visit to Patiala led him to train under Gurdev Singh, coach of London Olympics 10th-place finisher KT Irfan, and the subsequent years would see him becoming the junior national record holder.

After achieving the Paris qualification standard in Ranchi last year, he followed it up with a 12th place in Asian Championships in Japan. But he finished 47th in the World Championships in Budapest. At the Worlds, Akshdeep suffered an injury to his right knee, which also meant that he had to miss the Hangzhou

Asian Games. "I was in fine form and was expecting a fine season before the knee injury. At the Asian games, the gold medal timing was one minute and 23 seconds, a mark which I could have achieved. Apart from the medal, I also missed out on the prize money. It's a huge amount for any budding athlete," Akshdeep said.

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# From Maharashtra to Delhi's Chhatrasal akhada in search of an Olympic berth

**SHIVANI NAIK**  
PUNE, JANUARY 30



Pruthviraj Khadke (left) and Pruthviraj Mohol moved from Maharashtra to Delhi to train at the famed Chhatrasal.

wrestlers, coaches and referees of the north in selection trials and national competitions.

Except, a new generation of wrestlers now is refusing to misdiagnose their failures and taking charge of their futures. A Kolhapur wrestling coach continues to brew bitter resentment, and Mohol says he believed the same and there was some truth in it. The predominantly women's coach explains, "Wrestlers from Maharashtra, Karnataka, MP were always on the backfoot when fighting Haryana wrestlers. We could see unfairness with our own eyes, when a point was earned by our wrestlers, but not awarded," the coach explains.

This age-old resentment – partly legitimate – has shaped much of the alignments of the last two years in the federation politics, and explains why the wrestlers' protests didn't get unanimous support.

Mohol who's braved three Delhi winters now, explains, "Yes I grew up hearing about partiality towards north wrestlers, and even experienced it. But after shifting to Chhatrasal I didn't face any hostility. I slowly made friends and realised their dominance is largely due to their mat skills. There might be some partiality, but now that I'm friends with north side referees, they are fair to me now. They see me as one of them," he says.

Mohol was an ace at the 127-year-old Khalkar Talmi in Pune's Sadashiv Peth, steeped in tradition, as a junior.

"But there was no doubt I'd head to Mahabali Satpal if I wanted to progress after 17s Nationals. The food was very different and I'd fall ill often. But my father kept telling me it's part of tapasya (struggle). Slowly, I made friends and adjusted to the food and cold winters too," he says.

The 125kg needs a lot of protein, and he went hungry. "See, our Maharashtra wrestlers, especially heavyweights, need non veg and mutton if we have to stay strong. The Delhi, Haryana wrestlers are vegetarian and for their body weights it's OK. But I did struggle with food. It's OK," he says.

Maharashtra wrestlers spent years living off the legacy of past greats from more than 30 years ago, without achieving much themselves. The state might've given India its first Olympic medalist in 1952, but even Asian Games medals have dried up in recent decades as the state totters towards irrelevance in the sport. For years now, wrestlers from the erstwhile powerhouse had been telling themselves that they received a rough deal from

him due attention in his home state, the future didn't look great. "At Chhatrasal, there's no time-pass. They train with dreams of the Olympics only. The focus never wavers. We don't want to be left behind merely fighting in jatra kustis (mud village fair dangals), where most Maharashtra pehewlaans are steered towards," says the 22-year-old.

Khadke grew up on a staple diet of watching Haryana and Delhi wrestlers win, and simply went and found out for himself why they won. "In Maharashtra, mud wrestling is a huge distraction, for fame and money. In Chhatrasal, the focus is only on getting better at the game, mind is only on Olympics wrestling," he says.

He's not too thrilled with the support from Maharashtra governments of the past two decades either. "There's no support in terms of jobs and facilities are not geared towards mat wrestling," he says.

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years ago, without achieving much themselves. The state might've given India its first

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Pruthviraj Mohol moved from Maharashtra to Delhi to train at the famed Chhatrasal.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PUNE, JANUARY 30

THE MINISTRY of Youth Affairs and Sports threatened legal action against Sanjay Singh, president of the currently-suspended Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), on Tuesday if he, or any other elected members, continued to make "unsubstantiated claims regarding the status of the WFI."

In an interview published in *The Indian Express* on Tuesday, Singh claimed that he is confident that the government will revoke the suspension of the federation, and he will return in his capacity as president "within 10 days." Singh was speaking on the sidelines of a Senior Nationals competition in Pune that

was conducted in defiance of orders from the Sports Ministry. He also said that "those who go for the Olympics will be from the Pune Nationals only."

The official notice from the ministry stated that any competition organised by the suspended federation will be treated as "unsanctioned/unrecognised" and that only the ad-hoc committee appointed by the IOA had the power to hold nationally-recognised tournaments. The ad-hoc panel has decided to hold its nationals in Jaipur from February 2-5.

"Based on an interview of yourself given to a national newspaper, published on 30.01.24, certain completely baseless statements have emerged which are causing confusion and anxiety among the athletes and others concerned with wrestling," the notice

also stated. "Please be advised that failure to adhere to this caution may compel the Ministry to consider further legal action including, but not limited to, legal proceedings for spreading misinformation and unsubstantiated claims and any other relevant charges as per the laws of the country," it went on to say.

Singh, a loyalist of BJP/PMP and former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharai Singh against whom some of the country's