



Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION IN
COLLABORATION WITH FORBIDDEN STORIES

Accused in killing of journalist linked to 34 Maharashtra land deals at contested project site

Shashikant Warishe, 48, was writing against RRPCL, a Central refinery project in Ratnagiri; accused was paid by project company for 'transport services'

VALLABHOZARKAR
RATNAGIRI, MUMBAI, FEB 7

TODAY MARKS one full year since journalist Shashikant Warishe, 48, was killed, allegedly for opposing a Central refinery project in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district and flagging environmental concerns. The prime accused, Pandharinath Amberkar, is in jail facing charges including that of murder and destroying evidence. He is alleged to have rammed Warishe's scooter with his SUV and run him over.

Not only did Amberkar threaten Warishe with death, as the chargesheet filed by the Ratnagiri Police states, he and his network of family members were involved in a slew of land transactions in and around villages where the project is proposed, an investigation by *The Indian Express* in collaboration



Warishe (below) flagged concerns related to environment; his mother Shevanti and son Yash in Ratnagiri. Vallabh Ozarkar



with Paris-based consortium Forbidden Stories, has revealed.

The project is being executed by Ratnagiri Refinery Petrochemicals Ltd (RRPCL), a company set up in 2017, and jointly owned by state-owned Indian Oil Corporation, BPCL Ltd

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

ON THE day Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his Cabinet colleagues protested in New Delhi against the alleged injustice in devolution of taxes to the southern states, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Congress of trying to divide the country on north-south lines.

Replying to the debate in Rajya Sabha on the motion of thanks to the President's address, Modi said, "The Congress that in its greed for power throttled democracy, the Congress that dismissed elected governments, the Congress that imprisoned democracy, which tried to shut down newspapers, and which tried to break the country with various narratives, is trying

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 7

IN HIS first remarks on the start of puja in the southern cellar of the Gyanvapi mosque complex within hours of it being allowed by the Varanasi district court on January 31, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said

GOVT & POLITICS



AS KARNATAKA GOVT PROTESTS, FM HITS BACK: CONG WITH SEPARATISTS

PAGE 9

Cong counters: Heap of lies, Govt betrayed people

nance failures.

In his speeches in Lok Sabha Monday and Rajya Sabha Wednesday, Modi singled out the Congress, dipping into history and framing the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as a battle between the BJP and the Congress, their governance models and records.

Hitting back, senior Congress

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA DEBATE ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

PM parting shot in 17th Lok Sabha at Cong: 'It's dividing country on north-south lines'

'If state takes one step, Centre will take two... cooperative federalism'

CM Yogi raises Kashi, Mathura: After Ayodhya, Nandi and Krishna can't wait



We asked for only three places: CM in House. PTI

Wednesday that after watching the (January 22) celebrations in Ayodhya, "Nandi Baba did not wait" and "got the barricading removed at night".

He said now even Lord Krishna is not ready to wait — alluding to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah mosque dispute in Mathura — and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE

COURT SUMMONS KEJRIWAL ON FEBRUARY 17

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UTTARAKHAND ASSEMBLY PASSES UCC BILL

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PAKISTAN VOTES TODAY, 30 KILLED IN TWIN BLASTS

PAGE 16

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FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

PM parting shot in 17th Lok Sabha at Cong

to divide the north and south."

"The nation is not just land for us but an inspirational unit. When the foot is pricked by a thorn, the hand reaches out to extract it. It does not say it does not care about the foot... If one part of the body does not work, the whole body is considered disabled. If one part of the country is backward, the nation suffers. The nation has to be seen as a whole, not in parts," he said.

"A national party thought of such things? What language is being used in the country today? Our tax, our money? Stop searching for new narratives to break the nation. We have to take the whole nation forward," he said.

"If a Jharkhand boy gets an Olympic medal, do we think he is from Jharkhand? We say he is from our country. If we spend on that boy, it is for the country, not for Jharkhand. Will we ask in which state or city of the country a vaccine was made?" he said.

With the Congress losing out heavily in the north and surviving largely in southern states like Telangana, Karnataka and Kerala, Modi's attack was at once an attempt to reach out to the south and to suggest to people in the north that the Congress was against their interests.

Additionally, the delimitation that has been proposed after the Census in 2026 is also likely to create unease in the south, as northern states will gain seats when de-

limitation happens as their population has grown more than that of the southern states, which had by and large seen their population stabilise around the 1970s. In this context, Modi is already adapting to the debate that is likely to happen in the future by emphasising that the nation needs to think as one whole and not in terms of states being gainers or losers.

Seeking to underline his credentials as someone committed to federalism, he mounted another attack on the Congress.

"I have been lucky that I got a chance to serve as a Chief Minister for a long time. So, I understand regional aspirations. Digvijaya Singhji, Deve Gowdaji also understand it. For 10 years, the UPA government tried its level best to do injustice to Gujarat. I don't cry over it. Yet, despite all those problems – I did not get appointments with ministers, who offered to talk on phone but not to meet me as CM, for fear that they may be seen with me on a video camera."

"There was a natural calamity (in Gujarat). I requested the then Prime Minister (Manmohan Singh) to come. He decided to come. But then a committee met (and things changed). He had gone to the south, I don't remember exactly which place. He said he would do a survey from his flight but not come (to Gujarat). I understand what might have happened," he said. "So, my mantra is states' development for

• Cong counters: Heap of lies, Govt betrayed people

leader Rahul Gandhi said the PM's speeches – whether at an election rally or in Parliament – are just a "heap of lies". "He has become engrossed in his lies, the applause he gets and his media, that every question related to the public makes him angry. Anger is a guarantee of destruction, not development," he said in a post on X.

As in Lok Sabha, Modi attacked Gandhi in Rajya Sabha as well. Gandhi, who is leading the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, has not attended Parliament so far. In a veiled reference to his absence, Modi said Lok Sabha was missing some entertainment but Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, was making up for it in the Upper House.

"We could have organised the G20 Summit in Delhi. We organised 200 meetings in various states, and one in Delhi. It was done with a plan. We want to take the whole nation forward. When foreign dignitaries come, I request them to visit one state as well. I make it a point. My country is not just in Delhi, but also in Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune, Kolkata, etc. I want the whole world to know my India. I took the French President to Rajasthan so that the world knows what my Rajasthan is," he said.

Modi commended the states for making the idea of aspirational districts successful: "Eighty per cent success (for aspirational districts) has come due to states and their officials. We want every part of the country to prosper," he said.

Rebutting Modi's charge that the Congress took inspiration from the British, Kharge said:

"Those who did not believe in the Constitution, did not participate in the Dandi March and Quit India Movement, have the audacity to today preach patriotism to the Congress party."

Saying that Modi had said "countless falsehoods about the UPA government", Kharge raised several questions. "The unemployment rate during UPA was 2.2%, why is it at a 45-year high in your tenure? During the 10 years of UPA, the average GDP growth rate was 8.13%, why is it only 5.6% during your tenure? According to the World Bank, in 2011 itself, India had become the third largest economy in the world. We brought 14 crore people out of (not-just-multidimensional) poverty in 10 years. By nitpicking speeches from here and there, you are only spreading lies," Kharge said.

In a point-by-point rebuttal, he said the foundation for the progress that India has made in digital transformation was laid by the UPA, under the Aadhaar-DBT-bank account framework.

"We had already enrolled 65 crore Aadhaar cards till 2014. Direct transfer of subsidies has started under DBT-PAHAL. Under Swabhiman Yojana, we had also opened 33 crore bank accounts of the poor. Modi said something about PSUs. Let us remind that your 'sell and loot' policy has led to full/half/part privatisation of 147 PSUs till April 2022. There are 30 lakh posts lying vacant in the government, and most of the SC, ST, OBC posts are vacant.

"Both his speeches in Parliament are a cruel joke on the people of India. If after 10 years in power, Narendra Modi can only think of cheap, juvenile and misleading attacks on the Congress –

EXPLAINED
E. Promise of Modi 3.0

PM Narendra Modi's speech in Rajya Sabha was made with the coming elections in mind. Weaving a confident narrative of hope for "Modi 3.0" – a third term in power – he focussed his attack on the Congress. REPORT, PAGE 6

– it shows the bankruptcy of his ideas and morals," he posted.

"An entire electorate reeling under the double whammy of unemployment and price rise was looking for a clear solution from the PM, but he had nothing to offer. After these speeches, it is becoming increasingly clear that another term for Modi and BJP will mean 5 more years of hopelessness and despair for the poor and middle classes. The arrogance and hatred in the PM's speeches show that in reality, he is scared of the Congress defeating them and the people teaching them a befitting lesson in the Lok Sabha elections," he said.

The Congress slammed the government in Parliament too. Speaking on the debate on the interim budget in Lok Sabha, senior leader Shashi Tharoor tore into the government's handling of the economy.

He said the people gave a mandate to the BJP "with the hope that the government would come through on its bloated rhetoric of sabka saath, sabka vikas; the illusory promise of inclusive development for all Indians."

"Now, fast-forward ten years later, we find the people of this country have been sadly betrayed by the government whose economic mismanagement in the past decade has left the people of India staring at widespread distress, hardship, low-incomes and high unemployment," Tharoor said. He said while the government says that GDP stands for "governance, development and

performance", "the fact is that it is not equitably enhancing the capabilities of the ordinary people of this country. Instead, G stands for? government? intrusion? and ?tax? terrorism? D stands for? demographic? betrayal, and P stands for? poverty? continuing?"

"This actual 'GDP' also jettisons the trinity of 'democracy, democracy and diversity' that the government claims to be serving... Democracy is suffering through this government's arrogant contempt for institutions... And when it comes to diversity, we know the record has not been great either, with increasing attacks on religious minorities, the ruthless dispensing of 'bulldozer justice', mob lynching, communal violence and worse. Combined with the disregard for states and their operations through a skewed and centralising cooperative federalism, under which the states are meant to co-operate but the Centre operates as it pleases," Tharoor said.

"The government has failed gravely on all the counts where it puts its own back. Therefore, it is imperative that this House must realise the game of smoke and mirrors that this government is playing with the interim budget with nearly no redressal of the real crises plaguing our economy and affecting the aam admi. It is high time that this election gives others an opportunity to show their shallow rhetoric for what it is, which is all talk and no action," he said.

• CM Yogi raises Kashi, Mathura

referred to the claims at Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura when he said "we asked for only three places".

Speaking during the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address in the UP Assembly, the CM said that such has been the impact of "vote bank politics" that "for thousands of years, the majority community was forced to beg for three places – Ayodhya, Mathura and Kashi. He said 5,000 years ago, injustice was done to the Pandavas when Duryodhan refused to grant just five villages to Krishna, and made him a captive instead. "Yahi to hua tha Ayodhya ke saath, yahi to hua Kashi ke saath aur yahi hua Mathura ke saath (The same thing happened with Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura)," he said.

"Humne toh kewal teen jagah maangi, anya jagahon ke baare mein koi muddanahi tha. Ayodhya ka utsav logon ne dekhta toh Nandi Baba ne bhi kaha ki hum kaheh intezar karen. Unhone intezar kare bagair ratri mein barricade tudva daale. Aur humare Krishna Kanhaiya kahan manne wale hain (We asked for only three places. In other places, there is no issue. After seeing the cele-

brations in Ayodhya, Nandi Baba said why should we wait and got the barricading felled that night itself. And our Krishna Kanhaiya is not going to wait)," he said. The Treasury benches responded with chants of Jai Shri Ram, Har Har Mahadev and Radhe Radhe.

"These three... because these are special places. These are not regular places. God took incarnations here," he said, adding that "stubbornness" mixed with "vote bank politics" led to the disputes. He said that in India, public faith was being insulted and "bahusankhyak samaj" (majority community) was being forced to beg for three places, but what should have happened long ago is happening now.

Maintaining that "injustice" was done to Ayodhya, where instead of roads being developed its lanes had to be firing and barricading, he said the culture and faith of the country had been suppressed but that would no longer be accepted.

Targeting the SP for opposing the motion on the Ram temple consecration two days ago, Adityanath said that 36 lakh tourists had visited Ayodhya since the consecration ceremony last month.

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BRIEFLY

Body of infant found inside dustbin at Noida high-rise

Noida: Gautam Buddha Nagar police Tuesday recovered the body of a newborn from a dustbin in an upscale society in Noida. Officials said an investigation has been launched to identify the child. The incident took place in ATS One Hamlet society in Sector 104, which is under the Sector 39 police station area. Police said that the deceased child was a boy and no FIR has been registered so far.

105 kg ganja seized in Nuh

Gurgaon: More than 100 kg of ganja was seized and a man was arrested by Nuh police Tuesday, officials said. According to police, the crime branch seized 105.5 kilograms of ganja and the drug trafficker was arrested. ENS

HC refuses bail to Sanjay Singh: 'New excise policy made to suit co-accused...'

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

THE DELHI High Court Wednesday refused to grant bail to AAP leader Sanjay Singh in a money laundering case on the now-scraped excise policy being probed by the Enforcement Directorate.

A single-judge bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, in its 43-page judgment, observed, "Thus, prima facie, it is clear that the present applicant (Singh) was part of the preparation of the old excise policy and thereafter, the new excise policy was made to suit the co-accused(s) who were to pay kickbacks to the present applicant and co-accused(s) and the party concerned, from the profit so generated due to excise policy".

The court added, "There are specific statements that Rs 2 crore was paid to Sarvesh Mishra for Sanjay Singh at his official residence in lieu of the new excise policy made to suit them and generate profit for them... the role at this stage of the applicant cannot completely be ruled out".

The HC said "specific allegations" about the time, place and manner when the meetings and conversations took place between (co-accused) Dinesh Arora, Vivek Tyagi, Sarvesh Mishra, Vijay Nair, Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh etc., "cannot be disregarded at this stage". "In view of the aforesaid discuss-

ON OPENING OF LIQUOR VENDS

'Misleading statements made in court to show L-G in poor light': Saxena to CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

"**MISLEADING**" STATEMENTS were made in court in relation to opening of liquor vends in conforming and non-conforming wards while implementing the now-withdrawn Delhi excise policy, L-G House officials said Wednesday.

In a file noting to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, L-G VK Saxena has written that the government counsel in the case "kept misleading the Hon'ble High Court on all occasions of hearing that the file was pending approval of the Lt-Governor" even though the file was received in his Secretariat for the first time only on January 16 this year. The proposal has been pending since August 2022, over a year ago.

This file moved unnecessarily between departments on one pretext or the other resulting in unwanted delay in disposal of

communication channels and resolve any issues promptly," the Delhi government stated.

The proposal of the Excise Commissioner to submit the report of the committee - set up on the orders of the Delhi High Court regarding conforming and non-conforming wards where liquor vends could be set up - to the court was moved for the L-G's approval on August 18, 2022, Raj Niwas officials said.

However, it was stalled by the then minister, Manish Sisodia twice, officials said.

"All this while the government kept saying on record in HC that the report was pending with L-G. It prompted the court to request the L-G thrice to clear the file for submission of the report expeditiously, despite the fact that the file was not with L-G.. The proposal was cleared by Atishi (Delhi minister) who sent it for further recommendation to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who cleared it on January 16 this year and sent it to

L-G," an official said.

Saxena noted in the file that the case was a "sad reflection on the manner in which the state government counsels made false and misleading statements" before the court, showing the L-G and his office in a poor light.

After the meeting, panel counsel, Arun Pawar, who appeared in the matter, wrote to Atishi and said that it was never suggested to the HC that the report was submitted to the office of the L-G. "It is most respectfully submitted that it was never even remotely suggested to the Hon'ble High Court that the report is pending or the report has been submitted to the office of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor. It was only submitted that the Committee was formed by the orders of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, so the report has to be first presented before the Hon'ble Lt. Governor and after final approval than only same would be filed before the Hon'ble High Court," he wrote.

Saxena noted in the file that she asked children about their plans and aspirations, officials said.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's Managing Director, Vikas Kumar, accompanied the President on the journey.

Murmu used an NCNC (National Common Mobility Card) RuPay card to undertake the journey.

Officials said that the

President, in her comments made in the visitor's book, called the Delhi Metro one of the most modern and efficient mass transportation systems in the world today and that she found the journey pleasant.

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WANT INDIA TO BRING MORE OLYMPIC MEDALS: CM

Delhi sports school gets AC indoor pool

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

THE DELHI Sports School has been established with the aim of bringing more Olympic medals to the country and the Delhi government will not leave any stone unturned in promoting sports, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Wednesday.

He was speaking at the inauguration of an air-conditioned indoor swimming pool at the Delhi Sports School at Civil lines.

At the Delhi Sports School, 172 athletes are being trained in 10 Olympic sports with facilities being provided free-of-cost, the CM said.

More than 10,000 applications were received for the sports school and the athletes selected will be supported "until they play at the international level," he added.

Delhi Sports University is also slated to come up in about three years at Munda on



ration: "For a few years, we pondered over the idea of a Delhi Sports University. We thought that our country has 140 crore people, and when it comes to the Olympics or international sports events, we come at the lowest in the table in terms of medals won... what are we really lacking? we don't have any dearth of talent. We have immense talent in our country... talent is not dependent on poverty or money. It can be possessed by both rich and poor people."

The Delhi Sports School, which offers a sports-centric curriculum, is one of the Delhi government's Schools of Specialised Excellence, with classes from 6 to 12. It is affiliated to the Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE).

"All the athletes training at Delhi Sports School are being prepared to win more and more medals at the Olympics. This is our goal," Kejriwal said.

Said Kejriwal at the inaugu-



STUDYING ORDER, SAYS AAP

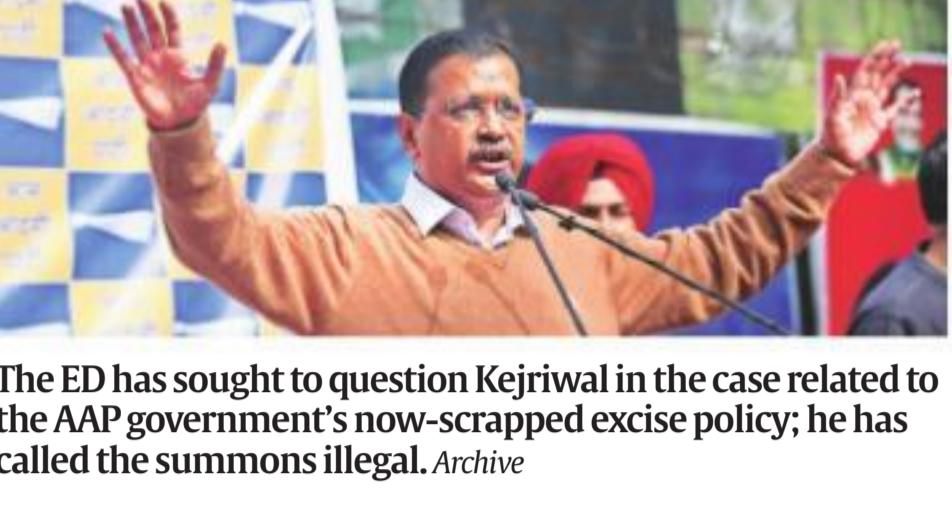
Kejriwal told to appear before court on Feb 17 after skipping five ED summons

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

DAYS AFTER the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a complaint against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after he skipped its summons, a Delhi court Wednesday told him to appear before it on February 17.

While the ED has sought to question Kejriwal in the case related to the AAP government's now-scraped excise policy, Kejriwal called the summons "illegal" and "politically motivated". Questioning the summons, he said he has not been named as an accused in the case.

In its order Wednesday, the court said the ED sought to summon Kejriwal to unearth the role of others, including that of the "proposed accused" (Kejriwal) in the excise policy case. The court noted that the ED said the "proposed accused" had intentionally skipped the summons.



The ED has sought to question Kejriwal in the case related to the AAP government's now-scraped excise policy; he has called the summons illegal. Archive

(power to issue summons) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and for not joining the investigation.

In its order Wednesday, the agency also blamed the CM for being "non-cooperative" in the investigation. "Whether it is an ordinary person or a CM, everyone will always have some work or the other, but upon being served with a summons, such a person would be legally bound to attend; there is no special immunity to disobey the summons merely on account of

high-ranking public functionality, would disobey the law, it would set a wrong example for the common man (aam aadmi).

The agency also blamed the CM for being "non-cooperative" in the investigation. "Whether it is an ordinary person or a CM, everyone will always have some work or the other, but upon being served with a summons, such a person would be legally bound to attend; there is no special immunity to disobey the summons merely on account of

being a CM and on the pretext of being busy in some work," it pointed out.

The agency also stated that the CM was summoned for recording of a statement not in his capacity as CM of Delhi, but as a person summoned to give evidence for investigation.

According to the ED, Kejriwal had committed an offence under IPC Section 174 by intentionally disobeying orders of a public servant.

Reacting to the court summons, the AAP said it was studying the order and would tell the court why all the ED's summons were "illegal". It said it would take the "necessary legal steps accordingly".

Meanwhile, the Delhi BJP welcomed the court's decision and said, "Kejriwal has been claiming innocence and falsely accusing the ED of becoming a weapon of the BJP... if he does not appear in the court... it will mean he is the mastermind of the liquor scam..."

Kejriwal was first summoned

by the ED in October 2023 to appear for questioning on November 2. Citing governance-related work in Delhi ahead of Diwali, along with party campaigns in then poll-bound Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, he had skipped the summons. For the second summons, Kejriwal had said he had to attend a Vipassana session.

Citing Rajya Sabha elections, Republic Day celebrations and the ED's 'non-disclosure' and 'non-response' approach, he skipped the third summons as well. At the time of the fourth summons, AAP sources had said Kejriwal was in Goa to attend a pre-scheduled programme between January 18-20. The fifth summons was issued last Wednesday, asking Kejriwal to appear for questioning on Friday.

Three senior AAP leaders — former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh and AAP communications in-charge Vijay Nair — have already been arrested by the ED in the case.

Finance min's signatures forged, police lodge FIR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

AN UNIDENTIFIED person allegedly forged signatures of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to write a letter to the Ministry of Home Affairs under a false pretext, officers said Wednesday, adding that they have lodged a case of impersonation and forgery.

According to the FIR in the case, B N Bhaskar, Additional Private Secretary to the Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, "The letter on a forged letterhead of the Hon'ble FM with a forged signature contains contents that could potentially cause harm, mislead or manipulate government process. Such activities not only compromise the integrity of the individuals involved but also pose a threat to the overall security and functioning of our government institutions." A senior officer said the accused is on the run.

Meanwhile, police arrested a man for allegedly trying to enter the Home Ministry office, using a fake identity card, purportedly to defraud people. According to officers, the accused, Aditya Pratap Singh, was intercepted by security staff at the entrance of the premises.

"A fake ID card with a forged MHA header was recovered from him," said an officer.

Officials said that the President, in her comments made in the visitor's book, called the Delhi Metro one of the most modern and efficient mass transportation systems in the world today and that she found the journey pleasant.

Ex-DJB official passed bribe money to AAP as elections funds: ED

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

CITING "INVESTIGATIONS and digital evidences", the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Wednesday that a former chief engineer of the DJB had passed on money received as bribes to various persons, including those managing the affairs of the board and those connected with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

On July 24 and November 17 last year, the ED had conducted searches at various places and claimed to have seized various digital evidence in connection with the DJB corruption case. On January 31 this year, Arora, along with a contractor named Anil Kumar Aggarwal, were arrested.

The ED investigation revealed that M/s NKG Infrastructure Ltd obtained the bid by submitting forged... documents. Arora was aware of the fact that the company does not meet the technical eligibility criteria," a spokesperson of the ED said.

The allegations came a day after the ED conducted raids at various locations in Delhi, Varanasi and Chandigarh in connection with its money laundering probe into alleged irregularities in the tendering process of the DJB.

According to the ED's statement, the bribe money was also passed on as "election funds" to the AAP.

During the raids, the ED had seized valuables worth Rs 1.97 crore, foreign currency equivalent to Rs 4 lakh, along with "various incriminating documents and digital evidence".

The ED had initiated the investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI for offences related to alleged corruption or bribery in the DJB. "The FIR alleged that Jagdish Kumar Arora, the then Chief Engineer of the DJB, awarded a certain contract to M/s NKG Infrastructure

only about Rs 17 crore was spent towards the contract and the remaining amount were siphoned off in guise of various fake expenses. Such fake expenses were booked for bribes and election funds," the spokesperson said.

single one has been proven in courts. This shows their only purpose is to defame CM Arvind Kejriwal and AAP by creating a media sensation every day," the party's official statement said.

It also alleged the ED was a mouthpiece of the BJP. "...We will take legal action against ED for defaming AAP. If the ED was really keen on tackling corruption and money laundering, why is it that there is no investigation into scams of Modi government revealed by CAC like the Ayushman Bharat scam or Bharatmam project where a km of road was built for Rs 250 crore instead of Rs 18 crore..." it said.

Earlier in the day, AAP Minister Atishi said the ED had not found anything in its raid on people connected with AAP, in connection with a money laundering case related to an alleged scam in the DJB. Atishi alleged ED officers did not search Delhi CM's PS Bibhav Kumar's house and instead "just stayed in his drawing room the entire time". "Thousands of crores are spent on ED every year so it can stop... money laundering by terror outfits, narcotic rings and any kind of illegality but today, instead of letting it do its actual work, the agency is being used by BJP to topple and end the leaders of the Opposition and their parties," she said.

"We condemn any kind of wrongdoing by DJB officials or its contractors, if proven true. We also condemn the ED's blatantly false allegation that AAP or its leaders have anything to do with this case. Not a single penny or piece of evidence has been recovered from AAP leaders who were raided yesterday by ED. It's clear that the Modi government is a big believer in the adage 'If you repeat a lie a thousand times, people will start believing it'. Over the last 10 years, the Modi government and their mayajaa of agencies like ED and CBI have filed over 230 cases against AAP leaders. Yet not a

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

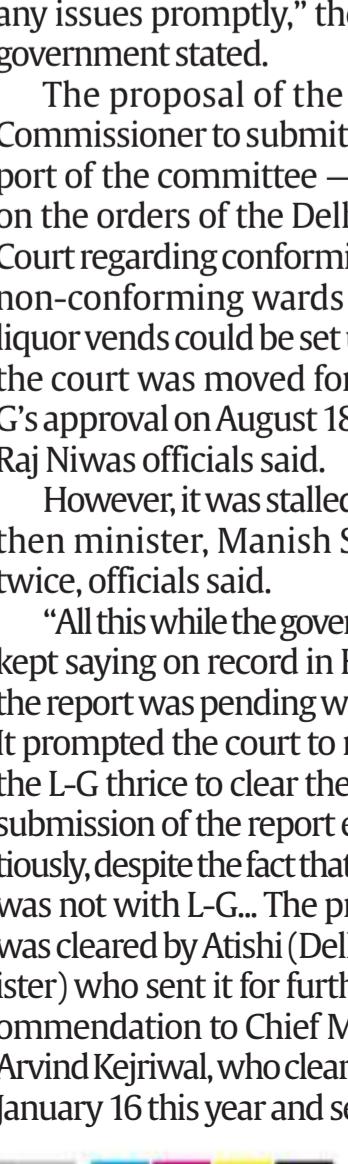
THE DELHI Sports School has been established with the aim of bringing more Olympic medals to the country and the Delhi government will not leave any stone unturned in promoting sports, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Wednesday.

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At the Delhi Sports School, 172 athletes are being trained in 10 Olympic sports with facilities being provided free-of-cost, the CM said.

around 80 acres of land, where 2,500 students are likely to be trained in 20 Olympic sports, Kejriwal said.

Said Kejriwal at the inaugu-



President Droupadi Murmu takes a ride in a Metro train with school students, in New Delhi, Wednesday. PTI

President Murmu takes a ride on Delhi Metro, meets students

IN PARLIAMENT BUDGET SESSION

Keeping Congress in crosshairs, Modi holds out Modi 3.0 promise

VIKAS PATHAK

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

WEAVING A confident narrative of hope for "Modi 3.0" – a third term in power – Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised Wednesday to put India decisively on the path of development, while focusing his attack on the Congress over its "lack of commitment" to deprived sections and to democracy; on its "outdated" "colonial mentality", and on its alleged failure of governance while in power for decades.

Modi also took a swipe at the INDIA bloc, saying a prediction had come from West Bengal – referring to the recent remark of Chief Minister and TMC leader Mamata Banerjee – that the Congress would not cross 40 seats in the Lok Sabha elections. He said he would pray that it touches 40.

The speech in Rajya Sabha, his last in Parliament before the Lok Sabha polls, was on the motion of thanks to the President's address, but was made with the

coming elections in mind.

"My belief is complete that this party (the Congress) is outdated in its thinking. So, they have outsourced their work. A party that was so big and ruled over the country has fallen so badly. We are not happy. We sympathise with them."

The Congress denied reservation to OBCs, did not give quotas to economically weaker sections, never gave Bharat Ratna to Babasaheb Ambedkar but only to their family. Those with no guarantee for neta (leader) and neeti (policy) are questioning Modi's guarantee. Why did people get so angry with them? Not because we told people to. They reaped the fruits of their karma."

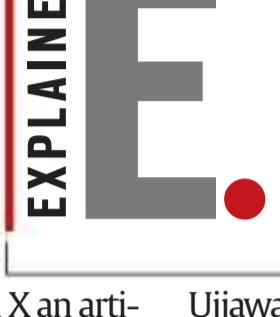
Given that the Congress has made the demand for a caste census a prime poll plank, Modi attacked the party as historically "anti-Dalit, anti-Adiavasi and anti-tribal".

"Congress has been anti-Dalit and anti-Adiavasi. Had Babasaheb not been there, I wonder whether SCs/STs would have got reservation. I have proof

for seven decades, Congress deprived SCs, STs and OBCs of Jammu and Kashmir of their rights. After Article 370 was abrogated, SCs, STs and OBCs got their rights there. In Jammu and Kashmir, the Forest Rights Act, the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities)

Act did not apply earlier. We have given those rights after abrogating Article 370," he said.

Modi recalled the treatment meted out to Sitaram Kesari, former Congress president, by the party, and tacitly attacked Sam Pitroda too: "The EBC leader Sitaram Kesari was lifted and thrown on the road. One of their



tion for us, as you (the Congress) made a person who went from our side your candidate. The opposition was to Adiavasis."

He underlined that his welfare schemes were for the benefit of Dalits, tribals and OBCs.

"Who are the labharthis (beneficiaries) of our welfare schemes? Who are the people who live in slums? Whatever we have done is for SCs, STs and OBCs. They have got pucca houses. They have benefited from the Swachh Bharat scheme. They are the ones who have got

Ujjwala gas connection. Free ration, free treatment – they are the labharthis of all these," he said.

Accusing the Congress of spreading a "fake narrative" against the facts, he said it was losing credibility while doing so.

He said he would not ask who gave birth to the Congress – referring to AO Hume – and stepped up his attack: "If you were not influenced by the British, why did you continue

with the IPC and CrPC? Why did Lal batti (red beacon) culture continue? There was a time when the Indian Budget used to be presented at 5 pm because it used to be morning in Britain. Why did Raj Path have to wait for Modi to become Kartavya Path? Why could you not even build a war memorial for jawans? Why did you not call the mother of democracy?"

He accused the Congress of running down Indian traditions in its "colonial mindset": "The Congress ran a narrative. The result: people following Indian traditions were looked down upon. If you abused your culture and traditions, it was said that you were progressive. To import from outside was a sign of status. What was made here was considered second grade. Even today, they hesitate to say 'vocal for local', made in India. The country has seen and understood it. You are paying a heavy price for it."

Stating that the UPA could bring India only from the 12th largest to the 11th largest econ-

omy in its 10 years, Modi said his government had made India the fifth largest economy in one decade. He also quoted Dr Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister saying "growth was down, inflation was high, that fiscal deficit was high, and the current account deficit was higher than expectation; that the country was angry with the misuse of public office and institutions; that GST should be introduced as there was corruption in tax collection; that there were leakages in ration provision, and that there were doubts in the manner in which government contracts were awarded".

He also recalled that Rajiv Gandhi as PM had said that out of every rupee sent, just 15 paisa reached the people.

Accusing the Congress of destroying BSNL, MTNL and HAL, he said PSUs were now in the pink of health.

He promised to take the work forward and place India on the path of becoming a developed nation in 2047 over the next five years.

"Our third term isn't far. Some call it Modi 3.0. Modi 3.0 will try with all his strength to lay the foundations of Viksit Bharat. The number of doctors will go up; all poor people will get tap water and PM Awas; power bills will be made zero through solar panels for crores of people, and piped gas networks will be spread throughout the country. Startups will grow in Tier 2 and 3 cities. In five years, record patents will be filed – more than in the last 75 years."

"I want that middle class youth get the best university in India and save lakhs of money spent abroad. In the next five years, Indian sport will make a mark in the world. India's public transport will get transformed; people will get quick and comfortable transport. Bullet trains will also come. India will become self-reliant in every field. Made in India semiconductor will be there."

"India will live in a golden age by 2047. The country will not hear those whose warranty is over but will believe in Modi's guarantee," he said.

IN THE HOUSE

**Rs 47 lakh cr
Budget passed
in Lok Sabha**

The Lok Sabha Wednesday passed the Rs 47.66-lakh-crore Interim Budget 2024-25 of the Union Government with a voice vote. The Lower House also approved the Rs 1.8-lakh-crore Budget of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

THE BILLS PASSED

The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024; The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2024; The Appropriation Bill, 2024; The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024; Supplementary Demands for Grants of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 2023-24; Demands for Grants on Account of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for 2024-25; Supplementary Demands for Grants – Second Batch for 2023-24; and Demands for Grants on Account for 2024-25.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman replies to the debate on Budget in Lok Sabha on Wednesday. ANI

Above 7% growth rate expected for 4th consecutive year: Sitharaman

Dubey questions Rahul yatra route: 'It crossed hubs of Bangladeshi intruders'

OPP TARGETS GOVT ON GDP, UNEMPLOYMENT G is for govt intrusion, D for democratic betrayal, P for poverty continuing: Cong



Uttar Pradesh Shines in Healthcare facilities



Under the One District One Medical College Scheme, the state is at the forefront by making 65 medical colleges operational, and there are 22 more in progress.



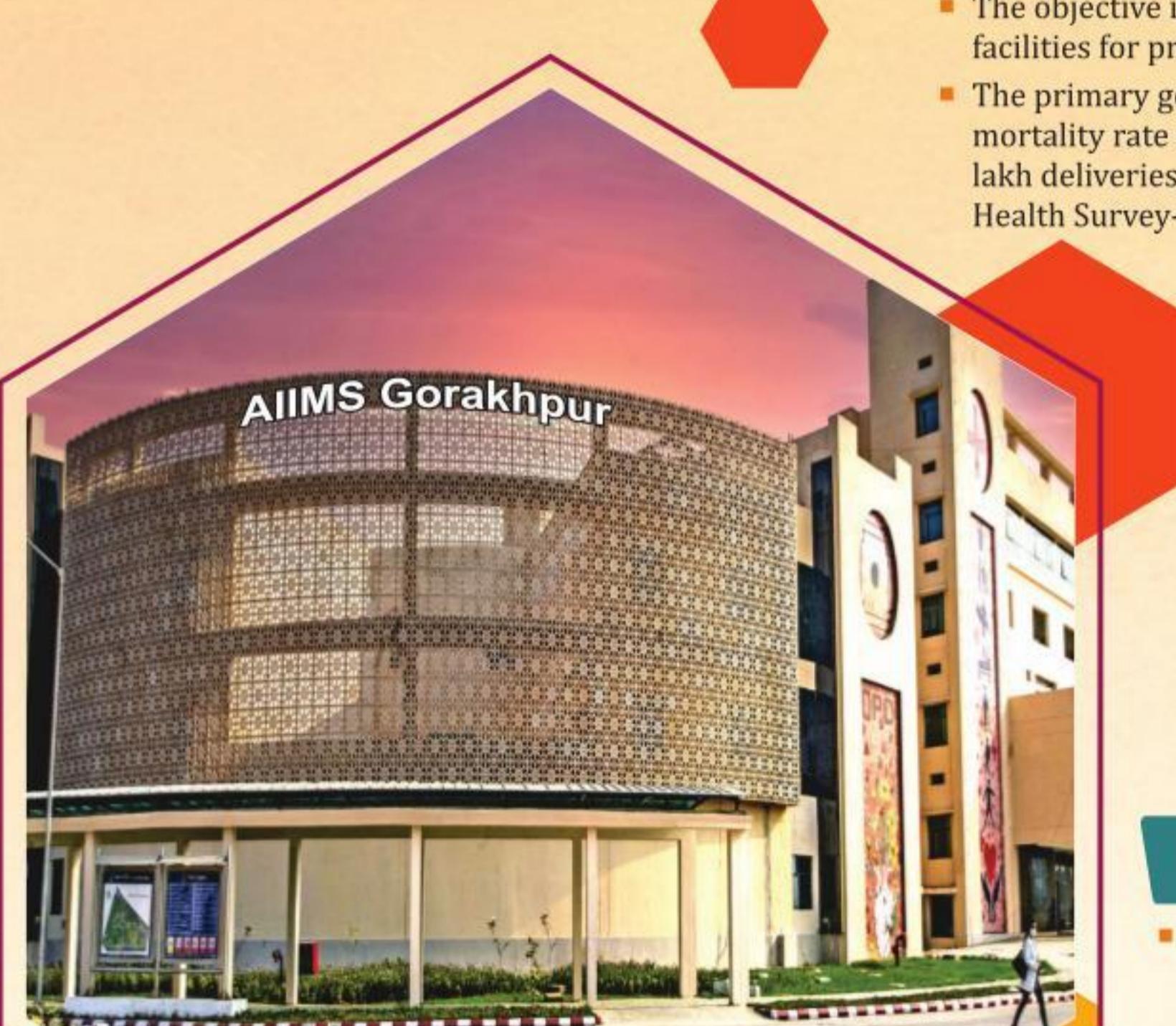
Employees and pensioners received cashless medical facilities under DDU scheme



PM Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat) and Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Yojana Health insurance coverage up to Rs. 5 lakh per family to 9 crore individuals.



State-of-the-art medical facilities, operation of 4720 ambulances



State's Commitment to Healthcare

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership in Uttar Pradesh has played a pivotal role in transforming the state's healthcare landscape. Uttar Pradesh has witnessed substantial advancements in its healthcare services. The state has earned recognition and won prestigious Arogya Manthan 2023 awards in two categories for Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY). The first award acknowledges the implementation of Ayushman inquiry centers and the launch of the Green Channel payment system, while the second award is attributed to excelling in conducting Abha scans and generating tokens.

UP Government has implemented far-reaching measures to transform the state into a hub for medicine production. The establishment of critical infrastructures like the Medical Device Park, Bulk Drug Park, and MedTech Park signifies a pivotal shift. The government's dedication to providing treatment without any financial burden on individuals has led to commendable accomplishments, thereby strengthening the healthcare capabilities of the state.

In the preceding year, the Ministry of Medical Health and Family Welfare, Government of India conferred the National Quality Assurance Certificate upon 81 medical units spanning 46 districts. This recognition was bestowed in acknowledgment of their commitment to delivering high-quality health services to the district hospitals within the state.

The accolades encompass 43 district-level facilities, 16 community health centers, and 22 primary health centers. Furthermore, several other medical units across the state have also been honored with the NQA certificate for their commendable contributions to healthcare.

SBA training for a reduction in maternal-infant mortality rate

- The government is actively promoting Skilled Birth Attendant (SBA) training to address maternal-infant mortality in the state.
- The objective is to ensure 100 percent safe delivery facilities for pregnant women in the state.
- The primary goal is to reduce the maternal mortality rate from the current 167 per lakh deliveries (as per National Family Health Survey-5) to 70 by the year 2030.
- Similarly, the target for reducing the neonatal mortality rate (per thousand live births) from the current 28 to 12 by 2030 has been set.
- The training encompasses information on the active management of the third stage of labor to prevent infections effectively.
- Approximately five thousand ANMs, LHV, staff nurses, and AYUSH women doctors in the state have undergone SBA training as part of this initiative.



Child Healthcare Programme

- A total of 31.5 lakh children have received complete immunization through the vaccination program.
- The Home-Based Newborn Care Programme, led by ASHA workers, facilitated home care for 19.37 lakh newborn babies.
- Approximately 77,000 severely ill infants received medical care through Sick Newborn Care Units.
- A total of 1.75 crore children underwent health examinations at 2.54 lakh Anganwadi centers and schools.
- A health check-up was conducted for 12.13 lakh newborn babies to identify congenital defects.
- A total of 5.49 lakh children received assessments and medical interventions for issues related to birth defects, deficiencies, diseases, and developmental delays, ultimately preventing disabilities.

More than 12 crore individuals received medical treatment through Chief Minister Health Mela

Significant steps taken to make the state a hub for medicine production

- Construction of a Medical Device Park on approximately 350 acres of land in Yamuna Authority.
- Establishment of a Bulk Drug Park covering about 2,000 acres in Lalitpur.
- Launch of Jewar Medtech Park to boost the medical technology sector.
- The state government increased MBBS seats in government colleges by over 1838 and in private sector colleges by more than 2150.
- Expansion of nursing seats to over 7,000 and paramedical seats to over 5,000.
- Ongoing construction of 22 new medical colleges across the state.

Upgradation at KGMU, SGPGI & RMLIMS

- A vital component in cancer detection, the PET scan machine has been set up at KGMU.
- SGPGI witnessed an increase in emergency beds, with a total of 15 additional beds added.
- Thalassemia patients now have a dedicated ward to cater to their specific needs at SGPGI.
- Significant progress was made at the RMLIMS in the last year, with the successful integration of the hospital into the overall structure.
- A new emergency unit has been established at RMLIMS, incorporating pathology and radiology services.

Further Achievements

- Provision of health ATMs in all community health centers and primary health centers
- AIIMS is operational in both Gorakhpur and Raebareli.
- Encephalitis has been eradicated in Purvanchal, with a remarkable 98% reduction in death rates from this disease.
- Meningitis was completely eradicated from Purvanchal in 2023.
- Reactivation of 33 ANM Training Centers.
- Benefiting 5.56 crore children, the National Deworming Day Programme in the first phase of 2023 achieved notable success.
- Out of the sanctioned 1,89,789 Anganwadi centers in the state, 1,89,014 are currently operational.
- 150 new Anganwadi centers constructed, apart from approval for construction of 199 Anganwadi centers
- Across 43 districts, 201 supplementary nutritional production units are in operation, benefiting 1.77 crore individuals through the distribution of fortified wheat, porridge, gram, pulses, and fortified edible oil via Anganwadi centers.
- 79 nutritional rehabilitation centers operational in 73 districts of the state.
- Baby Shower ('Godhbharai') and 'Annaprashan' ceremonies are organised at Anganwadi centers.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE(ITBP)

08 February 2024



Constable

Vikash Kumar

Resident of : Village: Bhalua, Distt- Patna, Bihar

MADHYA GUJARAT VIJ COMPANY LIMITED

Corporate office : 2nd Floor, Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhawan, Race Course, Vadodara - 390007

TENDER NOTICE - (ID : 39856)

Online tenders are invited full turnkey contract (design, supply and installation) for development of distribution infrastructure work for loss reduction at five districts panchmahal, mahisagar, anand, kheda & chotaudapur under revamped reforms- based and result-linked distribution sector scheme as per specification, terms and condition of tender. Tender documents available on web-site: <https://tender.nprocure.com> (for online submission, view and download) and GUVNL/MGVCL websites www.gseb.com & www.mgvcl.com (for view and download only). Interested vendors may surf the above web sites.

Note : Be in touch with our websites till opening of tender.

Date: 30.01.2024

Chief Engineer (T&O)

A DAY after detaining three people and seizing a fishing boat, the Mumbai police Wednesday arrested them and registered a case for illegally crossing international border and entering India without licence or passport.

The three people, who claimed to have travelled in the boat from Kuwait, were found moving suspiciously along the city's coast early Tuesday. During interrogation, they revealed that the boat was not intercepted by any agency till the Yellow Gate police intervened and probed them near the Sassoon dock.

The three have been identified as Vijay Vinod Anthony, 29, Nidiso Ditto, 31, and Sahaya Anthony Anish, 29 - all fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

The patrolling policemen tried to communicate with them but there was a language barrier as they could not speak Hindi or English. An officer said, "The patrolling team informed the control room and personnel from Indian Navy reached the spot."

During questioning, it was found out the three people had arrived from Kuwait. "The boat and the three persons were taken to Gateway of India where they were taken in for questioning," said the officer.

The incident has, however, raised questions over the lapses in security on the coastline being provided by the Navy, Coast Guard and the Mumbai Police. The defence spokesperson said they are waiting for the investigating agency to conclude and help them in determining the route the three men took. "It is possible that their fishing boat did not cross 12 nautical miles," said an official.

E-tenders are invited for Award of Contract for renting out of Plot 'A' and Plot 'B' at CBD Shahdara Grounds, Karkardooma, Delhi for Socio Cultural Functions (like Marriages, Receptions, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Festivals, Parties etc.). The period of both the tenders with tender ID is as under :-

For Plot A:- Tender ID No.2024_DTTDC_253188_1 (For the period from 01.04.2024 to 31.12.2024) Last Day of Bid Submission by 27.02.2024 by 2.00 P.M.

For Plot B:- Tender ID No.2024_DTTDC_253011_1 (For the period from 01.03.2024 to 31.12.2024) Last Day of Bid Submission by 15.02.2024 by 2.00 P.M.

The tender document containing detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from website [www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in](http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in)

Dy. Manager - Projects

The Closing time for all tenders is at 14:00 HRS. Eligible Participants are required to submit their offer only through e-procurement web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender documents in the tender notice on above portal.

Sr. Divisional Material Manager/ ECR/PI: Deen Dayal Upadhyay PR/0224/DDU/Store/T/23-24/40

Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation Ltd.

(A Government of Delhi Undertaking)

18-ADD, SCO Complex Defence Colony New Delhi-110024

Notice Inviting Tender

E-tenders are invited for participation in the tender notice issued on 23.01.2024 for supply of materials "Participation in through web portal of IREPS- www.ireps.gov.in. Offers are invited for supply of following materials.

S.N. Tender No. Brief Description Quantity (Nos.) Published on time Closing on

1 36245048 Welding manipulator 4 23.01.2024, 13:52 19.02.2024

2 36245966A Flap Door Arrangement BOXN 640 06.02.2024, 12:39 27.02.2024

The Office of the Chief General Manager Construction & Design Services, (E/M Wing) U.P.JAL NIGAM (URBAN) 3/218, Vivek Khand Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 Phone No. 0522-4314579 E Mail- naalkoopwinglucknow@yahoo.com Letter No.: 75/Nivida/04 Date: 01.02.2024

SHORT TERM e-TENDER NOTICE

Short term e-Tender for "Construction of 6 Nos. Deep Tubewell Assembly size 350 x 200 mm dia in different villages and other appurtenant E&M works in Greater Noida" is invited by U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) that shall be downloaded and uploaded at e- procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 08.02.2024 at 10:00 hrs. onwards to 14.02.2024 at 17:00 hrs. E-tender shall be open on 15.02.2024 at 15:00 hrs. onwards at office of the Project Manager, C&DS (E/M Wing), U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Greater Noida. The cost of tender document is Rs. 11800.00 only (Rs. 10,000+18% GST). All other conditions shall be as per NIT and tender document.The Short term e-Tender for "Construction of 6 Nos. Deep Tubewell Assembly size 350 x 200 mm dia in different villages and other appurtenant E&M works in Greater Noida" is invited by U.P. 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BRIEFLY

BIHAR

Two teenagers making reels run over by train

Patna: Two teenaged boys, who had been making reels on railway tracks, were run over by a train in West Champaran on Wednesday. The incident took place around 11 am near Bahawra railway. Suraj Kumar (18) and Kanhaiya Kumar (16) of Amwa Bairagi Tola were making reels using earphones when they were run over by a train, said Manjhulia in-charge Akhilesh Mishra. ENS

KERALA

ISIS operative held guilty of terror conspiracy

Thiruvananthapuram: A suspected ISIS operative, who has been charged with conspiring to carry out terror attacks in India, was found guilty by an NIA court in Kochi on Wednesday. The quantum of punishment to Riyas Aboobacker, 29, a native of Muthalamada in Palakkad, would be pronounced later. Riyas, arrested in April 2019, was then found following the speeches and videos of Zaharan Hashim, the mastermind of the Easter Sunday blasts in Sri Lanka. ENS

UTTAR PRADESH
2012 shootout:
Maoist leader,
aide get life term

Lucknow: A court in Sonbhadra Wednesday sentenced a senior Naxal leader, Munna Vishwakarma (58), and his associate Ajit Kol (38) to life imprisonment for opening fire at a police team during an encounter before their arrest at Kanach Kanuara forest in Chophan area of the district in 2012. No police personnel were injured in the incident. ENS

Quota policy should be organic and evolving, says SC; Govt backs SC, ST subclassification

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

RESERVATION POLICY should be "organic and evolving, not static", the Supreme Court observed Wednesday while hearing a reference on whether Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) can be sub-classified for providing affirmative action benefits.

The Centre told the court it favoured this sub-classification, saying it was "key... to achieve" the "actual objective" behind reservation to those "who have had a history of discrimination for centuries" and "ensures there is a trickle-down effect".

A seven-judge Constitution bench is examining the validity of its 2004 judgment in E V

Chinnaiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh, which held that SCs form a homogenous group and there cannot be any sub-division among them. Headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, the Bench comprises Justices B R Gavai, Vikram Nath, Bela M Trivedi, Pankaj Mital, Manoj Misra and Satish Chandra Sharma.

The court's observation, from Justice B R Gavai, came as Senior Advocate Shekhar Naphde, appearing for Tamil Nadu, sought to highlight what he contended were the errors in the 2004 judgment and said reservation policy must keep pace with "rapidly changing" social dynamics.

"Anyone who reads the daily newspaper would see that there is a sea change. Reservation pol-

icy must therefore keep pace with the social dynamics," said Naphde. Interjecting, Justice Gavai remarked, "It should be organic and evolving, not static."

"Correct. If you keep the reservation policy which was there 50 years back, it will get fossilised. It will lose its connection with the contemporary situation," Naphde added. Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor general Tushar Mehta underlined that the Government "is committed to the declared policy of reservation for backward classes". But, he said, "lack of sub-classification perpetuates the zone of inequality within the reserved category and stops the State from framing appropriate policy in this regard".

The SG also pointed out that "reservation benefits available

are also "limited in nature... and therefore required to be re-distributed rationally". "In order to achieve the actual objective behind reservations, rationalisation is key (while maintaining the levels and extent of reservations) and proliferation and deepening of the reservation benefits is necessary. The sub-classification of the said benefits is a key measure which goes a long way to achieve the said objective," Mehta said.

Pointing out that the "concept of "equality" and "equal treatment" under the Constitution had evolved over the years, Mehta said "the legitimate state aim behind reservations is to support the backward classes who have had a history of discrimination for centuries". And sub-classification, he added, furthers the

actual purpose behind reservations". "If the aim of the State and the Constitution is to provide parity, equality of opportunity and social and economic mobility of the backward classes/castes in need, enabling of sub-classification would ensure that benefits are extended to persons more in need of the said benefits by carefully apportioning the reserved quota within the reserved class..." he said. Mehta pointed out that the 2018 SC ruling in Jarnail Singh vs Lachmi Narain Gupta refers to "the broader object of amelioration of backward classes" and clarifies that this cannot be achieved "if only the creamy layer within that class bag all the coveted jobs in the public sector and perpetuate themselves."



Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami greets people in Dehradun on Wednesday. ANI

UCC Bill gets Uttarakhand Assembly nod

Not *tushtikaran* (appeasement) but *santushtikaran* (satisfaction): Dhami

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 7

THE UNIFORM Civil Code (UCC), Uttarakhand, Bill 2024, which seeks to "govern and regulate the laws related to marriage and divorce, successions, live-in relationships, and matters related thereto" was passed in the Assembly Wednesday following a two-day discussion. The Bill will now be sent to President Droupadi Murmu for her assent after which it will become a law.

Introduced by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami Tuesday, deliberations were held on the UCC Bill before the House approved it by a voice vote. Uttarakhand is now poised to become the first state to get a common law on marriage, divorce, land, property and inheritance for all citizens, irrespective of their religion. The code, however, will not apply to the Scheduled Tribes.

Although Goa is governed by a UCC (Portuguese Civil Code), the Assembly did not pass any law. The code was retained after its liberation in 1961. "Today this special Bill, which was long awaited by the people of the country, was passed in the Vidhan Sabha of Devbhoomi. I express my gratitude to all the



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with his Bangladesh counterpart Hasan Mahmud in New Delhi, Wednesday. PTI

House resolution to start Gita lessons in Gujarat govt schools

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 7

THE GUJARAT Assembly on Wednesday passed a resolution seeking effective implementation of the state education department's decision to teach *Bhagavad Gita* to students from classes VI to XII in government schools from June.

While Opposition AAP welcomed the resolution, Congress claimed that the BJP government brought it to gain publicity. The party, however, supported the resolution during voting.

In March 2022, then education minister Jitu Vaghani had announced in the Assembly that school students should have an understanding of Gita and its shlokas. Following this, a government resolution was issued stating that students of classes VI to XII will be introduced to values and principles of Bhagavad Gita from the 2022-23 academic session. While *Bhagavad Gita* will be taught in classes VI to VII in the form of story and recitation, from classes IX to XII, it will be introduced as part of the first

language textbook.

Introducing the resolution, Minister of State for Education, Praful Pansheriya, said that *Bhagavad Gita* is the key to relieve depression and stress, which will be biggest problems facing the world in the coming time. Pansheriya said, "Although Gita is considered to belong to Hinduism, it is not limited to Hindus but is considered to be a scripture for the entire human society, and world thinkers have taken guidance from it. Gita is not only a treasure of knowledge, but also an inspiration for good deeds and good thoughts."

Congress Legislative Party leader Amit Chavda said, "What is the need for discussion when the resolution states that it has been decided to introduce *Bhagavad Gita* in schools?" Arjun Modhwadia of the Congress added, "The state government is requesting the state government while it should be requesting parents, students and the society." AAP MLA Umesh Makwana said that only *Bhagavad Gita* but also Ramayana should be a part of students' curriculum.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar and the visiting Foreign minister of Bangladesh Hasan Mahmud met on Wednesday, in his first bilateral visit to India as foreign minister since Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina came back to power last month for the fourth consecutive term.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the two ministers "reviewed the progress in wide-ranging areas of bilateral relations, including cross-border connectivity, economic and development partnership, cooperation in defence and security, power, energy, water resources and people-to-people exchanges".

They also discussed areas of future engagement in line with the national development goals of the two countries, including the visions of "Viksit Bharat 2047" and "Smart Bangladesh 2041", MEA said.

They also exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues of common interest and expressed commitment to further

enhance their collaboration to promote sub-regional cooperation within the framework of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association), and BBN(Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) initiative.

Following the talks, Jaishankar also hosted a dinner in Mahmud's honour.

"The visit follows the bilateral

meeting between the two Foreign Ministers on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement Summit held in Uganda last month and has contributed to further strengthening of the traditional, long-standing friendship and cooperation between the two countries," it said.

Mahmud also held a meeting with the National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and visited Rajghat.

Punjab man shot, another injured in Srinagar attack

BASHAARAT MASOOD

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 7

A CARPENTER from Amritsar in Punjab was killed and another critically injured as suspected militants opened fire at them in Srinagar on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Amritpal Singh, 31.

This is the first militant attack on a non-local in the Valley this year. The militants have been targeting non-local workers in the Valley since abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status in 2019. Police said the militants fired at the duo from a close range, wounding them critically, in Shalakadal area of Srinagar's old city. As they were rushed to a hospital, doctors declared one of them dead.

Police sources have identified the injured as Rohit Singh. Doctors said Rohit has received a bullet injury in the abdomen and his condition is critical.

Gujarat HC judge recommended as Karnataka CJ

Ahmedabad: The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud on Wednesday recommended the appointment of Justice N V Anjaria of the Gujarat High Court as the Chief Justice (CJ) of Karnataka High Court. The Karnataka HC CJ, P S Dinesh Kumar, is set to retire on February 24. The Collegium recommended that Justice Anjaria be appointed as the CJ of Karnataka High Court with effect from the date on which CJP Dinesh Kumar demits office.

Justice Anjaria was appointed as a Gujarat HC judge in November 2011 and was made a permanent judge in September 2013. Before his elevation as a judge, he practised in Gujarat HC in civil, constitutional, company law, labour and service matters.

The Collegium has recorded in its resolution that he is a "competent judge with a sound knowledge of law." Lone said.

'Was stripped, my turban was tossed by Chandigarh police': Jawan moves HC

MAN AMAN SINGH CHINNA

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 7

AN ARMY jawan has moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court (HC) alleging that he was stripped, beaten up, and his turban was removed at a police station in Chandigarh in November 12, 2023.

In its order dated February 1, the HC said that CCTV footage from the Section 11 police station on the date of the incident should be preserved and listed the matter for February 21.

Naik Singh's Commanding Officer, Colonel Mirna Mehta of 10 Corps Signal Regiment, had written to Chandigarh DGP saying the "incident had filled him with rage" and sought action against the "vagabond" police officers as it was an insult to the Indian Army.

Naik Arvinder Singh, posted

in Bathinda, is in a marital dispute with his wife who is a constable in Chandigarh Police and is posted in the same police station. Naik Singh has alleged in his petition that he had come to meet his estranged wife and infant son in Mullanpur on November 12 last year when he was first summoned by Punjab Police Sub Inspector Paramjit Singh of Mullanpur Police Station where he was threatened and intimidated.

Following this, he was asked to go to the Sector 11 Police Station in Chandigarh.

Naming the SHO of the Sector 11 Police Station as inspector Mallik Singh and constable Sunil in his petition, the Army jawan said he was beaten up by some individuals, his clothes removed and made a video of him. He also stated in his petition that he was asked to stay away from his wife.

The clash-free year was a result of regular engagements between the two sides, the officials said. "We have been engaging

In a first since 2020, Tawang sector remained calmer in 2023

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

THE STRATEGIC Tawang sector in Arunachal Pradesh remained a lot calmer in 2023 compared to the previous three years, courtesy Indian and Chinese troops' regular patrolling in the region.

The sector was free of major clashes between Indian and Chinese troops last year – a first since the military standoff between India and China began in 2020. The *Indian Express* has learnt. Senior officials familiar with the developments in the region said that in 2023, Tawang did not see any major face-offs along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two sides. This was a first in the last four years at least, they said.

The clash-free year was a result of regular engagements between the two sides, the officials said. "We have been engaging

them and have also been trying to evolve a mechanism where we carry out coordinated patrols up to our own side of the LAC," an official told *The Indian Express*.

"There have also been more engagements at the local level. While the existing mechanism of BPMs (Border Personnel Meeting) in Bum La have been tried to prepare a comprehensive report. The panel held 43 dialogue sessions and 72 meetings statewide, as well as engagement with migrants. He exuded confidence that the UCC would rectify past wrongs and provide true equality while condemning the divisive forces that undermine the Constitution's principles".

He underscored the meticulous process undertaken by the five-member committee, chaired by Supreme Court Judge Justice (retd) Ranjan Prakash Desai, for around two years to materialise in Uttarakhand and transcend ordinary legislative measures".

The Tawang sector has multiple disputed areas along the LAC which have traditionally remained friction points between India and China.

In December 2022, there was a major clash in the disputed Yangtse area of Tawang as a large patrol of over 200 PLA soldiers had tried to transgress the LAC.

Indian troops manning the LAC had contested them firmly and the troops on both sides had received minor injuries. In 2021, at least two major clashes took place in the sector. One of them took place in October between the border pass of Bum La and Yangtse.

ing on our stand," the official said. Officials, however, said that a peaceful year does not mean the usual threats in the area have totally eroded. "We have to maintain constant vigil and have to be on our toes to watch out for any activity along the LAC," an official said.

The Tawang sector has multiple disputed areas along the LAC which have traditionally remained friction points between India and China.

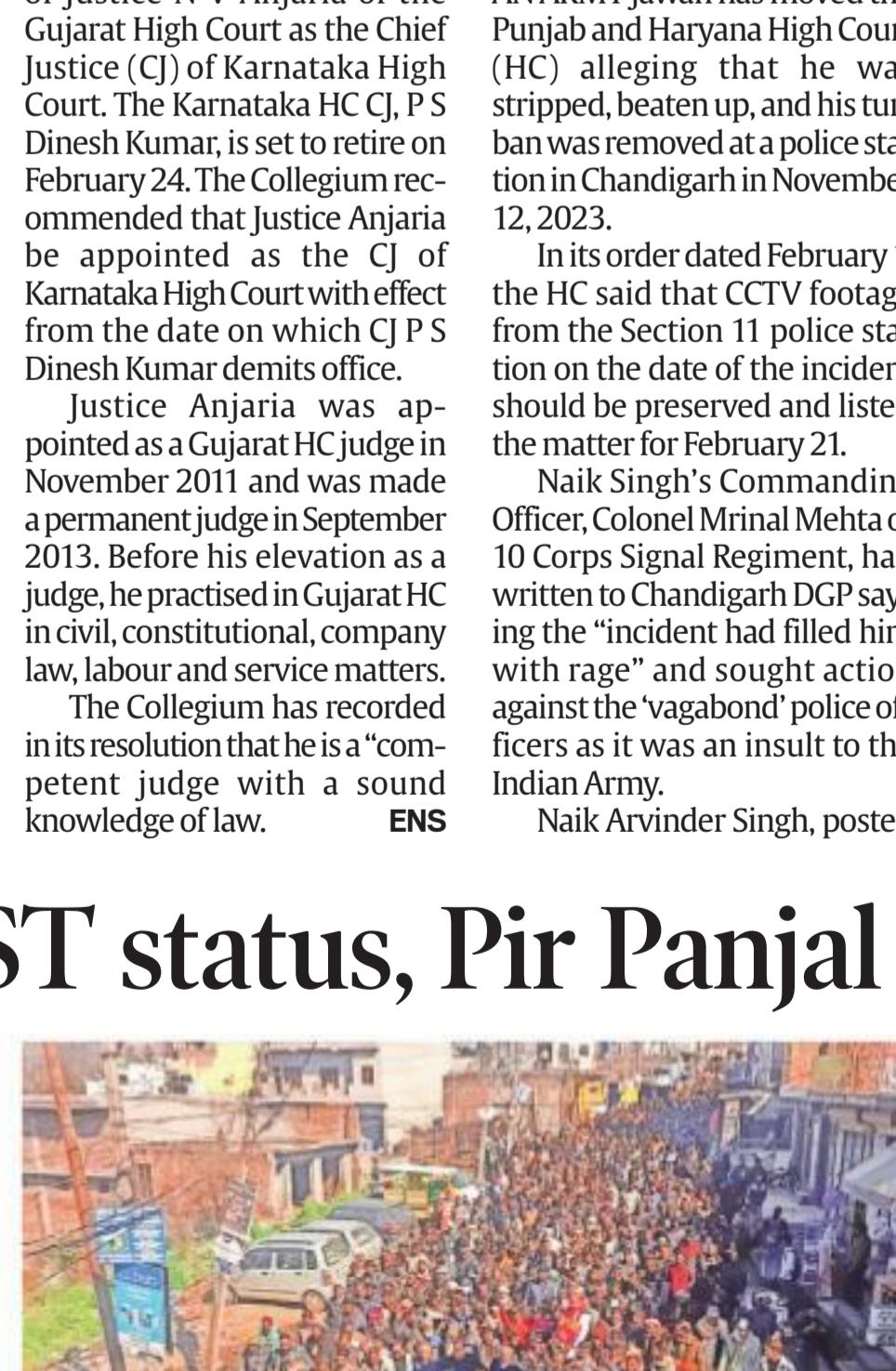
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The BJPs calculation is that while the move to increase the ST basket may alienate some Gujjars and Bakerwals, not all will turn away from the party as they don't vote en bloc.

BJP national general secretary and J&K in-charge Tarun Chugh Wednesday said the grant of ST status to Paharis was a "watershed moment" for J&K.

Lieutenant Governor Manohar Sinha also welcomed the



A public meeting in Rajouri that Omar Abdullah alleged he was stopped from attending by the BJP. @OmarAbdullah

Sachin Kumar Vaishya issued the order, referring to inputs regarding posting of social media posts which could lead to "serious breach of peace and order... might cause grave danger to human lives

and properties".

Sources in the UT administration said there was apprehension that "vested interests" may try to take advantage of misgivings among the Gujjars and Bakerwals

over the extension of the ST status. Paharis, Padari Tribes, Koli and Gadda Brahmins in J&K are to be classified as STs as per the Constitution (J&K) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, passed by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The area is on high alert both due to the coming Lok Sabha elections as well as the ongoing anti-militancy operations in Rajouri and Poonch districts following a series of incidents.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah first promised the Paharis ST status at his first-ever public rally in Rajouri, in 2022, while assuring the Gujjars and Bakerwals that it would not impact

Swift meets, discreet preparations: How puja at Gyanvapi cellar was done

MANISH SAHU
VARANASI, FEBRUARY 7

SWIFTLY CONVEYED meetings, hushed preparations and promptly arranged idols, raj bhog and priests – the Uttar Pradesh administration moved fast to ensure the Varanasi district court's January 31 order, to initiate puja at the southern cellar of Gyanvapi mosque complex within seven days, was implemented that very night itself, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Immediately after getting the court order, District Magistrate S Rajalingam convened a meeting at his office, and then a second meeting at night at the site designated for the puja. In attendance were senior administrative officials and police officers.

Officials then started the preparations for the puja. So low-key was the entire process that people in the locality, while aware of the presence of officials, remained unaware of what they were doing.

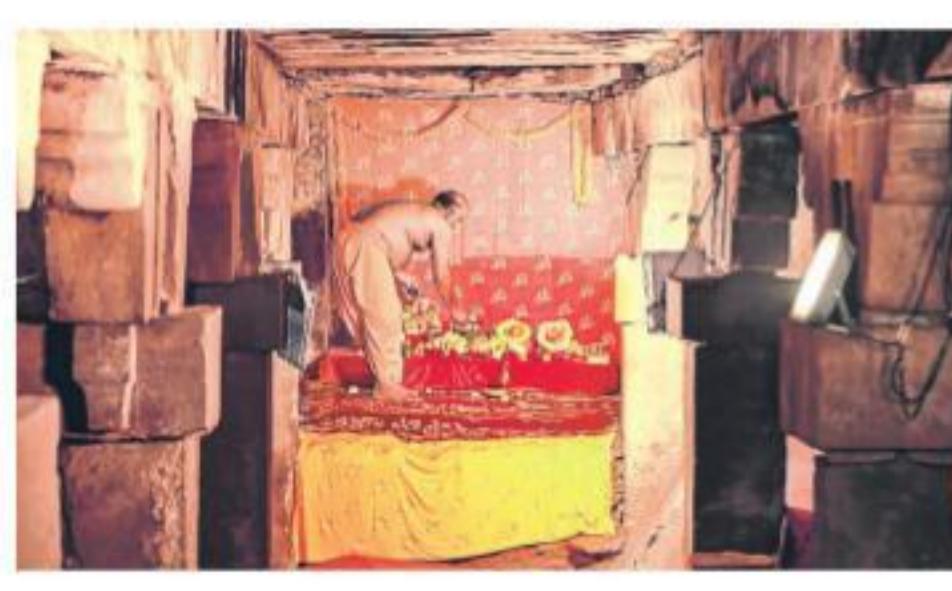
"We could understand something is going on, but could never have guessed the court order was being implemented in such a hurry. Our shops were open throughout the night on January 31," said Vinod Mishra, a shop owner in the area.

In the order, District Judge AK Vishvesha had said, "District Magistrate, Varanasi/Receiver is being directed to get puja and raag bhog done by a priest, designated by the plaintiff and Kashi Vishwanath Trust, of idols in the cellar to the south, which is disputed, of building situated on settlement plot number 9130, police station Chowk, District Varanasi. For this, suitable arrangements must be made with iron barricading and other things within seven days."

While journalists were denied entry while preparations were underway, it was only when the District Magistrate and Varanasi Police Commissioner emerged from the spot, around 2 am on Thursday, that the media came to know the puja had been conducted. "The court order has been complied with," is all the DM told the media at the time.

Explaining the preparations, a senior official said, "The directives in the order were connected with idols, puja, and suitable arrangements for iron barricading. The court had also asked for raj bhog (meal for the deity) for the idols. For this, we brought the idols from the south cellar that were kept in the treasury... and the raj bhog had to be given immediately, so we did that."

After prayers were com-



After getting the court order, District Magistrate S Rajalingam held a meeting at his office and another meeting at night at the site designated for puja. File

pleted, all of Uttar Pradesh was put under alert, and district police officers and administrative officials were directed to regularly monitor the situation.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, government officials and members of the Kashi Vishwanath Trust put together the sequence of events. Immediately after the court passed the order, district government counsel Sanjay Gaur dispatched copies of the order to senior government officials.

Simultaneously, petitioner Shailendra Kumar Pathak Vyas communicated with officials, filing an application with the DM

to implement the court order. In another application, the petitioner requested raj bhog for the deity and expressed no objection to the priest named by the Kashi Vishwanath Trust.

Subsequently, DM Rajalingam convened a meeting with officials, followed by an inspection of the site by him and senior officials, including Varanasi Police Commissioner Mutha Ashok Jain, and Additional Commissioner of Police Shivashimpi Channappa. Then, another meeting was held at the site.

After taking stock of the situation, the DM issued a written order to Additional District

Magistrate (protocol) Shri Prakash to implement the court order. The Chief Executive Officer (Sunil Verma) of the Kashi Vishwanath Trust was instructed to assist him.

ADM (protocol) was also directed to retrieve the idols, which were discovered by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at the southern cellar and were then stored at the treasury. "ADM (protocol) was also directed to take reference of the ASI report, submitted to the court, for identifying idols found in the southern cellar. Petitioner Shailendra Kumar Pathak had also highlighted the idols kept in the southern cellar in his petition," an official said.

Directions were also sent to the treasury officer to hand over the idols to the ADM. Around 8.30 pm on January 31, the ADM rushed to retrieve the idols and Trust members were summoned to the site.

Trust members and other authorities were then instructed to facilitate the cutting of iron barricading to create an entrance gate for the southern cellar. A gas cutter was brought in, the gate was crafted, after which lighting was arranged inside the cellar. The Trust and others also organised the cleaning of the cellar – a process that took approximately

half an hour. By 11 pm, the idols were brought from the treasury. Priest Om Prakash Mishra was assigned by the trust to perform the puja, and religious scholar Vireshwar Shastri Dravid was summoned to provide guidance to the priest.

Five other priests were called to "purify" the south cellar and the idols that were stored in the treasury. Following cleansing rituals, the idols were brought inside the cellar. Then, Om Prakash Mishra was left to perform the puja alone, while other priests and government officials left the cellar.

According to another official,

prayers have since been conducted five times a day in adherence to directives. This schedule mirrors the routine followed at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

Only one priest has been granted permission to perform rituals inside the cellar at a time, while access for the public has been re-

stricted until further notice. "Six priests have been assigned to conduct the rituals, with their shifts changing every four hours," the official said.

Officials also highlighted an urgent need for repairs in the inner part of the southern cellar, citing significant damage and excessive dampness in the building. They also pointed out that the ceiling wall above the idol has sustained considerable damage. "We will get the repairs done inside the cellar after obtaining permission from the court," an official said.

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NOTICE

Dated: 07.02.2024

Moradabad Smart City Limited (MSCL) has been set up by Government of Uttar Pradesh/India as a Special Purpose Vehicle for implementation of Moradabad Smart City Proposal.

Applications are invited from dynamic, experienced and highly motivated professionals having experience of working in Govt./PSU/Private Sector organizations preferably having 05 years of experience in the finance function with at least two (02) of experience at CFO or on level below CFO Level.

Application Format, Eligible Criteria and other Information Regarding the vacancy: Can be downloaded from the website www.smartcitymoradabad.org.

The Moradabad Smart City Limited reserves the right to shortlist candidates for interview. No correspondence in this connection shall be entertained.

Chief Executive Officer
Moradabad Smart City Limited

Talks possible to resolve Gyanvapi, Mathura issue: Swami Govind Dev Giri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 7

SWAMI GOVIND Dev Giri, treasurer of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, said dialogue is possible to resolve the issue of Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi as well as that of the Krishna Janmabhoomi. While speaking to *The Indian Express* on the sidelines of the Geeta Bhakti Amrit Mahotsav being organised in Alandi, he termed the consecration of the Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya as a turning point in Indian history.

"In view of the current environment as well as the raised awareness of the present day, I feel dialogue is possible... maybe it would be difficult but certainly not impossible," he said.

Swami Govind Dev Giri said the ordinary person has no problem with reconstruction of temples in these places. "The crux of the matter is that the common man – Hindu or Muslim – also feels that these temples should

be re-built," he said.

Terming the razed temples as signs of the intruders who invaded India, he said the movement to reclaim the temples was necessary to erase them. "When I was in Kashi for five years, I had darshan of Lord Vishwanath daily. The huge Nandi, which faces the Gyanvapi, almost made me question why we have to fight to reclaim the razed temples. Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and others who spearheaded the movement to reclaim the Ram Janmabhoomi did so to highlight how these were signs of intruders of our motherland. This is not a matter of Hindu or Muslim," he said.

The monk, who was present when the Ayodhya temple was consecrated by PM Narendra Modi, said the whole temple complex of Ayodhya would be completely ready in the next 2-3 years. Geeta Pariwar, an organisation founded by Swami Govind Dev Giri, has organised a week-long programme to celebrate 75 years of the organisation.

Mayor, Digvijaya aide join BJP over 'Congress skipping temple event'

ANAND MOHAN J
Bhopal, FEBRUARY 7

IN A setback to the Congress in Madhya Pradesh just a couple of months before the Lok Sabha elections, Jabalpur Mayor Jagat Singh Annu quit the party to join BJP Wednesday, saying he was upset with the Congress since it declined the invitation for Ram temple ceremony last month.

Annu took membership of the BJP at the party headquarters in Bhopal in the presence of CM Mohan Yadav, state BJP chief VD Sharma, former state home minister Narottam Mishra, among other senior leaders, which highlighted the importance of the event as Annu was the first Congress Mayor in Jabalpur in 18 years. He was also considered close to former CM Kamal Nath and another senior Congress leader Vivek Tankha.

Sumer told *The Indian Express*, "I have always been with the Congress. I left the party as I was angry over the way it dealt with the Ram Mandir event. He is our God and we express our love to him. I can't be with a party which disrespects Ram. We can't accept it."

Sumer joined the BJP Wednesday in the presence of Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

The state Congress was stunned by Annu's move, with its spokesperson KK Mishra declining to make any comment.

Annu said "I will develop Jabalpur as a metropolis with the development policies of PM Narendra Modi and the double engine government."

Meanwhile, in Guna, Congress leader Sumer Singh, a known loyalist of former CM Digvijaya Singh, also switched to the BJP, citing the same reason as Annu.

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

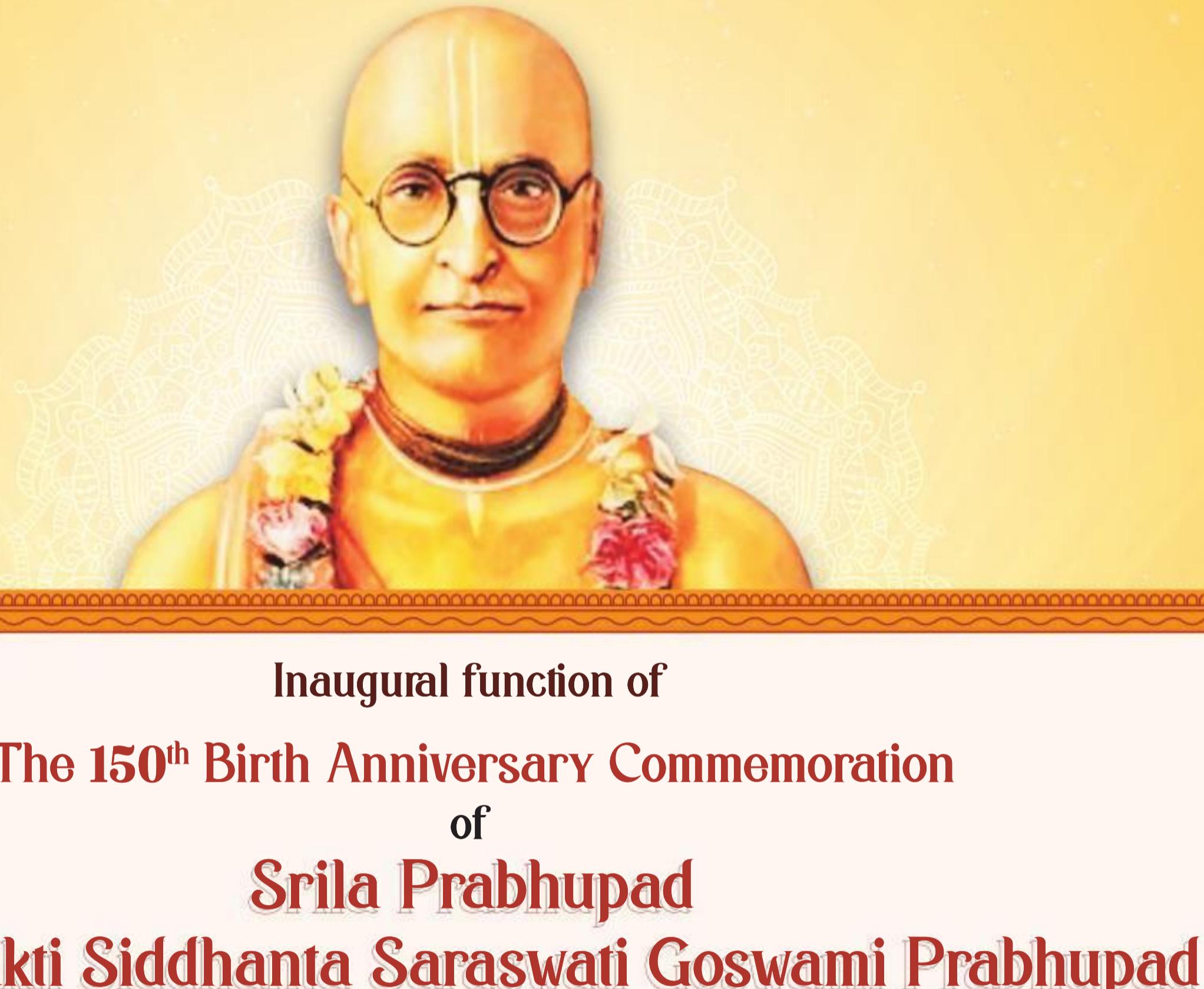
General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Prem Bahadur S/o Chander Bahadur, R/o Rain Basera ODRS, Delhi Age: about 52 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black coloured pant & Black coloured lining Shirt, was found from ODRS Rain Basera, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours at the Mortuary of Subzi Mandi. In this regard a DD No.44A, dated 01.02.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO
P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23953776, 23958234
Mob.: 8750870122

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Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal

Union Minister of State (I/C) for Law & Justice,
Parliamentary Affairs & Culture

Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi

Minister of State for
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FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Accused in killing of journalist linked to 34 Maharashtra land deals at contested project site

and HPCL Ltd. Initially, the project was proposed in Nanar village in Ratnagiri district, but following opposition by locals and environmental activists, the Maharashtra government wrote to the Centre on January 12, 2022, that it would identify 13,000 acres for acquisition in Barsu village in Rajapur city, for the project. But work stalled after large protests by locals early 2023 when the state government started survey work and soil testing in Barsu, forcing the administration to deploy a huge police force.

An investigation of land records of the past three years shows that the accused, Pandharinath Amberkar; his sister Pratiksha Khadpe; and his nephew (cousin's son) Akshay Amberkar; are linked to at least 34 land transactions covering over 10.2 hectare and worth an estimated Rs 2.8 crore. Police records also reveal that RRPL paid Rs 4.44 lakh to Pandharinath Amberkar in December 2022 in lieu of transport services.

Amberkar family's web of transactions

Amberkar himself bought six land parcels, sold one, and held

the Power of Attorney (PoA) for eight others, representing the buyer or the seller, records show. Total worth of these transactions: Rs 80.64 lakh.

Of the six parcels he bought between September 2021 and June 2022, four totalling 1.07 hectare are in Barsu village, and two in Dhopeshwar village totalling 0.674 hectare. He paid Rs 47.29 lakh for these six land parcels and sold one.

In one transaction, he held the PoA for Kiran Achrekar, who retired from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation as Deputy Municipal Commissioner, and purchased 5.195 hectare cumulatively in Nata, Panhale Rajapur and Solgaon, villages for Rs 1.72 crore.

Kiran Achrekar and Akshay Amberkar did not respond to repeated queries and calls by The Indian Express.

Supporter of refinery, Amberkar provided travel services to RRPL

Aamberkar is in Ratnagiri Central Jail and the lower court has denied him bail. In the application, Amberkar claimed the collision was a "pure accident" and blamed his automatic car, which had "gone out of his control as he jumbled between the accelerator and (the) brake." He has filed for bail in the Bombay High Court, which is yet to be heard.

Between October 2021 and April 2023, valued at over Rs 2 crore. In all these, he held the Power of Attorney for either the seller or the buyer of land.

In five of the 19 deals, he held the PoA for Kiran Achrekar, who retired from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation as Deputy Municipal Commissioner, and purchased 5.195 hectare cumulatively in Nata, Panhale Rajapur and Solgaon, villages for Rs 1.72 crore.

Kiran Achrekar and Akshay Amberkar did not respond to repeated queries and calls by The Indian Express.

In his statement to the police on February 24, 2023, Nagvekar had said he got acquainted with Pandharinath during a tour organised by RRPL to the Panipat refinery project for 24-25 villagers and journalists. "After that, around December 2021, MIDC officers and officers of other companies came 3-4 times to Barsu, Solgaon and Nata villages for survey. At that time, a contact was established with Pandharinath Amberkar to rent his car. He has provided his Duster/Safari vehicles at times as per the demands of company officials. Apart from this, Pandharinath Amberkar has no relation with RRPL company,"

or officers," Nagvekar told the police.

In its chargesheet, the Ratnagiri police said, "The accused Pandharinath Amberkar was working as a supporter of the planned refinery project in and around Barsu village... Amberkar had invested and purchased land parcels in the refinery project area in his own name and that of his relatives."

Pandharinath Amberkar's lawyers, advocate-on-record Sachin Bandkar and counsel Anil Singh and Ashish Chavan said they cannot comment since the matter was sub-judice.

Running over Warishe, not the first criminal act by Amberkar

Warishe's killing is not the only allegation against Amberkar in relation to the refinery project. At least four other criminal cases were registered against him for assaulting and intimidating protesters of the refinery.

In 2020, Amberkar had tried to allegedly run over 21-year-old local resident and activist Manoj Mayekar. In that incident Manoj, son of Kumbhavade village Sarpanch Pandharinath Mayekar,

was injured and hospitalised for two weeks in a Kolhapur hospital.

When Amberkar was being searched, the police found a pen drive with several articles written by Warishe. They also found a phone recording in which Amberkar explicitly states in Marathi that he will finish off Warishe for publishing a news article against him. The accused had threatened Warishe earlier too for writing against him and the proposed petrochemicals refinery in Barsu-Solgaon.

Pandharinath Amberkar's lawyers, advocate-on-record Sachin Bandkar and counsel Anil Singh and Ashish Chavan said they cannot comment since the matter was sub-judice.

Just two hours before allegedly mowing down Warishe, Amberkar was heard telling a witness on the phone: "Ekacha kaam tamaam karayachaa ahne (I have to finish off someone). Aaj karnar tyacha... Aaj aamhi... (I will do it today)." This call recording was found in Amberkar's phone after a mirror image of the phone was taken, said police, and it corroborated his intention to harm the victim.

Warishe worked as the editor and correspondent of Dainik Mahanagar Times, a Marathi daily, in Ratnagiri, and regularly wrote "how the planned refinery project in Rajapur taluka (RRPL) would harm the farmers". On

February 6, 2023, when Amberkar allegedly ran him over, Warishe had published a report highlighting the "criminal" acts of Amberkar and pictures of banners showing him with senior politicians.

"Since Warishe was giving news against him, Amberkar had threatened him several times," the police said in the chargesheet.

MIDC says no formal RRPL proposal for land acquisition yet

Responding to queries on the status of the RRPL's land acquisition plan, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, the nodal investment promotion agency under the state government, said, "RRPL has conducted the techno-feasibility survey from August 2022-May 2023. This survey was facilitated by MIDC and District Administration, Ratnagiri, wherein 46 written consents were obtained from concerned landowners.

However, MIDC has not received the report from RRPL, till date. RRPL has not yet submitted a formal proposal for the land acquisition."

Warishe's mother, son wait for justice

At a tiny house in the remote Kasheli village in Rajapur, Shevanti Warishe, mother of Shashikant, said, "We want justice for my son. His killer should not get out of the jail at any cost. He should be punished severely. My son lost his life because of him. He should also face the same fate."

The state government deposited Rs 25 lakh in the joint account of Shevanti and Shashikant Warishe's son Yash, as a fixed deposit, on which they receive an interest of Rs 14,000 a month.

Having lost her son, Shevanti said, "My son died because of this refinery. We do not want this refinery here. My son should get justice."

She added: "He would leave house in the morning and would come home at night. He was only dedicated to his work. I would worry about him and tell him to come home as soon as possible at night. But he would always assure me I do not need to worry and he will be fine. He would say he is working for the good of people and no one will harm him."

Rs 4,797 cr PRITHVI to boost atmosphere, polar and ocean research, says Rijiju

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 7

THE UNION Cabinet has approved Rs 4,797 crore research scheme to boost and maintain research momentum in the fields of ocean, atmospheric and polar sciences, Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Wednesday.

The PRITHVI Vignyan (PRITHVI) will be an umbrella scheme spearheaded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) to help continue many of the ongoing research projects and efforts in the areas of atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, geosphere and biosphere till 2026. Rijiju said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

With climate change and its adverse impacts affecting globally, be it in the form of extreme weather events like heavy rainfall, floods, rising sea levels, depleting glaciers, cyclones of higher intensities or prolonged dry spells—the need for improving understanding the roles of atmosphere-ocean-poles has become increasingly necessary.

"It is a continuing programme. While earlier, research in all these key areas were being carried out under different sub-heads for which different budget allocations were to be made, but now all these have been amalgamated. In case funds from one research sub-

head remains under utilised, it can be used to support any other research area," M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, told The Indian Express.

Some of the ongoing research that will now come under PRITHVI include Atmosphere and Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems and Services (ACROSS), Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART), Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER), Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE) and Research, Education, Training and Outreach (REACHOUT).

Importantly, for the first time, PRITHVI will open doors for Indian scientists to join hands with international experts.

"We can now have international collaboration. Upon receiving any proposal to work, we can now consider them," he added.

Updating on Rs 4,077 crore Deep Ocean Mission launched by MoES in 2021, Rijiju, in another reply, said that an extensive survey and exploration for metals like cobalt, copper, nickel, and manganese have been carried out in the central Indian Ocean basin. In addition, explorations along south western and central ridges have identified potential locations for carrying out hydrothermal activities and zones suitable for sulphide mineralisation.

SC pulls up NGT for 'unilateral decisions', asks it to act with 'procedural integrity'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

IN AN unusual order, the Supreme Court has pulled up the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for its "recurrent engagement" in "unilateral decision making" and cautioned that in its zealous quest for justice, the tribunal must tread carefully to avoid the oversight of propriety.

These hard hitting observations were made by a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Aravind Kumar in its verdict on appeals filed by a Delhi-based business enterprises, which has challenged two orders of the green panel where it had slapped fine on the firm, in suo motu proceedings for polluting the environment, without even giving it an opportunity to be heard.

"The National Green Tribunal's recurrent engagement in unilateral decision making, provisioning ex-post facto review hearings and routinely dismissing it has regrettably become a prevailing norm. In its zealous quest for justice, the tribunal must tread carefully to avoid the oversight of propriety," it said.

The bench noted that these appeals arise out of two orders passed by the NGT on August 31, 2021 and on November 26, 2021.

"The main order arises out of an ex parte order in suo motu proceedings holding the appellants to be guilty and directing payment of compensation," the bench said in its

January 30 order, uploaded on Wednesday.

It added that the practice of ex parte orders and the imposition of damages amounting to crores of rupees, have proven to be a counterproductive force in the broader mission of environmental safeguarding.

The bench said that significantly, these orders of the NGT have consistently faced stays from the apex court, resulting in the unraveling of the commendable efforts put forth by the members, lawyers, and other stakeholders.

"It is imperative for the tribunal to infuse a renewed sense of procedural integrity, ensuring that its actions resonate with a harmonious balance between justice and due process. Only then can it reclaim its standing as a beacon of environmental protection, where well-intentioned endeavours are not simply washed away," it said.

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EXPLAINED SCIENCE

Why Budget plans for deep tech and research funding matter



AMITABH SINHA

IN HER Interim Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a Rs 1 lakh crore fund to provide long-term, low-cost or zero-interest loans for research and development.

She also promised to launch a new scheme to strengthen deep-tech capabilities in the defence sector — an announcement likely to be followed up later in the year with a larger policy to promote deep tech startups across all sectors, not just defence.

The two announcements are linked, and must be seen together with the government's other plans for the R&D sector.

Why deep tech matters

Deep tech refers to advanced and disruptive technologies, many still under development, that have the potential to trigger transformative change and provide solutions.

The term is used to describe cutting-edge research in nanotechnology, biotechnology, material sciences, quantum technologies, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, data sciences, robotics, 3D printing, etc. These technologies are expected to play a key role in addressing complex global challenges like climate change, hunger, epidemics, energy access, mobility, physical and digital infrastructure, and cyber security.

Advanced capabilities in deep tech are also likely to enhance productivity, drive economic growth and create jobs, and offer competitive advantage to countries with strong foundations in these areas.

With its large base of relatively high-quality science and engineering manpower and a fairly well-established technology culture, India feels it is well placed to be one of the frontrunners in these areas. There is scope to contribute to the development of these technologies, which can ensure early adoption, shares in intellectual property, indigenous know-how, and self-reliance. Major associated benefits in terms of spin-off technologies, trained manpower, entrepreneurship and technology exports can accrue as well.

Building an ecosystem

Over the past few years, the government has tried to incentivise research in some of

ALLOCATIONS IN INTERIM BUDGET 2024-25

(in cr)

	2023-24 BE	2023-24 RE	2024-25 IB	Change*
Department of Atomic Energy	25,078.49	26,799.78	24,968.98	-0.41%
Department of Space	12,543.91	11,070.07	13,042.75	4.51%
Department of Science & Technology	7,931.05	4,891.78	8,029.01	2.00%
Department of Biotechnology	2,683.86	1,607.32	2,251.52	-26.90%
CSIR	5,746.51	6,202.53	6,323.41	9.30%
Ministry of Earth Sciences	3,319.88	2,879.02	2,521.83	-27.72%
Department of Agriculture Research	9,504.00	9,876.60	9,941.09	4.43%
Department of Medical Research	2,980.00	2,892.83	3,001.73	0.75%
Department of Defence Research	12,850.00	12,942.85	13,208.00	2.77%

BE: Budget Estimates, RE: Revised Estimates, IB: Interim Budget *2023-24 BE to Interim Budget

Source: Budget documents

and linkages between industry, research centres, and educational institutions.

The challenge of funding

One of the key recommendations in the NDTSP is to open up opportunities for long-term funding of research projects. It acknowledges that most deep tech projects are time- and money-intensive.

For more than two decades now, the government's stated objective has been to allocate at least 2% of GDP for research and development. Absolute spending has increased, but expenditure on research as a share of GDP has come down in the last few years. India currently spends just about 0.65% of its national GDP on research and development activities. The global average is about 1.8%.

Going by recent decisions, the thinking in the government seems to be that R&D spends cannot rise substantially without partnering with the private sector. The National Research Foundation (NRF), which became operational on Tuesday, seeks to do this — about 70% of the Rs 50,000 allocation for NRF over the next five years is supposed to come from private industry.

The 1 lakh crore corpus

It is here that the Rs 1 lakh crore corpus to finance research and development becomes

important. Startups and other private ventures who can obtain seed money for projects are expected to be the main beneficiaries. The idea is to start the flow of money in the research ecosystem — and the hope is that as projects take off, industry would be encouraged to invest its own money.

But many in the scientific community remain sceptical. Expectations of the infusion of private sector money into research have been belied earlier. Scientists say too much is expected from the private sector without commensurate increase in funding by the government. Even where funds are available, delays and interruptions in disbursal often affects projects.

As of now, the government seems to be banking heavily on the success of its new initiatives to infuse money into research. There have been only nominal increases in budgetary allocations of its science and research departments in the Interim Budget. (See Table)

The highest increase, for CSIR, which runs a network of 37 labs, is of about 9%, and the poster-boy Department of Space has received only a 4% increment in its budget. The Departments of Atomic Energy and Biotechnology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences have had their budgets slashed.

LONGER VERSION ON

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EXPLAINED GLOBAL

HAMAS CEASEFIRE PLAN: WHAT ARE THE THREE STAGES IT PROPOSES



A Palestinian tent camp in Rafah amid the conflict with Israel. Reuters

AMID MOUNTING deaths and devastation, Hamas has proposed a three-stage plan to halt its ongoing conflict with Israel. The plan, which envisages three truce periods of 45 days each, is in response to a proposal sent last week by Qatar and Egyptian mediators and cleared by Israel and the US.

The details of that proposal have not been widely reported, but Reuters has seen the Hamas document.

It is not clear yet if Israel will ask for changes in the plan or reject it.

The ceasefire plan comes on a day US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is in Israel again, and Saudi Arabia has said it will not normalise ties with the Jewish nation unless an independent Palestinian state is recognised on 1967 borders.

The selection will be made by a committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, and a Union minister. A similar committee, comprising the PM, Chowdhury, and Home Minister Amit Shah, met on Wednesday to appoint the Lokpal and the Central Vigilance Commissioner.

Before this, members of the Election Commission were appointed solely at the discretion of the government.

The two other members of the Commission are Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Arun Goel.

What prompted the change?

It was the Supreme Court that forced the government's hand. Four petitions were filed before the apex court in 2015, 2017, 2021, and 2022, which broadly called for a fair and transparent system to choose Election Commissioners.

On October 23, 2018, while considering the 2015 petition, a two-judge bench felt that the matter required interpretation of Article 324 of the Constitution, which deals with the role of the Election Commission of India. This issue hadn't been discussed before in the Supreme Court, and so it was referred to a Constitution bench. In September 2022, a five-judge Constitution bench led by Justice KM Joseph started hearing the petitions.

The petitioners pointed out that Article 324(2) specifies the President's role in appointing Election Commissioners, with the caveat that this appointment is subject to any law passed by Parliament. However, successive governments had not shown any inclination to enact such a law. They criticised the current appointment system for being

opaque and said it raises doubts about the institution's independence. They called for a consultative process in which a collegium or a body of persons is tasked with the responsibility to select the Election Commissioners.

How were Election Commissioners appointed then?

The power to make appointments rested exclusively with the Executive (read: the Union government). The government maintained a database of serving and retired officers, primarily Secretaries to the Government of India and Chief Secretaries, from which the Law Ministry would create a shortlist. The Prime Minister held the power to decide the appointment, with the President formally appointing the chosen candidate.

Notably, past Election Commissioners were predominantly retired officers of the Indian Administrative Services (IAS), with very few exceptions.

What was the Centre's stand in the SC?

The Centre opposed any intervention by the Supreme Court in the appointments. The government argued that while Article 324(2) mentions the appointment being subject to a law by Parliament, without such a law, the President had the constitutional power to appoint them. Furthermore, the government stated that the existing procedure had been consistently relied upon by different governments, and that a "utopian model cannot be the premise" for making changes.

The Centre's legal representatives also argued that the petitioners were unable to demonstrate that the independence of the Election Commission is under threat, and hence, there's no immediate trigger to warrant judicial interference. Essentially, the government asked the court to show judicial restraint.

What was the Supreme Court's ruling?

On March 2, 2023, the five-judge bench ruled on the matter.

to provide them with a platform to compete and collaborate with the best in the world. More than 10,000 startups were identified as part of the effort.

The NDTSP talks about some of the things that need to be done in this regard: create opportunities for long-term funding; a simplified but stronger intellectual property rights regime; tax incentives; a conducive regulatory framework; development of standards and certifications; nurturing of talent;

EXPLAINED POLICY

Picking Election Commissioners

This is the first time a consultative process to appoint an Election Commissioner is being used. It was put in place after a Supreme Court verdict and a new law. Here is what the change is, and what prompted it

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

ELECTION COMMISSIONER Anup Chandra Pandey is set to retire on February 14, and his successor will be picked through a consultative process being adopted for the first time.

The selection will be made by a committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, and a Union minister. A similar committee, comprising the PM, Chowdhury, and Home Minister Amit Shah, met on Wednesday to appoint the Lokpal and the Central Vigilance Commissioner.

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What was the Supreme Court's ruling?

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The Supreme Court delved into the legislative history of Article 324, including the discussions in the Constituent Assembly regarding the role of the Election Commission and the appointment of its members. The Court observed that it was evident that the founding fathers of the Constitution did not want the Executive to have exclusive authority in appointing Election Commission members. Therefore, the inclusion of the words "subject to any law to be made by Parliament" in Article 324(2) was representative of the need for Parliament to legislate on this matter.

The absence of such a law, the court noted, left a vacuum. Taking note of the "devastating effect of continuing to leave appointments in the sole hands of the Executive", the court deemed it appropriate to lay down a process for the appointment of election commissioners. Accordingly, it ruled that "the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners shall be made by the President on the advice of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition of the Lok Sabha, and in case no Leader of the Opposition is available, the leader of the largest opposition Party in the Lok Sabha in terms of numerical strength, and the Chief Justice of India."

However, the Court was careful to specify that these norms were "subject to any law to be made by Parliament". In other words, Parliament was free to enact a law on the appointment process in the future.

Was this the first time a consultative process was considered?

The consultative process ordered by the Supreme Court wasn't unprecedented. It echoed a similar proposal from the 1990 committee chaired by the then Law Minister Dinesh Goswami. This committee recommended that the President consult the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition, or the leader of the largest Opposition group, for appointing the Chief

Election Commissioner. For the other two

Election Commissioners, the consultation was to involve the Chief Justice of India, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Chief Election Commissioner.

In 2015, the 20th Law Commission's 255th report also emphasised the need for a consultative process. It suggested the President make appointments after consulting a three-member collegium or selection committee, comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition or the leader of the largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India.

What happened after the SC judgment?
The Centre introduced a Bill in Parliament in August last year, outlining a procedure for appointing Election Commissioners. Since the Court had specified that its appointment norms are "subject to any law to be made by Parliament," the government was well within its right to bring a Bill. However, the appointment process proposed in the Bill raised concerns regarding its potential to undermine the reforms sought by the Court.

The Bill, passed by Parliament in December 2023, establishes a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and a Cabinet Minister nominated by the PM. The selection will be made from five names shortlisted by a screening panel headed by the Law Minister and comprising two Union secretaries.

The composition of the committee was criticised by the Opposition. This is because, as per the intent of the Constitution's framers, the Election Commission should be an independent body. The proposed committee's composition effectively sidelines the Leader of the Opposition, who could be consistently outvoted by the Prime Minister and the Union minister.

This Bill was passed by Parliament in December 2023 and the President gave her assent within a week.

LONGER VERSION ON

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As Pak votes, a short history of its fraught experiments with democracy

ALIND CHAUHAN

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

PAKISTAN will hold the 12th national election in its 76-year history on Thursday. During this period, the country has seen three constitutions, three military coups, and 30 Prime Ministers — none of whom has completed a full five-year term.



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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

THE GLOVES ARE OFF

PM's speeches as curtains come down on 17th Lok Sabha sharply draw battlelines ahead of the elections

IN PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's two speeches, replying to the Motion of Thanks on the President's address in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, it was possible to hear the drumbeats of the impending election. The speeches were a throwing down of the political gauntlet, pointers to the shape of the ruling party's campaign ahead. It is clear that for the Modi-BJP, the target is Congress. In a layered polity where the BJP is also ranged against several regional parties, it seems to clearly regard the Congress, the only party that despite its dwindling electoral numbers has a pan-India presence and possibility, as Enemy No 1. That distinction – between opponent and enemy – may also be worth making, given the aggressive take-no-prisoners tone of the PM's speeches in both Houses of Parliament. From accusing the Congress of being in the grip of "parivarvad" or dynastic politics to saying that it is a naysayer trapped in a "cancel culture", from disparaging it as a party with petty goals and low ambitions to charging it with elitism and enslavement to the British/West, from describing it as inadequate for its role as Opposition and as anti-backward caste, PM Modi gave little quarter. He invoked the Emergency, of course, and he charged Congress with fostering a "narrative" that divides and disintegrates the nation, and makes space for separatist tendencies and terrorism.

The PM did not use the phrase "Congress-mukt Bharat", but listening to him, it seemed clear that having displaced Congress as the centrepiece of the one-party dominance system, the BJP's urgent goal is to lay it low – or lower. A BJP that cultivates an image of being the party of big ideas arguably calculates that regional parties, with their inevitably narrower platforms, do not add up to much of an opposition at the national level. And that by felling Congress, flailing and floundering for a decade now, it also undercuts the joint Opposition front that has been in the making. So it was that the PM's speeches were peppered with quotes of Congress prime ministers – from Nehru to Indira Gandhi and Manmohan Singh – spun to give the lie to Congress criticism of the Modi government, and to turn it on its head.

In his speeches, the PM spoke of a third term in power, even laying down an agenda and goals for "Modi 3.0". The outcome of the election is still in the distance. But for now, the PM's speeches have pointed to the challenge the Opposition faces: Of hardening political battlelines sharpened by a winner-takes-all approach that the PM himself seemed to oppose when he spoke of the need for the Centre and states to come together for a common good – as they did successfully, he recalled, to fight Covid. His underlining of competitive and cooperative federalism, his call for a federal unity that transcends state borders and political lines will need parties and leaders to reach out across the dividing lines, step across the aisle. That seems to be a possibility only on the other side of the election that is round the corner.

TAKING CANCER ON

Homegrown therapy against the disease holds promise.

Researchers and planners must work to cut costs

FOR DECADES, ONCOLOGISTS have relied on chemotherapy, radiation and surgery to treat cancer patients. These are still the primary methods to treat the dreaded disease. In the past two decades, however, research has extended the frontiers of anti-cancer interventions. Drugs have been developed to home in on the molecules cancer cells require to survive and spread. Immune system-boosting drugs have shown the ability to shrink tumours in some patients with advanced malignancy. CART-cell therapy is among the most promising recent developments, especially because it has shown the ability to eradicate advanced leukemias and lymphomas. Most of the early research in this field was conducted in laboratories in the US, Europe and China. In October, India joined this elite list after the country's drug regulator approved a CAR T-cell therapy incubated at Tata Memorial Centre and IIT Bombay laboratories. Now, a 64-year-old former army doctor has become the first patient in the country to be free of cancer cells after being administered this therapy.

CART-cell therapies are customised for each patient. It involves extracting T cells – they help orchestrate the immune response in a patient's body – growing them in the laboratory, arming them against cancer via gene editing and infusing them back into the patient's body. In other words, the patient is fortified with a living drug that's constantly working against cancer. While it would be too early to say if the former army doctor has been cured for life, evidence from countries that have pioneered the treatment shows that CAR T-cell therapy is effective against relapse. The treatment is far less exacting for the patient compared to several sessions of chemotherapy. Laboratory and animal studies have shown that India's homegrown therapy has significantly fewer side effects compared to those developed in the West.

In the last decade, cancer mortality rates have declined in the developed countries. Cancer incidence and mortality, however, continue to rise, driven by spikes in the Global South. In India, where the disease claims about 8 lakh people every year, treatment is expensive for an overwhelming section of the population. The homegrown therapy costs about a tenth of the treatment in the US. However, at about Rs 40 lakh, it's beyond the reach of most patients in the country. With more laboratories working on this oncological intervention, there is reasonable optimism that costs could come down appreciably in the next decade. The country will require inputs from its planners, scientists and policymakers to ensure that the products of such cutting-edge research reach the most vulnerable.

BUMRAH DAYS

His genius does not need the ratification of numbers, statistics only embellish his art

EVERY TIME JASPRIT Bumrah explodes into his nine-step run-up, he provokes a melange of emotions. There is the thrill of watching a genuine fast-bowler. There is the wonderment of witnessing the skill of a one-of-a-kind cricketer. There is the hope that something dramatic will unfold. In that sense, Bumrah is the Shane Warne of fast bowling. And since he happens to be the country's premier match-winner, most Bumrah days end with India finishing on top.

He can twist the ball, and the script of a game. He could cut the ball in and snake it away. He could swing the ball, white or red or pink. He could hit the head, toes or torso, the way he wishes. He could bowl as fast as the wind, he can even make it travel as slow as a passenger train. His bowling doesn't depend on conditions or the pitch. Bumrah's genius does not need the ratification of numbers, statistics only embellish his art. In 34 Tests, Bumrah has grabbed 155 wickets. Among those with 150 wickets, only Sidney Barnes has a better rate. The averages in shorter versions too are staggering – 23.55 in ODIs, 19.66 in T20s. He picks a wicket once in every five overs.

But Bumrah needs to be protected against himself. The unnatural action could invariably force injuries, like the year before, in which he missed the T20 World Cup. The non-stop calendar could usher in fatigue, both physical and mental, and eventually force a premature burnout. His country, and the audience, want him to bowl as fresh as he can in every important tournament. Even more so this season, when the series against England is raging, there is the T20 World Cup in June and the series Down Under. There is the IPL too. India cannot afford to overexpose its golden goose, tempting though it is to play him in every game and tournament.



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

TODAY THE SUPREME Court of the United States is hearing what might possibly turn out to be one of the most consequential court cases in the history of democracy. The case involves a simple question: Can Donald Trump be disqualified from running for re-election for the President of the United States? At the heart of the case is the interpretation of Section three of the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution, which disqualifies from any state or federal office anyone who engages in insurrection, having sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States. The interpretation of this provision is a fascinating grey area in US constitutional law that is dividing constitutional lawyers, for the most part on partisan lines. A federal court has ruled that Trump does not have blanket immunity for his actions as President. Granting such a blanket immunity would have the consequence of placing the President of the United States above all law, the quintessential definition of tyranny.

The Court will have to rule on a number of issues, each of which will set a fraught precedent. The first issue is the interpretation of Section three of the 14th Amendment. What was the purpose of this Amendment? Was its role meant to be confined largely to the aftermath of the Civil War? Or, more technically, whether the President comes under the category of "officer" for the purposes of this section. Ruling that the President is not an officer would have the consequence of, in effect, saying that the President can, in fact, engage in something like insurrection and still not be prosecuted.

The second issue is whether the January 6 insurrection was indeed an insurrection or something else. Is there an objective threshold of what counts as an insurrection? Or, will the semantic takers on this term track partisan affiliation? And the final issue is that if this was indeed an insurrection, what role did Trump play in it? The Court will have to use one of these issues to argue that Trump should not be disqualified.

But what makes this case so fraught is not just a dispute over the interpretation of the law and the facts. The case speaks of the

Case against former President shows that when a country needs courts to save democracy, latter may lose

future of American democracy in more ways than one. First is the conceptual issue. Trump supporters, but not just Trump supporters, are uncomfortable with the idea that a popular leader should be disqualified by a court. He ought to be defeated in the polls – any act of legal disqualification would be the usurpation of a democratic process by lawyers and judges. Even if he deserves to be disqualified, his actions will not be delegitimised. It would lack democratic credibility.

For those who think Trump should be disqualified if the evidence holds up, it is important that no leader is seen as being above the law. That is also the essence of democracy. Further, the idea that disqualifying Trump, if he did indeed engage in insurrection, is anti-democratic is a curious one. After all, the charge against Trump is that he was refusing to abide by the result of an election and thereby subverting democracy.

But the argument is not just about legal interpretation or even how to interpret the past. Rather, it is an expression of anxiety about the future. For those who think it is right to legally disqualify Trump, the act of disqualification is a blow to him on behalf of democracy. If he is in office again, he will subvert American democracy: He has already threatened mass deportations and retribution against opponents. But for his supporters, disqualification is retribution.

Behind this debate lie two fears. The first is that whatever the outcome of the legal proceedings, it must not only be just but also appear to be just. But it is becoming increasingly difficult for the law to carry the imprimatur of impartiality. Trump is alleging that all prosecutions against him are partisan and motivated, and judges so far politically partisan. The US Supreme Court in recent years is also seen to be deeply ideologically divided. The one way in which any verdict might carry the imprimatur of impartiality is if it is a unanimous decision. This is not a guarantee of legitimacy, but may go a long way towards it. In the unlikely event that the Court disqualifies Trump, the one saving grace will be that at least two Republican appointees

will have to vote for the disqualification. But a straight partisan vote will deepen the crisis of legitimacy of the Court.

But there is a deeper fear that haunts this case: The fear of violence. There is a palpable sense of dread that disqualifying Trump will potentially unleash violence. Whether or not it does so, the fact that the hearing is taking place under the shadow of it already taints a possible verdict.

The potential for violence is equally hard to predict. Trump is popular. He solidly owns the Republican party and his disqualification will be seen as an act of disenfranchising millions of voters. On the other hand, Trump has not been mobilising violent crowds so far. Would this change with a legal decision? Would the Republican Party use this as an excuse to finally break free of him? Or, will they fear an even worse backlash for not standing up for him? This is a difficult call to make. There is also a potential scenario where officials in Republican states simply refuse to honour the Supreme Court's decision, and there is a strong backlash against Democrats who will now be accused of stealing an election. Either way, the potential disenchantment of a very large number of voters from the political process is almost certain.

So, American democracy is in a bind. A legal disqualification, if it happens with a narrow majority, will not have enough public legitimacy and will leave the Republicans aggrieved. If Trump is not disqualified and the vote split is partisan, it will be seen as a triumph of impunity. And there is the matter of what a Trump victory might mean for the future of democracy anyway. It will take an incredible feat of legal finesse, persuasive eloquence and consensus in the Supreme Court to navigate this thicket. But there is no evidence that the Court is capable of rising to the occasion. The moral of the story is that when a country needs the courts to save democracy, democracy may lose, whichever way the court rules.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express



SUANSHU KHURANA

IN THE EARLY '70s, at a time of global churn, British jazz guitarist John McLaughlin and Ustad Zakir Hussain began making music with violinist L Shankar and ghatam legend Vilku Vinayakram as Shakti, a transcontinental Indo-jazz band trying to blur musical boundaries.

McLaughlin was 31 and already well known for the Mahavishnu Orchestra, a jazz band with an Indian name. Hussain was 22 and a prodigy; not an Ustad yet. The two had met through the owner of a shop for musical instruments in the US and had played together at sarod legend Ustad Ali Akbar Khan's College of Music the year before co-founding Shakti in 1973. They lived on opposite sides of the US and had begun their musical lives amid disparate worlds of thought and artistic sensibilities.

They found common ground in the similarities in the philosophies of jazz and Indian classical music – mainly the concept of improvisation. However, it was largely McLaughlin's deep interest in Indian music, the spiritual ideology of Sri Chinmoy, whose student he was, and his openness to learning the complexities of Indian music (he learnt the veena under S Ramanathan), besides his strong jazz background, and Hussain's peerless command over rhythm, that led to Shakti being more than just Western pop's homage to Indian music. A glimpse of it had been seen only a few years earlier, with George Harrison's affection for Indian music, his training in sitar under Pt Ravi Shankar and its use in The Beatles'

FINDING HARMONY

For 50 years, Shakti has worked to bring the world closer, one note at a time

Listeners fell in love almost instantly, even though sticklers in jazz as well as the Indian classical world took time to warm to the idea.

What helped turn staunch critics around were the songs themselves — rich sonic hybrids that were an education in spiritual and musical camaraderie and consonance. This was no mere placement of diverse music on one stage.

The music existed because these musicians made room for each other's worlds to exist along with their individuality.

"Norwegian Wood". Around the same time, Shankar and America-born British violinist Yehudi Menuhin collaborated with gratifying results, winning a Grammy for Chamber Music Performance for their 1967 recording West Meets East. It was a definite start and immensely popular.

But what Shakti was experimenting with was an amalgamation of not only music from East and West but also the classical forms from north and south India, something rarely attempted in those days. At the heart of this amalgamation were interaction and interplay and improvisations that soared over cultural boundaries.

Shakti disbanded in 1978 but Hussain and McLaughlin kept in touch, collaborating in 1984 for a short UK tour. In 1997, the Arts Council in Britain contacted Hussain to get the band back together, with the revised line-up including, for a while, mandolin giant U Srinivas and flute legend Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia. Vocalist Shankar Mahadevan, ghatam and kanjira player V Selvaraj, and violinist Ganesh Rajagopal joined later but brought in a robustness to the idea of common ground through varied styles.

While McLaughlin would play with Western harmony and a bluesy sound, the Indian string instruments would work with a larger raga structure, both trying to improvise in parallel spaces. The percussion — tabla, ghatam, kanjira — is what bound them in a mathematical pattern and precision.

It was magic. Listeners fell in love almost instantly, even though sticklers in jazz as

well as the Indian classical world took time to warm to the idea. What helped turn staunch critics around were the songs themselves — rich sonic hybrids that were an education in spiritual and musical camaraderie and consonance. This was no mere placement of diverse music on one stage. The music existed because these musicians made room for each other's worlds to exist along with their individuality. These were creative people who knew when to hold back and allow the other to soar. Even before the crescendo was reached, harmony was attained. Without realising it, these musicians pioneered what would later be called "world music".

A Grammy for their recent pandemic project titled This Moment, with Shakti's current lineup of founding members (McLaughlin and Hussain) and newer members including Mahadevan, Rajagopal and Vinayakram's son Selvaganesh, is not only an acknowledgement of their multi-dimensional approach to music but also a recognition of the band's 50-year-long creative endurance.

As the world becomes more polarised, Shakti and its win are reminders of how distant traditions can live with each other — even appreciate one another — by allowing the other to exist and being a bulwark against powers that seek to keep them apart. There can be harmony — we just need to look for it.

suanshu.khurana@expressindia.com



FEBRUARY 8, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

TRIPARTITE AKALI TALKS

THE TRIPARTITE TALKS between the government, leaders of opposition parties and the Akalis on the Punjab issue will be resumed and the Akalis will be invited to participate. This decision was taken at a meeting of the opposition leaders, called by Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi to review the Punjab situation on the eve of the Akali-sponsored bandh.

NO TO COMPANIES ACT

THE CONTROVERSIAL MOVE to amend the Companies Act and the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act through an ordinance, to

make it obligatory for companies to register the shares purchased through stock exchanges, has been rejected by PM Indira Gandhi. This blocks the move by London-based industrialist, Swraj Paul to take over two Indian companies — Escorts and DCM.

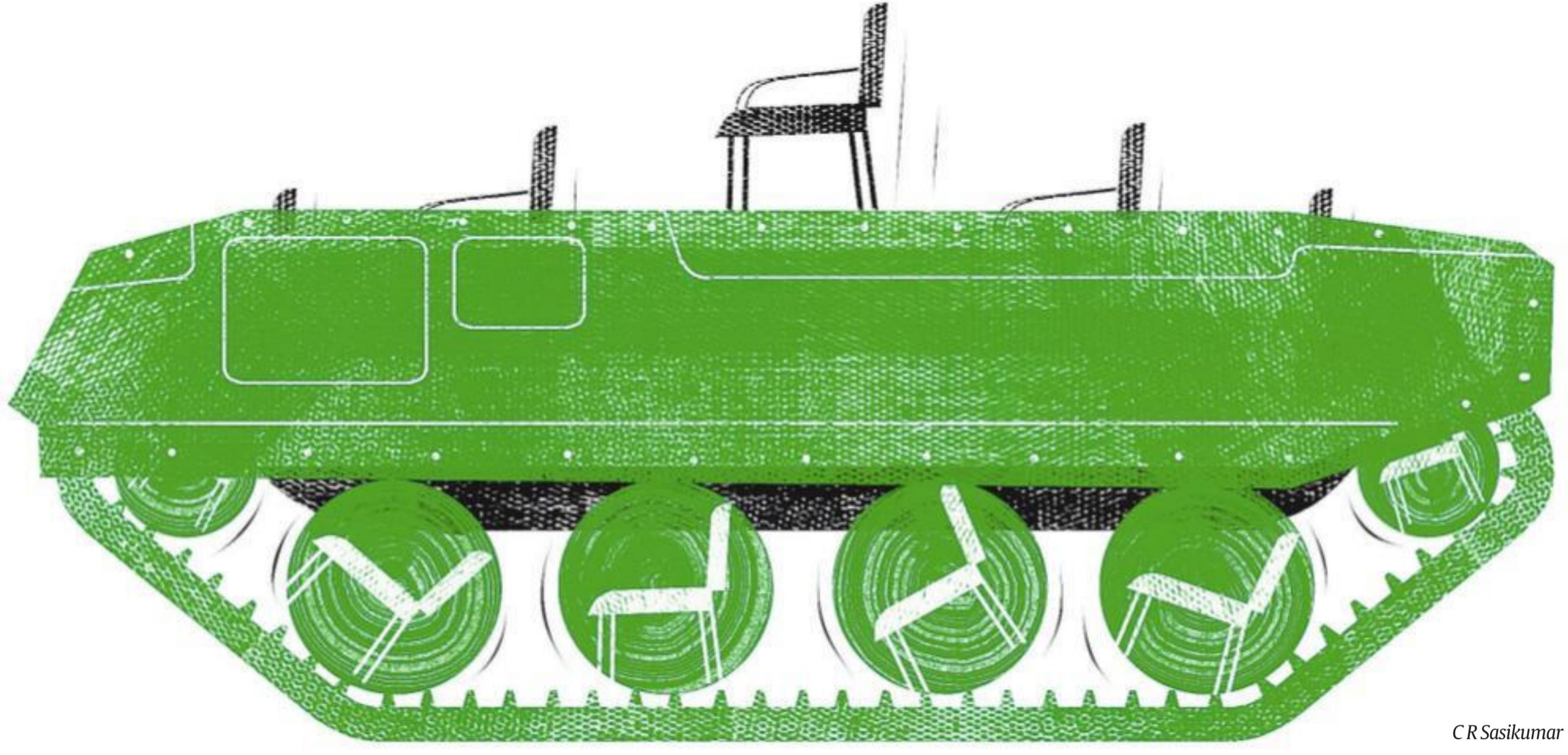
'FLYING' FREE IN SPACE

ASTRONAUT BRUCE MCCANDLESS unhooked a lifeline and became the first human to fly free in space, using a gas-powered jetpack to propel himself outside the shuttle Challenger. McCandless strapped himself into the backpack, released it, and moved gingerly in and just above the shuttle's open cargo bay. "That

may have been one small step for Neil, but it was one heck of a step for me," he said.

MHATRE'S MURKY CASE

IN SPITE OF extensive investigation, the police have so far not been able to establish the identity of the killers of the Birmingham-based Indian Diplomat, Ravindra Mhatre, whose body was found on a farm driveway, some 30 miles southwest of the town. No doubt, the aim of the killers, who claim to be members of the hitherto unknown Kashmir Liberation Army (KLA) was to express their feelings on Kashmir and to tell the world that the issue was not yet dead.



C R Sasikumar

Pakistan, like Bangladesh

Instead of repeating old cycle of elect-dismiss-disqualify-arrest, Pakistan army might be willing to put its weight behind elected civilian leadership



HUSAIN HAQQANI

The new-found hostility of former military supporters towards the military has made it difficult for the generals to continue business as usual. It might just be possible that the military leadership might finally be prepared to tweak its political strategy. Instead of repeating the old cycle of elect-dismiss-disqualify-arrest, the army might this time be willing to put its weight behind the elected civilian leadership in what can best be described as Pakistan's Bangladesh Formula.

This plan would entail allowing Nawaz Sharif and the Muslim League to govern with an iron hand, with full military backing, just as Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League have ruled Bangladesh since 2009. Khan's PTI and other challengers would then be crushed just as the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its ally, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami have been decapitated. For it to work, Nawaz Sharif would have to curb his impulses in asserting civilian supremacy or treading on the military's chosen turf.

The focus of this new government of civil-military partnership would be to calm things down at home and restore the health of Pakistan's economy. If the army approves, it could also mend fences with Pakistan's neighbours, especially India. There would be periodic elections, with predictable results, and the usual condemnation from Western governments and human rights organisations over violations of human rights. But the expectation is that if economic gains are visible, dissent would be limited and so will international criticism.

Of course, Pakistan's history offers little comfort that the February 8 election will help resolve deep-rooted political problems. The potential 'new' formula inspired by Bangladesh's success could easily get derailed and Pakistan's failure in developing a workable political system might get prolonged. Pakistan's track record on elections has hardly been positive. The country had no general elections from 1947 until 1970. When elections were finally held in 1970, civil war ensued. The results of the 10 elections since then have either been disputed by the loser or resulted in governments that were ousted through intrigue.

Of course, Pakistan's history offers little comfort that the February 8 election will help resolve deep-rooted political problems. The potential 'new' formula inspired by Bangladesh's success could easily get derailed and Pakistan's failure in developing a workable political system might get prolonged. Pakistan's track record on elections has hardly been positive. The country had no general elections from 1947 until 1970. When elections were finally held in 1970, civil war ensued. The results of the 10 elections since then have either been disputed by the loser or resulted in governments that were ousted through intrigue.

were ousted through intrigue.

The Pakistan army sees itself as the ultimate guarantor of Pakistan's unity and survival. It is unlikely to give up that role just because youthful supporters of Khan (whom the army considers its own political creature gone wrong) are shaming it on social media. The PTI's social media warriors are not yet battle-hardened political insurgents. If their hopes of an election day upset for the establishment do not materialise, some of them might be tempted to repeat the violent tactics they deployed when Khan was first arrested last year on May 9.

Aggressive attacks on military installations only paved the way for a harsher crackdown on PTI. Some PTI supporters still claim that the May 9 violence was a "false flag operation", orchestrated by the military to justify arresting hundreds of PTI activists. But after losing an election they are convinced they should win, Khan's followers will have to either put up or shut up. They will have to turn out millions of people in the streets, protesting a "rigged election" or reconcile to its outcome.

Although Pakistan's politics can take unexpected turns at any time, the chances that social media noise and a vocal younger generation's frustrations will turn into a revolution appear slim at the moment. It is true that the PTI is facing the brunt of state repression and is, therefore, gaining sympathy. But the dynastic political parties that have been targets of similar repression in the past are far from decimated. Nawaz Sharif still manages to turn out large crowds in Punjab and Bilawal Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party remains unchallenged in its Sindh stronghold.

Once the votes have been cast and counted, and the new government formed, we will find out whether familiar cycles from the past are about to be repeated. Or has a new script finally been written for Pakistan's political theatre.

The writer is former Pakistani ambassador to the US, diplomat-in-residence at the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy in Abu Dhabi and senior fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The military already appears to be putting down markers. Political polarisation, dysfunctional institutions and army string-pulling can't fix Pakistan's problems. As long as the generals decide who wins and how they govern, they will be the real victors."

— THE GUARDIAN

State is in the room

Uttarakhand UCC's provisions on live-in relationships could lead to moral policing and intrusions on privacy



SNEHA BANERJEE

THE UNIFORM CIVIL Code (UCC) of Uttarakhand, 2024, tabled in the state legislature, is the most recent example of an attempt to give legislative form to the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in Article 44 of the Constitution. It is debatable how state-wise UCCs contribute to the "endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India".

The debates on UCC have been complex, particularly with regard to considerations of modifications in the personal laws around marriage, divorce, inheritance and succession where the discussions have been mired in apprehensions of majoritarian politics.

Among other things, the proposed legislation is a pioneering attempt at regulating "live-in relationships". The Uttarakhand UCC, for both marriage and live-in relationships, does accommodate "customs or usage" that govern some people. However, it adds a far-reaching caveat that they should not be "against public policy and morality". The public policy framework that it lays down, holds alarming cues regarding violations of fundamental rights when "morality" is sought to be defined by governments. The debates on UCC have been complex, particularly with regard to considerations of modifications in the personal laws around marriage, divorce, inheritance and succession where the discussions have been mired in apprehensions of majoritarian politics.

Globally, alternatives to marriage have been legislated variously as "civil unions", arguably as a means of recognising same-sex relationships, even when such civil unions have been opted for by heterosexual couples. The chief guest of the recently concluded celebrations of the Republic Day came from one such jurisdiction. France has the provision for Pacte Civil de Solidarité (PACS) which is essentially a contract between two people to "organise their life" together; that the state then recognises. In contrast, the Uttarakhand UCC seems to make the state a stakeholder in the relationship by entrusting registrars with the task of "conducting summary inquiry" and "verifications" with the assistance of local police on the veracity of the "statements" that those in a live-in relationship are required to submit. The content of these "statements" does not include any delineation of commitments towards each other by the partners, but merely an intimation to the state, supplied jointly. To that effect, it is not far-fetched to see this as a surveillance tool and not a mode of legalising such relationships.

That there are openings in the law to think of coupledom beyond the institution of marriage, is a welcome interpretation. Yet, it falls short of a rights-based approach on several counts. Notwithstanding the use of "partners" with regard to such relationships, it clearly defines them as those between a man and a woman, foreclosing an opportunity for inclusiveness irrespective of sexual orientation. Coming on the heels of the Supreme Court verdict in *Supriyo vs Union of India* that decided against marriage equality, it is not a surprising legal stance. It is noteworthy that one of the contentions in that case was the separation of powers between the judiciary and the legislature, with assertions from the latter to have the opportunity to legislate. The Uttarakhand UCC is an instance that attests to the apprehensions of the petitioners that legislatures are often non-responsive to claims by those who are deemed a "minuscule minority".

Another aspect of the definition in the case of live-in relationships is to view them as "relationships in the nature of marriage". There is ample invocation of this category of relationships in case law with regard to bigamy, desertion, maintenance as well as domestic violence in India. In *S Khushboo vs Kanniammal* (2010) and the *Navtej Johar* (2018) cases, the Supreme Court also upheld that consensual sexual relationships between adults are not an offence, even when the Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita (2023) in section 84 retains the exception of adultery. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 includes "relationships in the nature of marriage" at par with those by consanguinity, marriage and being members of a joint family. This has been hailed as an instance of recognising the diverse ways in which intimate relationships are "lived".

It allows redressal routes for women in cases of violence even when there is no accor-

The writer is assistant professor,

Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad.

Views are personal



BIBEK DEBROY

Measuring vikas

How will we know that Bharat is viksit? There are metrics

THE EXPRESSION "VIKSIT Bharat" figured in the interim budget speech, as it does in other places too. There is always a problem in transcribing Sanskrit words into English, if diacritical marks or IAST (International Alphabet of Sanskrit Transliteration) aren't used. Which "sha" do we mean, "sha" or "sa"? "Vi" is just a qualifier, called *upasarga*. If we intend "sha", the associated verbal root is "to shine". "Viksit Bharat" is "India Shining", reminiscent of a slogan from a different era. If we intend "sa", the associated verbal root is "to move or go". "Vikasita" means bloomed, blossomed, opened, grown, developed. The National Development Council is Rashtriya Vikas Parishad. Hence, as is obvious to everyone, "Viksit Bharat" is to be understood in the sense of a developed India, an aspirational goal for 2047. This is the way it was articulated by the Prime Minister in his 77th Independence Day speech on August 15, 2023. "In every aspect of progress, when we move forward with the dream of a developed India by 2047, it's not just a dream but a resolve of 1.4 billion citizens... Friends, my dear family members, I have an unwavering belief that in 2047, when the country celebrates 100 years of independence, my country will be a developed India."

With that understood, what does the expression "developed" mean and what metric do we use to pin it down? Otherwise, like the parable of the blind men and the elephant, a parable used by Adi Shankaracharya in his

commentary on Chandogya Upanishad, we will be talking at cross purposes. That parable was probably made more famous by John Godfrey Saxe's poem. In that, the six learned men respectively compared an elephant to a wall, a spear, a snake, a tree, a fan and a rope. For "developed", we may not have six different criteria. But per capita GDP (income), level of industrialisation, importance of the service sector and HDI (human development index) are all plausible options. Despite developmental indicators often being correlated with one another, such differing criteria might not lead to the same identification. To quote a line from the Saxe poem, "Though each was partly in the right, and all were in the wrong!"

There was a time when the world economy was simpler and notions of development were relatively straightforward. The world was divided into developed countries as "haves", developing countries (under-developed countries) as "have-nots" and LDCs (least developed countries) as "never-haves". With more than 190 countries in the world, and economies that are diverse and heterogeneous, it is doubtful if anything is gained by fitting all these into three neat straitjackets. (Think of finer differences like land-locked and small island economies.) To borrow a word that originally comes from Scotland, this is plain "haveler".

At best, one can make an exception for LDCs because of special and differential treatment. That's the reason UNCTAD has a list of

45 LDCs, one used by WTO for those that are WTO members. This is a physical listing, without explaining details of variables that go into identification. The developed versus developing dichotomy is weaker. To quote UNCTAD, "All target economies are also categorised into developing or developed economies. This categorisation is based on a distinction between developing and developed regions that was commonly used in the past and is maintained by UNSD (United Nations Statistical Division) with the understanding that being part of either developed or developing region is through sovereign decision of a state. The developing economies broadly comprise Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia without Israel, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, and Oceania without Australia and New Zealand. The developed economies broadly comprise Northern America and Europe, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, and New Zealand." A sovereign decision by a state, of course, robs the definition of all objectivity and if the definition is geography-driven, as stated by UNCTAD, and given those areas, India can never be developed.

The notion of a "developed economy", as contrasted with a "developing economy", does not exist any longer. To quote the UN, other than UNCTAD, "There is no definition of developing and developed countries (or areas) within the UN system... Over time the use of the distinction between 'Developed

regions' and 'Developing regions', including in the flagship publications of the United Nations, has diminished." The World Bank no longer uses terms like "developed" and "developing". Instead, the categories are low-income, lower-middle income, upper-middle income and high income. Low income is for per capita income less than \$1,085, lower-middle income is for per capita income between \$1,086 and \$4,255, higher-middle income for per capita income between \$4,256 and \$13,205 and high income for per capita income more than \$13,205.

For cross-country comparisons, conversion to a common numeraire, like the US dollar, is required. Conversions of the rupee to a US dollar number can be done using the official exchange rate (the so-called Atlas method) or PPP (purchasing power parity) exchange rates. The World Bank's categories are based on official exchange rates. With official exchange rates, India is in the lower-middle income category now.

Thus, here are the options to pin down India in 2047. (1) HDI more than 0.800. (2) A movement to the high-income category in constant US dollars. (3) A movement to the high-income category in current (2047) US dollars. We usually intend (2) or (3) and understandably, (3) is easier (than (2)) to reach.

The writer is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A SYSTEM ISSUE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Law is not enough' (IE, February 7). The over-emphasis on objective type multiple choice questions in public examinations to select candidates has to be reconsidered, not just because this pattern is more prone to malpractices, but because this pattern has serious systematic flaws. Senior aspirants can grasp the pattern and better their chances of success. The basic skills or depth of a particular topic cannot be tested. The entire system of public examination in the country needs to be overhauled.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Law is not enough' (IE, February 7). Fairness and credibility are non-negotiable for any competitive examination. Unfair means in public exams have led to delays in the recruitment of government jobs, and piling up of vacancies in several departments. The PEB makes offences under the proposed law cognisable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable. Organised paper leaks would lead to harsher punishment. The draft legislation rightly puts the focus on them and seeks to protect candidates.

SS Paul, Nadia

IT'S ALL CONNECTED

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The dead ends of education' (IE, February 7). Recurring cases of suicide in centres of higher learning is worrying. It implies that administrative measures to prevent such tragedies seem inadequate. We cannot look at these incidents in isolation. Studies show that the caste system affects the psychological development of children leading them dropping out. The reported dropout of 13,000 SC, ST, and OBC students from IITs, IIMs, and central universities is disturbing.

LR Murmu, New Delhi

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

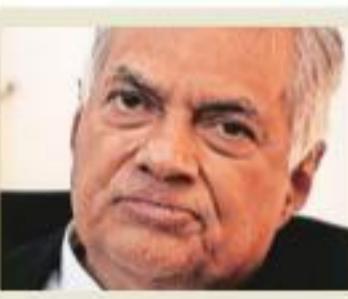
THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Payment blocked' (IE, February 6). RBI's actions against Paytm payment banks stemmed from "persistent non-compliances". Such lapses, including those related to KYC norms and cybersecurity, demand strong corrective action. However, we must consider the potential collateral damage. Paytm serves millions of users and merchants. Disrupting their financial relations could push them towards less accessible or user-friendly alternatives.

Kaninika Sarkar, Bengaluru

HELICOPTER CRASHED INTO LAKE
Ex-CHILE PRESIDENT DIES IN CHOPPER CRASH

Former Chilean President Sebastian Pinera died from asphyxiation due to submersion after the helicopter he was piloting crashed into a lake in southern Chile on Tuesday, the local prosecutor's office reported Wednesday. Chile's Legal Medical Service conducted an autopsy overnight on Pinera, who died at the age of 74, before his remains were sent to receive state honors in the capital.

TOP OF THE WORLD



President Ranil Wickremesinghe

SRI LANKA

Recovery signs: President paints positive growth

Colombo: Projecting a positive shift in the cash-strapped Sri Lankan economy, President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday said despite negative growth through the earlier year, the nation rebounded with a 1.6 per cent growth rate in the Q3 of 2023 and also achieved a surplus by end 2023, first since 1977. He was delivering the 'Statement of Government Policy' on the first day of the Fifth Session of the Ninth Parliament here. "Despite a 7.8 percent GDP contraction and six consecutive quarters of negative growth in 2022, the nation rebounded with a 1.6 per cent growth rate in the Q3 of 2023," he said. PTI

UNITED KINGDOM

Indian-origin waste plant boss gets hefty fine

London: The Indian-origin owner of a waste treatment plant in east London has been fined a hefty sum after she barred UK Environment Agency inspectors from entering the site unless they handed over thousands of pounds in bogus fees. Gurjot Athwal, director of Keep Green Ltd, has been fined GBP 3,000 with more than double that in costs and other court charges for twice refusing entry to officers from the Environment Agency. They wanted to follow up concerns about the amount of waste stored at the site on the banks of the river Thames since the last visual check six months before. AP

UNITED STATES

New AI safety Institute gets director

Washington: The Biden administration on Wednesday plans to name a top White House aide as the director of the newly established safety institute for artificial intelligence, according to an administration official who insisted on anonymity to discuss the position. Elizabeth Kelly will lead the AI Safety Institute at National Institute for Standards and Technology. AP

SWEDEN

Govt closes probe into pipeline blasts

Copenhagen : Swedish officials said Wednesday that they have decided to close their investigation into the September 2022 explosions on the Nord Stream gas pipelines, which were built to carry Russian natural gas to Germany, because they don't have jurisdiction. Sweden's investigation was only one of three into the explosions. Denmark and Germany are also examining the blasts. The attack, which happened as Europe attempted to wean itself off Russian energy sources following the Kremlin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, contributed to tensions that followed the start of the war. AP

SECURITY STEPPED UP; IRAN, AFGHAN BORDERS CLOSED UNTIL FRIDAY

Pakistan votes today; 30 killed, 40 injured in twin blasts in Balochistan

Imran urges supporters to wait at booths until results are out; Sharif tells voters 'don't fall for Khan'



Security officials examine the blast site at Khanzai in Pashin, a district of Pakistan's Balochistan province, on Wednesday. AP

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 7

AT LEAST 30 people were killed and more than 40 others injured on Wednesday in twin blasts targeting election offices in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, a day before the general elections in the coup-prone country.

In the first incident, a powerful blast outside the office of independent candidate Asfandyar Khan Kakar in Pishin district killed 20 people and wounded 30 others.

Less than an hour later, another blast took place outside the election office of Jamiat-Ulema Islam-Pakistan in the Killa Abdullah area claiming the lives of 10 people and injuring 22 others.

ers, officials said. No group or individual claimed responsibility for the twin blasts.

Pakistan's foreign office said in a statement its western border crossings with Iran and Afghanistan would close and reopen on Friday to ensure security during the election.

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan, in a message from jail, earlier urged his supporters to wait outside polling booths after casting their votes, as rival political parties held large rallies to mark the end of the election campaign period. "Encourage the maximum number of people to vote, wait at the polling station ... and then stay peacefully outside the Returning Officer's office until the final results are announced," said Khan on X. Electoral frontrunner

Nawaz Sharif led a huge rally in the eastern city of Kasur with his brother, former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is running in that constituency. "Don't fall for him (Imran)," Sharif said.

Pakistan's former premier Shehbaz Sharif said that his elder brother Nawaz Sharif would become prime minister if his party gets majority in the parliamentary elections but in case of a split mandate, the decision about a new leader would be taken after talks with coalition partners.

Meanwhile, Pakistan dismissed UN human rights body concerns about violence and the right to fundamental democratic freedom ahead of general elections, saying the government has finalised the security plans according to its electoral laws.

String of attacks on Indian students in US continues, yet another found dead

YOSHITA SINGH

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 7



Sameer Kamath was a doctoral candidate at Purdue

in Chicago said on X that the "Consulate is in touch with Syed Mazahir Ali and his wife in India Syeda Ruqiyah Fatima Razvi and assured all possible assistance." Ali's wife Ruqiyah Fatima reached out to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, requesting assistance to travel to the US along with three minor children.

Last week, 19-year-old Shreyas Reddy Beniger, a student at the Lindner School of Business in Ohio, was found dead. Authorities have ruled out foul play.

Another Indian student, identified as Neel Acharya at Purdue University, Indiana, was confirmed dead days after being reported missing on January 28.

The incident comes just days after 25-year-old Indian student Vivek Saini, was hammered to death by a homeless drug addict in Georgia state on January 16.

Akul B Dhawan, an 18-year-old at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, was found dead last month with signs of hypothermia.

The Consulate General of India

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The Consulate General of India

secure all of Nevada's delegates in a separate caucus vote on Thursday, as he moves closer to clinching the nomination after back-to-back wins in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Tuesday's primary carried no weight in the Republican presidential nominating contest.

Haley is not on the ballot in Thursday's caucus.

"A bad night for Nikki Haley," he posted on his Truth Social plat-

form. "Losing by almost 30 points in Nevada to 'None of These Candidates.' Watch, she'll soon claim Victory!"

Biden wins

US President Joe Biden easily won Nevada's Democratic primary after dominating his party's first

nominating contest in South Carolina on Saturday. With more

than 70% of votes counted, Biden had 90% support. Biden faces little opposition in his party to running for re-election in a likely rematch with Trump in November.

Both Moscow and Pyongyang



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

PROVISION STOPS EMPLOYEES FROM WORKING UNPAID OVERTIME THROUGH 'RIGHT TO DISCONNECT'

Soon, workers in Australia can ignore after-job calls from bosses

PRAVEEN MENON

SYDNEY, FEBRUARY 7

AUSTRALIA WILL introduce laws giving workers the right to ignore unreasonable calls and messages from their bosses outside of work hours without penalty, with potential fines for employers that breach the rule.

The "right to disconnect" is part of a raft of changes to industrial relations laws proposed by the federal government under a parliamentary Bill, which it says will protect workers' rights and help restore work-life bal-

ance. Similar laws giving employees a right to switch off their devices are already in place in France, Spain and other countries in the European Union.

A majority of senators have now declared support for the legislation, Employment Minister Tony Burke from the ruling centre-left Labor party said in a statement on Wednesday.

The provision stops employees from working unpaid overtime through a right to disconnect from unreasonable contact out of hours, Burke said.

"What we are simply saying



A man walks in Sydney's central business district. Reuters file

What we are simply saying is that someone who isn't being paid 24 hours a day shouldn't be penalised if they're not online and available 24 hours a day

— ANTHONY ALBANESE

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER

is that someone who isn't being paid 24 hours a day shouldn't be penalised if they're not online and available 24 hours a day," Prime Minister Anthony

Albanese told reporters earlier on Wednesday.

The bill is expected to be introduced in parliament later this week. The bill also includes other provisions like a clearer pathway from temporary to permanent work and minimum standards for temporary workers and truck drivers.

Some politicians, employer groups and corporate leaders warned the right to disconnect provision was an overreach and would undermine the move towards flexible working and impact competitiveness.

The left-wing Greens, which

supports the rule and was the first to propose it last year, said it was a big win for the party. A deal had been reached between Labor, smaller parties and independents to support this bill, Greens leader Adam Bandt said on Twitter.

"Australians work an average of six weeks unpaid overtime each year," Bandt said.

That equated to more than A\$9 billion (\$60.13 billion) in unpaid wages across the economy, he added.

"That time is yours. Not your boss," Bandt said.

REUTERS



A woman with her child near a tent camp at Rafah. Reuters

Netanyahu rejects Hamas truce offer: 'Total victory in Gaza within reach'

Hamas proposed 135-day truce with release of hostages, Israeli withdrawal

REUTERS

DOHA, FEBRUARY 7

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday total victory in Gaza was within reach, rejecting the latest offer from Hamas for a ceasefire to ensure the return of hostages still held in the besieged enclave.

Netanyahu renewed a pledge to destroy the Palestinian Islamist movement, saying there was no alternative for Israel but bringing about the collapse of Hamas.

"The day after is the day after Hamas. All of Hamas," he told a press conference, insisting that total victory against Hamas was the only solution to the Gaza war. Hamas had proposed a Gaza ceasefire of four-and-a-half months, during which all hostages would go free, Israel would withdraw its troops from the Gaza Strip and an agreement would be reached on an end to the war. The Hamas offer is a response to an earlier proposal drawn up by US and Israeli spy chiefs and delivered to Hamas last week by Qatari and Egyptian mediators.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the offer with Netanyahu after arriving in Israel following talks with the leaders of Qatar and Egypt, the countries that have acted as mediators. Blinken later met Palestinian

AID BILL FOR ISRAEL FAILS IN U.S. HOUSE

Washington: A Bill to provide Israel with more military aid went down to defeat Tuesday in the House, spoiling Speaker Mike Johnson's attempt to separate Israel from other national security priorities, including helping Ukraine defend itself from Russia's military invasion and deterring crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border. The vote gave individual lawmakers another chance to show voters their support for Israel and could be used on the campaign trail to criticize those who voted against it. But it did little to generate momentum toward passage of a final emergency spending package.

President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah.

Israel began its military offensive after militants from Hamas-ruled Gaza killed 1,200 people and took 253 hostages in southern Israel on Oct. 7. Gaza's health ministry says at least 27,585 Palestinians have been confirmed killed, with thousands more feared buried under rubble. There has been only one truce so far, lasting just a week at the end of November.

US, Russia trade barbs at UN over N Korea, Patriot missile strikes

REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, FEB 7

THE UNITED States accused Russia on Tuesday of firing at least nine North Korean-supplied missiles at Ukraine, while Moscow labeled Washington a "direct accomplice" in the downing of a Russian military transport plane "using US-made Patriot missile" last month.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia and deputy US Ambassador to the UN Robert Wood traded the accusations at a UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine, requested by Moscow.

"To date, Russia has launched DPRK-supplied ballistic missiles against Ukraine on at least nine occasions," Wood told the 15-member Security Council.

"Russia and North Korea must be held accountable," he said.

Both Moscow and Pyongyang

AID COLLAPSES DESPITE BIDEN PLEA

Washington: A Senate deal on border enforcement measures and Ukraine aid suffered a swift and total collapse Tuesday as Republicans withdrew support despite President Joe Biden urging Congress to "show some spine" and stand up to Donald Trump. Just minutes after Biden remarks at the White House, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell emerged from a GOP luncheon and said the deal was dead.

have denied the US charges. Russia has stepped up ties with North Korea and other countries hostile to the US since the start of the war with Ukraine.

Some politicians, employer groups and corporate leaders warned the right to disconnect provision was an overreach and would undermine the move towards flexible working and impact competitiveness.

"That time is yours. Not your boss," Bandt said.

REUTERS

Himachal Pradesh

Jal Shakti Vibhag

NOTICE INVITING E-PROCUREMENT BID

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Bharmour, on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites the online item rate Contract bids on turnkey basis from the eligible Bidders of Indian entity through online bidding system on or before 15.02. 2024 at 1200 Hrs IST (GMT + 5:30 Hrs) on the site <http://hptenders.gov.in>

Sr. No	Description	Estimated Cost	Bid security	Time	Cost of Bid
1	Augmentation of existing water supply schemes with antifreeze technology for freezing prone areas of G.P. Kugti and Poolan in Tehsil- Bharmour Distt-Chamba H.P.(Kugti)	4,41,67,152/-	4,74,172/-	12 months (One Year)	Rupees 2500/-

1. Bid documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <http://hptenders.gov.in> by the Bidders registered on the website which is free of cost.

2. Accordingly, the bidder/firm must make all necessary provisions for required qualified resource personnel, their time and other costs, and appropriate engineering/technical considerations in re-survey, design, construction, erection, execution, commissioning process and trial & testing run for the project; including necessary documentation and inspections.

3. Competitive Bidding for bidders shall be conducted in accordance with "Two Stage Two Envelope" Bidding Procedure. Eligibility information, Technical Bid and Financial bid should be uploaded online as per procurement method. The bids shall be submitted online electronically only.

4. **Bid evaluation criteria:** -Eligible Technically Qualified lowest evaluated bidder(L1) shall be considered as a successful bidder. However, the acceptance of the proposal shall rest with the EMPLOYER who does not bind itself to accept the lowest proposal and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the proposals received without assigning any reason.

5. As the bids are to be submitted online, they are required to be encrypted and digitally signed. The bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.

5 KEY DATES SHALL BE AS UNDER:-

A Date of Online publication	06.02.2024 at GMT+(3:30 PM)
B Downloading of e-bid Documents	From 06.02.2024 at(GMT + 3:30 Hrs) To 15.02.2024 at 17:00 Hrs IST (GMT + 5:00Hrs).
C Date of submission of e-bid	From 06.02.2024 at (GMT + 3:30 Hrs) To 15.02.2024 at 17:00 Hrs IST (GMT + 5:00 Hrs).
D Physical Submission of Original Bid Security (in case offline deposit of Bid security)	Upto 11:30 Hrs IST (GMT + 5:00 Hrs) on 15.02.2024.
E Date of opening of bids:-	
1) Cover-1:- Eligibility Criteria and Technical bid	On 16.02.2024 at 11:30 Hrs IST (GMT + 5:30 Hrs)
2) Cover-2:- Financial Bid	Shall be intimated separately
F Site Visit	Between 11:00 Hrs IST (GMT + 5:30 Hrs) dated 06.02.2024 to 1700 Hrs IST (GMT + 5:00 Hrs) dated 10.02.2024 alongwith the Assistant Engineer/concerned Junior Engineer, Jal Shakti Sub-Division Bharmour.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. The e-bid documents shall be uploaded online in 2 (two) covers:-

Stage-I

(a) Cover -1 shall contain scanned copies of "Eligibility information" and "Technical Bid".

Stage-II

(b) Cover-2 shall contain "Financial bid" on the prescribed form.

(c) Cover-1 shall contain scanned legible copies of following "Eligibility Information". (Scanned legible copies to be uploaded in pdf file): -

(i) The Bid security in favor of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Bharmour, shall be submitted through online mode(e-payment) or offline mode in the form of NSC/Time deposit receipt/Demand draft of any Nationalized bank duly pledged in favor of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Bharmour.

Exemption of Bid security shall not be allowed.

(ii) The cost of bid form as shown above shall be submitted by online mode (e-payment) or through offline mode in the Shape of demand in favor of "Executive Engineer" Jal Shakti Division, Bharmour. Exemption of cost of bid form shall not be allowed.

(iii) Copy of Certificate of registration with Jal Shakti Vibhag or any other State/Central Govt. department or Govt. Undertakings in appropriate class. In case the successful bidder is not registered with HP Jal Shakti Vibhag then successful bidder should get himself registered in appropriate class with HP Jal Shakti Vibhag before the award of work.

(iv) Copy of Certificate of EPF registration. If not registered, then the successful bidder should get registered within one month after acceptance of the bid by the Employer.

(v) Annual Turnover of last three years.

(vi) Bid Form as per Chapter-IV of PWD Form-12, duly accepted.

(vii) Pre-qualification criteria proof:-

(a) A bidder/firm shall be considered pre-qualified for the work if he has:-

(a) **Financial Qualification:-** Bidder must have achieved minimum average annual financial turnover from contract receipt of works(in all classes of civil engineering construction works only) of 30% of estimated cost in the last three (3) financial years.e.from year 2019-2020 to year 2022-2023.

(b) **Similar Nature of Work:-** Bidder must have Experience of having completed similar work during last Seven years ending last day of month previous to the one in which applications are invited, of either of the following values.

Three similar completed works costing not less than 40% of the estimated cost.

Or

Two similar completed works each costing not less than 50% of the estimated cost.

Or

One similar completed work costing not less than amount equal to 80% of estimated cost.

Definition of Similar work shall be as under:-

Similar work means "WaterRelated Project" comprising of water retaining structure, piping work/ water conveyancesystem and Pumping Machinery.

A certificate to this effect from the Engineer-in-Charge not below the rank of Executive Engineer of a State/ Semi Govt. Deptt. /Central Govt. Dept. or Govt Undertaking of India is mandatorily required. The bidder shall upload the award letter or related agreement to collaborate the experience certificate submitted.

c) The value of executed work shall be brought to current costing level by enhancing the actual value of work at simple rate of interest 7% per annum, calculated from the date of completion to previous day of the last date of submission of tender.

NOTE:- Completed work means either completed or completed to the extent of minimum 90 % of award amount(including unpaid amount on account of paucity of funds).

(d) **Joint venture is not allowed.** However the firm / bidder shall be free to engage any number of specialist firms (for execution of specialized components of the project).

(e) **Bid capacity = (A * N * M - B)**

where :-

A = Maximum value of civil engineering works executed in any one year during the last 5 years (updated to the price level of the financial year in which bids are received at simple rate of 7 percent a year) taking into account the completed as well as works in progress.

N = Number of years prescribed for completion of the works for which bids are invited (period up to 6 months to be taken as half-year and more than 6 months as one year).

M = 1.5

B = Value, at the current price level, of existing commitments and ongoing works to be completed during the period of completion of the works for which bids are invited.

Note:- 1. The bidder shall submit statement showing the values of existing commitments and ongoing works and as well as the stipulated period of completion remaining for each of the works listed should be countersigned by the Engineer-in-Charge, not below the rank of an Executive Engineer or equivalent or shall be submitted in a shape of affidavit.

2. The bidder shall calculate and online submit his Bid Capacity as given in above of Pre qualification documents. The financial offer of the bidder shall not be opened, whose bid capacity is exhausted or is lower than the probable amount of contract given in the NIT.

(f) The bidder shall submit a list of works which are in progress or in hand on the Performa asbelow:-

Sr. No.	Name & Particulars of Division where worksare being executed.	Amount of work	Position of works in progress	Remarks
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(g) The work done certificate regarding the similar works as per PWD-6 from the Engineer-in- Charge not below the rank of Executive Engineer of a State/Semi Govt. Deptt. /Central Govt. Dept. or Govt. undertaking, of India is mandatorily required. The bidder shall upload the award letter or related agreement to collaborate the experience certificate submitted.

(h) Copy of PAN (Permanent Account No.)& GST registration.

(i) Work done, Experience Certificates as per Pre-qualification criteria.

(j) The authorization letter regarding digital signature certificate (DSC) of the person authorized by the registered bidder to upload the bid, be uploaded along with the other documents online.

(k) A scanned copy of undertaking (as per Chapter IV of Form - 12) that I have carefully studied all the terms and conditions stipulated in the contract document before quoting the rates.

2. (B) (ii) **Cover-1 shall contain "Technical bid"** which shall be opened along with Eligibility Information"Cover-1" and Cover 01 (Part-II) shall contain the following:-

a) The contractor / firm must upload calculations and size of various components of WTP along with their fitment on the uploaded document plan of site.

b) The technical bid should contain make and model of energy efficient pumping machinery along with pump characteristic curves indicating thereon HP required for head at duty point, +10 % and - 15 % range of total head for required discharge.

c) The Bids needs to satisfy technical requirements shall be summarily rejected.

3. **Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid"** which shall be opened at a later date to be notified separately & shall be opened only of those Bidders/Firms whose documents as per the eligibility Information and technical bid "Cover-1" will be found in order. The Financial Bids shall contain only Financial Bid/Offer on departmental Schedule of quantity/BOQ where bidder/firms shall quote his/their offer for each item. The Non BOQ Items shall be paid as per Clause 59 of the PWD Form-12 and GCC & SCC.

4. Rates quoted must be in INR(Indian Rupee) and shall be inclusive of all taxes applicable at the time of opening of the bids.

5. The bidder shall not be permitted to bid for the work in the HPJAL SHAKTI Circle (responsible for award and execution of the contract) in which his near relative is posted as Divisional Accountant or as an officer in any capacity between the grades of Superintending Engineer & Junior Engineer (both Inclusive). He shall also intimate the name of the persons who are working with him in any capacity or are subsequently employed by him who are near relative to any gazetted officer in the JEV department. Any breach of this condition by the bidder would render him liable to be removed from the approved list of bidders of this department.

6. Bid security of L1, L2 and L3 shall be retained till the finalization of the offer of the lowest bidder or 180 days, whichever is earlier.

7. No subletting of work as a whole by the bidder is permissible, however the bidder may sub-contract the specialized components of the work e.g., Designs& Drawings, Pumping Machinery, Automation but not more than 25% of the total contract amount.

8. In case, opening day is a holiday, the bids shall be opened on next working day at the same time.

9. The validity of the bid shall be kept open for 120 daysfrom the date of opening financial bid. The validity of the bid can be extended by mutual consent in writing.

10. Ambiguous/geographic/Conditional bids or bids by Fax/E-mail shall not be entertained/considered in any case.

11. Conditional bids are liable to be rejected without assigning any reasons.

12. The Executive Engineer, reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the bids without assigning any reason(s).

13. Any enquiry regarding bids can be obtained on e-mail of the divisional officer under the e-mail address ejsvbharour@gmail.com

14. Rates should be quoted both in figures as well as in words in Indian Rupee(INR)

15. Quoted rates shall be inclusive of all taxes (including GST).

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

यूनियन बैंक
Union Bank
of India
www.unionbankofindia.co.in

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.

Branch Name	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
Singhlaghat Branch	1. Mr. Ranjeet Kumar Singh (Borrower) S/o - Rajeshwar Prasad Singh, 2. Mr. Rajeshwar Rai (Co-Borrower/Guarantor) S/o Mr. Ramudgar Rai both (1 & 2) At-Ward No. 05, Nathudwar Khanpur, Samastipur bearing Land details as under: Thana No. 229, Khata No. 15(O) 506(N), Khesra No.-2685(O)M	Land and building in the name of Sri Rajeshwar Rai S/o Sri Ramudgar Rai situated at Nathudwar, Khanpur, Samastipur bearing Land details as under: Thana No. 229, Khata No. 15(O) 506(N), Khesra No.-2685(O)M	1. Rs. 13,96,646.19/- 2. 04-11-2023 3. 03.02.2024

Place : Samastipur
Date : 07.02.2024

Authorised officer
Union bank of India



PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Request For Proposal (RFP) for Selection of a Private Agency for Fabrication and Supply of One Number 70-meter Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) with 5 years Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for PCMC, Pune-18

TENDER NO. 24 / 2023-24

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) invites Request for Proposal from prospective Applicant for Fabrication and Supply of One Number 70-meter Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) with 5 years Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC).

The Successful Applicant for the project will be selected based on the "Lowest Cost Selection" (LCS) for undertaking the project.

More details about the bid submission procedure, Applicant experience and the selection methodology are available in the Request for Proposal (RFP) document. Interested Applicants are requested to download the RFP document published on www.mahatenders.gov.in from 09-02-2024



राजस्त्री सं. ई. एल.-33004/99



भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

सी.जी.—डी.एल.—आ.—०१०२०२०२४—२५१७०३
CG-DL-E-01022024-251703

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

मागा II - खण्ड 3 - उप-खण्ड (ii)

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

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 373] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, जनवरी 31, 2024 / माघ 11, 1945
No. 373] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024/MAGHA 11, 1945

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(RAILWAY BOARD)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 31st January, 2024

S.O 397(E)—WHEREAS by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), number S.O.4341 (E), dated the 25th September, 2023 published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), dated the 4th October, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as the said notification) and issued under sub-section (1) of section 20A of the Railways Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act) the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for the purpose of execution of Special Railway Project, namely, Western Dedicated Freight Corridor in the District of Nuh in the State of Haryana;

AND WHEREAS, the substance of the said notification was published in daily newspapers namely "Indian Express" and "Dainik Jagran", dated the 10th October, 2023 under sub-section (4) of section 20A of the said Act;

AND WHEREAS, five objections were received from the public in respect of the said notification within the specified period and the same have been considered and disposed of by the competent authority;

AND WHEREAS, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 20E of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1), and in pursuance of subsection (2) of section 20E of the said Act, the Central Government,-

- (i) upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority, hereby declares that the lands specified in the Schedule annexed hereto shall be acquired for the aforesaid purpose; and
- (ii) hereby declares that on publication of this notification, the lands specified in the Schedule annexed hereto shall vest absolutely upon it free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired with or without structure for the Special Railway Project, namely, "Western Dedicated Freight Corridor" in the district of Nuh in the State of Haryana.

DISTRICT: Nuh

Sl. No.	Name of Village	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Survey Number	Area (in SQM)	Name and Share of Land owners
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Kharkhari	Personal	Agriculture	21//7/3	50.575	Fazruddin-Mahboob sons Nazir son of Shri Umed each two equal parts of 1/3 part, Nazar Mohammad son of Shri Majid 1/3 part Rajmal son of Shri Umed son of Allabaksh 1/3 part.
		Personal	Agriculture	21//7/2/2	202.3	Gram Panchayat Deh.
2	Dhulawat	Personal	Agriculture	25//18/1/2	50.575	Alijan - Abdul Razak sons Yusuf son of Shri Kanwal Khan each two equal parts of 2/3 part Naushad Roshan Bahadur Azrardin sons Ahmed Jan son of Shri Yusuf each four equal parts of 1/3 part.
		Non Personal	Non Agriculture	R-64	25.2875	Gram Panchayat Deh.
		Personal	Agriculture	25//18/2/2	151.725	Ameer-Yusuf - Isa son of Shri Nathu son of Med Khan each three equal parts of 3/4 Part, Ranjit Khan Umar Mohammad - Zubair Javed Son of Ameer Khan Son of Nabueach four equal part of 1/4 Part.
		Personal	Agriculture	25//19/1	151.725	Ameer - Yusuf - Isa Sons of Mr. Nathu son of Med Khan each three equal parts 3/4 part Ranjeet Khan - Umar Mohd - Juber - Javed Sons of Ameer Khan son of Nabu each four equal part of 1/4 part.
		Personal	Agriculture	24//2/3/2	25.2875	Kamruddin Son Shri. Sardar Khan son of Safed Khan Vasideh.
		Personal	Agriculture	24//3/2/2	404.6	Aleem son of Asau urf Asa Mohd son of Sh. Paltu 1/21 part Maksud son of Banbu son of Mojum 13/480 Part Sahooon - Mahoon - Kalu-Aazam-Hamid-Yusuf sons Shri. Fattu urf Fate Mohd son of Sh. Paltu each six equal parts 13/480 part . Sahabu - Fareed - Umased - Jamshed- Rafeek - Shokeen Sons of Shri. Asau urf Ash mohd son of Paltu each six equal part 13/560 part.
		Personal	Agriculture	24//3/1/2	50.575	Majji - Umardeen - Nisar- Arabdeen Sons of Shri. Habeeb son of sh. Mahtab each four equal part 4/15 Part, Sattar - Mubeen Sons of Sh. Fate Mohd son of Sh. Mahtab each two equal part of 1/3 part , Ayub son Mahtab son of Kaher Singh 1/3 part, Juber - Ajadi - Arsed Sons of Sh. Hamida son of Sh. Habeeb urf Habbi each three equal part 1/15 part.
		Non Personal	Non Agriculture	R-490	25.2875	Gram Panchayat Deh.
		Personal	Agriculture	24//4/1/2	101.15	Sipten Khan - Gul Mohd - Ata Mohd - Ravi Mohd - Mumtaj Ali- Angej Khan- Aadil Khan Sons of Sh. Ismail son of Sh. Firoj Khan each seven equal part Vasideh.
		Personal	Agriculture	24//4/2/2	328.7375	Sipten Khan - Gul Mohd - Ata Mohd - Ravi Mohd - Mumtaj Ali- Angej Khan- Aadil Khan Sons of Sh. Ismail son of Sh. Firoj Khan each seven equal part Vasideh.
		Personal	Agriculture	24//5/2	227.5875	Sipten Khan - Gul Mohd - Ata Mohd - Ravi Mohd - Mumtaj Ali- Angej Khan- Aadil Khan Sons of Sh. Ismail son of Sh. Firoj Khan each seven equal part Vasideh.
		Personal	Agriculture	24//6/2	328.7375	Asraf Son of Sh. Jabar Khan 1/3 part, Dilawar son of Sh. Jabar Khan son of Sh. Sulhad 1/3 part Vali Mohd - Sher Mohd - Ratti Mohd Sons of Sh. Sakrulla son of Jabar Khan each three equal part 1/3 part Vasideh.
		Personal	Agriculture	23//10/2	455.175	Asraf Son of Sh. Jabar Khan 1/3 part, Dilawar son of Sh. Jabar Khan son of Sh. Sulhad 1/3 part Vali Mohd - Sher Mohd - Ratti Mohd Sons of Sh. Sakrulla son of Jabar Khan each three equal part 1/3 part Vasideh.
		Personal	Agriculture	23//9/2	379.3125	Ramjan Son of Sh. Biland Khan son of Sh. Hussain Khan 141/380 part, Ikbal son of Sh. Biland Khan son of Sh. Hussain Khan 141/380 part, Nisar son of Sh. Biland Khan son of Hussain Khan 49/190 part Vasideh.
		Personal	Agriculture	17//16/1	480.4625	Ms.Sunita Rani W/o Sh. Risi kumar son of Sh. Om Parkash 1/2 part , Anjana Rani W/o of Sh. Parveen Kuamr son of Sh. Om Parkash 1/2 Part Vasideh.
		Non Personal	Non Agriculture	N-54	278.1625	Gram Panchayat Deh.
		Personal	Agriculture	18//20/1/2	1416.1	Sahabuddin - Nijamuddin sons of Sh. Najeer son of Rammal each two equal part 5/6 part, Hakimuddin son of Najeer son of Rammal 1/6 part Vasideh.
		Personal	Agriculture	18//19/3/2	708.05	Suleman son fo Sh. Najeer son of Bhoore Khan 1/3 part Rati Khan - Atar Khan - Mohd Safi - Sohrab - Mihrab sons of Baseri son of Bhoore each five equal part 1/3 part , Mubarik - Monih - Mohd Aabid sons of Sh. Noor Mohd urf Noor Ahmed each three equal 1/3 part.
		Personal	Agriculture	18//19/2/2	303.45	Chugatram son of Sh. Lekhram rahin Ayyub - Fate Mohd - Mahmood Sons Esab sons of Mahtab each three equal part 4/5 part, Jamshed - Mustafa sons of Eliyas son of Esab each two equal part 1/5 part Vasideh Murtahann Khanakast Hakmuddin - Shahabuddin- Nijamuddin sons of Najeer son of Sh. Rammal each three equal part vasideh Gair Morusian.
		Personal	Agriculture	18//19/1/2	126.4375	Hakmuddin-Shabuddin-Nijamuddin sons of Najeer son of Rammal each three equal part Vasideh.
		Personal	Agriculture	18//21/1/2	354.025	Asraf Son of Sh. Jabar Khan 1/3 part, Dilawar son of Sh. Jabar Khan son of Sh. Sulhad 1/3 part Vali Mohd - Sher Mohd-Ratti Mohd Sons of Sh. Sakrulla son of Jabar Khan each three equal part 1/3 part Vasideh.
		Personal	Agriculture	18//22/1/2	50.575	Tak chand - Ram Chand sons of Peerumal each two equal part Vasideh.
		Personal	Agriculture	18//22/2/2	606.9	Ibrahim son of Sh. Rasula son of Ruda Vasideh.
		Personal	Agriculture	18//19/1/2	303.45	Takchand - Ramchand Sons of Ramjilal son of Sh. Pokhadas each two equal part vasi kherla Khanakast Takchand etc partners val Hakmuddin-

Sl. No.	Name of Village	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Survey Number	Area (in SQM)	Name and Share of Land owners	Sl. No.	Name of Village	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Survey Number	Area (in SQM)	Name and Share of Land owners
		Personal	Agriculture	18//23/1/2	1036.7875	Shahabuddin - Nijamuddin sons of Najeer each three equal part 1/3 part Mustriyan Chhaju son of Rahman son of Rammal 1/3 part mustri Ali Mohd - Noor Mohd - Jamshed - Arsed sons of Khasam son of Shaadi each four equal part 1/6 part mustriyan Ranjeet son of Shaadi son of Rammal 1/6 part Vasideh mustri.			Personal	Agriculture	101//21	177.0125	Amilal, Tekchand son of Prabhatal son of Savalya two equal part of 2/3 part, Ajay Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Pankaj sons and Mrs. Shimla daughter and Mrs. Sheela widow of Rajendra son of Prabhatal each six equal parts of 1/3 part.
		Personal	Agriculture	18//23/2/2	606.9	Ali Mohd - Noor Mohd - Jamshed - Arsed sons of Sh. Shaadi each four equal part 1/12 part, Chhaju son of Rahman son of Rammal 1/6 part, Ranjeet son of Sh. Shaadi 1/12 part, Kamlu - Nabil - Ibrahim - alimohd - Sons of Sikander son of Niwaj khan each four equal part rahan part 1/2 part , Alimohd - Noor Mohd - Jamshed - Arsed sons of Sh. Kasam each four equal part 1/12 part, Chhaju son of Sh. Rahman son of Sh. Rammal 1/6 part, Ranjeet son of Sh. Shaadi 1/12 part murtahann Hakmuddin - Shahabuddin- Nijamuddin sons of Sh. Najeer son of Rammal each three equal part 1/6 part.			Personal	Agriculture	103//1/1	303.45	Khushid Ahmed son of Kabir Ahmed.
		Personal	Agriculture	18//24/2	834.4875	Ayyub - Fate Mohd - Ali Mohd - Arsed sons of Sh. Shaadi each four equal part 4/5 part Jamshed - Mustak sons of Sh. Eliyas mohd son of Sh. Esab each two equal part 1/5 part.			Personal	Agriculture	103//2/2	75.8625	Khushid Ahmed son of Kabir Ahmed.
		Personal	Agriculture	23//3/2/1	50.575	Ali Mohd - Noor Mohd - Jamshed - Arsed sons of Sh. Kasam son of Sh. Shaadi each four equal part 1/12 part, Chhaju son of Rahman son of Rammal 1/6 part, Ranjeet son of Sh. Shaadi 1/12 part murtahann Hakmuddin - Shahabuddin- Nijamuddin sons of Sh. Najeer son of Rammal each three equal part 1/6 part.			Non Personal	Non Agriculture	R-1003/1	25.2875	Gram Panchayat Deh.
		Personal	Agriculture	23//4/1/1	758.625	Ayyub - Fate Mohd - Ali Mohd - Arsed sons of Sh. Shaadi each four equal part 4/5 part Jamshed - Mustak sons of Sh. Eliyas mohd son of Sh. Esab each two equal part 1/5 part.			Personal	Agriculture	103//3/2/1	480.4625	Shadi Khan son of Katula son of Chandmal 2/5 part, Sameer Khan son of Sarupa son Shakur Khan 1/2 part, Amilal, Tekchand sons of Prabhatal son of Savalya each two equal parts of 1/15 part, Ajay Kumar, Tilakra, Vinod Kumar, Pankaj sons and Mrs. Shimla daughter and Mrs. Sheela widow of Rajendra son of Prabhatal every six equal parts of 1/30 part.
		Personal	Agriculture	18//25/2	75.8625	Liyakat-Ali Mohd-Mubin-Sabir each four equal part 1/6 part, Ballu - Aasuu sons of Naseeb Khan each two equal part 1/3 part, Jumma son of Sh. Ajeeb Khan son of Mangal 1/4 part, Parvez - Rukmuddin - Munsareef - Sahid - Rasid sons of Sh. Yakoob son of Sh. Rammal each five equal part 1/4 part.			Personal	Agriculture	103//4/1	25.2875	Shadi Khan son of Nijar Khan son of Shadi Khan son of Chandmal 13/20 part.
		Personal	Agriculture	23//5/2/1	354.025	Liyakat-Ali mohd-Mubin-Sabir each four equal part 1/6 part, Ballu - Aasuu sons of Naseeb Khan each two equal part 1/3 part, Jumma son of Sh. Ajeeb Khan son of Mangal 1/4 part, Parvez - Rukmuddin - Munsareef - Sahid - Rasid sons of Sh. Yakoob son of Sh. Rammal each five equal part 1/4 part.			Personal	Agriculture	103//13/1/2	159.1125	Attab Ahmed, Mahtab Ahmed, Anjum Ahmed son and Khushid (husband) of Firdosh, Bangam son of Khurshid Ahmed son of Kabir Ahmed each four equal part.
		Personal	Agriculture	22//1/1/2	404.6	Asraf Son of Sh. Jabar Khan 1/3 part, Dilawar son of Sh. Jabar Khan son of Sh. Sulhad 1/3 part Vali mohd - Sher Mohd-Ratti Mohd Sons of Sh. Sakrulla son of Jabar Khan each three equal part 1/3 part Vasideh.			Personal	Agriculture	103//13/2/1	101.15	Attab Ahmed, Mahtab Ahmed, Anjum Ahmed sons of Khushid Ahmed & Khushid Ahmed S/o Kabir Ahmad each four equal part.
		Personal	Agriculture	22//2/1/2	885.06								

Cont. from previous page

Sl. No.	Name of Village	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Survey Number	Area (in SQM)	Name and Share of Land owners
						Ahmed every three equal parts of 1/30 part Ghaffar son of Yakub S/o Sardar 1/10 share Hakmudin, Sahmuddin, Arsal S/o Hamida S/o Rasul Khan Every three equal parts of 1/6 part.
Personal	Agriculture	117//5/1/1	126.4375			Nawabdeen, Zafuruddin sons Chaw Khan son of Hayat each two equal parts of 1/2 part. Sumardin, Zakir sons Samay Singh son of Dalpat each two equal parts of 1/2 part.
Personal	Agriculture	117//5/2/1	126.4375			Sarajuddin, Nisar Ali, Salim, Abdul Aziz, Haider Ali, Nausad sons Feth Mohammad son of Bashir Ahmed each six equal parts 1/2 part Mrs. Arseeda wife of Saddam son of Aslam Mohammad 1/2 part.
Personal	Agriculture	116//10/2	25.2875			Ilyas, Asmohammad, Deen Mohammad sons of Hamida son of Khawazbaks each three equal parts.
Personal	Agriculture	116//10/1/2	25.2875			Ilyas, Asmohammad, Deen Mohammad sons of Hamida son of Khawazbaks each three equal parts.
Personal	Agriculture	116//9/2	101.15			Nabbu, Aye Kha, Ayub, Mormal sons Sardar son of Pribax each four equal parts of 1/2 part. Subdeen, Sharif Kha, Shamsuddin sons Suleman son of Pribax each three equal parts of 3/10 part. Sahabuddin, Tahir, Rahil, Sabir, Qain sons Sube Kha son of Suleman each five equal parts of 1/10 part. Mujeed Khan, Islam, Sahajad sons Atar Khan son of Sulaiman each three equal parts of 1/10 part.
Personal	Agriculture	116//12/1/1	25.2875			Dinu, Sahan son Banesh two equal part of 2/3rd part, Mrs. Rabina wife Ilyas son Imrat 1/3rd part.
Personal	Agriculture	116//12/2/2	75.8625			Ilyas, Asmohammad, Din Mohammad son of Hamida son of Khwajabax each three equal parts.
Personal	Agriculture	116//13/2	151.725			Ilyas, Asmohammad, Din Mohammad son of Hamida son of Khwajabax each three equal parts.
Personal	Agriculture	116//18/1	25.2875			Ilyas, Asmohammad, Din Mohammad son of Hamida son of Khwajabax each three equal parts.
Personal	Agriculture	116//17/4/1/2	50.575			Ilyas, Asmohammad, Din Mohammad son of Hamida son of Khwajabax each three equal parts.
Personal	Agriculture	116//17/2/1/2	101.15			Arjan, Chhote Khan, Chakmal, Hasnu, son of Sardar, son of Maui Khan each four equal parts of 2/3 part, Jahul Haq, Bhutti, Wajid, Hakmu, Jaffar sons of Dolat son of Sirdara each five equal parts of 1/6 part, Jamshed, Issar, Mustafa son of Isab son of Sardar each Three equal parts of 1/6 part.
Personal	Agriculture	116//16/2	50.575			Arjan, Chhote Khan, Chakmal, Hasnu, son of Sardar, son of Maui Khan, each four equal parts of 2/3 part, Jahul Haq, Bhutti, Wajid, Hakmu, Jaffar sons of Dolat son of Sirdara each five equal parts of 1/6 part, Jamshed, Issar, Mustafa son of Isab son of Sardar, each Three equal parts of 1/6 part.
Personal	Agriculture	116//28/2	50.575			Arjan, Chhote Khan, Chakmal, Hasnu, son of Sardar, son of Maui Khan, each four equal parts of 2/3 part, Jahul Haq, Bhutti, Wajid, Hakmu, Jaffar sons of Dolat son of Sirdara each five equal parts of 1/6 part, Jamshed, Issar, Mustafa son of Isab son of Sardar each Three equal parts of 1/6 part.
Personal	Agriculture	116//25/1/2	177.0125			Arjan, Chhote Khan, Chakmal, Hasnu, son of Sardar, son of Maui Khan, each four equal parts of 2/3 part, Jahul Haq, Bhutti, Wajid, Hakmu, Jaffar sons of Dolat son of Sirdara each five equal parts of 1/6 part, Jamshed, Issar, Mustafa son of Isab son of Sardar each Three equal parts of 1/6 part.
Personal	Agriculture	115//21/1/2	278.1625			Mubeen son of Israel son of Hos Khan 1/40 part, Arjan son of Sirdar son of Moz Khan 1/10 part, Rafiq, Salim, Mubarik son of Asa Mohd. s/o Surajam each three equal part of 1/8 part, Hanif, Saheeda s/o Surajam each two equal parts of 1/4 part, Sami Khan son of Sarupa son of Shakur Khan 49/180 part, Sarfuddin, Saddam Hussain sons of Sami Khan son of Sarupa each two equal parts of 41/180 part.
Personal	Agriculture	126//1/3/1	75.8625			Jagdish Kumar, Krishna Kumar sons Atmaprakash son of Jodharam each two equal shares of 1/3 part Mahesh, Kumar, Ravi Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Sanjay Kumar, Krishna Kumar, Manish Kumar sons of Vasdev son of Jodharam each six equal share of 1/3 part, Gotam Kumar son & Mrs. Gyan Devi, Chandrakanta, Anita Devi, Krishna Devi, Asha Devi daughters of Nyayamatram son of Jodharam each six equal shares of 2/7 part, Sumanbal daughter and Mrs. Nirmala widow of Nyayamatram each two equal shares of 1/21 part Sanjay Nanda son of Jogendra Lal 1/2 parts, Mrs. Benu wife Sanjay son 1/2 part resident Bansat Bihari New Delhi.

[File No. 2023/LML-II/12/1/WC/2455]
Pankaj Tyagi, Executive Director (L&A)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE						
E-Mail ID : serv_balasore@yahoo.in, Ph-No-06782/260318						
Repair and Maintenance of Rural Roads Under PMGSY & Other Scheme						
e-Procurement Notice						
Bid Identification No. Online-CCE-BLS-NCB-77 of 202324						

The Chief Construction Engineer, R. W. Circle, Balasore on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for Repair/Maintenance of the Rural roads Constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts of Balasor/ Bhadrak for 11 (Eleven) number of packages with estimated cost totaling to Rs.7.69 Cr including maintenance for five year from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through-procurement.dtd, 15.02.2024

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 44B(a) (ii) of ITB with C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Balasore ,on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non- responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through-procurement:29.02.2024 upto . 05.00 P.M For further details please logon to <http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R. W. Circle, Balasore

OIPR-25105/11/0100/2324

ज्ञारखण्ड राज्य ग्रामीण पथ विकास प्राधिकरण (JSRRDA)

एफ०एफ०पी० मनन, तृतीय तल्ला, धूर्वा, रोंची -834004, ज्ञारखण्ड

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

दिनांक :- 07.02.2024

मुख्य अधिकारी, जेंडरसॉर्टरार०आर०ड००, रोंची द्वारा निम्नविवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा

आमंत्रित की जाती है।

आइडीटीफीक्रेन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या

प्रखण्ड का नाम

कार्य का नाम

प्राकलित राशि

अंक में (लाख में)

अंक में (रुपये में)

कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि

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प्रखण्ड संख्या

प्रखण्ड का नाम

कार्य का नाम

प्राकलित राशि

अंक में (लाख में)

अंक में (रुपये में)

कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि

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प्रखण्ड संख्या

प्रखण्ड का नाम

कार्य का नाम

प्राकलित राशि

अंक में (लाख में)

अंक में (रुपये में)

कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि

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प्रखण्ड संख्या

प्रखण्ड का नाम

कार्य का नाम

प्राकलित राशि

अंक में (लाख में)

अंक में (रुपये में)

कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि

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प्रखण्ड संख्या

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, REKHA W/O HARISH R/O HNO.230, BLOCK-G, POCKET-8, SECTOR-16, ROHINI, DELHI-110089. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO REKHA KUMARI.

0040712574-1

I, RK Sharma S/o Devi Chand R/o/F-16, Jamdagni Bhawan, Krishan Vihar, C-Block, Sultanpur, Delhi-110086. have changed my name to Ramesh Kumar Sharma.

0040712585-5

I, PRITI SANKHLA W/O BHARAT SANKHLA R/O/HNO.4, P-2 BLOCK, SULTANPUR, DELHI-110086. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRITI.

0040712574-2

I, PAPATHY, mother of Selvam J., Presently residing at 41/5, Marut Camp, Air-Force Station, New Delhi-110003, have changed my name, from PAPATHY to STELLAMARY, vide-Affidavit dated- 06.02.2024.

0040712572-10

I, Natarajan S/o Padmanabhan R/o 298-C, DDA Flats, Gazipur, East Delhi-110096, have changed my name to P Natarajan, for all future purposes.

0040712497-1

I, Monika Sharma W/O Sh. Adesh Kumar R/O B-278, Sector-122, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201301, have changed my name from MONIKA to MONIKA SHARMA for all future purposes.

0070887558-1

I, Meenu Mehta D/O Jag Mohan Prakash Mehta, R/o A-7/2, DDA, SFS Flat, Saket South Delhi, Delhi-110017. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Meena Mehta.

0070887511-1

I, Kamiya Kandpal W/o Muktesh Kandpal R/o-6003, Tower-4, Sunworld Vanalika, Sector-107, Noida, U.P.-201301, inform that Kamiya Kandpal and Kamiya Duseja both are one and same person.

0040712506-1

I, Kailash Son Of Basant Lal, House no-L-205 Dakshin Puri Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi-110062, Have changed my name to Kailash Kumar, Permanently.

0040712567-6

I, Harsh Singh S/o Shri Ramesh Singh R/o Flat No- 106, Tower-1, Maulsari Shipra Shriti, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014 have changed my name from Harsh Hardhan Singh to Harsh Singh. I will be known as Harsh Singh for all future purposes.

0040712499-1

I, Fauzia Shanawaz W/o Mohd Shanawaz R/o 813, Katra Hiddi, Farash Khan, Delhi-110006, have changed my name from Fauzia Anees, Fozia Begum, Fauzia Begum to Fauzia Shanawaz, for all future purposes.

0040712488-1

I, Dhanpati Mor W/o Puran Mal Mor R/o 680/1, Galli No-1, Gohana Road, Ashok Vihar, Sonipat (Haryana)-131001, have changed my name Dhanpati for all Purposes.

0040712574-8

I, BAHIN DURGESH BUNDELA S/o ROOP SINGH BUNDELA, R/O, Flat-No.176, Pocket-8, Dwarka, Sector-12, Delhi-110075, have changed my name to DURGESH BUNDELA.

0040712585-4

I, Ayyub Ahmed S/o Yusuf Khan R/o-47, Gulzar Colony, Islam Nagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Ayub Khan forever.

0070887537-1

I, Atar Singh Poswal S/o Tejram Poswal R/o-G-33, Galli No-2, 4th Floor, Molarlamb Extn., Badarpur, Delhi-44 have changed my name to Atar Singh

0070887557-1

I, Arup Kumar Dutta S/o Late Manohar Dutta R/o House No.E-117-E-117-A, Galli No.5, Mansa Ram Park,Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed the name of my minor daughter from "Shilalipi Dutta" to "Shilalipi Bhardwaj" for all purposes.

0040712517-1

I, Ramesh Aggarwal S/O Tara Chand Tayal, R/o AB-51, 2nd Floor, Milanwal Nagar, Paschim Vihar, Sunder Vihar, West Delhi- 110087, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Ramesh Tayal.

0070887513-1

I, Amita Mehta, W/O Jag Mohan Prakash Mehta R/o A-7/2, DDA, SFS Flat, Saket South Delhi, Delhi-110017. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Swarsha Mehta.

0070887514-1

I, Tina, D/O-Ved Prakash R/O-H-17/25, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Tina Dudeja for all purposes.

0040712585-1

I, Amrit Lal S/O, Prakash Garg R/O, HNo-D-5/401, Block-D, Gali No-5, Sangam Vihar Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Amrit Lal.

0040712509-1

I, Jameel Ahmad,Son of,Babu Shah, R/O,House.no-A-17, Navjivan Camp GovindPuri, Kalkaji New-Delhi-110019,have changed my name to Jamil Ahamed, Permanently.

0040712507-7

I, for general information that I, SATISH CHAND JARIALS/S/O DHARAM SINGH JARIAL,R/o-829, Sector-23-A, Near I.T.M University Gurgaon, Carterpuri, Haryana-120217, declare that name my wife has been wrongly written as KIRAN BALA in my PPO.No.18/14/B/10527/1989.Th e actual name of my wife is KIRAN JARIAL,which may be amended accordingly.

0040712576-7

I, Md.Yusuf Rehman S/o Md Ahsanal R/o 8/450, Block-8, Khichirup, Patparganj, Delhi-110091, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Yusuf Rehman and Ahsanal Rehman respectively in my Educational Documents of Secondary School Marks Statement cum Certificate and Senior School Marks Statement cum Certificate. The actual name of mine and my father is Md Yusuf Rehman and Md Ahsanal respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

0070887564-1

I, Archana W/o Virender Singhroha R/o/HNo.942, Sector-2, Urban Estate, Rohtak (Haryana)-124001, have changed my name to Archana Sheoran.

0040712507-10

I, VIMLA DEVI W/o No.6619052 RANK SEP LT DEVENDER SINGH R/WA-74A WA - BLOCK, SHAKARPUR, DELHI-110092 CHANGED MY NAME TO VIMLA TYAGI VIDE AFFIDAVIT DT.17.01.2024 BEFORE DELHI.

0070887583-1

I, Amarjeet Singh W/O Surjeet Singh R/O Flat-no L-19H Sheikh-Sarai Phase-2 New Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Amarjeet Kaur Permanently.

0040712567-5

I, Aanchal khanna D/o K. B Mehta R/o 1161, Sector-10A, Sikenderpur,Ghisi(68) Gurgaon,Haryana-122002, declare that I am divorced, Vide Court Decree No.HMA NO.449, dated 01.06.2020 & I have retained my,maiden name AANCHAL MEHTA for all future,purposes.

0040712508-2

I,Vijay Sangwan,S/o Sh. Madan Lal,R/o/H.No.407/1, Ward No-1, Bihimgarh Kheri, Gurugram, Haryana, That I have change my name from Ravi to Vijay Sangwan for all Future Purposes.

0040712509-10

I, Suman Lata W/o Amit Lal R/o/H.No-D-5/401, Block-D, Gali No-5, Sangam Vihar Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Monika Garg.

0040712509-3

I,Shiv Dayal,S/o Bhagwan Das, R/o-204,Pocket-III,Janta Quarter, Paschim Puri, Delhi,have changed my name to Shiv Dayal Singh,for all purposes.

0040712507-8

I,Shikha W/o Bhawani Shankar Mittal R/o B-1/109,Shantidoot Apartment Vasundhara Enclave Delhi-110096 Have Changed My Name To Shikha Mittal.

0040712574-5

I,Rishi Arora S/o-Om Parkash R/o-B-3/2, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089 have changed my name to Rishi Kumar for all purposes.

0040712487-1

I,Rajani Gupta w/o Amit Gupta R/o B-105 Suncity, Sector 54, Gurgaon, Pin-122011, Haryana, India have changed my name to Rajni Gupta.

0040712503-1

I,Poonam W/o Sh. Madan Gopal R/o 16/13, Geeta Colony, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031 have changed my name to Poonam Parashar for all purposes.

0040712484-1

I,Pooja Varshney W/o Sudhir Kumar Gupta R/o-HR-63/D, 60 Feet Road, Puri Prahlad Pur, Delhi-44, have changed my name to Pooja Gupta.

0070887538-1

I,Mahesh Prasad s/o Ram Ajore Prasad, residing at H no.-45/19 Baprolla Vihar near katiawati public school naajafgarh south west delhi- 110043, India, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that "Ram Ajore Prasad" and R A Prasad" are the names of same person.

0040712547-1

I,Jag Mohan S/o-Raj Bahadur Singh R/o-J-266, Margol Puri, Delhi-110083 have changed my name to Jag Mohan Singh for all purposes.

0040712504-1

I,Durgesh Kumar Gupta, R/o Flat No.333, Gold Vista Apartment Alpha II Greater Noida, submit that in Passport my name has been mentioned as Durgesh Kumar. I declare that both the name Durgesh Kumar Gupta & Durgesh Kumar are One of the Same Person. In future I shall be known by Durgesh Kumar Gupta

0040712538-1

I,Md.Ibarul Haque,Son of Md.Nazir,R/o House,no-F-102/1,Third-floor Abul-Fazal-Enclave Part-2,Shaheen-Bagh Jamia-Nagar,New Delhi-110025,have changed my name to Md.Ibarul Haque,Permanently.

0040712508-5

I,SARBJEET KAUR MEHTA W/O INDER PAL SINGH R/O DG-II/22-B, VIKAS PURI, DELHI-110025, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SARBJEET KAUR.

0040712574-4

I,SADEEP Kumar Malik,S/o Mohinder Singh Malik,R/o H.No-1401/10,Choudhary Lane, Tilak-Nagar, Rohtak, Haryana,have changed my name to Sadeep Malik, for all,future purposes.

0040712509-7

I,SYED MOHAMMAD HASAN ABIDI,S/o,OSMOHAN MOHAMMAD ADD-A-21,GALLI-NO-6,NEW GOVINDPURA,KRISHNA NAGAR, SHAHDARA DELHI 110051,Changed My Name to MOHAMMAD HASAN ABIDI,for all,future purposes.

0040712509-6

I,JEYAKRISHNAN A, father of, Selvam J, Presently, residing at 41/5,Marut-Camp,Air-Force Station,New Delhi-110003,have changed my name from JEYAKRISHNAN .A to JEYAKRISHNAN ALAGUMALAI vide-Affidavit dated- 06-01-2024.

0040712572-9

I,INDRA NATH S/o-ORAMANAND MISHRA,R/o-P.O-NO-186 THIRD-FLOOR FLAT-NO-301 PATEL-GARDEN-EXTENTION SECTOR-15,DWARKA, DELHI-110078, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO INDRA NATH MISHRA,FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040712572-1

I,SHREYA CHADHA S/o ANIL KUMAR CHADHA R/o F-5, GREEN PARK EXTENSION DELHI-110016 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KARTIK VARUN CHADHA.

0040712584-1

I,SEYYED MOHAMMAD HASAN ABIDI,S/o,OSMOHAN MOHAMMAD ADD-A-21,GALLI-NO-6,NEW GOVINDPURA,KRISHNA NAGAR, SHAHDARA DELHI 110051,Changed My Name to MOHAMMAD HASAN ABIDI,for all,future purposes.

0040712509-5

I,SHYAMALA MUQADDAS,W/o AAMIR KHAN,R/o D-63, STREET-NO-3 DIWAN COMPLEX HARSH-VIHAR MANDOLI DELHI-110093, have changed my name to SAMIYA MUQADDAS,for all,future purpose.

0040712509-1

I, I, Jameel Ahmad,Son of,Babu Shah, R/O,House.no-A-17, Navjivan Camp GovindPuri, Kalkaji New-Delhi-110019,have changed my name to Jamil Ahamed, Permanently.

0040712507-7

I, for general information that I, SATISH CHAND JARIALS/S/O DHARAM SINGH JARIAL,R/o-829, Sector-23-A, Near I.T.M University Gurgaon, Carterpuri, Haryana-120217, declare that name my wife has been wrongly written as KIRAN BALA in my PPO.No.18/14/B/10527/1989.Th e actual name of my wife is KIRAN JARIAL,which may be amended accordingly.

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I, Md.Yusuf Rehman S/o Md Ahsanal R/o 8/450, Block-8, Khichirup, Patparganj, Delhi-110091, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Yusuf Rehman and Ahsanal Rehman respectively in my Educational Documents of Secondary School Marks Statement cum Certificate and Senior School Marks Statement cum Certificate. The actual name of mine and my father is Md Yusuf Rehman and Md Ahsanal respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

0070887564-1

I, Arun Kumar Kapoor,Son of,Ram Chand Kapoor,R/o House.no-G-95,Kalkaji,New-Delhi-110019,Have changed my name to Arun Kapoor, Permanently.

0040712507-5

I, Archana W/o Virender Singhroha R/o/HNo.942, Sector-2, Urban Estate, Rohtak (Haryana)-124001, have changed my name to Archana Sheoran.

0040712574-10

I, VIMLA DEVI W/o No.6619052 RANK SEP LT DEVENDER SINGH R/WA-74A WA - BLOCK, SHAKARPUR, DELHI-110092 CHANGED MY NAME TO VIMLA TYAGI VIDE AFFIDAVIT DT.17.01.2024 BEFORE DELHI.

0070887583-1

DR. D. Y. PATIL VIDYAPEETH, PUNE
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)DR. D. Y. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE,
HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE, PIMPRI, PUNEAccredited (3rd Cycle) by NAAC with a CGPA of 3.64 on four point scale at 'A++' Grade
NABH ACCREDITED HOSPITAL / NABL ACCREDITED LABORATORIES
AN ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED UNIVERSITY

Dr. D. Y. Patil Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre is a constituent unit of Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune and is very well known for its state of the art infrastructure, transplant surgeries, outreach programmes and its exceptional teaching methodology in the field of medicine, with around 35 medical speciality departments. We are privileged to provide professional training with its main aim to give world class facilities to its patients, doctors and faculty members. Being situated in the heart of the city and having a range of facilities, there is always a strong of patients, which gives the students enough exposure and experience during their study with us. We are growing multifold with medical tourism, IVF centre & Organ transplants that are creating benchmarks, thus advancing towards accomplishing the dream of our visionary Chancellor Honorable Dr. P. D. Patil.

We invite you to be a part of our growing team

► Professor

Radio-Diagnosis, General Surgery, General Medicine, Dermatology, Psychiatry, Emergency Medicine, Urology, Pediatric Surgery, Critical Care Medicine, Surgical Gastroenterology

► Associate Professor

Anatomy, Biochemistry, Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Radio-Diagnosis, General Surgery, General Medicine, Dermatology, Psychiatry, Family Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Urology, Critical Care Medicine

► Assistant Professor

Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Pharmacology, Community Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Psychiatry, Radio-Diagnosis, General Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Urology

► Senior Resident

Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Pharmacology, Microbiology, Pathology, Community Medicine, General Surgery, Psychiatry, General Medicine, Respiratory Medicine, Emergency Medicine

► Tutor/Demonstrator

Biochemistry, Pathology, Microbiology, Community Medicine.

Qualifications and experience as per latest NMC Rules.

Applicants must specify position applied for and email their detailed CV to Human Resource (H.R.) at medhr.recruitment@dpu.edu.in / hr@dpu.edu.in within 7 days from the release date of this advertisement.

For more details call : 020 2780 5115 / 5971

Dean

AUTOCOP (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED - (IN LIQUIDATION)

E-AUCTION NOTICE UNDER IBC, 2016

CIN: U74999MH1991PTC063312

Reg. Office: Plot No. F-14, Additional Industrial, MIDC, Ambad, Nashik-422010(MH)
Sale under the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

Notice is hereby given to the public in general that the process of Sale of 'Autocop (India) Private Limited - In Liquidation' (Corporate Debtor/CD) and/or its Assets under the provisions of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and Regulated by the Central Government vide notification dated 07.02.2020. The E-Auction will begin on 08.02.2024 AS IS WHERE IT IS BASIS. AS IS WHATS BASIS. WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS AND NO RECOURE BASIS. The Auction will be conducted by the aforesaid through E-Auction service provider, auction liger via website https://incauction.auctonliger.net.

(Amount in Rs.)

SR. NO. DESCRIPTION RESERVE PRICE EMD INCREMENTAL BID AMOUNT

Option A : Sale of the Corporate Debtor as a Going Concern Date and time of E - Auction : 07.03.2024 From 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

A : Sale of the Corporate Debtor as a Going (25.20,00,000 2.52,00,000 5,00,000)

(Under Regulation 32(e) of IBBI (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)

OR

Option B - Sale of Assets of the Corporate Debtor on Stump Sale Basis (In case no bids received for Auction under Option A, then bids for Option B will be considered)

Date and Time of E - Auction : 07.03.2024 From 01:00 PM to 02:30 PM

B : Sale of Assets of the Corporate Debtor (25.20,00,000 2.52,00,000 5,00,000)

(Under Regulation 32(b) of IBBI (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)

B1 : Factory Land and Building: - Situated at Plot No F-14, Additional Industrial, MIDC Ambad, Nashik-422010. - Situated at Plot No.22, EPIP, Phase II, Village Thana, Badli, Tehsil Nasalgarh, Dist. Solan, Himachal Pradesh - 132025

B2 : Plant & Machinery: - Situated at Plot No F-14, Additional Industrial, MIDC Ambad, Nashik-422010 - Situated at Plot No.22, EPIP, Phase II, Village Thana, Badli, Tehsil Nasalgarh, Dist. Solan, Himachal Pradesh - 132025

Date and Time of Auction : Thursday, 07.03.2024 from 11:00 AM to 02:30 PM

Last Date for Submission of EOI : Friday, 23.02.2024 before 05:00 PM

Physical Inspection Date and Time : Thursday, 08.02.2024 to Monday, 04.03.2024 - 11:00 AM to 05:00 PM

Last Date for Submission of EMD : Tuesday, 05.03.2024 before 05:00 PM

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION ARE AS UNDER:

1. E-Auction will be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" and "NO RECOURE BASIS" through approved service provider M/s-e-procurement Technologies (India) Pvt. Ltd.

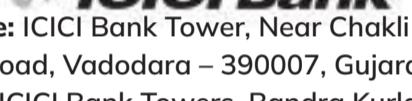
2. Interested Applicants may refer to the Complete E-Auction Process document containing details of the Assets, online e-auction Bid Form, Declaration and Undertaking Form, General Terms and Conditions of E-Auction sale available on website https://incauction.auctonliger.net. Contact: Mr. Praveen Kumar Thavar - 9722778828 - 079 6813 6854/5/51 079 6813 6802. E-mail: praveen.thavar@e-auctioner.net & e-auction@autocopindia.com

3. The Liquidator has right to accept or cancel or extend or modify, etc. any terms and conditions of E-Auction at any time. He has right to reject any of the bids without giving any reasons.

4. E/O/Documents submission deadline is 05:00 PM IST on 23.02.2024. EMD (i.e. 10% of Reserve Price) submission deadline is 05:00 PM IST on 05.03.2024 & E-Auction will be conducted from 11:00 AM till 02:30 PM IST on 07.03.2024.

Mr. Amit C. Poddar
(Liquidator)Autocop (India) Private Limited
IBBI / IPA-C01 / IP-P00449 / 2017-18 / 10792

Communication Address: 3rd Floor, Meera Apartments, Above Durva Restaurant, Opp. Yeshwanth Stadium, Dharmal, Nagpur-440012

Date: 08.02.2024
Place: Nashik
E-mail Id: crp.autocop@gmail.com

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara - 390007, Gujarat

Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai - 400051, Maharashtra

Branch Relocation Notice

On Behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd, Lakhisarai-Nayabazar Branch

Dear Customers,

We wish to inform you that with effect from March 17, 2024, we are relocating to a more convenient location. The address is as mentioned below:

New address: ICICI Bank Ltd, Plot No-732, Ground Floor, Khata No.561, Loknath saraff market, Naya Bazar, Lakhisarai, Bihar - 811311.

There would be no change in your account numbers or the security items issued to you. Assuring you of the best services at all times.

Sincerely,

Branch Manager, Lakhisarai-Nayabazar Branch

॥ अंतर्मी सेटवू ज्ञानञ्चात् ॥

Kavayitri Babinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon

NAAC 'A' GRADED
(41st Rank)

Corrigendum of Advertisement No. 7 /2023

As per Government of Maharashtra Circular dt. 25th January, 2024. Policy of Social and Parallel Reservation is to be implemented indicating the post(s) allotted to parallel reservation in the chart. Hence, this corrigendum is issued. Candidates may apply in online mode (<https://apps.nmu.ac.in/recruitment>) upto

17.02.2024 and last date for submission of hard copy of application along with relevant documents to the Administration Teaching Section is 24.02.2024.

Table regarding Reservation Policy of Social & Parallel reservation is given on the University website www.nmu.ac.in.All other terms and conditions of the advertisement No, 7/2023, dt. 15th Sept., 2023 shall remain the same

Place : Jalgaon

Date : 06.02.2024

REGISTRAR

NOTICE

31st Jan, 2024

High Commission of India, London has received a notice of intended marriage from Mr. Kadambote Covilgath Sachin, S/o Kadambote Covilgatta Rajan, holder of Indian Passport No. Z7664223 and Miss Vibhuti Gour, D/o Vivek Narayan Gour, holder of Indian Passport No. 27197895 under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 of India.

Objection, if any (along with valid reasons), to the intended marriage may be conveyed to the High Commission of India, London within 30 Days of publication of this notice at the following address:

Second Secretary,
High Commission of India,
India House, Aldwych,
WC28 4NA(Sd/-)
(Rajeev Kumar Sharma)

SS (Passport) I/C (Consular)

23

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

ECONOMY

SENSEX: 72,152.00 ▲ 34.09 (0.05%) NIFTY: 21,930.50 ▲ 1.10 (0.01%) NIKKEI: 36,119.92 ▼ 40.74 HANG SENG: 16,081.89 ▼ 54.98 FTSE: 7,650.17 ▼ 30.84 DAX: 16,986.63 ▼ 46.61



GOLD

₹63,370



USD RATE

₹82.96



OIL

\$78.71



SILVER

₹74,600

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of February 6

International market data till 1900 IST

Govt urges
RBI to issue
FAQs for
Paytm users

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

GIVEN THE broad customer base of Paytm — India's biggest fintech that has a wide presence among both individual users and merchants — the government is learnt to have nudged the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to issue a follow-up clarification in the form of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

"The action against Paytm should be followed up by some sort of clarification. RBI has been urged to bring in FAQs as many customers won't be aware of many issues," an official said.

Onboarding of customers without proper verification of know-your-customer (KYC) norms is learnt to have been one of the key issues for prompting the action by the RBI against Paytm last week. The RBI had taken action in the form of imposing penalty against Paytm Payments Bank last year and even then the issue did not get resolved, so the action by the RBI this time around is unlikely to be rolled back, the official said.

On Tuesday, Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma had met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and RBI officials, days after the regulator imposed a ban on Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL).

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

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

The RBI had directed that the Nodal Accounts of One97 Communications Ltd (OCL), which owns Paytm, and Paytm Payments Services Ltd are to be terminated at the earliest, in any case not later than February 29, 2024. Paytm Payments Bank has been facing RBI scrutiny since 2018. The RBI's recent action on PPBL came after it was found that the bank had violated KYC norms and also had linked the same PAN to multiple customers. It was also observed that the bank was allowing transactions above the permissible limit, which raised concerns over money laundering.

13TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE FROM FEB 26-29

'India to exclude labour, green issues during WTO discussion'

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

AMID RISING environment related measures being introduced in trade policies such as European Union's (EU) carbon tax and deforestation law that could hurt exports from developing nations, India is set to bat for exclusion of labour and environment issues from negotiations held at the World Trade Organization (WTO), a commerce ministry official said on Wednesday.

The official said that New Delhi will object to any work programme or negotiations on non-trade issues such as environment, gender, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) at the WTO's 13th Ministerial Conference (MC) that will be held from February 26-29 at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

International trade experts have pointed out that developed nations have been pushing for



Through reform, the developed nations are pushing for changes in the WTO structure to favour rich nations. File

non-trade issues in the garb of sustainability to reverse the growing trade deficit that it has with the developing nations. Moreover, through WTO reform, the developed nations are pushing for fundamental changes in the structure of WTO to favour rich nations. "India will continue to maintain its stance that labour and environment are non-trade

issues and they should not be discussed at WTO, and trade barriers should not be erected under the guise of sustainable development. There are different multilateral forums, like in the United Nations, where these issues can be discussed. There are specialized bodies where these issues should be discussed. These are not trade issues, but

they have trade implications," the official said at a press briefing.

"The purpose of trade is to ensure sustainable development. So under the guise of this, developed countries cannot erect protectionist barriers; this is our submission," the official said.

Another official said that the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and deforestation laws are cases of dragging environmental issues into trade matters.

The issue of the EU rolling out CBAM — which is applicable to all countries — however, cannot be discussed by the ministerial. The matter is being discussed between India and the EU bilaterally, the official added.

"Such measures may not only violate the rules of the WTO but also have systemic implications for international law as a whole, since unilateral action undermines multilaterally negotiated rights and obligations of countries," the official said.

Edited excerpts:

'Will have to seek an extension for PSBs to comply with minimum public shareholding'

WITH A lag in monetary transmission reflecting through slower deposit growth, public sector banks are being pushed to reach out to customers for shoring up deposits, said Financial Services Secretary VIVEK JOSHI, adding that the credit growth in the banking sector is likely to be 13.5-14 per cent in the financial year 2023-24 and is expected to further improve next financial year due to an uptick in private investment. In an interview with *AANCHAL MAGAZINE*, Joshi said that a further extension will be sought for public sector banks to comply with minimum public shareholding norm (25 per cent) as it looks unlikely that some PSBs will reach the milestone by August this year.

Another official said that the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and deforestation laws are cases of dragging environmental issues into trade matters.

The issue of the EU rolling out

CBAM — which is applicable to all countries — however, cannot be discussed by the ministerial. The matter is being discussed between India and the EU bilaterally, the official added.

"Such measures may not



remains as it is now, the outcome will be almost the same and maybe slightly more on the credit growth side.

The private investment announced in FY24 has been substantially higher in basic chemicals, real estate, iron & steel, electrical machinery, non-conventional energy, automobiles and power, among others. New investment announcements were Rs 40 lakh crore in FY23, with 68 per cent contribution by the private sector. In the first nine months of FY24, new investment announcements worth Rs 20 lakh crore have been already reported.

Will you seek a further extension to meet minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms for some PSBs?

Depending on the decision of PSB boards, we allow them to raise funds via QIP in equity, which would help them bring down government holding to the 75 per cent benchmark. However, we will have to seek a further extension to comply with minimum public shareholding (25 per cent) as it looks very unlikely that some PSBs will reach the milestone (by August). **FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com**

around 13.6 per cent so far in this financial year, while deposit growth is around 10.6 per cent. This has been the trend in the last few years also. But, to say that credit growth will taper down next year, I do not agree...private sector investment is picking up.

Where do you see the credit and deposit growth levels in the coming year?

Credit growth this year will be approximately 13.5-14 per cent, while deposit growth may be around 11 per cent. So, next year credit and deposit growth should be around the level of FY24. It will also depend on how RBI decides the course of the monetary policy. If we consider everything which

Need orderly energy transition without 'vilification' of fossil fuels: Hardeep S Puri

SUKALP SHARMA
BETUL (GOA), FEBRUARY 7

Petroleum Minister
Hardeep Singh Puri. File

more access to clean energy technologies and climate finance for itself and the Global South at large.

Touching upon the prevailing global energy production and supply situation, Puri said, "...we (need to) have access to traditional fuel and making predictable transition to cleaner fuel. Balanced and realistic dialogue is needed and not vilification of fossil fuel".

Major crude oil guzzlers like India have been grappling with volatility in the global oil and gas markets in the aftermath of Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine and coordinated crude oil production regulation by major crude oil producers to shore up prices. According to Puri, steps taken by the government, including "diversification of sources of (oil) imports", ensured that the retail prices of petrol and diesel in India actually declined at a time when global oil and fuel prices were surging.

According to the IEA's projections, India is on track to post an increase of nearly 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) in oil demand by 2023. ENS

India to eclipse China in oil demand by 2027: IEA

Betul: India's crude oil demand growth is expected to overtake China's by 2027, making the former the biggest driver of global oil demand growth through the remainder of the decade "underpinned by strong economic and demographic growth", Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Tuesday.

According to the IEA's projections, India is on track to post an increase of nearly 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) in oil demand by 2023. ENS

tors and payment aggregators last November.

"RBI has shared a whitelist of 442 unique digital lending apps to MeitY, which has been shared with Google. Around 3,500 lending apps remain now after the review," Joshi said.

"List of licensed entities are there on the website of the RBI. Google checks that before uploading the apps on its app store. Google has removed 2,200 digital lending apps (DLAs) from its app store during September 2022 to August 2023," he added.

In January, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said that the central bank has shared a whitelist of lending apps with the Centre.

The government is looking at more follow-up measures amid concerns over rising instances of financial frauds. A second review meeting on cybersecurity and financial frauds is scheduled to be held on February 9, Department of Financial Services' (DFS) Secretary Vivek Joshi said in an interview with *The Indian Express* on Wednesday. He had chaired the first such meeting of the regula-

how dubious loan apps advertise on Instagram and Facebook, and, despite whatever filters the platforms claim to use, many such apps, including those red-flagged by the government, continue to offer their services. It had also reported that the RBI initially did not have a whitelist of registered loan apps, or even a negative list which is updated.

"We have been able to identify the responsibility of various stakeholders. Steps taken include whitelisting of illegal loan apps. Through MeitY, Google has also

tightened the uploading policy for its app store," Joshi told *The Indian Express*.

Google has also modified its onboarding policy to mention that it will only allow lending apps which are tied to a legal lending institution.

Insurance for all: IRDAI proposes obligatory life, health coverage in gram panchayats across India

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 7

INSURANCE REGULATOR IRDAI has proposed to make insurance coverage, including life, health and motor, obligatory on the part of insurance companies in gram panchayats across the country in order to achieve the objective of "insurance for all".

The minimum number of lives to be covered by all life insurers in all gram panchayats in the country should be 30 percent

in each gram panchayat subject to a minimum of 25,000 gram panchayats as driven by lead insurer in the first year, IRDAI has proposed. This increases to 40 per cent lives subject to a minimum 50,000 gram panchayats and 50 per cent lives subject to a minimum of 75,000 gram panchayats in year 2 and 3 respectively, IRDAI said in its draft Rural, Social Sector and Motor Third Party Obligations Regulations, 2024. The same formula will be applicable in the case of dwellings under fire insurance,

motor (comprehensive and third party) and lives under health and personal accident insurance.

Over 40 crore people still don't have health insurance coverage in India. On motor third party insurance, the obligations are specified for goods carrying and 50 per cent lives subject to a minimum of 75,000 gram panchayats in year 2 and 3 respectively, IRDAI said in its draft Rural, Social Sector and Motor Third Party Obligations Regulations, 2024. The same formula will be applicable in the case of dwellings under fire insurance,

These vehicles are important segments of the motor insurance business and widely exposed to third party claims. "Every general

insurer is therefore required to underwrite at least 20 per cent increase over total number of goods carrying and passenger carrying vehicles as compared to what was covered in the last financial year or 20,000 vehicles under these categories or 10,000 vehicles in each category, whichever is higher," the draft norms said.

Motor TP obligation fulfilment should be contributed by renewal of the existing vehicles and uninsured vehicles that are insured provided the gap in insur-

erance is at least 30 days, it said.

Every new insurer should under-

write a minimum of 10,000

goods carrying and 10,000 pas-

senger carrying vehicles in the

first financial year of its opera-

tions, the regulator said.

The insurers are allowed to buy and sell the obligations from

out of the surplus to the extent of

20 per cent. The insurer who has

sold the obligations will continue

to be the insurer and should be

responsible for servicing the in-

surance policy and settling claim

under it.

The insur-

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goods carrying and 10,000 pas-

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first financial year of its opera-

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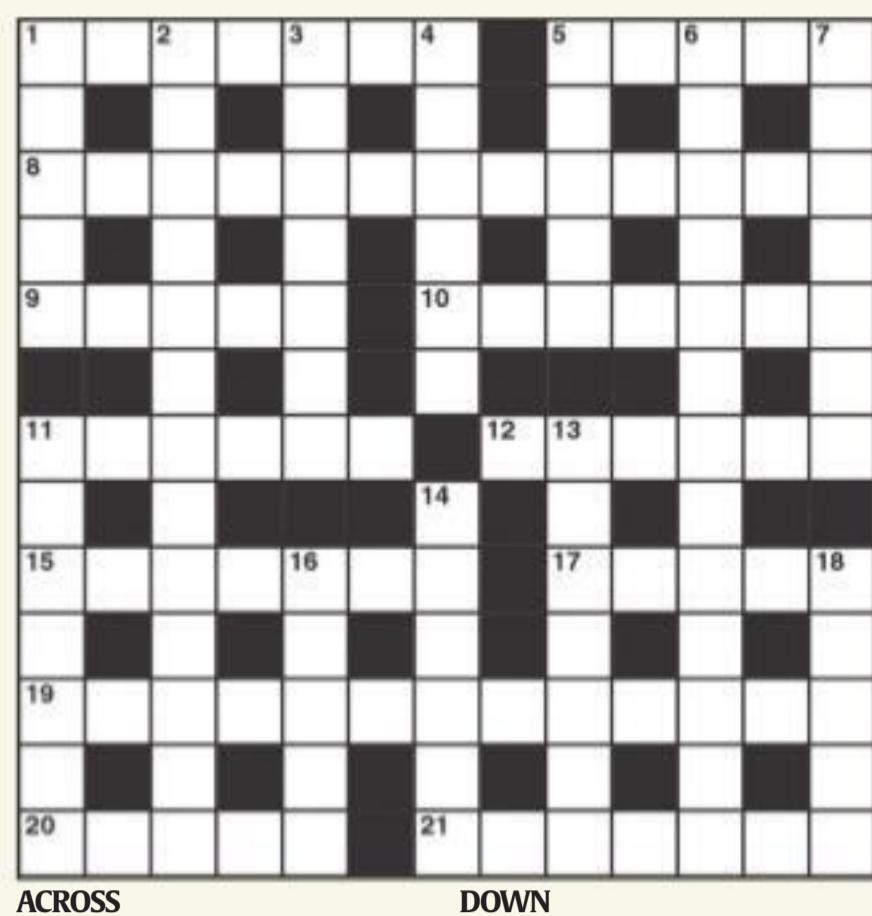
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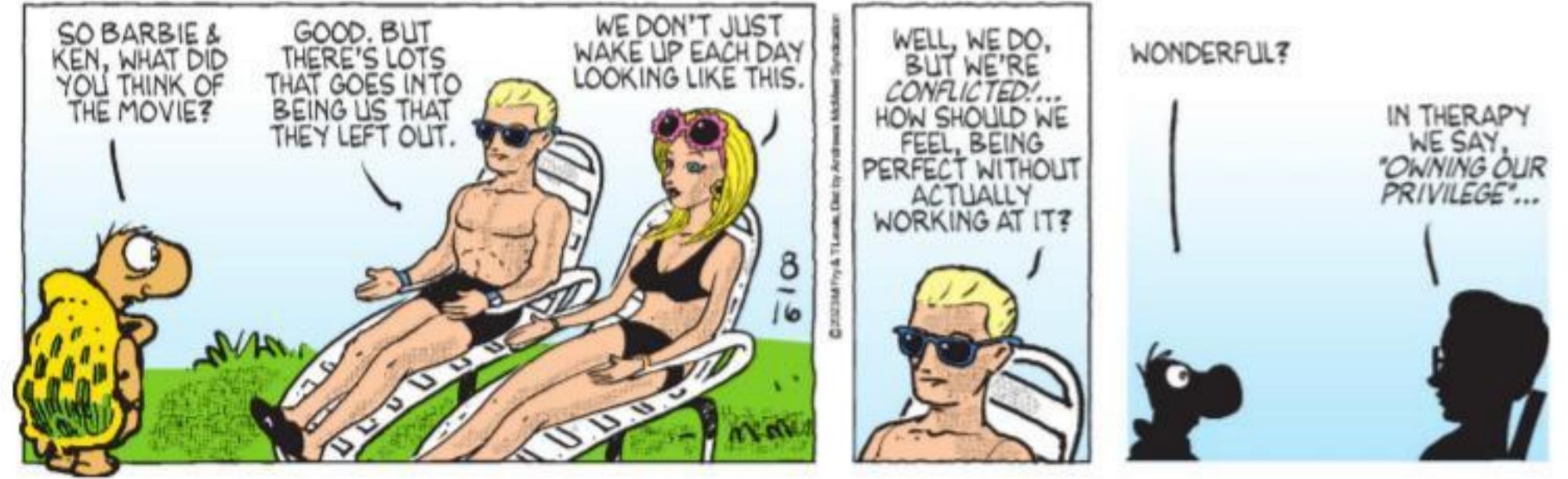
CROSSWORD 5282



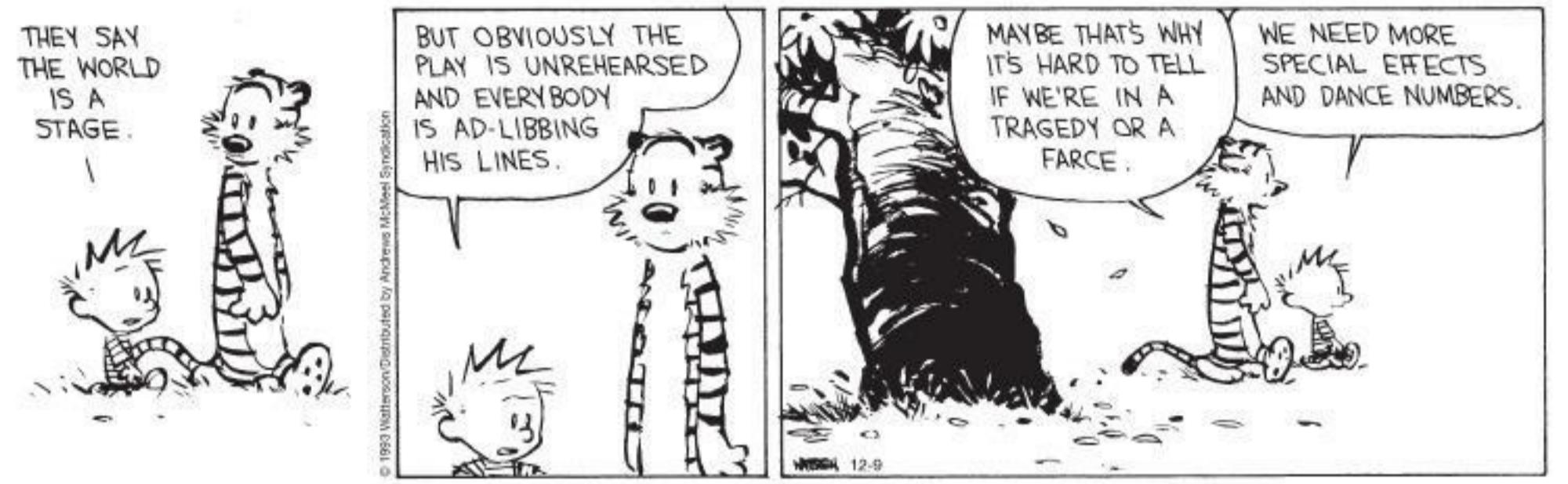
- ACROSS**
- One with rooted objections to the status quo? (7)
 - Vessels held right in harbours (5)
 - It won't let you come straight in (9,4)
 - Slow scoring rate? (5)
 - Loose bones scattered around the church (7)
 - Use fan wrongly and it becomes dangerous (6)
 - Sailor does need to change addresses (6)
 - Manage to keep going (5,2)
 - Trees newly transplanted (5)
 - A new start in life? (13)
 - Was off for the rest of the night? (5)
 - Flyer has stupidly gone wide pointlessly? (7)
- DOWN**
- Country river, a Russian river (5)
 - Angelic task for a religious meeting (6,7)
 - Decide not to proceed with the visit? (4,3)
 - Provided the number to dial in return (4,2)
 - Leaves young attendants (5)
 - A hatred of vegetables such as turnips? (6,7)
 - Cries of shrikes (7)
 - Makes straight for this (7)
 - Dogged saint? (7)
 - He provides a new setting for the doctor (6)
 - Cathy rocks the boat (5)
 - Saw no clear profit rise (5)

Solutions Crossword 5281 Across: 1 Vodka, 8 Waterloo, 9 Riser, 10 Leavings, 11 Assay, 12 You, 16 Solace, 17 Scythe, 18 Nee, 23 Spain, 24 Hard tack, 25 Stamp, 26 Cowslips, 27 Lying Down; 2 Omission, 3 Keep away, 4 Makdo, 5 Leave, 6 Blank, 7 Mouse, 12 Yen, 13 Use, 14 Sympathy, 15 Chairman, 19 Escape, 20 Shock, 21 Frown, 22 Still

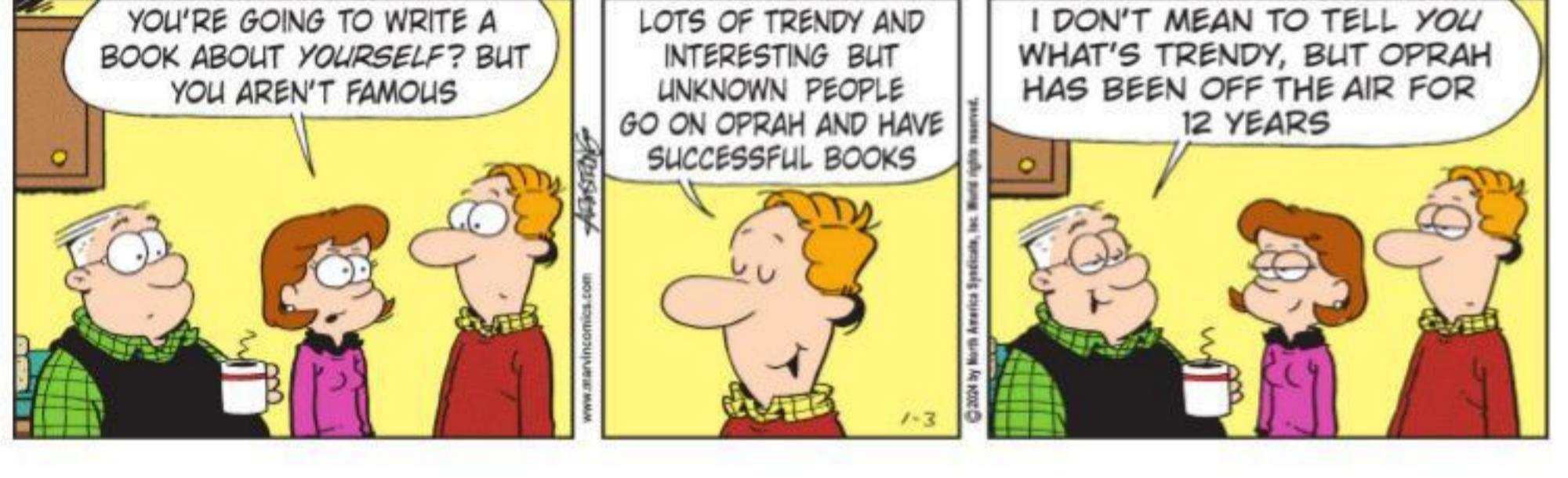
OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLE WORDS

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

The ___ follow their own direction - Euripides (6,3)

CNEEI

ANOWNT

INPSS

AHMYMW

ANSWER: NICE, SPINS/SPINS, WANTON/WANTON WHAMMY

SUDOKU 5466

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

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



Difficulty Level

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5465



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Even though it would be foolish to pretend that life is completely stress-free, you are currently in a relaxed phase between two periods of tension and friction. This is why you should be working to resolve and settle all outstanding disputes.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

There is little in your solar chart to indicate violent upheavals in your personal life just now. In fact, you seem to be doing quite well at expressing all your needs, hopes and aspirations, getting on top of worldly and material issues. By the afternoon, you'll be in a mood to make definite choices.



TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Why do people expect you to be a tower of strength? Perhaps it's because you always maintain such a cool exterior in crisis situations. Now, however, you should take the lead in questioning previously accepted arrangements. You can undo what was done.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Once in a while one particular sign of the zodiac is singled out for special treatment. This time it's you who is basking under extraordinarily benevolent influences, so it would be churlish indeed not to recognise your good fortune. There's one snag, though, partners are in control.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

If the atmosphere becomes strained it is because partners' aspirations are out of step with yours. Take notice of personal tensions now, because otherwise unforeseen disputes could mar the weekend. If there is a source of argument it will be money, so avoid confusion.



CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

An unusual amount

of planetary activity

affecting the region

of your horoscope

associated with health,

suggests you should pay more

attention to your physical

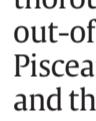
fitness. Astrology deals in

preventative medicine, so get

yourself in shape. And

remember that your

emotional well-being counts.



AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

There is no way in

which what

happens now will

be a repeat

performance of similar events

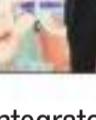
in recent times. Despite your

initial forebodings, you are

entering a period which in

many respects represents a

complete break with the past.



PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Don't worry if the hopes of reaching a

particular

agreement seem to

be slipping out of your grasp. A

brief pause is necessary if you

are to review your own

arrangements, rejecting

anything which is now

thoroughly old-fashioned and

out-of-date. Professional

Pisceans seem to be popular,

and that's good news.

CORPORATE BRIEFS

MoU—NTPC

NTPC signed a non-binding MoU with Numaligarh Refinery Ltd., a subsidiary of Oil India Ltd engaged in the business of Refining & Marketing of petroleum products, for partnership opportunities in the proposed bamboo-based Bio-Refinery at NTPC Bongaigaon & other Green projects. The MoU was signed in the august presence of Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC, Dr Ranjit Rath, CMD OIL & Chairman NRL & Bhaskar Jyoti Phukan, MD NRL.

75th REPUBLIC DAY—CWC

On the occasion of 75th Republic Day, Independent Director, Dinesh Dubey & Director (Personnel) hoisted the flag with the words, "Let each of us work towards promoting the inclusive growth of the Corporation. Because the rising sun and flag inspire unity and progress for our country and corporation".



INAUGURATION—POWERGRID

RK Tyagi, CMD, Powergrid, inaugurated the newly established Northern Region U-NMS Control Center recently in the presence of Dr. Yatindra Dwivedi, Dir. (Pers.), Powergrid, AK Mishra, ED (NR-I), Burra Vamsi, COO(POWERTEL), Vikram Singh Bhal, ED (CMG-Coord.), AK Behera (ED, TBCB-AM), RN Gupta, CGM (AM, NR-I), Dr. Sunita Chohan (CGM, GA&C) & other senior officials.

AWARD—WAPCO

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Mi/o Jal Shakti presented the "Best Consultancy Award 2023-2024" to RK Agrawal, CMD, WAPCO, in a ceremony held in New Delhi recently. The Award is instituted by Water Digest in partnership with UNESCO. The Company has provided engineering solutions to various clients in over fifty (50) countries and has developed global presence, particularly in South Asia and across Africa.



MoU—PUNJAB & SIND BANK

To facilitate farmers and traders in providing low interest rate loans, Punjab & Sind Bank exchanged a MoU with the Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) in the presence of Swarup Kumar Saha, MD & CEO Punjab & Sind Bank, TKM Kumar, Chairperson, WDRA and other senior officers of Punjab & Sind Bank and WDRA.

TOURNAMENT—SBI

SBI New Delhi Circle is organizing Inter Circle Football Tournament from 05.02.2024 to 09.02.2024 at Dr Ambedkar Stadium, ND. 16 Circle teams of the Bank from across the country are participating in this tournament. League matches for the same are being held in two stadiums- Dr. Ambedkar Stadium & Commonwealth Games Village Sports complex, New Delhi. KK Asavia, CGM, New Delhi Circle inaugurated the opening ceremony.



SELF PUBLISHING—BLUEROSE PUBLISHERS

Self-publishing, offering writers unprecedented oversight of their literary traverses, has evolved into a significant force in the dynamic publishing market. Under the visionary stewardship of Syed Arshad, BlueRose Publishers is at the forefront of this revolutionary trend, self-publishing and is a major factor in the literary industry's commercial impact. As the World Book Fair 2024 unfolds, BlueRose Publishers, found at Hall no. 5, D-08, Pragati Maidan takes the spotlight, embodying Arshad's steadfast commitment to nurturing emerging literature nationwide.

AWARD—MUTHOOT FINANCE

Muthoot Finance was honored with the prestigious BRICS-CCI Business Excellence Award in Leadership during a glittering award ceremony recently at Le Meridien, New Delhi. This distinguished award was presented to AG Muthoot, Joint MD of The Muthoot Group, by Maharaaja Dr. K Singh, member of Rajya Sabha (2000-2018) & titular Maharaja of the princely state of J&K, along with KJ Alphons, Former MoS Tourism.



AGREEMENT—PETRONET LNG LIMITED

Petronet LNG Limited has successfully concluded and executed a LNG Sale & Purchase Agreement (LNG SPA) for purchase of around 7.5 MMTPA LNG with QatarEnergy on long-term basis. This is pursuant to extension of an existing LNG SPA for LNG supply of around 7.5 MMTPA LNG Sale & Purchase Agreement on FOB basis, signed on 31 st July 1999 for supplies till 2028. Under the new agreement, LNG supplies will be made on delivered basis commencing from 2028 till 2048. Similar to earlier agreement of 1999, the LNG volumes under the new SPA shall also be offset by GAIL (60%), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (30%) & Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (10%) after regasification primarily from Dahej Terminal of PLL on substantially back to back basis. This LNG SPA between PLL & QatarEnergy will ensure energy security of the India & assure continued supplies of regassified LNG to major consuming sectors like fertilisers, CCGT, refineries & petchem, power and other industries. A K Singh, MD & CEO, Petronet LNG Limited said "the existing long-term agreement between Petronet LNG & Qatar Energy accounts for around 35% of India's LNG imports & is of national importance. Renewal of this agreement is a step towards achieving vision of PM of India to make India a gas based economy and increase share of natural gas in India's primary energy basket to 15% by year 2030. This agreement will provide energy security & ensure stable & reliable supply of clean energy and help India in its stride towards greater economic development."

INAUGURATION—POWERGRID

The newly constructed Control Room of the Neemuch Transmission system was inaugurated by RK Tyagi, CMD, Powergrid, in presence of A Choudhary, Dir. (Proj.) Powergrid, Smt. Bani Verma, Dir. BHEL, T. Krishnakumar, ED, WR-II, Powergrid, Vikram Singh Bhal, ED (CMG-Coord.), Powergrid, Subir Sen, ED (Eng.- TL), Powergrid & other senior officials. Tyagi reviewed the progress of the prestigious project which will enable evacuation of 500 MWRE from Rewa Ultra Mega Solar (RUMS) Park. This project is an important step towards RE integration into the National Grid & a critical element of a net-zero future that will reduce reliance on fossil fuels & lower carbon emissions having far-reaching benefits for society.

76th MARTYRS DAY—SCOPE

Remembering the Father of the nation on the 76th Martyrs' Day, SCOPE organized a Symposium on 'Reflections on Mahatma Gandhi's Ethical Leadership'. The program was addressed by Rohit Kumar Singh, Secy. (CA), Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution; Atul Sotgi, DG, SCOPE & Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Eminent Gandhian. Offering an insight into Gandhiji's principles of Ethical leadership centred around values and integrity, the program deliberated upon the necessity of these principles amidst the changing paradigms at workplaces. The symposium was enthusiastically participated by a large number of participants from across the country.

TRANSACTION—INDIAN OIL

The wholly owned subsidiary of IndianOil, IOC Global Capital Management IFSC Ltd. (IGCMIL) carried out its first transaction at GIFT City, Gandhinagar. The term sheet of the transaction of raising loan from DBS Bank Singapore, amounting to US\$100 million to refinance IndianOil's existing ECB (External Commercial Borrowing) loan was signed by Ruchir Agrawal, Dir. (IGCMIL), & Vikas Om Sahai, Senior Vice President, DBS Bank. This transaction is in line with the vision of IFSC GIFT City of bringing foreign capital to India & releasing the bandwidth of the Indian Banking Industry. Dr. Hasmukh Adhia, Chairman, GIFT City, Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman, IndianOil, Anuj Jain, Dir. (Fin.), IndianOil, Sanjay Kaushal, Chairman, IGCMIL & ED (Fin.), Corporate Office & members of senior management of IndianOil were present on this momentous occasion.



APPOINTMENTS

HSRCL

Vivek Kumar Gupta, an IRSE 1988 batch officer, assumed charge as MD of HSRCL. Before this, he was serving as the Principal ED/Gati-Shakti at the Railway Board (Ministry of Railways). He has held various senior positions in Central & Western Railway, including Chief Administrative Officer (Construction), Chief Track Engineer, Chief Bridge Engineer & DRM Bhusaval."



ALDORIA

Mylène Bosio is responsible for structuring Aldoria's sales & marketing department & its international development. Before joining Aldoria, Mylène Bosio worked for the satellite operator Eutelsat and subsequently for the Airbus Defense & Space. Mylène Bosio holds a master's degree in marketing specialising in new technologies & has 15 years experience in the space sector, holding positions in strategy, sales, industrial project management, & R&D/T marketing responsibility. Aldoria is a young French company & already a major player in Space Surveillance & European space sovereignty.

U19 WC: Inspired by Khawaja, Aussie Harjas ready to face Pakistan

PRATYUSHRAJ

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

AUSTRALIA OPENER Harjas Singh has had a forgettable U-19 World Cup so far, reaching double figures only twice. He has managed only 45 runs in six outings, but is confident to take on Pakistan's fancied pace battery comprising Ubaid Shah, Mohammad Zeeshan and Ali Mirza in Thursday's second semi-final, the winners of which will face defending champions India for the title.

"It has been a below-par tournament for me. I have not done well but just a few innings back, I had scored against England (Youth Test). I don't think I need to change anything in my batting technique," Harjas tells *The Indian Express* from Benoni.

"Pakistan does have a good bowling attack, but I have grown up playing cricket in Australia

and we are used to playing on bouncy tracks from a very young age. I am a big unit and can pack some punch as well," the left-hander says.

Interestingly, Harjas doesn't like watching cricket or following any star player, but Usman Khawaja's rise in the recent past has impressed him a lot. "I don't talk about cricket or watch it once I am out of the field. But in the past couple of years, I have been inspired by the journey of Usman Khawaja. He was dropped from the Test team, but fought his way back and is currently one of the best Test batsmen in the world. Above all, he is also a southpaw," he says.

Harjas' family moved to Sydney from Chandigarh in 2000. The youngster started playing at the local Revesby Workers Cricket Club when he was eight.

"I still have family back in Chandigarh and Amritsar. We have a house in Sector 44-D, but the last time I was there was 2015. Thereafter, cricket took over and I



Despite only making 45 runs in six outings, Australia's Harjas Singh is confident to face Pakistan's pacers. ICC

Harjas' family moved to Sydney from Chandigarh in 2000. The youngster started playing at the local Revesby Workers Cricket Club when he was eight.

never got the opportunity. My uncle still lives there," the teenager says.

A guiding hand

Impressed by his ability to spend time at the crease, Neil D'Costa - who has trained the likes of Michael Clarke, Phil Hughes, Mitchell Starc and Marnus Labuschagne - took him under his wing.

"I can't remember how long I have been training with him. He is someone who has kept

me grounded and has taught me the importance of spending time at the crease. He can be quick to criticise and slow to praise, but never goes over the top, regardless of a good or bad performance. Along with my parents, I owe a lot to him," says Harjas.

D'Costa too had lauded Harjas' talent as he feels the youngster is way ahead of his age-group. "This boy is special. He is capable of playing Test cricket for Australia," he was quoted by an Australian local newspaper as saying.

Harjas, a student of Westfield Sports High School, Fairfield, is blessed with sporting genes. His father Inderjit Singh was a Punjab state boxing champion, while his mother Avinder Kaur was a state-level long jumper. "My parents sacrificed all their free time to ensure I got proper training. They work in the transport industry. They spent hours and a lot of their savings to help shape my career," he says.

Harjas is a right-hander in almost everything he does, barring batting. There is an interesting story behind him becoming a left-hander. "As a young kid batting right-handed in the backyard, I was in danger of breaking the glass windows close by on the leg-side," he says.

"So, I started batting left-handed to avoid that potential crisis. And I've stuck to it! I bowl right-arm medium pacers though, and throw right-handed."

In a podcast on SBS Punjabi last year, Harjas has opened up on how he had to work a lot harder than others in the field because of his identity. "If you look different from others, you have to do something different and much more to maintain that identity and your place in the field," he had said on the podcast.

(Australia vs Pakistan, U19 World Cup semi-final: Live on Star Sports Network from 1:30PM IST)

Three defeats in three for Indian women's hockey

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN

FEBRUARY 7

BEFORE THE FIH Hockey Pro League home leg started, India coach Janneke Schopman wanted to see whether, against some of the best teams in the world, her side can still show they can compete. But carrying on from the heartbreak in Ranchi - where India fell short of qualifying for the Paris Olympics - their Pro League campaign has been off to a disappointing start.

Australia were the latest to hand India a defeat as they prevailed 3-0 against Savita Punia and Co in Bhubaneswar to keep India rooted close to the bottom of the table. A 1-3 loss against the Netherlands - the absolute powerhouses in women's hockey, currently holding all the major titles - is nothing to be ashamed of but on either side of it, there were worrying performances.

Coming so close to the reversal in Ranchi, the Pro League campaign was always going to be tricky for Schopman: firstly to pick up a squad feeling from the hurt, secondly to effect enough changes to make a difference against quality sides who are all heading for Paris.

India struggled to convert chances against Japan, trailing to an early goal and then fruitlessly attacking for the majority of the match. The Penalty Corner conversion has been a concern area, and despite the return of Gurjot Kaur, it remains an issue in Odisha. Against Australia, India failed to score from 5 penalty corners. In fact, their two goals so far in the tournament - from Vandana Katariya against China and Navneet Kaur against Netherlands - have been from open play.

On the other side, India have conceded 50 percent of their goals from PC situations, with the sensational Yibbi Jansen showing twice in the match against the Netherlands how important a top goalscorer from these set-pieces can be. It's an area Schopman has said India must address in the big picture. Indeed, from one of the PCs that India won against Australia, they were left so open at the back that the Hockeyroos nearly scored.

The defeat against Australia perhaps will sting the most because they haven't exactly played at their best so far: They lost 0-3 against China and even against India, were well below their best and ill-discipline saw them play most of the finishing stages with a player short. But when it mattered, they were clinical in scoring. Up next, is a match against the USA, who have already caused heartburn for this Indian side, handing them a damaging defeat in Ranchi not too long ago.

FINISHING SCHOOL FOR CHESS'S BEST

Four years into Soviet-style chess academy, Anand's students shine bright

AMIT KAMATH

MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 7

BACK IN December 2020, when India's first Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand started his chess academy, he had a modest dream: someone had "to carry the torch forward". Three years later, the torch is shining bright, with a queue of contenders ready to take on the mantle.

Three students from the first batch of the online WestBridge Anand Chess Academy (WACA) - D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa and his sister R Vaishali - have qualified for the upcoming Candidates tournament, a prestigious tournament to figure out the challenger to the reigning world champion.

Other promising prodigies at Anand's online academy are Nihal Sarin, Arjun Erigaisi, Raunak Sadhwani and Leon Luke Mendonca. While Arjun no longer plays in the junior category, Nihal, Raunak and Leon are -- along with Praggnanandhaa and Gukesh -- among the Top 10 ranked juniors in the world.

"The idea for the chess academy was to have a programme by which Indian youngsters carry the torch forward. I am very happy that the first group we picked are all doing so well now. It's pretty much what I expected, but I will admit to being slightly surprised by how quickly they have done it. I think we have done extremely well there," Anand tells *The Indian Express*.

Anand is not the only mentor at hand: he has assembled a quartet of Grandmasters to

Poland's Grzegorz Gajewski helps the youngsters with opening theories, GM Sandipan Chanda sharpens mid-game prep, Russian GM Artur Yusupov polishes endgames and Boris Gelfand hosts mentoring sessions.

help out with online classes.

Poland's Grzegorz Gajewski helps the youngsters with opening theories, GM Sandipan Chanda sharpens mid-game prep, Russian GM Artur Yusupov polishes endgames and Boris Gelfand hosts mentoring sessions. While Yusupov holds four classes a month, the others usually have about two classes each month.

At times, Anand requests Gelfand to hold an extra class - maybe even a dedicated session - right before players go in for an important tournament. In chess, getting a training session with top Grandmasters can be prohibitively expensive, which is where WACA fills in the gap.

Gelfand, while explaining his role at WACA with the prodigies, had told *The Indian Express* last year: "I show them some games and try to explain how I would take a decision in that situation. I explain my thinking process and analyse games of some of the



Promising prodigies at Viswanathan Anand's (C) online academy are Gukesh D (L) and R Praggnanandhaa (R). File

players to see what was good and what went wrong at recent tournaments. This helps them understand how they can adjust their game."

The genesis of WACA lay in a question Anand was asked by his good friend Sandeep Singh in 2019: what he would do for Indian chess whenever he gave up playing himself.

KYRIE SCORES 36 AGAINST NETS

New York: Kyrie Irving scored 36 points in his return to Brooklyn as the Dallas Mavericks took control in the second quarter, survived some shaky moments in the fourth and earned a 119-107 win over the Nets on Tuesday in New York. He made 15 of 24 shots in his second game back from a bruised thumb and hit six threes. **REUTERS**

me grounded and has taught me the importance of spending time at the crease. He can be quick to criticise and slow to praise, but never goes over the top, regardless of a good or bad performance. Along with my parents, I owe a lot to him," says Harjas.

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(Australia vs Pakistan, U19 World Cup semi-final: Live on Star Sports Network from 1:30PM IST)

BWF links up with 'Simply Periods'

New Delhi: Badminton World Federation has linked up with Simply Periods and intends to rope in an academic partner to conduct scientific research on menstrual and pelvic health of female badminton players. Former international Aditi Mutatkar, who is associated with the Pune-based athlete health organization, informed that a MOU was signed with the BWF at India Open. "We will start with a module on menstruation and athletes and coaches will be offered certification providing them tools and resources on related subjects like nutrition and pelvic health," Mutatkar said. Simply Periods went through a year-long process of presentations and workshops and received a favourable response from BWF's head of science, Ian Wright. Of particular interest was women athlete's pelvic health, as well as contraception practices. "Most people associate the word contraception with just not having babies. But it's also about managing cycles. We will look to educate athletes on this because you can't be playing around too much with menstrual cycles for the sake of sport," Mutatkar said.

water-based loss for the last day. I don't stop eating. I'm focussed and relaxed and not energy deprived for medal bouts," says the 57kg wrestler.

Pullinger has put in place a program where wrestlers' weights are recorded every two days. And food intake is carefully monitored without compromising on health from two months before competition. "Until recently, I would aim at losing even 5-6 kg overnight by restricting food and with heavy duty exercise. Not even 100ml of water was allowed. But I realised, while I sailed through Round 1 and 2, by the time it was the third or fourth bout and important medal rounds, I was collapsing with no energy. Now, after regulating weight for weeks ahead, I leave only the last 500 gms or 1-2 kg which is

stream of Anterior Cruciate Ligament knee injuries and rash of ligament tears, he has now insisted there would be no more sauna and wet suits-facilitated melting of weight.

"There were too many risks, the ACL and other serious injury count was high after too much weight was suddenly dropped and that offset any power advantage. I decided to initiate them into gradual weight loss in the weeks preceding with help from coaches and nutritionists and Strength & Conditioning trainers, and dragging them away from mal-practices that have set in to make weight," Pullinger says.

Combat sports are tough in themselves, but India's female athletes are learning to cope during challenging phases. File

Rathore recalls extreme starving, days ahead of competition before 2019 when she reached IIS. "Until recently, I would aim at losing even 5-6 kg overnight by restricting food and with heavy duty exercise. Not even 100ml of water was allowed. But I realised, while I sailed through Round 1 and 2, by the time it was the third or fourth bout and important medal rounds, I was collapsing with no energy. Now, after regulating weight for weeks ahead, I leave only the last 500 gms or 1-2 kg which is

NUMBER PLATE

5

Five Indians make up the Top 10 FIDE junior rankings. D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa, Nihal Sarin, Arjun Erigaisi, Raunak Sadhwani and Leon Luke Mendonca make up the rankings.

Anand didn't have an answer then.

But a few months later, he returned to Singh with a concrete plan: a chess academy modelled on the lines of the legendary Botvinnik School of Chess and the Samford Fellowship. Thus, WACA came into being in December 2020 with Anand looking at the chess mentoring aspect and WestBridge Capital, of which Singh is the co-founder, coming on board as the financial partner.

It was at the Botvinnik Chess School in the erstwhile Soviet Union in the 1960s, spearheaded by world champion Mikhail Botvinnik, that Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik learnt the intricacies of the sport.

Anand has influenced many a prodigy's decisions with what he calls 'tailormade solutions': from Gukesh hiring Polish GM Grzegorz Gajewski as his trainer to Vaishali working with GM Sandipan Chanda. Both Gajewski and Chanda have worked extensively with the five-time world champion

during his playing days.

"I was the one who recommended Gajewski to Gukesh. Gajewski was my trainer for nine or so years. I recommended him at a stage of Gukesh's career where I thought he will now need very serious work on his openings because he'll be competing against players who are very good in their openings. My first input for Vaishali was that Sandipan (Chanda) was brilliant for me at some point in my career when I really needed him. He gave me some amazing ideas. So I told her, 'Why don't you have a couple of training sessions with him?' If she chooses to work with Sandipan, I'll arrange the schedule of the rest of the academy as well."

Anand is keen to clarify that the counsel he provides to players are just suggestions or nudges. He also tries to get them to visualise tournament scenarios: he has had these conversations with all three Candidates contenders from WACA: Pragg, Vaishali and Gukesh. In fact, he had one of these conversations with Pragg just before he went to Wijk aan Zee in the Netherlands for the Tata Steel Masters.

"My thing is to counsel them. I am always available for them to bounce off ideas. I don't dictate anything, but I am available for consultations," says Anand.

So what's the next step for WACA? "We will keep being a resource that Indian chess can benefit from. But we will also react to events: If something dramatic happens now (at the Candidates), then that will take a lot of our focus."

Kohli set to miss third Test but Rahul and Jadeja likely to return

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 7

VIRAT Kohli's return to the Indian team will be delayed as the star batsman is certain to miss the third Test against England in the ongoing five-match series. Kohli hasn't conveyed his availability for the third Test, starting at Rajkot from February 15, by Wednesday evening. The Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) senior selection committee is expected to meet virtually on Thursday to pick the team for the remaining three Test matches and it is understood that they will pick a squad without Kohli in it. Whenever the former captain is available for selection, he will be added to the side. The five-match Test series is level 1-1. Kohli had missed the first two Test matches of the series due to personal reasons and it is learnt that he had flown to England thereafter with his family. "Virat will decide when he wants to make a comeback to the Indian side. He hasn't informed us till now but whenever he decides to play, he will be included in the team," a BCCI official said. Three days before the series began, Kohli had told the Indian team management and selectors that he wanted a break. In its press release, the BCCI had stated that, "While representing the country has always been his top priority, certain personal situations demand his presence and undivided attention. The BCCI respects his decision and the Board and team management has extended its support to the star batter".

Seniors to return

The Indian players who will be picked for the third Test have been asked to report at Rajkot on February 11. It is understood that KL Rahul will be making his way back to the Indian side after missing the Visakhapatnam Test due to a quad strain. All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has also shown good progress after being ruled out due to a hamstring injury.

Meanwhile, the team management has left it to Jasprit Bumrah to decide whether he wants to play the third Test. The Indian cricketers have got more than 10 days' break before the Rajkot Test gets underway. It is understood that the medical team will submit its report on Bumrah's workload management to the selection committee and the panel will then take a call on whether the speedster should play or not. However, the team management and selectors will take Bumrah's own input before coming to a decision.

SANDIP G
FEBRUARY 7

"THE BITTERNESS," sighed Roger Federer in his retirement press conference last September, "is you always want to play forever." The tennis virtuoso was 41 when he bid farewell to a sport he had recast in his image. To play forever is the drug for great athletes, as they attempt to defy (and refuse) age, the aching bones and the crying muscles. To play forever is the drug that fires James Anderson too.

The ageless England seamer, his country's highest wicket-taker in Tests and ODIs, made his international debut in 2002, a year after Federer upended Pete Sampras on the Wimbledon grass, the symbolic passing-of-the-mantle moment, and a year before the Swiss was first crowned king of SW19. Age finally defeated Federer, but Anderson continues to defeat the passing of time.

Cricket, even its most arduous chore of fast bowling, might be less brutal on the body than tennis, but to last 21 years in any physical sport is a feat in itself. The time-span reveals so many layers of greatness — that he is still good enough to play competitive sport, that he still has the peak fitness to produce match-defining spells, that he still possess the mind to learn, adapt and evolve, and most of all that he still loves the game he fell in love with as a wide-eyed adolescent in Burnley. The drive to play at this age is something beyond the seductiveness of success and fame, or the lure of the lucre, merely unstained love for the game.

It's his love for the game that manifests every time Anderson breaks into that lithe and spotless run-up of his. Among England's vast crew of bowlers this series, he has looked the most prepared and equipped operator. There are two colleagues that were not born when he made his Test debut; a breakout left-arm spinner who picked a seven-wicket haul in his maiden Test. But none of them have looked as fresh, as fit or as fiery as Anderson. The build-up to the series featured him shelling out five pounds a month to access a public running track next to Manchester City's Etihad Stadium.

A low-yield Ashes last year had put his place in jeopardy, but Anderson refused to yield. He introspected, computed the solutions and hit the track running. He realised the necessity to quicken up his run-up rather than rely on his action to generate the pace.

"My run-up is the main thing, just trying

87

James Anderson is the second most successful non-Asian fast bowler in Asian conditions, with 87 wickets in 53 innings at an average of 26.11, behind only Dale Steyn

Among England's crew of bowlers, Anderson looks most prepared.

to make sure it is better. One thing that was not right was my run-up speed. I can't rely on that fast-twitch snap at the crease that I've had over the years so I've been working on the momentum in my run-up to get speed that way. That feels like it is working really well, the ball is coming out really well and I just need to transfer that outdoors now," he would tell The Telegraph.

Ageless wonder

These are the tiny tweaks elite athletes make to prolong their careers, to stay as productive and relevant as they advance in years. As he aged, Cristiano Ronaldo would train harder; his great contemporary Lionel Messi would run less on the field and choose specific (and often game-defining) moments to burst forth; Federer would add more improvised

strokes to his repertoire. England's former bowling coach Otis Gibson once likened Anderson to "a mathematician grappling with a complex formula," a mind on an eternal quest for perfection, a work of art that is perennially in progress.

From a wild teenage tearaway, Anderson mastered the art of swinging the ball, in the air and from the surface. In the journey, he harnessed to seam the ball, learnt to reverse the ball, developed the wobble after he saw Mohammad Asif bowling something similar in the nets. Cutters and slower ones too squeezed into his oeuvre. He befriended the new ball, just as he tamed the old one. From a cloud-cover, cold-weather phenomenon, he would transform into an all-season metronome. He is the second-most successful non-Asian fast bowler in Asia (87 wickets at 26) after Dale Steyn (92 at 24.11). Of those, 39 have arrived in India, where too he is second-most prolific overseas seamer after Courtney Walsh (43). He could rewrite both the records in his name by the end of the ongoing series, even as early as the next Test.

This series, he has looked more taut and supple than ever before; the washboard abs were the buzz before the series, his ageless art once the series began. On a surface in Visakhapatnam made to grind bones, he was England's most influential bowler as well as the least expensive. The nod to his supreme art came not just in the form of shrewdly-designed entraps, but in the respect opposition batsmen paid him. Yashasvi Jaiswal, who kicked along at a strike rate of 72, mustered only seven runs off the 47 balls he faced. He leaked only 2.4 runs an over in the two innings combined, by far the most economical bowler across both sides. The 35 overs he bowled in the match offered a detailed peep into his exemplary art. There was everything one wanted to see him bowl. The swing with the new ball, the wobble-seamers, the cutter assortment, the reverse-swinging devils, the untried, hold-an-end-up spells under the baking sun. He also became the oldest seamer to bowl in India, bettering the legendary Lala Amarnath. And the latter would not have uncorked deliveries at 87 mph. It's fair to assume that no one has bowled faster at his age at this level either.

At some point in the series, Anderson could grab his 700th scalp (427 of those were wrought after his 30th birthday). He is only five short of the mark. The landmark would again spark retirement talks. Anderson, though, would kick on undisturbed, fueled like the true greats, to keep playing forever.

'Pant is confident he'll play IPL,' says Ponting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

DELHI CAPITALS head coach Ricky Ponting said that Rishabh Pant is 'very confident' featuring for the franchise in the 2024 edition of Indian Premier League, as the wicket-keeper batsman makes his comeback from a horrific accident in December 2022. But the former Australian captain added that he wasn't entirely sure if Pant would keep wickets.

"Rishabh is very confident that he's going to be right to play," Ponting said on Wednesday after being unveiled as MLC franchise Washington Freedom's coach. "In what capacity we're not quite sure yet. You would have seen all the social-media stuff, he's up and about and running well. But we're only six weeks away from the first game. So we're not sure if we'll get wicket-keeping out of him this year. But I'll guarantee if I asked him now he'll say, 'I'm playing every game, I'm keeping every game and I'm batting at No.4'."

Pant was missed in 2023, Ponting said, as DC struggled throughout the season and finished one place off the bottom of the table. "He's such a dynamic player. He's obviously our captain. We missed him incredibly last year. If you understand the journey he's been on the last 12-13 months, it was a horrific incident. One that I know he feels very lucky to have even survived, let alone have the chance to play cricket again. Even if it's not all the games, if we can manage him through 10 of the 14 games or whatever that might be, then whatever games you can get out of him will be a bonus."

In an interview that aired recently with Star Sports, titled 'Believe: To Death and Back', Pant had said there was a possibility of amputation but he is lucky to be still alive.

"If there was any nerve damage, there was a possibility of amputation. That is when I felt scared," Pant had said.

The Delhi dasher also spoke about finding the joy in little things. "I didn't think I would ever enjoy brushing my teeth. The first time I took a bath, I didn't feel like coming out. These small things gave me joy."

"Doctors also said that there was no fracture after the accident. Yes, my knee injury was major, but this could have been so big. They always tell me I am lucky. Of course, it was such a horrific accident, the individual feels bad that this happened to me. You've got to get the best talent out there that you think's ready to play."

Right-arm Ageless

Vizag Test showed James Anderson, 41, seems to have lost none of his skills, fitness and hunger



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