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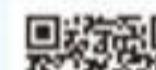
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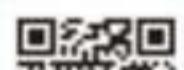


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THE WORLD



TOP OF THE WORLD



PM Anwar Ibrahim. AP

MALAYSIA

PM urges China, US cooperation in Asia-Pacific

Melbourne: Malaysia's prime minister said Thursday that the United States has become more "transactional," using rewards and punishments to achieve aims with other countries, and should be encouraged to enhance co-operation with China in the Asia-Pacific. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim advocated against taking sides in US rivalry against China for strategic influence in the region. He also rejected Western criticism that Malaysia is too accommodating of China as it becomes increasingly assertive in the South China Sea. Anwar promoted "empathy" toward China, which he said regarded negative reactions to its rise as an "attempt to deny their place in history." AP

PAKISTAN

Court extends stay on MPs' oath-taking

Islamabad: A Pakistani high court on Thursday extended till March 13 the stay order on the oath-taking of those candidates who were allotted reserved seats in the National Assembly that ex-premier Imran Khan's party-backed SIC has claimed should have been given to it. A two-member bench of the Peshawar High Court was hearing the case filed by the 71-year-old former prime minister Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) about the allotment of reserved seats to women and minority. AP

EGYPT

Tourism picks up despite shadow of war in Gaza

Berlin: The Israel-Hamas war in Gaza caused a drop in tourism to Egypt compared to expectations in the last quarter of 2023, but the number of visitors picked up in the first two months of the year, the country's tourism minister said on Thursday. In addition to the effect on tourism, attacks on Red Sea shipping have jeopardised another of the main sources of hard currency for Egypt's struggling economy - receipts from traffic through the Suez Canal. Tourism Minister Ahmed Issa said 3.6 million tourists visited in the October-December 2023 period. REUTERS

GERMANY

Misogynistic hate speech online: Cops raid homes

Berlin: German law enforcement authorities on Thursday carried out raids across Germany against people suspected of posting misogynistic hate speech on the internet as part of a coordinated push to shine the spotlight on online violence against women. Police raided homes and interrogated 45 suspects in 11 states early Thursday. None of the suspects were detained, Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office said in a statement. Another 37 suspects were already searched and interrogated in previous weeks. AP

PRAISES ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN PROVINCE

Top official from China's Xinjiang says 'Sinicisation' of Islam inevitable

Regional leader rejects allegations of cultural genocide, forced labour

REUTERS
BEIJING, MARCH 7

XINJIANG'S TOP Communist Party official said on Thursday that the "Sinicisation" of Islam in the Muslim-majority region in northwestern China, where Beijing is accused of human rights abuses, is "inevitable".

"Everyone knows that Islam in Xinjiang needs to be Sinicised, this is an inevitable trend," regional party chief Ma Xingrui told reporters at a largely scripted briefing on the sidelines of China's annual par-



Xinjiang party chief Ma Xingrui at a press meet in Beijing, Thursday. Reuters

liamentary sessions. Rights groups accuse Beijing of widespread abuses of

Uyghurs, a mainly Muslim ethnic minority that numbers around 10 million in Xinjiang, including denying Uyghurs full religious freedoms.

Beijing vigorously denies any abuses.

During the news conference, Ma and other regional officials praised Xinjiang's economic development, refuted US allegations of forced labour and cultural genocide, and tried to paint the region as open to foreign tourism and investment.

Ma, a high-flying former governor of prosperous Guangdong province who was transferred to

Xinjiang in 2021, stressed needs to "coordinate security and development".

"The three forces are still active now, but we cannot be afraid (to open up) because they exist," said Ma, using a political slogan referring to "ethnic separation, religious extremism and violent terrorist forces" in Xinjiang.

Beijing in 2017 launched a harsh security crackdown in Xinjiang after a spate of violent ethnic protests, which saw over a million people from several Muslim minorities detained in re-education camps, rights groups allege.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa hints India insisted that he continue on post in 2022

Former Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, MARCH 7

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA, ousted as the president of Sri Lanka in a popular public uprising in 2022, on Thursday hinted that India was keen on his continuation despite the growing public discontent against him at the behest of certain Western powers.

"There was, in fact, a major foreign power that was insisting that I should not resign and they had demonstrated their willingness to do whatever it takes to keep Sri Lanka with essentials," Rajapaksa, 74, writes in his book without naming India.

Titled *The Conspiracy to oust me from the Presidency*, Rajapaksa's book was out for sale starting Thursday but there was no official book launch.

"Determining foreign powers and certain local parties were financing and organising violent protests and sabotage for my removal," he wrote. He did not name any country but sentences such as "Some countries like to portray themselves as the guardians of democracy and the rule of the law world over" do make it obvious to which Western nation he is pointing fingers at.

EU backs a year more of Ukraine food imports

Brussels: European Union lawmakers approved on Thursday granting Ukrainian food producers tariff-free access to EU markets for another year, rejecting amendments that could have imposed restrictions.

Import duties and quotas on Ukrainian farm were lifted in 2022 after Russia's invasion, which disrupted shipments via the Black Sea. Farmers have voiced anger over what they say is unfair competition from cheaper Ukrainian imports.

The full parliament is expected to confirm approval for the extension next week. REUTERS



Protesters ram down the door of Mexico's Presidential palace, in Mexico city, Wednesday. Reuters

■ A group protesting the 2014 missing of 43 students in Mexico knocked down a door to the country's presidential palace, local tv visuals showed.

■ Asked about the incident, President Lopez Obrador said he was not going to repress the protest and would continue to investigate the case.

■ "The door will be fixed and there will be no problem," said the president, who said the protesters would meet with members of his government.

WILL CONTINUE CEASEFIRE TALKS UNTIL AGREEMENT, SAYS HAMAS OFFICIAL

Hamas leaves Cairo amid talks; Dems question Biden over weapons to Israel

Washington urged to use military aid as leverage to let more aid to Gaza

REUTERS
CAIRO, MARCH 7

AHAMAS delegation left Cairo on Thursday, but will continue with Gaza ceasefire talks until an agreement is reached with Israel, the group said in a statement, with a Hamas official blaming Israel for a lack of progress.

"Hamas's delegation left Cairo this morning for consultation with the leadership of the movement, with negotiations and efforts continuing to stop the aggression, return the displaced and bring in relief aid to our people," the Hamas statement said.

But senior Hamas official, Sami Abu Zuhri, said Israel had been "thwarting" efforts to conclude a ceasefire deal mediated by Qatar and Egypt during four days of talks hosted by Cairo.

Abu Zuhri told Reuters Israel was rejecting Hamas's demands to end its offensive, withdraw its forces, and ensure freedom of en-



Gazans at an Israeli airstrike site in Deir al Balah, Thursday. AP

try for aid and the return of displaced people. There was no immediate comment from Israel.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden's administration faced growing calls from his fellow Democrats on Wednesday to push Israel to ease the devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza, with some saying they may try to stop military assistance if conditions for civilians do not improve.

"We need to use all the leverage we've got. The administration has not used the leverage it has to date. I don't know how many

more kids have to starve before we use all the levers of our influence here," Senator Chris Van Hollen, a Democratic member of the Foreign Relations Committee, told reporters.

Van Hollen and other lawmakers have called upon the administration to hold back military assistance to Israel if PM Benjamin Netanyahu's government does not take steps such as opening crossings into Gaza for aid shipments. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

AFTER CAPTURE, SHE ORGANISED REBELLION AGAINST GUARDS IN CONCENTRATION CAMP

Josette Molland, who captured life in Nazi camps through art, dies at 100

ADAM NOSSITER
MARCH 7

IN THE spring of 1943, Josette Molland, a 20-year-old art student, was certain of two things: that she was making a pretty good living creating designs for Lyon's silk weavers, and that it was unbearable that Germans occupied her country.

She joined the Resistance. Fabricating false papers and transporting them for the famed Dutch-Paris underground network unburdened her of guilt. But it was dangerous.

Captured by the Gestapo less than a year later, Molland



Molland's painting depicting a Nazi camp torture. NYT

THIRD PROTEST SINCE MID-FEB OVER EU POLICIES

FARMERS DUMP MANURE ON PRAGUE STREETS

Czech farmers dumped manure in front of the government's office, blocked Prague streets with tractors and taunted the country's farm minister on Thursday as they renewed protests demanding more help and a halt to cheap imports to the European Union. In their third protest since mid-February, farmers brought traffic to a standstill in several spots.

REUTERS

UKRAINE WAR PROMPTED SECURITY RETHINK

Sweden officially joins NATO, ending decades of post-WWII neutrality

Swedish PM guest of honour at Biden's annual Cong address

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, MARCH 7

SWEDEN ON Thursday formally joined NATO as the 32nd member of the transatlantic military alliance, ending decades of post-World War II neutrality as concerns about Russian aggression in Europe have spiked following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and Secretary of State Antony Blinken presided at a ceremony in which Sweden's "instrument of accession" to the alliance was officially deposited at the State Department.

Later Thursday, Kristersson will visit the White House and then be a guest of honor at President Joe Biden's State of the Union address to Congress.

The White House said that having Sweden as a NATO ally "will make the United States and our allies even safer."

"NATO... is as critical today to ensuring the security of our citizens as it was 75 years ago when our alliance was founded out of the wreckage of World War II," it said in a statement. Sweden, along with Finland, which joined NATO last year, abandoned long-standing military neutrality — a hallmark of the Nordic states' Cold War foreign policy — after Russia invaded Ukraine in early 2022.

Biden in his speech to Congress is expected to use Sweden's decision to step up calls for Republicans to approve a stalled military aid to Ukraine, as the war enters its third year.



Antony Blinken with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson at the State Department in Washington on Thursday. Reuters

Ukraine conflict could blow up into war in Europe, says Russian military official

REUTERS
MOSCOW, MARCH 7

A SENIOR Russian military officer has warned that the conflict in Ukraine could escalate into a full-scale war in Europe and said the probability of Moscow's forces becoming involved in a new conflict is increasing "significantly."

Colonel-General Vladimir Zarudnitsky, head of the Russian army's Military Academy of the General Staff, made the comments in an article for "Military Thought", a defence ministry publication, the state RIA news agency reported Thursday.

"The main source of military threats to our state is the anti-Russian policy of the United States and its allies, who are conducting a new type of hybrid warfare in order to weaken Russia... and destroy its territorial integrity," he was quoted as saying.

"The likelihood of our state being purposefully drawn into new military conflicts is significantly increasing."

After sweeping wins in primaries, Biden, Trump camps brace for Nov rematch

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ATLANTA, MARCH 7

JOE BIDEN and Donald Trump each won the White House by razor-thin margins in key states.

Now, with a rematch of their bitter 2020 campaign all but officially set after Super Tuesday, the two campaigns are unveiling their strategies for an unprecedented matchup between a president and his immediate predecessor.

Both campaigns

will fight the hardest

in seven battle-

ground states, five

of which flipped

from Trump in 2016

to Biden four years

ago. Biden's reelection campaign claims a jump on hiring staff and targeting swing-state voters. Trump campaign officials are finalizing a takeover of the Republican National Committee this week and looking to expand their field operation.

Biden and Trump will each hold events in Georgia on Saturday, a week after they did si-



Joe Biden; Donald Trump

multaneous U.S.-Mexico border trips in Texas. That's a reflection of how closely their campaigns will bump up against each other but also how they will work for votes differently.

Biden will be in metro Atlanta, home to a fast-growing and diverse population.

In a statement Tuesday night, Biden blistered Trump, saying the former president is "driven by grievance and grift, focused on his own revenge and retribution" and "determined to destroy democracy, rip away fundamental freedoms like the ability for women to make their own health care decisions and pass another round of billions of dollars in tax cuts for the wealthy."

Tuesday night, Biden blistered

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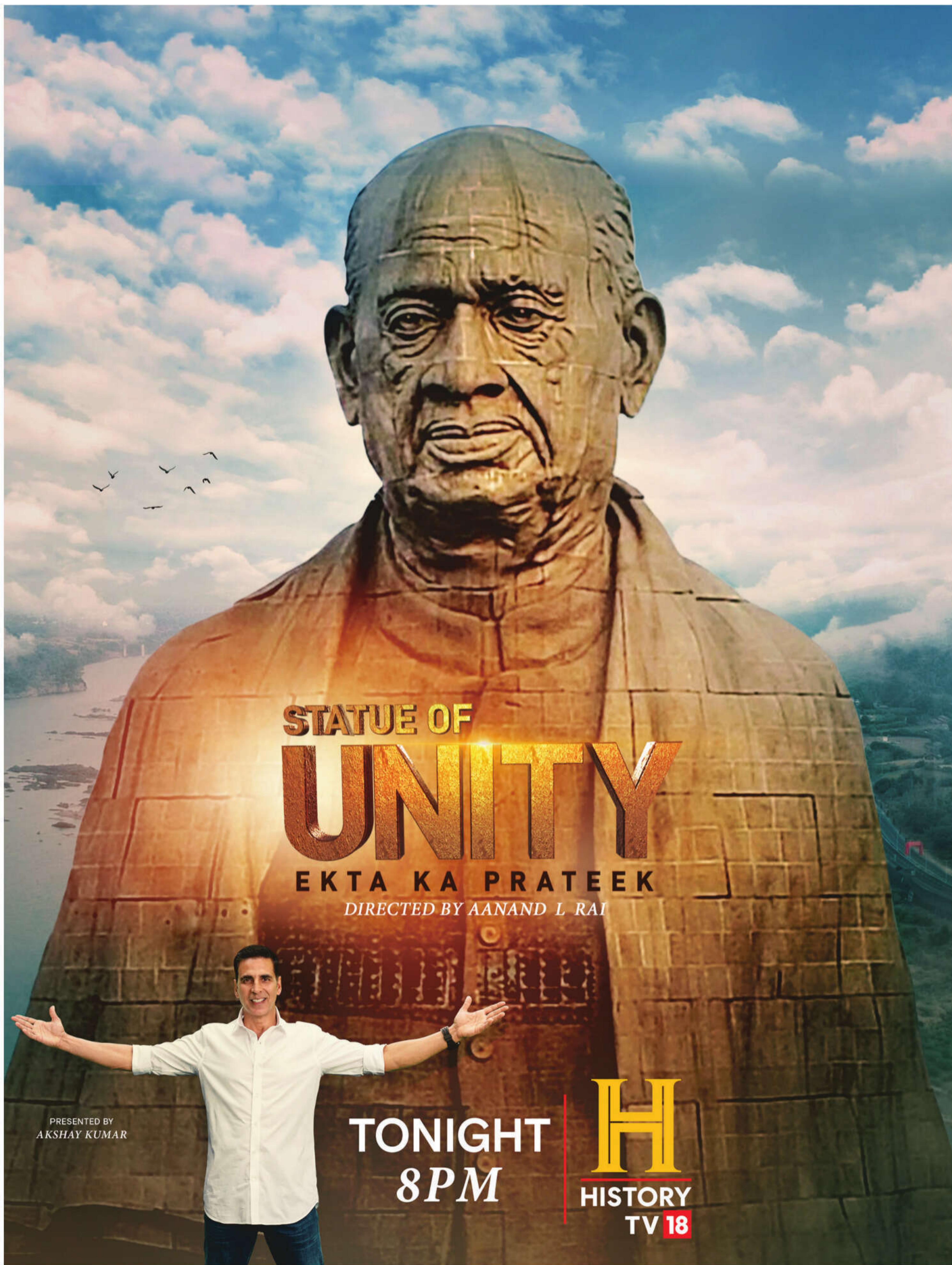
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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024



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

India to manufacture Penicillin G again: why it was stopped

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

INDIA WILL start manufacturing the common antibiotic Penicillin G later this year, three decades after the country's last plant shut down. Health minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced last week.

This is one of the successes of the government's Production Linked Incentive scheme, launched during the pandemic to promote domestic manufacturing — the scheme gives incentives to companies on incremental sales of products manufactured in domestic units.

Penicillin G is the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) in several antibiotics.

Why did penicillin manufacturing stop in India?

Penicillin G, just like many other APIs that India manufactured, was phased out of production because of subsidy-driven cheaper Chinese products flooding the market. The

last plant to stop production of the antibiotic was of Torrent Pharma in Ahmedabad.

"There were at least five companies, including Torrent, which manufactured Penicillin G in the country in the 90s. But the prices of the Chinese products were so low that the Indian manufacturers went out of business. The huge plants had to be sold for scrap," said an industry expert on condition of anonymity.

Another industry expert, CM Gulhati, said: "There were nearly 2,000 API manufacturers in India in the early 90s. But there were nearly 10,000 units that manufactured formulations. And, for them, the cheaper Chinese products made more sense, especially at a time when the country's economy was opening up and customs rules were relaxed. The Drug Prices Control Order — which capped prices of essential medicines — also ensured that more companies went for cheaper imported products."

Citing the example of paracetamol, he said India sold it for around Rs 800 per kg at the time, but China brought the prices

down to nearly Rs 400 per kg, making it unviable for Indian manufacturers. He added:

"Now, there are only a couple of hundred API manufacturers in the country. And,

many of them produce it for their own products and not for sale."

WHAT IS PENICILLIN G

PENICILLIN G is the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) used in several common antibiotics. An API is the main ingredient of a drug responsible for bringing about its desired effects. Like many other APIs, Penicillin G was phased out of production in India after cheaper Chinese products flooded the market. The last plant to stop production of the antibiotic was Torrent Pharma in Ahmedabad.

ACCORDING TO the United States government's National Library of Medicine, Penicillin G is a narrow spectrum antibiotic used for the treatment of several serious bacterial infections such as pneumonia, meningitis, gonorrhoea, syphilis, etc. Due to poor oral absorption, Penicillin G is generally administered intravenously or intramuscularly. Penicillin G may have some side effects in some patients.

Aurobindo Pharma.

Why did it take so long to restart?

One, the need wasn't felt. "While the industry and government were aware of the decline in production of APIs in India, since cheaper alternatives were available in the globalised world, there wasn't much focus

on restarting production within the country. The supply chain disruption caused during the pandemic was a wake-up call that we needed to be self-reliant," said Dr Viranchi Shah, president of Indian Drug Manufacturers Association. This led to the government launching the PLI scheme to support manufacturing within the country.

Two, there are huge initial costs. "Manufacturing an API, especially a fermented one like Penicillin G, is cost-intensive. There is huge capital expenditure involved in setting up a factory, with the company being able to break even only after a couple of years," said the first expert.

Third, China is already a well-established supplier. "Our neighbour has scaled up manufacturing several-folds in the last three decades. Competing with the prices would require investments in bigger facilities," said Shah.

What has been the impact of PLI schemes?

The first expert and Shah both agreed that there has been a decline in imports of APIs

since the launch of the PLI scheme in March 2020. "There has been a decline in the imports of APIs. Take the example of paracetamol — before the pandemic, we were importing two-thirds of the API needed, now that volume has halved," said Shah.

The other expert, however, added: "We still import 90% of our API for antibiotics and nearly 70% of all APIs. It will take time for API manufacturing to pick up."

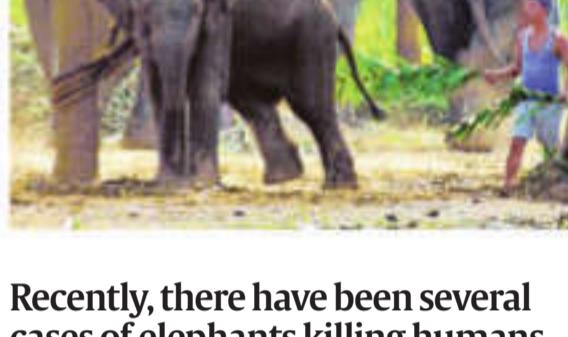
The scheme envisages a support of 20% for first four years, 15% for fifth year, and 5% for sixth year on eligible sales of fermentation-based bulk drugs such as antibiotics and enzymes, and hormones such as insulin. These are more difficult to manufacture, with fermentation used to cultivate micro-organisms for the synthesis of the drugs.

For chemically synthesised drugs, the incentive will be at the rate of 10% for six years on eligible sales.

The PLI scheme for pharmaceutical ingredients and medical devices seeks that applicants will commit a certain amount prescribed by the government as investment to build capacities in these areas.

EXPLAINED POLICY

WHY KERALA DECLARED MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT A STATE-SPECIFIC DISASTER

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 7

Recently, there have been several cases of elephants killing humans in Kerala. Archive

What changes

At present, managing man-animal conflict is the responsibility of the forest department, which acts as per the Wild Life Protection Act. Once the issue is declared a state-specific disaster, the onus to deal with it shifts to the state disaster management authority, which, powered by the Disaster Management Act, can take quicker and more decisive action.

At the state level, the Chief Minister is the *ex officio* chairman of the body, and several departments, including the forest department, are stakeholders. In the districts, the district disaster management authority is headed by the district collector, who is also the executive magistrate.

Once an issue is declared a state-specific disaster or a national disaster, the disaster management authority can take quick decisions and actions overriding all other norms. Also, district collectors can directly intervene in their capacity as the chairman of the district disaster body.

Why the change

In the past few weeks, everytime a life has been lost to man-animal conflict, there has been a mounting chorus to tranquillise/capture/kill the animals responsible.

At present, the chief wildlife warden — there is only one such post in the state

— is the only authority to take a call on a wild animal wreaking havoc in human settlement. Also, in the past, there have been cases where the decision to tranquillise a killer animal, such as a wild elephant, has been questioned in court.

Once the issue is under the disaster management authority, it can take actions overriding other norms, including those under the Wildlife Protection Act.

As per section 71 of the Disaster Management Act, no court (except the Supreme Court or a High Court) shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding in respect of anything done by relevant authorities in pursuance of any power conferred by this Act. Section 72 of the Act says that the provisions of this Act will have an overriding effect on any other law during the specific period that a disaster has been declared.

Other such disasters

In 2015, Odisha had declared snakebite a state-specific disaster.

In 2020, Kerala declared Covid as a state specific disaster. Besides, heat waves, sunburn and sunstroke have been declared so in 2019, the phenomenon of soil piping in 2017, and lightning and coastal erosion in 2015.

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ANJALI MARAR
BENGALURU, MARCH 7

EARLIER THIS month, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted a hot summer this year, with above-normal temperatures and an above-normal number of heatwave days from March to May.

On Tuesday, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a specialised agency of the UN, said in a media release that the 2023–24 El Niño, one of the five strongest on record, has peaked and is gradually weakening — but it will continue to impact climate around the world in the coming months.

What are the implications for India and the southwest monsoon?

First, how has the ongoing El Niño event played out?

El Niño refers to the abnormal warming of sea surface waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. El Niño episodes emerge naturally during autumn–summer in the northern hemisphere, typically once every 2–7 years.

It peaks during winter (October–February) before weakening in the subsequent summer, making it a phenomenon that typically lasts for between 9 and 12 months. Occasionally, El Niño will last up to two years in a row.

El Niño episodes affect the global weather, lead to an increase in temperatures and large-scale dryness and droughts, and disrupt normal rainfall patterns globally. Large parts of East Africa have experienced multiple failed rainy seasons in recent years, in part due to El Niño conditions.

After the last episode in 2015–16, El Niño conditions emerged for the first time in June last year — and average temperatures breached new records across most parts of the world in every subsequent month. As the El Niño peaked between November 2023 and January 2024, recorded sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean touched 2 degrees Celsius above the 1991–2020 normal, the WMO said. The 2023–24 El Niño played a significant role in 2023 ending as the warmest year ever recorded.

So what does the peaking and weakening of El Niño mean?

The intensity of an El Niño event is mea-

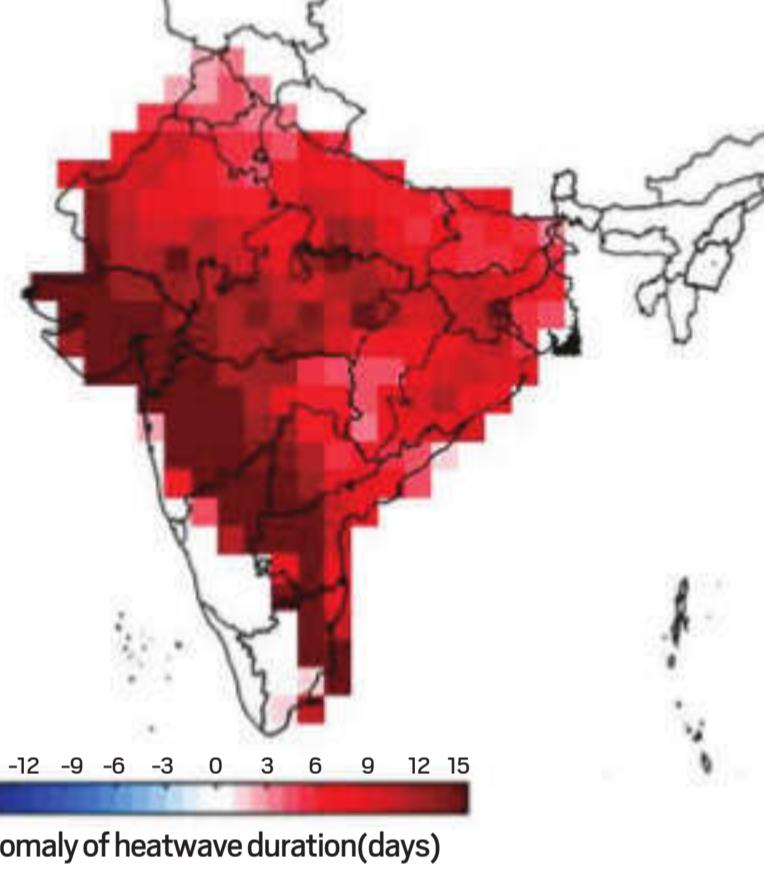
EXPLAINED CLIMATE

El Niño and the monsoon

For India, the weakening of El Niño conditions, and the forecast of the emergence of ENSO neutral conditions towards the end of the summer should bring some cheer ahead of the southwest monsoon

A hotter March-May period

IMD has predicted harsher spells of heatwaves in the regions marked by darker shades of red



■ In the past 100 years, India witnessed 18 droughts. Of these, 13 were associated with El Niño.

■ Between 1900 and 1950, there were seven El Niño years. Between 1951 and 2021, however, the number of years rose to 15.

■ Of the 15 El Niño years, 9 summer monsoon seasons over India recorded deficient rain by more than 90% of the Long Period Average.

Source: IMD

ured by the temperature values recorded over the sea along the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

One of the key indicators of the sea surface temperatures is the Oceanic Niño Indices (ONI) values (in degree Celsius). Data from the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) show that after peaking at 2 degree Celsius during November–January, the ONI value has started to decline. The timing of the fall in ONI is important because it suggests that the El Niño will not extend into another year.

What is the heat forecast for India?

The IMD has said that even as they weaken, El Niño conditions will push temperatures above normal in most of the country during March, April, and May (see map).

Above normal maximum temperatures are likely to be experienced over Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, coastal Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu,

Lakshadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar islands, the IMD has said in its summer forecast. Nights too, shall remain warmer than usual over almost the entire country, except some regions in Eastern India.

Heat waves are common over Central and Northern Peninsular India during March to June, when day temperatures rise 4.5 degree Celsius above normal. The IMD has warned of longer and harsher heat wave spells this summer, mainly due to prevailing El Niño conditions.

Individual spells of heat wave are expected to last for as long as 12–15 days in Maharashtra, Telangana, and North Karnataka. Heat waves are also expected to sweep over Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab in the coming months.

And how is the Indian summer monsoon likely to be?

The four-month southwest monsoon is

India's economic lifeline. The country receives nearly 70% of its annual rainfall (880 mm) during the June to September period. A good monsoon is crucial for sustaining the agrarian economy and for replenishment of the country's water reservoirs.

Although no direct one-on-one link has been established yet, El Niño episodes are correlated with a depressed southwest monsoon. Past El Niño episodes have coincided with India receiving below average rainfall during the four-month rainy season. The 2015–16 El Niño coincided with a deficient monsoon in 2015, at 84% below the Long Period Average.

However, climatologically and historically, about 50% of El Niño events are followed by ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation) neutral conditions, and in 40–50% cases, La Niña conditions develop post an El Niño event.

This time, multiple global climate models have suggested that ENSO neutral conditions will emerge during the April–June period. India's Monsoon Mission Climate Forecast System (MMCFS) model has predicted ENSO neutral conditions to be established along the equatorial Pacific Ocean by May. The transition from El Niño to ENSO neutral will take some time after that.

If these conditions are realised, the desired establishment of favourable oceanic conditions could take place ahead of the onset phase of the southwest monsoon over the country.

The southwest monsoon arrives over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands around mid-May. Thereafter, it progresses and enters the mainland through the gateway in Kerala around June 1 (with a standard deviation of four days). By mid-July, it covers the entire country.

As the country awaits the Long Range Forecast (LRF) for the upcoming southwest monsoon, expected to be released by the IMD by mid-April, the prediction about the development of ENSO neutral conditions would suggest that the southwest monsoon may not be directly impacted by the ongoing El Niño episode.

There are chances of normal monsoon rainfall — provided other ocean-atmosphere parameters, wind conditions, formation of low pressure systems, etc remain favourable — this year.

ropes and ladders in the central atrium are visible from outside.

The principle of being visible is part of Yamamoto's prescription to remedy society's isolation malaise. At the Koyasu Elementary School (2018), spacious, open terraces not only make learning the arts — dance, music, painting — a sight to behold, but also encourage students to interact. In Hotakubo Housing (1991) for 110 families, Yamamoto created "relational living", with a plaza with trees at its centre, which could be accessed only through the homes. At the Yokosuka Museum of Art (2006), he left the natural landscape — which sits sunken between mountains and Tokyo Bay — almost untouched, such that views from the boat approaching the museum are only of hills.

In a statement, Yamamoto, who is often called the "Misfit" architect, said: "The current architectural approach emphasizes privacy, negating the necessity of societal relationships. However, we can still honour the freedom of each individual while living together in architectural space as a republic, fostering harmony across cultures and phases of life."

The work of Pritzker laureate Yamamoto: a mission to defeat isolation

SHINY VARGHESE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

JAPANESE ARCHITECT Riken Yamamoto was this week declared winner of the 2024 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the highest international award in the field, which is sometimes referred to as the "Architecture Nobel". The prize has been awarded every year since its founding in 1979, and Yamamoto is the ninth laureate from Japan.

The Nobel of Architecture
The Pritzker Architecture Prize was instituted by Jay A Pritzker, the late founder of the Hyatt Hotels chain, and his wife Cindy, "to honour a living architect whose built work demonstrates talent, vision and commitment, who has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture".

The award comes with a purse of \$100,000, a citation, and a bronze medal.

The winner is picked from a field of more than 500 on average, nominated by experts including past laureates, academics, and professionals, by a jury who make visits to sites of the projects. The prize is awarded in May, at a ceremony that is modelled on the Nobel Prizes.

EXPLAINED ARCHITECTURE

Architects from Japan have won the largest number of Pritzkers, including the 2010 prize that was shared by Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, followed by the United States (eight laureates, including a shared prize and two architects with dual nationality). The only Indian laureate is the late Balkrishna Doshi (2018).



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Poll bond details delay:
SC to consider contempt
petition against SBI chief

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THE SUPREME Court said Thursday it will look into a request to list for hearing a petition by the NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) seeking contempt of court proceedings against the Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI) for not furnishing the details of purchase of electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India (ECI) within the March 6 deadline set by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

E. 'Now, not after LS elections'

AT THE heart of the petition seeking action against SBI is the demand for disclosure of donor names before the Lok Sabha polls. The ADR maintains that the SBI has the systems in place to comply with the SC order within the time-frame set by the court when it struck down the poll bond scheme.

Educate cops on free speech:
SC quashes FIR on Art 370
protest, greeting Pakistan

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

UNDERLINING THAT it is time to sensitise and "educate our police" on freedom of speech and expression and "the extent of reasonable restraint", the Supreme Court Thursday set aside a Bombay High Court order and quashed an

FIR against a Maharashtra college professor booked for his WhatsApp status critical of the abrogation of Article 370 and for wishing Pakistan on its independence day.

The bench of Justices AS Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said, "Every citizen of India has a right to be critical of the action of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

UNVEILS MULTIPLE PROJECTS FOR UT

J&K breathes free... from shackles of Article 370, dynastic politics: Modi

In first trip to the
Valley after end
of J&K special
status, PM flags
development

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, MARCH 7

DESCRIBING THE abrogation of Article 370 as "bandishon se azadi" (freedom from impediments) while highlighting the Centre's development and welfare measures for the Union Territory, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Thursday that "Jammu & Kashmir is breathing freely today" and "attaining new heights".

On his first visit to the Valley since the end of the special status of J&K in August 2019, Modi told a public rally at the Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar that this "naya (new) Jammu and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar where he addressed a public rally on Thursday. PTI

GOVT & POLITICS

FRIEND NAZIM BROUGHT SWEET REVOLUTION IN BEEKEEPING: PM PB

Kashmir is the one that we had been waiting for... for decades" and with the "shackles re-

moved" there are now "equal opportunities and rights for everyone" in the UT.

Targeting the Congress and its allies, he said they "misled the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the name of (Article) 370" and "only a few political families benefited" from it which "the people of J&K have now realised".

Describing JK as the "mastak" CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In big AI push, Rs 10,000-cr plan for computing capacity gets Govt nod

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THE UNION Cabinet Thursday approved the India AI Mission with an outlay of Rs 10,372 crore for the next five years, under which the government will allocate funds towards subsidising private companies looking to set up artificial intelligence (AI) compute capacity in the country and also allocate seed funding for AI startups, and create a framework for curating non-per-

OTHER DECISIONS

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

for govt staff hiked by 4% to 50% gratuity limit up from ₹ 20 lakh to ₹ 25 lakh

ONE-YEAR extension to

Rs 300 per cylinder

targeted subsidy under the PM Ujjwala Yojana

UNNATI 2024 Scheme to

push industrialisation in the North-East approved

PAGE 10

sonal data, among other things.

"With AI Mission... compute power (will be) available to innovators, startups, students, and educational institutions," IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said in a statement.

Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said in a post on X: "AI is one of the greatest inventions of our time, this programme will position us as a force shaping the future of AI for India and for the world."

The Indian Express had first

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Congress focus on youth
as Rahul promises govt
jobs and startup funds

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, MARCH 7

SHARPENING HIS pitch for the youth ahead of Lok Sabha elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday announced the party's five promises, including filling government job vacancies and bringing in a right to apprenticeship, if voted to power.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with Rahul Gandhi in Banswara, Thursday. PTI

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



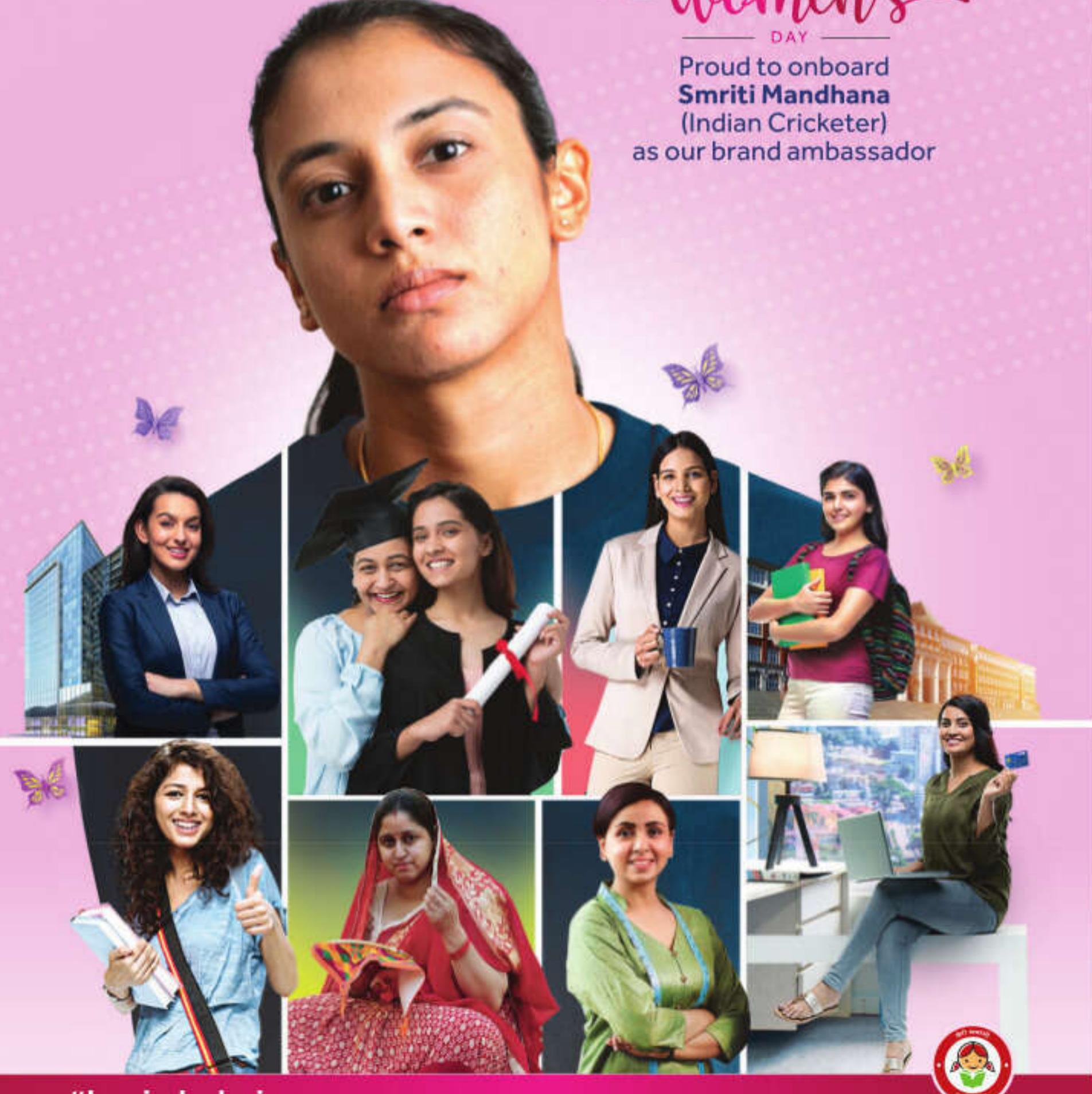
INDIA ENGAGES WITH TALIBAN MINISTER P11



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EXPRESS AUDIO**Bribes for votes ruling, BJP's first candidate list, and Ladakh protests**

In this episode, we talk about the SC overturning its own 1998 judgment, biggest highlights from the BJP's first list for the upcoming LS polls, and the ongoing protests in Ladakh and the latest meeting between the region's representatives and Union Home Minister Amit Shah

Owaisi readies for poll battles in key states, says India bloc an elite club

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

WITH THE JD(U) and the RLD having already walked out of its camp to join the ruling BJP-led NDA in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, respectively, the Opposition INDIA bloc is staring at another challenge: the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM, which is likely to contest multiple seats in these two crucial Hindi heartland states in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Despite not being an INDIA constituent, the AIMIM is likely to draw minority voters, who form a critical support base for the alliance.

Sources said the AIMIM is planning to contest on as many as 20 seats in UP and about seven seats in Bihar. In the 2019 polls, the party had contested only one seat from the heartland, in Bihar.

The AIMIM will also enter the fray in Maharashtra — where it could foray into Mumbai and Marathwada — as well as Telangana where besides its home turf Hyderabad, it may also contest from Secunderabad. The party, however, is unlikely to contest in TMC-ruled West Bengal, where it had fielded candidates in the 2021 Assembly polls.

"We will fight in Hyderabad (Telangana), Aurangabad (Maharashtra) and Kishanganj (Bihar) for sure. Our Bihar unit wants to fight on more seats. In UP too, there are similar demands. In Maharashtra, there is a call to fight from Mumbai and Marathwada. We will soon decide how many

seats we are going to fight," Owaisi told *The Indian Express*.

The AIMIM currently has two seats in the Lok Sabha, represented by Owaisi (Hyderabad) and Imtiaz Jaleel (Aurangabad). In 2019, Akhtar-ul-Iman, the AIMIM candidate from Kishanganj, had polled almost 3 lakh votes, coming third behind the Congress and JD(U) candidates. Kishanganj was the only seat in Bihar out of 40 that the Congress-RJD alliance won in 2019. The AIMIM will again field Akhtar-ul-Iman from the seat.

The AIMIM's plans are causing a worry for the Opposition grouping since its Lok Sabha election strategy depends significantly on the minority votes in north India, which it is hoping to consolidate.

Although the AIMIM had not fielded any candidate in UP in 2019, it did well in local body polls in the state in 2017, securing 32 seats. And although it did not win any seat in the 2022 UP Assembly polls, the votes it polled in over 10 seats were more than the margin of defeat for the SP candidates there. The AIMIM's bid to enter Mumbai and Marathwada, around 12% of whose population is Muslim, would also be a concern for the INDIA bloc.

In Bihar, the AIMIM has done well in the Seemanchal region, which has a significant Muslim population. The RJD took four of our MLAs. So, there is no question of an alliance with them. Why AIMIM is not with INDIA is something only INDIA can answer. They have already formed an elite club," Owaisi said.

2 Tipra Motha MLAs now ministers

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, MARCH 7

FOUR DAYS after the Centre signed a tripartite agreement with the Tripura government and Tipra Motha in New Delhi, Animesh Debbarma, who was the Leader of Opposition for over a year, and lawyer-turned-politician and party MLA Krishaketu Debbarma

were sworn in as Cabinet ministers in the CM Manik Saha-led government on Thursday.

Tipra Motha founder Pradyot Kishore Debbarma said he told the 2 ministers that Motha would not make the same mistake of becoming silent after accepting ministerial berths. "I have told them that if it seems like work is not done, you have to leave Cabinet posts and come to us," he said.

• Educate police on free speech: SC quashes FIR over Art 370 protest

abrogation of Article 370 and the change of status of Jammu and Kashmir."

It said "describing the day the abrogation happened as a 'Black Day' is an expression of protest and anguish. If every criticism or protest of the actions of the State is to be held as an offence under Section 153-A, democracy, which is an essential feature of the Constitution of India, will not survive".

Section 153-A of the Indian Penal Code penalises "promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony".

The bench's ruling came on a plea by Javed Ahmad Hajam, who was a professor at a college in Kolhapur. On April 10, 2023, the Bombay High Court had turned down his plea for quashing the FIR.

Between August 13 and August 15, 2022, while being part of a WhatsApp group of parents and teachers, he allegedly posted two messages as status: "August 5-Black Day Jammu & Kashmir" and "14th August Happy Independence Day Pakistan." This apart, the WhatsApp status included the message: "Article 370 was abro-

gated, we are not happy." Based on these allegations, an FIR was registered under IPC Section 153-A by the Hatkanangale police station in Kolhapur.

In its ruling Thursday, the bench of Justices Oka and Bhuyan said, "The right to dissent in a legitimate and lawful manner is an integral part of the rights guaranteed under Article 19 (1) (a). Every individual must respect the right of others to dissent. An opportunity to peacefully protest against the decisions of the Government is an essential part of democracy. The right to dissent in a lawful manner must be treated as a part of the right to lead a dignified and meaningful life guaranteed by Article 21."

"But the protest or dissent," it said, "must be within four corners of the modes permissible in a democratic set-up. It is subject to reasonable restrictions imposed in accordance with clause (2) of Article 19. In the present case, the appellant has not at all crossed the line."

Pointing to the WhatsApp status of the appellant Hajam, it said, "This is an expression of his individual view and his reaction to the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India" and "does not reflect any intention to do something which is prohibited under Section 153-A.

At best, it is a protest, which is a part of his freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by Article 19(1)(a)."

Setting aside the High Court ruling, the bench said "the High Court has held that the possibility of stirring up the emotions of a group of people cannot be ruled out... As held by Vivian Bose, J, the effect of the words used by the appellant on his WhatsApp status will have to be judged from the standards of reasonable women and men. We cannot apply the standards of people with weak and vacillating minds. Our country has been a democratic republic for more than 75 years. The people of our country know the importance of democratic values. Therefore, it is not possible to conclude that the words will promote disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious groups. Motives cannot be attributed to the appellant only because he belongs to a particular religion," it said.

"The test to be applied," it said, is "not the effect of the words on some individuals with weak minds or who see a danger in every hostile point of view. The test is of the general impact of the utterances on reasonable people who are significant in numbers. Merely because a few individuals may develop hatred or ill will, it will not be sufficient to attract clause (a) of sub-sec-

tion (1) of Section 153-A of the IPC".

"As regards the picture containing 'Chand' and below that the words '14th August-Happy Independence Day Pakistan', we are of the view that it will not attract clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 153-A of the IPC... every citizen has the right to extend good wishes to the citizens of the other countries on their respective independence days," it said.

"If a citizen of India extends good wishes to the citizens of Pakistan on 14th August, which is their Independence Day, there is nothing wrong with it. It's a gesture of goodwill. In such a case, it cannot be said that such acts will tend to create disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious groups. Motives cannot be attributed to the appellant only because he belongs to a particular religion," the bench said.

"Now, the time has come to enlighten and educate our police machinery on the concept of freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution and the extent of reasonable restraint on their free speech and expression. They must be sensitised about the democratic values enshrined in our Constitution," it said.

Addressing a Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra rally in Rajasthan's Banswara, where he was accompanied by party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul said,

"We have counted that there are 30 lakh government vacancies. (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji and the BJP don't fill these up, so after coming to power, our first step would be recruiting the 90 per cent for these 30 lakh government jobs." He was referring to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and minorities, who he said account for 90 per cent of the population.

"Second, we brought the right to employment (under MGNREGA). Similarly, we are now going to give a right to apprenticeship to all the youth. Every graduate or diploma holder will be eligible for this right. What is this right? That immediately after college or university, every graduate will get a year-long apprenticeship in a private company or government office and be given

Rs 1 lakh for the same," Rahul said. He said by law: "This will help crores of youths."

Third, he said, a law will be enacted to check paper leaks wherein there will be a standardised format to conduct exams. Under this, there will be no outsourcing to private firms, he said.

Fourth, he said, the gig workers law passed last year by the previous Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan will be implemented nationally. The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act extends certain "rights" to gig workers, such as being registered with the state, having access to general and specific social security schemes, and having the opportunity for their grievances to be heard.

Fifth, he said, "Narendra Modi government did 'Start Up India' and 'Make in India', which benefited only 2-3 billionaires. So, Rs 5,000 crore will be set aside for a Start Up fund. This fund will be available in every district." The scheme, he said, will be named Yuva Roshni.

Rahul said the biggest issue that was brought before him during the 2022-23 Bharat Jodo Yatra was unemployment, as the youth complained to him about joblessness and paper leases.

Beyond these five promises, he said the party will implement a law for Minimum Support Price. "We have taken a revolutionary step for farmers in our manifesto (where), for the first time in Hindustan, we have given a legal guarantee for MSP. The farmers who are walking towards Delhi and are being stopped on the roads; we have fulfilled their de-

mand in our manifesto."

Rahul also urged the marginalised communities to "realise" their strength. He said that about 90 per cent of the Indian population comprises SCs, STs, backwards and minorities. "On top of that, you add 5 per cent poor of the general castes. But if we look at the Indian institutions, the Budget, the money (flow), there is no participation of these people. I ask you — you are advised, and the President is an advisor. The Ram temple was inaugurated, did you see her face on the television? Why not?

Because she is an advisor. Did you see any poor, farmers, labourers in the Ram temple inauguration?" Rahul said.

He said that there are two Indias, one of the 5 per cent and the other of the rest. "And the rest, you won't find Dalits, adivasis and the backwards anywhere," he said, claiming that none of the top 200 Indian companies is owned by a tribal.

Pushing for a caste census, he said, "If we want to progress, we will have to take a historic step. Like when you are injured, a doctor tells you to get an X-ray, similarly Hindustan's poor, the Dalit, adivasis, backwards and the general caste poor are being hurt, so an X-ray needs to be done."

Taking to social media later, he elaborated on the first promise,

saying the right to apprenticeship would be "a forever cure for the disease of unemployment". He said it would be applicable for those below 25 years of age.

Speaking at the rally, Congress president Kharge said, "It's Rahul ji's wish to take the youth forward and remove unemployment. Hence, *bharti bharosa* (recruitment surely) is our first guarantee. Modi ji, why aren't you getting time to fill up the vacancies? You have time to dive in the sea, to go everywhere for darshan, but when it comes to the people — whom we call Gods — you are not ready for their darshan."

"Second, *pehli naukri pakki* (first job confirmed). Today, we are giving jobs, but of what kind? Contract labour, daily wage, and even in the military it is Agniveer for four years. What about personnel? What is the road ahead for that person? Hence, ... we will give apprenticeship," he said.

Kharge said that during the yatra, Rahul met several people who are gig workers or informal sector workers, and felt the need to try and increase income and ensure economic justice for them. While the Rajasthan law covers only gig workers, Kharge indicated that the national law proposed by his party could include truck drivers, mechanics, carpenters and those in the informal sector.

FROM PAGE ONE

J&K breathes free... from shackles of Art 370, dynamic politics: Modi

(head) of India, Modi said "a head held high is a symbol of development and respect". He said he is "elated and indebted" for the love he has received in Srinagar and that he will "leave no stone unturned to return the debt of this love".

He told the crowd — many among them government employees and BJP workers, and the UT administration said around one lakh people joined online from districts of the Valley — that "the feeling of arriving in heaven on earth cannot be described in words".

He said he is working hard to win the hearts of the people of J&K and he believes that he is on the right path.

Listing efforts made for the

deprived the right to reservation to other backward classes in panchayats and urban local bodies as provided by the government. "Today, every class is being returned its rights."

Dynamic politics and corruption, he said, had gone hand in hand in J&K for a very long time and the "decimation" of the J&K Bank was a result of that. "They appointed their friends and relatives to the bank and left it struggling." He spoke of Rs 1,000 crore assistance to the bank and action against wrongful appointments.

"The Anti-Corruption Bureau is still investigating thousands of such appointments. And over the last five years, thousands of youth in J&K have been provided employment with absolute trans-

parency," he said.

Addressing the Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir programme in Srinagar, he dedicated the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme worth about Rs 5000 crore and launched multiple projects related to the tourism sector worth more than Rs 1400 crore under Swades Darshan and PRASHAD scheme including the project for Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine, Srinagar.

Noting the rapid pace of development in the UT, Modi said two AllMS are coming up in Kashmir and Jammu. He said seven new medical colleges, two cancer hospitals and institutes like IIT and IIM are being set up in the region.

tourist destinations selected under the Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme.

Stating the power of development, potential of tourism, capabilities of farmers and leadership of the youth of J&K will pave the way for "Viksit Jammu Kashmir", he recalled the time when laws implemented in the country were not implemented in J&K.

He extended his best wishes to the nation for the upcoming month of Ramzan. "It is my wish that everyone should get the message of peace and harmony from the month of Ramzan. Tomorrow is Maha Shivratri, I wish everyone the best for this holy festival."

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manohar Singh, Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh and Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khanata were with the Prime Minister on the dais.

Highlighting the efforts of the

• Govt's big AI push

reported about the Cabinet's likely approval to the project and that the government was looking to fund the development of computing capacity in the country by setting up 10,000-30,000 graphics processing units (GPUs) through viability gap funding.

"Basically, there will be a tender inviting companies to set up data centres. When a company applies for, let us say a centre which may cost Rs 10,000 crore, they can seek a viability gap funding from the government for a certain amount of that," a senior government official said.

As part of its funding, the government will also introduce conditions that the computing access be given to startups and academic institutions at concessional rates.

During the setting up of infrastructure, priority will be placed on selecting the most advanced GPUs. However, it is worth noting that Nvidia's A100 chip — considered to be the most cutting edge for AI applications — costs around \$10,000, meaning that a data centre of 10,000 such GPUs could cost at least \$100 million (roughly Rs 8,000 crore).

Computing capacity, or compute, is among the most important elements of building a large AI system apart from algorithmic innovation and datasets. It is also one of the most difficult elements to procure for smaller businesses looking to train and build such AI systems.

The government will also finance deep tech startups at various levels of growth.

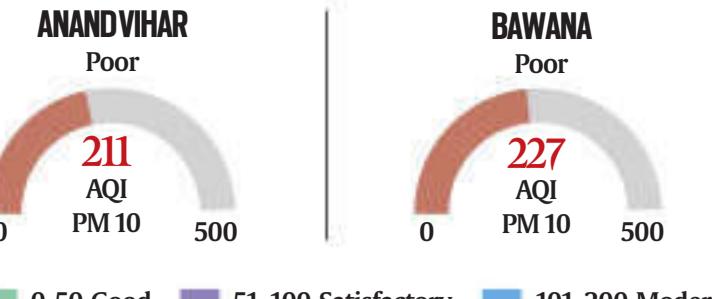
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BRIEFLY

Kejriwal asked to appear in court on Mar 16

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Thursday summoned Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to appear before it on March 16 after the ED filed a complaint, saying he skipped the summons issued by the agency in the liquor policy case. The ED had on Wednesday, for the second time, moved Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court and filed a complaint against Kejriwal for allegedly not complying with its summonses. The ED has issued eight summonses against Kejriwal in the case. Senior advocate Ramesh Gupta, representing Kejriwal, moved a plea, seeking Kejriwal's exemption from personal appearance. The counsel also said that Kejriwal may appear physically on the next date of hearing – March 16.

L-G terminates 2 non-official DUSIB staffers

New Delhi: The services of two expert members of the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) – appointed by the AAP-led government in the national capital – has been terminated by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena for not possessing the "requisite experience and expertise" in urban planning and slum matters. The two members – Amrendra Kumar, a former DUSIB official, and Bipin Kumar Rai, a psychologist – were appointed in 2015 and 2022, respectively, with the approval of the then L-Gs. The Delhi government, meanwhile, termed this as an attempt to stop the government's work. "DUSIB members' appointment lies in the domain of the elected government, and not the L-G. If he had any questions regarding them, he could have discussed it with the CM... At a time when the L-G should be stopping illegal demolition of slums... he is busy removing DUSIB members who are opposing this inhumane action," read its official statement.

IAS officials to redress civic issues in 7 days

New Delhi: Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar has directed nine IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officers to oversee the action, and submit daily action taken reports with regards to shortcomings and lack of basic facilities at Kirari, Sangam Vihar, and Burari – following Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's directions in the regard. Kejriwal had ordered that the issues, witnessed by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena during his visit to Sangam Vihar on Monday, be addressed within a week's time. ENS

OPPOSED INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIP

Ankit Saxena murder: Six years later, girlfriend's kin get life term

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7



Ankit Saxena was murdered in Delhi in 2018. Archive

SIX YEARS after he was killed in full public view by the kin of the woman he was in an interfaith relationship with, a Delhi court on Thursday sentenced three people to life imprisonment for the murder of 23-year-old photographer Ankit Saxena.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on each of the three accused – Akbar Ali and Shehnaz Begum, the parents of the woman Ankit was in a relationship with, and her uncle Mohd. Salim.

Ankit's murder in broad daylight in Khylal's Raghbir Nagar had rocked Delhi in 2018.

Ali and Begum were allegedly opposed to the match as their daughter and Ankit belonged to different faiths.

Meanwhile, Ankit's mother Kamlesh said she was not satisfied with the judgment. "We wanted a sentence to death by hanging. I will talk to my lawyer about approaching a higher court. I am not aware of the technicalities... if Ankit's father was alive, he would've known what to do... I have not been keeping well these days," she said.

Kamlesh's husband Yashpal died in 2021 due to complications from a heart condition and Covid-related issues. Ankit was their only son.

In December 2023, Additional Sessions Judge Sunil Kumar Sharma had convicted the accused.

The court, relying on scientific evidence and testimony of eyewitnesses, ruled that the prosecution had proved the motive of all the accused persons for committing Ankit's murder.

Relying on the testimony of a doctor who conducted the post-mortem examination, the court

said that the prosecution was able to prove that the death was caused by "a sharp-edged weapon and the manner of the death was homicidal".

The prosecution relied upon as many as 28 witnesses including Ankit's parents and two of his friends.

On February 1, 2018, Ankit was waylaid by the family of his 20-year-old girlfriend. The police said Saxena was beaten up for 10–15 minutes by Ali, Begum, their minor son and Salim. The police also said that while the accused were arguing with Saxena, his parents and friends came to his rescue. However, his mother was manhandled by the accused.

According to the police investigation, the relationship had come to light when the woman's family found her texts and call logs indicating her communication with Ankit. Soon after the murder, the woman was sent to Nani Niketan as she claimed that her family might try to kill her as well. She was later sent to her aunt's house. Her parents, brother and uncle were caught within days.

All three accused were convicted under Section 302 (murder) read with 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code. The court additionally convicted Begum under Section 323 (voluntarily causing hurt).

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said "despite several hurdles", that the residents of Delhi will continue to get free electricity up to 200 units and 50 per cent subsidy for up to 400 units till 2025.

The Delhi government in 2022 implemented the opt-in scheme – under which, a resident had to apply for availing the free electricity subsidy scheme – that was supposed to be renewed every year, based on the financial cycle.

"I congratulate the people of Delhi. Your 24-hour (zero power cut) and free electricity has been extended till March 31, 2025. This also includes free electricity for the lawyers' chambers," Kejriwal posted on X.

The announcement was made following a cabinet meeting conducted by Kejriwal at his residence in Delhi on Thursday.

Accusing the BJP of trying to stop the scheme, Kejriwal said: "Many people had doubts about the electricity subsidy – will it be available next year or not? Let me tell you that these (BJP) people tried their best to stop it. But, your son got this work done."

Delhi has an honest government, Kejriwal said, adding: "For



CM Arvind Kejriwal and Power Minister Atishi during budget presentation in Vidhan Sabha earlier this week. Praveen Khanna

your information, 24-hour and free electricity is available only in Delhi and Punjab. In the rest of the country, there are long power cuts, and electricity bills worth thousands of rupees."

Following the cabinet meeting, Delhi Power Minister Atishi, too, accused the Opposition of making efforts to make the scheme stop in 2023. "For the past month, there have been consistent efforts to nix the zero bill policy. They called officers and threatened them... to stop the scheme. But once Arvind Kejriwal makes a promise, he will make sure it is fulfilled. It does not matter who he has to request or beg to," he added.

Atishi further said that the

AAP government "guarantees" to give 24X7 free power to the residents of the national capital.

Around 22 lakh families get zero power bill, and 40.22 lakh domestic electricity consumers avail the benefits of electricity subsidy in Delhi. "The Delhi cabinet has decided that the subsidy scheme will continue for another year. The policy, which grants free power of up to 200 units and a 50-per-cent subsidy on the consumption of 400 units, will continue. At present, the policy expenditure is around Rs 3,500 crore, but the final cost depends on the usage," said Atishi.

For 2024-25, Rs 3,353 crore was proposed for the power sector in this year's budget.

Atishi further said that the

Excise policy scam: Judicial custody of Sisodia, Sanjay Singh extended

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Thursday extended the judicial custody of senior AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh till March 19 in the money laundering case related to the excise policy scam. Earlier, Special Judge M K Nagpal extended Sisodia's judicial custody till March 12 in the CBI case related to the now-scraped excise policy.

Sisodia was first arrested by the CBI in February 2023 and then by the ED in March. ENS

While the CBI is examining the case's criminal aspect, the ED is probing the alleged money laundering angle. Sisodia is accused of extra-procedural interference in framing the excise policy, tweaking it for the benefit of select liquor entities and causing a loss of several hundred crores of rupees to the state exchequer.

Sisodia was first arrested by the CBI in February 2023 and then by the ED in March. ENS

as Manni and Jasdeep."

"During the search, huge quantities of fake Ultracet, Amaryl, Gluconorm, and Defcort tablets were recovered. On interrogation, Manni revealed that the recovered medicines were spurious ones and named one Abdul Basit, a resident of Geeta Colony, as the source of supply of the Ultracet tablets. Vikas, a resident of Mandoli, was named as the source of the rest of the medicines," said the officer.

Police said the accused were selling the drugs, manufactured in factories situated in Shambli and Ghaziabad, to retailers in Delhi. The arrested persons included wholesalers and pharmacists. Police said the seized medicines were worth crores of rupees.

Police said keeping in view the sharp surge in the supply of fake medicines in the retail markets in the Capital, officers from the Crime Branch were tasked to develop inputs about illegal medicine rackets active in Delhi and NCR, following which officers received specific inputs regarding fake medicines being supplied by one Upkar alias Manni and Mukesh to various medical stores.

Said Additional CP (Crime) Sanjay Bhatia, "During the operation, a team led by Inspector Pawan Kumar along with medical representatives of Johnson & Johnson and Lupin companies intercepted a van under Tilak Bridge and overpowered two persons whose identity was later revealed

It was revealed that the Ultracet medicine was being transported through courier, i.e., Nitco Roadways from Sunder Nagar to Panipat, Haryana, in the name of a fake firm – Aggarwal Ayurvedic.

Parvez, another accused, prepared a fake stamp in the name of the firm and collected the spurious medicines from Nitco Roadways in Panipat. He, thereafter, used to sell the said spurious Ultracet medicines to Daniyal Ali who possesses a diploma in Pharmacy," said the officer.

Ali used to sell the spurious

Ultracet medicines to Basit who runs 'ASR medical store' in Geeta Colony, said police.

"Basit used to sell the said spurious Ultracet medicines from his medical store and also to Manni in a bulk quantity..." they added.

'Conspiracy' in excise policy still continuing: ED in court petition

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THE CONSPIRACY by several accused did not end with the excise policy scam, but is continuing as information pertaining to accused Amandeep Dhall is being shared and used by other accused, alleged a plea moved by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) before a Delhi court in connection to the said case.

The ED alleged that the CCTV footage provided to Dhall was being misused by AAP leaders, especially MLA Atishi. Dhall had sought the CCTV footage of his interrogation in custody and was provided the same as per the court's directions. However, the audio of the video footage (only format) was missing due to the audio recording facility being unavailable in its office, said the ED.

It was alleged by the ED, the next day, Atishi lied about the footage during a press conference. Atishi had alleged that the ED deleted the audio from the CCTV footage. "Saboot bhi nahi mila aur jo statements thi... wo bhi farzai hai... statements farzai kahot hoi to apkao audio delete krne ki kya jarurat thi," she had said.

The ED has sought directions from the court, to all accused, to co-operate in the trial and prevent unnecessary delay by moving different pleas. "...The accused are filing pleas pertaining to the copy of CCTV footage (both audio and video) of the interrogation proceedings during their custody... without giving any substantive reason..." read the ED's plea.

HOUSE OF FLOWERS

People take a walk through Mandi House area in Delhi on Thursday. Amit Mehra

on Thursday.

On the day of the incident, lawyer Karmnaya Singh (24) was returning home from office when a car overtook his vehicle and hit it.

Two men, later identified as Ravinder (29) and Deepak (34), stepped out of the car and assaulted Singh before trying to flee. As Singh attempted to stop the car, a crowd gathered in the area. Ravinder, in a drunken state, stepped out of his car and began waving a pistol in the air.

Vanlaluati heard the commotion and rushed to the spot. "I was told that one of the men had a gun," said the constable. "My only thought was that it was a crowded area and he could



Constable PC Vanlaluati (left) being felicitated by the South-West Delhi DCP on Thursday. X/@dcp_southwest

hurt a lot of people there," she added. Vanlaluati grabbed Ravinder's wrist and pointed the

away and later, along with Deepak, put under arrest.

"I didn't feel scared then," she said, continuing. "But three hours later, when I came home, I realised I could have hurt myself or even died. That's when I felt scared."

Hailing from Aizawl, Vanlaluati's life in Delhi has not been easy. "In the beginning, I faced a lot of issues because I didn't know Hindi properly and people would call me Chinese and other slurs... but that has reduced considerably now..."

Vanlaluati joined the Delhi Police in 2016 after she spotted a newspaper advertisement for recruitment.

While she had wanted to join

the armed forces since childhood, Vanlaluati soon realised how limited the scope for women was in the army.

Around this time, she also got to know that the Delhi Police actively recruits people from the North East for the Special Police Unit for North-Eastern Region (SPUNER) to liaise between the police and Delhi's sizable North Eastern community. Fluent in Mizo, Hindi and English, Vanlaluati felt like she was up to the task. "I think people now know that we are Indians too and we are there to help them," said Vanlaluati, who finished her Honours course in Public Administration from IGNOU after joining the force.

Crunch the picks for three LS seats down to one name each, Delhi Cong unit told

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THE DELHI Congress unit on Thursday was asked to crunch its panel of probable candidates down to one name each for three of the Capital's seven Lok Sabha seats, said sources.

According to sources, the directions were issued at the party's Central Election Committee (CEC) convened at the Congress headquarters, in presence of its national chief Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leaders including Sonia Gandhi and K K Venugopal. "At present, the panel has three names for each seat, of which, three were submitted to the national leadership for considera-

'ONLY WORRY WAS HE COULD HAVE HURT OTHER PEOPLE'

Fast & furious: Woman cop wrests gun from drunken man

UPASIKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

WHEN CONSTABLE PC Vanlaluati (29), while on her beat patrol on March 1, heard that an altercation involving a gun had broken out near the Hauz Khas Jagannath Temple, her first instinct as a police officer was to reach the spot and wrest control of the weapon.

Only hours later did she realise how dangerous the situation was and how it could have gone horribly awry.

Comended for her quick thinking and swift action, Vanlaluati was felicitated by the DCP, South-West Delhi,

States of Hope

GUJARAT

INFRASTRUCTURE: THE PROMISE OF TRANSFORMATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Vibrant Gujarat: Summit of success

The global investors' summit has been a catalyst in the state's economic growth

First organised in 2003, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the state's chief minister, the Vibrant Gujarat summit has evolved as one of the biggest global forums for business networking, knowledge sharing and strategic partnerships for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Since 2003, nine editions of the VGS have been held. Each summit has been organised around a guiding motto — this year, it was 'Gateway to the Future'. Addressing the summit, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that it served as a platform for ideas and innovations and worked to bring investment on the ground. "This has not only helped Gujarat but the economy of the entire country. The model of Vibrant Gujarat and industrial development has been accepted by many states," he said.

The 10th edition of the summit aimed at fostering investments, business collaborations and strategic partnerships was attended by the United Arab Emirates President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Mozambique President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos Horta, and Czech Republic Prime Minister Petr Fiala, and heads of top Indian and foreign companies.

Shah said that it was Modi's structural reforms that "have helped India perform and transform." He said that 10 years ago, India was among the "fragile five" economies, while it is among the top five today. "On the global front, we were considered a dark spot. Today, we are a vibrant spot. The country has covered a journey from a silent PM to a visionary and vibrant PM," he added.

The state capital Gandhinagar hosted the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit from January 10 to 12, showcasing Gujarat's robust infrastructure, investor-friendly policies, business opportunities and economic potential of Gujarat before several presidents and prime ministers, global leaders, investors, business leaders, policy-makers, and more than 60,000 delegates from over 140 countries. At the end of the three days, MoUs with investment commitments of Rs 26.33 lakh crore were signed. A large chunk of the investments was proposed in sectors like semiconductors, e-mobility, renewable energy, green hydrogen, automobiles and petrochemicals.



Ports are vital gateways for maritime trade

Gujaratis have a long history of travelling, trading and even establishing settlements abroad. From ancient times, Gujaratis have navigated the vast waters, establishing trade routes that spanned continents. Blessed with a 1,600-km coastline, the longest in India, Gujarat's maritime significance is unparalleled. Forty-eight minor ports and one major port dot the state's expansive coastline. These ports serve as vital gateways for trade. According to official data, ports in the state handled a staggering 532 million metric tonnes of cargo in the financial year 2022-23, accounting for over 40 per cent of the country's overall sea-borne trade.

As the closest maritime Indian outpost to the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, Gujarat hosts the highest number of operational commercial ports in India, reflecting the sector's economic vitality. With the planned addition of two Greenfield ports at Chhara and Jaffrabad, Gujarat's maritime landscape is poised for further expansion.

Gujarat is among the biggest beneficiaries of the central government's Sagarmala Programme, which aims at holistic port infrastructure development along the 7,500-km coastline through modernisation, mechanisation and computerisation. The programme envisions reducing the logistics costs for export-import and domestic trade. Projects worth more than Rs 57,000 crore under the Sagarmala Programme are set to transform the state's port infrastructure. Being implemented by central ministries, major ports, GMB and other state agencies, many of these projects have been successfully completed, some are currently under implementation, and others are in various stages of development.



Non-major ports administered by the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) have emerged as key drivers of maritime commerce, handling 30 per cent of India's overall port cargo.

The Gujarat State Co-op. Bank Ltd. (Scheduled Apex Bank)

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No	Particulars	2008-09	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Share Capital	18.95	33.62	34.95	36.31	37.31	39.78	40.66
2	Reserves	380.10	707.31	744.64	746.20	872.74	998.32	1102.56
3	Advances	1786.58	6176.99	6711.90	6706.26	6097.98	7792.71	8362.36
4	Deposits	3209.95	5801.50	6554.60	7556.48	8899.27	10069.21	10611.88
5	Profit / Loss	(-) 52.66	45.54	42.94	31.73	54.41	105.17	105.17
6	Dividend	--	15%	15%	As per RBL guideline	15%	15%	15%

ACHIEVEMENTS

- All over Gujarat More than 28,00,000 farmers were given crop loan at the rate of 7% as well as farmers who repay the loan within the time limit 3% interest relief from the central government and 4% interest relief from the state government on Crop loans available to such regular farmers at the rate of 0% through co-operative banks.
- Classic & Platinum RuPay ATM cum Debit Card, RTGS, NEFT, CSGL, CTs, E-Commerce, IMPS, Micro ATM, DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer), Net Banking, Mobile Banking, UPI / BHIM, BHARAT QR CODE and Stamp franking facilities offered.
- GSC Bank Ltd is offering 365 X 24 Auto Vault Automated Safe deposit Lockers - a first of its kind in India at Naranpura Branch.
- 33 CBS enabled air conditioned branches in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Halvad and Gandhidham.
- NABARD awarded the National Level "SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE AWARD" to The Gujarat State Co-op. Bank Ltd.
- NAFSCOB awarded "best performance award" to the bank as the best bank among 34 State Co-operative banks across the country for its outstanding performance of 4 Decades.
- Frontiers in Co-operative Banking Awards (NCBA) and National Co-operative Banking Summit (NCBS) awarded to the bank for Best NPA Management, Best Turnaround Bank, Best Fraud Control Initiative and Best SOC Initiative Award to the Chairman.
- Frontiers in Co-operative Banking Awards (NCBA) and National Co-operative Banking Summit awarded "Lifetime Achievement Award" to the Chairman.
- Bank has facilities like Farmers Hostel, Video Conference equipped Training Auditorium and "AA" Class Currency Chest.
- Awarded one of the "Best Performing Cooperative Organization" by National Cooperative Union Ltd., New Delhi.

AJAYBHAI H. PATEL
Chairman

AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GUJARAT

A strong textile legacy



Textile traditions are intricately woven into Gujarat's rich history. With centuries-old expertise in weaving, dyeing, and printing techniques, the state has rightfully earned its place as the "Textile State of India". Today, Surat alone churns out over three crore metres of raw fabric and 2.5 crore metres of processed fabric daily, showcasing the state's industrial capabilities.

Gujarat commands a significant presence in India's textile sector, contributing 50 per cent of the country's manmade fibre production and 37 per cent of its cotton output. The state is the largest denim producer in the country and contributes 25 per cent of India's total technical textile production. Gujarat is the second-largest exporter of textiles and textile-related products in the country. The state's textile industry, especially in clusters like Ahmedabad and Surat, has a strong presence across the value chain, from raw material to yarn and fabric production, dyeing and printing, apparel and garments, and made-ups. With more than 30 textile and apparel parks, the second highest among all the states, the state offers a conducive ecosystem for the industry. Realising the need to develop large-scale and integrated world-class industrial facilities for the textile industry to build scale, reduce logistics costs and improve its competitiveness, the central government has approved seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Parks.



Energy, petro sectors fuel growth

The state continues to augment its power generation capacity to meet rising demand

Energy is the foundation for industrial growth. A lot of success Gujarat has achieved in its industrial journey can be attributed to its remarkable success in the energy sector through strategic planning, structural reforms, innovative policies and effective implementation. The state has attracted substantial investments, not only in power generation but also in power transmission and distribution networks, ensuring a robust infrastructure and consistent supply of electricity, facilitating industrial growth and economic development.

STRONG POWER GENERATION INFRA
As of February 2024, Gujarat's total power generation capacity stands at 48,500 MW, which includes 26,700 MW of conventional capacity and around 21,800 MW of non-conventional capacity, showcasing the state's success in tapping both renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Gujarat continues to augment its power generation capacity in both conventional and non-conventional

spaces to meet rising demand due to fast-paced development.

HIGH PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

Through initiatives like Jyotigram Yojana, Gujarat was the first state to achieve rural electrification, ensuring power reaches even the remotest villages.

The state's emphasis on technology adoption and smart grid solutions has enabled effective demand management and optimisation of energy resources. In 2022-23, the per capita consumption of electricity in Gujarat was 2,402 units, nearly twice the national average of 1,255 units.

The reforms undertaken by Gujarat in the electricity sector have resulted in enhanced efficiency for the power distribution companies. All four government-owned electricity distribution companies in the state have earned the highest A+ rating in the 11th Annual Integrated Rating & Ranking of Power Utilities. All four power discoms are also featured in the list of top 10 discoms in the country.

A workable template for the country's energy transition

With a renewable energy capacity of 21.6 GW, Gujarat is among the leading states in the country in terms of tapping into non-fossil energy sources. As part of its roadmap to transition to clean energy, the government of India has set a national target of 50 per cent of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by the year 2030. Gujarat is playing a pivotal role in this energy transition. The state has the second-highest renewable energy capacity in the country and the highest in wind energy.

The state's proactive approach to renewable energy began in 2009 when Gujarat became the first state to come out with a comprehensive solar power policy. The policy aimed to promote the generation of green and clean power in the state using solar energy and to put in place an appropriate investment climate to leverage the clean development mechanism. Gujarat was also the first to set up solar projects on canals, doing away with the need to acquire land for setting up solar projects. Today, Gujarat has one of the highest installed capacities in solar as well as wind power projects.

Of the total installed renewable capacity of 21.6 GW, the addition of 11 GW capacity has taken place during the last four years. Renewable energy sources account for more than 42 per cent of the state's total power generation, while the state has a share of more than 15.5 per cent of the country's total renewable power installed capacity as of March 2023. The state aims to have installed



renewable energy capacity of 100 GW by 2030 and contribute significantly to the national renewable energy target of 500 GW as part of India's global commitment.

The five-year Gujarat Renewable Energy Policy, launched in October 2023, encourages setting up renewable energy projects based on wind, solar and wind-solar hybrid technologies. With projected investments of around Rs. 5 lakh crore in five years, the Gujarat Renewable Energy Policy aims to facilitate substantial augmentation of renewable energy capacity. Gujarat is the leader in rooftop solar installations, contributing 26.7 per cent of the cumulative installations. When it comes to the residential solar rooftop segment, the state has an installed capacity of more than 2,276 MW in 5.73 lakh homes as of December 2023. The state commands a staggering 82 per cent share of residential solar rooftop installations in the country. Electricity consumers have been able to save and earn hundreds of crores in their electricity by installing solar panels and selling excess electricity generated to discoms.

WAY TO A GREENER FUTURE

GUJARAT has implemented comprehensive strategies aimed at minimising waste generation, maximising recycling and reuse, reducing reliance on landfills, and promoting a more sustainable approach to waste disposal.

Gujarat was among the first states to introduce a policy for reusing treated wastewater. Launched in 2018, the policy aims to maximise the collection and treatment of sewage and reuse the treated wastewater in industrial units, parks and gardens, and construction activities, thereby reducing dependence on freshwater resources. Local bodies in the state are reusing 856 million litres per day (MLD) of treated wastewater, with projects of similar capacity under implementation and planning.

More than 49.6 lakh individual toilets have been constructed in the state under the Swachh Bharat Mission as of December 2023. Additionally, 4.75 lakh individual soak pits and 57,500 community soak pits have been built for the disposal and management of grey water.

Morbi: World's second-largest ceramic cluster

Morbi, a city famous for its wall clocks, is also a powerhouse in the global ceramic industry. It is the world's second-largest ceramic manufacturing cluster after Foshan in China and is a formidable contender challenging China's dominance globally with its innovative prowess and entrepreneurial zeal.

With an annual turnover of Rs 65,000 crore, this bustling ceramic manufacturing

hub is not only making a substantial economic impact on the economy of Gujarat and India, but also reshaping the narrative of Indian manufacturing on the global stage. It has also created lakhs of jobs in ceramic manufacturing units and more than 2,000 auxiliary units, which serve as the silent backbone of the ceramic hub. Morbi offers investment opportunities in ceramics and sanitary ware product manufacturing and

ceramic machinery manufacturing. The Morbi manufacturing cluster is home to more than 1,000 ceramic manufacturing units, of which around 800 craft exquisite tiles and the rest sanitaryware products. These units boast an annual production capacity of 2,500 million square metres. It constitutes 90 per cent of India's ceramic production and over 80 per cent of ceramic exports.

ADC BANK COMMITTED TO EXPANDING DIGITAL BANKING SERVICES

Ahmedabad: Established in 1922 as Dascroi Taluka Co-operative Federation, the Ahmedabad District Co-operative Bank has been a cornerstone of financial services in the region. Evolving into a central financing agency for Ahmedabad in 1954 and Gandhinagar in 1966, it officially became known as the Ahmedabad District Co-operative Bank in 1964.

The bank obtained approval from RBI in 2019, becoming the first District Central Co-operative Bank in Gujarat to offer internet banking, mobile banking, IMPS, and BHIM UPI services. Its mobile app has facilitated over 10.50 lakh transactions, totalling Rs. 389 crore. With over 43,600 registered customers, both transaction volume and value continue to rise.

The bank has expanded its services to include the Bharat Bill Payment System. The service is available in multiple payment nodes, online and through a network of agents. ADC Bank is also live on the DBT, PAHAL, and PFMS portals. The bank has issued 97,000 RuPay Kisan Credit Cards, giving farmers quick access to cash credit to purchase fertilisers and other agricultural inputs and help reduce the interest burden on them.

The bank operates 86 onsite ATMs, one offsite ATM, and eight mobile vans providing doorstep banking services and promoting digital literacy in rural areas. It has deployed 630 micro-ATMs, which support debit cards of all banks, at various locations. Nearly 500 of these micro-ATMs are located in primary agricultural credit societies and milk societies to extend banking facilities to underserved rural communities. The bank has entered into a tie-up with India Transact for this service.

Ajaybhai Patel, Chairman of ADC Bank, reaffirmed the bank's commitment to digital services, saying, "We are dedicated to expanding our digital footprint and offerings to ensure convenient banking services anytime and anywhere for our customers. All our branches, including new ones, are equipped with ATM/micro-ATM, or Point of Sale to provide digital banking experience."

Looking ahead, the bank plans to implement the eKYC system and operationalise it at all its branches and affiliated primary agricultural credit societies. The bank is also in the process of obtaining permission from UIDAI to be an Authentication Service Agency and an eKYC Service Agency to enable it to provide Aadhaar seeding facility.

The bank registered a business of Rs. 14,055 crore in FY 2022-23, which included Rs. 8,645 crore in deposits and Rs 5,409 crore in advances. The bank reported its highest-ever net profit of Rs. 33.10 crore in the year. The bank's net NPA is 0% for the last 10 years. It aims to achieve business of Rs. 15,500 crore in the current year.

Imparting financial literacy is another important focus of ADC Bank. The bank organises street plays in two villages every day, spreading information and awareness about digital banking, cashless transactions, banking services, crop insurance, and other related topics. More than 15,000 milk producers have benefited from the bank's financial literacy camps. The bank has established 13 financial literacy centres at taluka levels to conduct training and workshops. The bank also holds financial literacy awareness camps in schools and has reached more than 12,000 students.

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Where cities are more liveable, inclusive and vibrant

To create sustainable cities, the state is prioritising physical infrastructure, enhancing public amenities, revolutionising transportation, augmenting education and healthcare

As cities grow and evolve, progressive reforms in urban planning and administration are the need of the hour. It is necessary to focus on "ease of living" to make cities economically vibrant, lively, liveable and environmentally sustainable. With its rapid urbanisation, Gujarat stands at the forefront of a transformation aimed at enhancing the quality of life for its urban population. The Gujarat government has implemented a multi-pronged approach to make urban spaces more liveable and inclusive. By prioritising physical infrastructure, enhancing public amenities, revolutionising public transportation, and augmenting education and healthcare facilities, the state is scripting a narrative of progress and prosperity for its cities. It is estimated that around 50 per cent of the state's population currently lives in urban areas and this number is expected to go up to 75 per cent by 2047.

ENHANCING INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Central to Gujarat's balanced approach to urbanisation is the focus on infrastructure development and augmenting essential amenities. Gujarat is the frontrunner in the implementation of projects approved by the central government under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Mission with substantial investments into crucial urban projects. From enhancing water supply and drainage systems to strengthening transport networks, the state's urban landscape is witnessing a paradigm shift towards sustainability and resilience. Under the



IN ITS LATEST BUDGET, GUJARAT PROVIDED RS 8,634 CRORE FOR DEVELOPING INFRA IN URBAN AREAS AND RS 2,000 CR FOR AMRUT 2.0

AMRUT 2.0 Mission, more than 900 projects of Rs. 17,700 crore have been sanctioned in the state. In its latest budget, Gujarat has provided Rs. 8,634 crore for infrastructure development in urban areas and Rs. 2,000 crore for various projects under the mission.

HOUSING FOR ALL

Housing is a basic necessity and the Gujarat government has committed to "housing for all" in a mission mode. The government is

spearheading efforts to eradicate slums and provide affordable housing options for the poor and middle class under the Mukhya Mantri Gram Yojana (Chief Minister's Housing Scheme). By aligning with national initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the state is on track to realise the vision of housing for all and ensuring that even those from the most economically weaker sections have a house of their own. More than 9.25 lakh houses have been approved under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in Gujarat in the last eight years, of which 8.10 lakh units have been completed.

REVOLUTIONISING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation projects are the backbone of cities. They help enhance connectivity, make cities more accessible,

promote economic growth, and contribute to environmental sustainability. Gujarat has focused on building metro rail projects in various cities in its quest for sustainable and quick urban mobility. The metro rail project in Ahmedabad, a massive state-of-the-art project involving underground tunnels, viaducts and bridges, and elevated and underground station buildings, has changed the way people commute. The work to extend the Ahmedabad metro's connectivity to strategic locations like the Ahmedabad airport and the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar is already underway.

Surat, the economic powerhouse of Gujarat, is also set to embrace the metro rail project. Recognising the city's fast expansion and population growth, the metro rail project will catalyse growth, augment connectivity and enhance liveability for Surat's 75 lakh residents. The government is also laying the tracks for seamless urban mobility in Vadodara and Rajkot by initiating various studies for metro rail projects in the two cities. A provision of Rs. 1,800 crore for metro rail projects in major cities has been made in the latest budget.

EMBRACING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

The state's commitment to sustainable urban living and fast, reliable, eco-friendly and advanced public transportation extends beyond the metro rail projects. The state has also embraced the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) in Ahmedabad, Surat and Rajkot, offering lakhs of citizens a quick and safe means of public transport. A detailed feasibility report for the BRTS project in Vadodara is being prepared.



GIFT City takes shape as gateway for global capital

THE GUJARAT International Finance Tec-City or GIFT City is an emerging global financial and IT services hub. A first of its kind in India, GIFT City is designed to be at or above part with globally benchmarked business districts, offering tax breaks and other incentives to attract companies.

ATTRACTING GLOBAL FINANCE

GIFT City is home to the country's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) and is supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure. It is a gateway for inbound and outbound requirements of international financial services in India and is designed to attract global financial institutions and investors. It operates under a separate regulatory framework, offering streamlined processes and regulatory oversight tailored to international standards. Many Indian fund houses are moving or planning to move some offshore fund business from centres like Dubai and Singapore to GIFT City to gain better access to the Indian capital markets.

500+ OPERATIONAL ENTITIES

Several companies in the financial services space have established offices in GIFT City, which currently has more than 500 operational entities, including three exchanges, 25 banks, including nine foreign banks, 29 insurance companies, two foreign universes, 40 fintech firms, and more than 50

other professional services providers. Efforts are being made to turn GIFT City into a global reinsurance and financial services back-office hub. The Central government has recently enabled direct listing of unlisted companies in GIFT City, providing them with access to international capital markets, and enabling them to raise funds from investors beyond the domestic market. The government also plans to build a fintech lab at GIFT City to use as a platform for trading green credits.

A BUSTLING DOMESTIC AREA

GIFT City also has a bustling domestic area where a host of IT, ITeS, fintech, banking, insurance, and other financial services providers have set up offices. Some of the biggest real estate developers have made a beeline to set up commercial and residential projects in GIFT City to benefit from the cutting-edge infrastructure and global practices implemented for the first time in the country.

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Photos courtesy: Government of Gujarat



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ANNIVERSARY ALLIES

ODISHA'S 100th anniversary in 2036 seems to be good enough reason for erstwhile partners to come together again. Amid efforts to finalise an electoral pact between the BJP and the BJD, which has the potential to make significant changes in the political scene in Odisha and at the national level, leaders of both the parties seem to be hanging on to the 100th anniversary of Odisha's statehood for explaining the deal. While the official statement of the BJD Wednesday mentioned that Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik wants to achieve a major milestone by 2036 and the party would do everything to achieve it, senior BJP leader and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, had in February, said Odisha will have 100 start-ups with a minimum turnover of Rs 100 crore each by 2036.

BONDS BOUNDARY

ELECTORAL BONDS have been in the news for the past few weeks ever since the Supreme Court struck down the scheme on February 15, asking SBI to give details of donors who have remained anonymous so far. In one of the 29 branches of the bank that sold electoral bonds from the start of the scheme in 2018, no one speaks about it. In fact, a few employees of the branch said all paperwork related to the electoral bonds has been removed from the branch. While the Supreme Court had told the SBI to refund the electoral bonds that had not been deposited by the parties, the employees said there has been no request for refunds, as all electoral bonds were deposited within the 15-day validity period after the sale.



Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of former Kerala CM Karunakaran, with BJP chief J P Nadda and party leader Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Fresh blow to Cong as Kerala ex-CM's daughter joins BJP

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
MARCH 7

IN A setback for the Congress in Kerala ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, prominent party leader Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of Kerala ex-CM K Karunakaran, joined BJP in Delhi Thursday.

This comes almost a year after Anil Antony, former Kerala CM A K Antony's son, joined the BJP and during a week when party leaders from Gujarat to Uttar Pradesh jumped ship.

"The Congress leadership created a situation forcing me to take such a decision," Padmaja said. "In the elections (2021 Assembly polls, when she contested from Thrissur), the Congress defeated me. I know who worked against me. I complained about it to the party but no action was taken."

Padmaja told media in Delhi that she joined BJP without any condition. "They haven't asked me to contest. I haven't demanded a RS seat," she said.

The decision took the Congress by surprise as it came three days after Padmaja participated in party rallies in Thrissur. She shared posts of the party on her social media accounts on Wednesday too. Padmaja's brother and the Congress's Vadakara MP K Muraleedharan criticised his sister and said he was "snapping all ties with her".

Muraleedharan who is seeking re-election from Vadakara for a second time, said, "The voters of Vadakara knew me very well. They know that I am fighting steadfastly against the BJP and its communalism. Padmaja joining the BJP will not affect the elections in Vadakara. The soul of my party will not condone her."

Senior Congress MLA and former Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala said

Padmaja's decision was unfortunate. "However, it will not affect the prospects of the Congress in Kerala. The Congress gave her due consideration and opportunity," he said.

Padmaja, according to party insiders, had been sulking since losing the Assembly elections and was looking forward to getting a RS nomination. But the party did not consider her. She would not have received a Lok Sabha poll ticket as the Congress has decided to field all sitting MPs. Padmaja was also said to have been unhappy after her nominees were not accommodated in Thrissur during the reconstitution of the district Congress committees.

Padmaja's entry has provided the CPI(M) with the opportunity to project the Congress as a party that adopts "soft Hindutva line". With Congress leaders elsewhere in the country flocking to the BJP, CPI(M) leaders had been trying to emphasise that "today's Congress is tomorrow's BJP".

Earlier, CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan told the media, "Every day, scores of Congress leaders are joining BJP. Antony's son joined the BJP. Karunakaran's daughter is all set to join the BJP. The Congress has lost credibility in fight against the BJP."

Padmaja joined politics at a time when her father and brother were at the forefront of state Congress politics. In the 2004 LS polls, Padmaja contested from Mukundapuram (now Chalakudy) but lost.

Karunakaran and Muraleedharan left the Congress in 2004 and formed the Democratic Indira Congress (Karunakaran). But they returned to the Congress in 2007, with Padmaja playing a crucial role in bringing them back. Padmaja contested Assembly polls in 2016 and 2021 and lost. She was recently appointed Congress general secretary.

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, MARCH 7

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Thursday addressed a packed Bakshi Stadium on his first visit to Kashmir since the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, but the Opposition called the gathering "forcibly mobilised to paint a pretty picture that all is well post 2019".

An estimated crowd of 20,000, many from far-off districts such as Shopian and Kupwara, were seen entering the stadium since 6 am.

All roads leading to the venue had been cordoned off and only buses cleared by the security were allowed to drop off people brought in for the Prime Minister's address.

Gulmul Mohammad from Baramulla, a member of the Pahari community who was present at the venue said, "I have come to thank the Prime Minister for granting us ST status. This was a long-standing demand." He also thanked the Prime Minister for bringing peace in Jammu & Kashmir and expressed satisfaction at "the changing circumstances" in the Valley.

Another member of the Pahari community, Dr Khurshed, also thanked the Prime Minister stating that "under the PM, equal opportunity has become a reality and he has kept his promise of *sabka saath, sabka vikas*."

A policeman in plain clothes from the Baramulla district who sat in the crowd said he started his day at 2 am and stayed at the venue for 12 hours.

Thousands of employees of the Union Territory administration sat along the periphery of the stadium, while the grounds were teeming with BJP workers brought in from all districts of the Valley.

Wrapped in party flags and the Tricolour, several party functionaries raised slogans praising the Prime Minister. "We are



Outside Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar on Thursday. Shuaib Masoodi

happy, the PM is here. We hope he addresses the unemployed here," said Mohammad Rashid Badayari from Nigeen.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti highlighted the issue of government employees being asked to attend the event, stating, "Disheartening to see employees being forcibly mobilised to paint a pretty picture that all is well post 2019 and that people here are celebrating their own collective disempowerment and humiliation."

She said the PM's visit stands contrary to earlier visits by previous Prime Ministers such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh at the peak of Valley.

The Congress, too, slammed the PM, stating that "Modiji has disappointed the people of J&K by not announcing the restoration of statehood and avoiding the core issues of restoration of democracy."

The National Conference, however, termed the PM's visit "disappointing" stating that "it's the same worn-out rhetoric that J&K has been hearing for the past five years and yet there's still a lack of confidence in holding elections".

Wrapped in party flags and the Tricolour, several party functionaries raised slogans praising the Prime Minister. "We are

200 to 200 as assistance of Rs 5 lakh from the government," he said.

The PM congratulated Nazeer for a successful business and highlighted the benefits of beekeeping. Nazeer said he has only taken selfies with the PM's posters. "Aajee chahta hai ki main apake saath selfie lu (I wish to take a selfie with you)," he said.

Modi said he will try to ask the SPG to bring him backstage for a selfie. As Nazeer sat down

PM lauds 'friend' Nazim for beekeeping venture

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 7

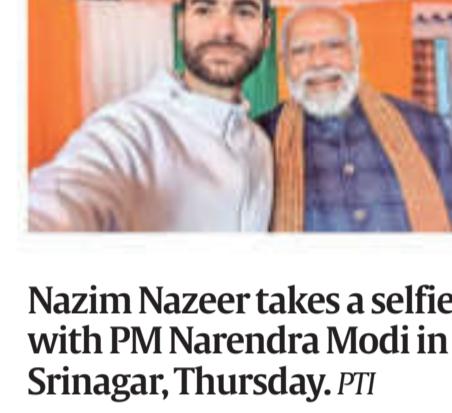
IT WAS a dream-come-true moment for Nazim Nazeer from Pulwama who came to attend PM Narendra Modi's rally in Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium Thursday.

Nazeer, a beneficiary of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, spoke to the PM about the growth of his beekeeping venture from the crowd. More than anything, Modi clicked a selfie with him and also referred to him as a "friend". "I was able to go from 2 boxes to 200 as assistance of Rs 5 lakh from the government," he said.

The PM began speaking to others, security personnel came to escort Nazeer. Modi posted the selfie on his official X handle and wrote, "A memorable selfie with my friend Nazim. I was impressed by the good work he's doing. At the public meeting he requested a selfie and was happy to meet him. My best wishes for his future endeavours." Modi said he has brought a "sweet revolution" in the beekeeping sector.

"We have heard of green revolution and white revolution but you have brought about sweet revolution," Modi said after listening to Nazeer.

WITH PTI INPUTS



Nazim Nazeer takes a selfie with PM Narendra Modi in Srinagar, Thursday. PTI

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"We have heard of green revolution and white revolution but you have brought about sweet revolution," Modi said after listening to Nazeer.

WITH PTI INPUTS



Former judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay joins BJP in the presence of leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari and Bengal BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar in Kolkata, Thursday. Partha Paul

Ex-judge joins BJP: 'Aim is to remove corrupt Bengal govt'

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, MARCH 7

DAYS AFTER tendering his resignation as Calcutta High Court judge, Abhijit Gangopadhyay on Thursday joined the BJP in Kolkata. The former high court judge, who had several run-ins with the TMC government for almost two years now following his orders and judgements, was inducted into the party by BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar, Leader of Opposition in state Assembly Suvendu Adhikari, party's Bengal observer Mangal Pandey, and other state leaders.

Soon after joining, Gangopadhyay said, "Today I have entered into a new world where people like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and other leaders are present. I will try my best to shoulder whatever responsibility the party will give me."

"Our prime objective is to remove a corrupt government from Bengal and ensure that the foundation for its ouster is made in this Lok Sabha polls. It pains me to see that Bengal is continuously going backwards. There is a need for the BJP to come to power in Bengal. There is a need to take part in electoral politics".

Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said, "He never compromised and fought for the rights of the people, especially for the youth and job seekers. We welcome him to the party. In today's political scenario in Bengal, there is a need to have a person like him. Before joining our party today, he took blessings from Union Home Minister Amit Shah. With him in the party, we feel that the real parivartan (change) will come in Bengal".

Gangopadhyay took away jobs of youths: Mamata hits back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, MARCH 7

HITTING OUT at former Calcutta HC judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay, who joined BJP within 2 days of resigning from his post, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Thursday said she would ensure his defeat if he contested LS polls.

Accusing him of taking away jobs of youths through his judgments, she said: "From the very first day, we were saying that this man sitting on the (High Court) bench does not want people getting jobs. It is now clear... Now, the mask has come off... He is now a BJP babu."

Referring to Gangopadhyay's judgments ordering probes by central agencies into alleged irregularities in government recruitments, she said: "The youths will not forgive you. All your judgments are under question... We will ensure your defeat no matter from where you contest in the Lok Sabha polls."

The CM also said as the HC judge, Gangopadhyay "consistently attacked" her nephew and



Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee in Kolkatta on Thursday. Partha Paul

TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee. Last year, in a TV interview, Gangopadhyay had said Abhishek Banerjee should be jailed for three months for alleging that a section of the judiciary was hand in glove with the BJP.

Meanwhile, Banerjee also hit out at five-time MLA Tapas Roy, who joined the BJP Wednesday. Referring to the ED raids at Roy's house in connection with the alleged irregularities in recruitment in civic bodies, she said: "Only one day ED came and he got scared. The ED said to him, join BJP and we will do nothing. And he joined the BJP. I knew ED was doing that."

The Congress has promised a law to deal with paper leaks. But the Centre only recently enacted a law, putting in place harsher punishment for 'organised' paper leaks.

There will be a monetary compensation component. It will be in the manifesto.

The party has promised social security protection for gig workers. Will it be on the lines of last year's Rajasthan law?

We are going with upcoming Telangana model. There is an Act that is currently being planned in Telangana that will improve Rajasthan model. FULL INTERVIEW

www.indianexpress.com

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THE FIRST meeting of the Congress CEC Thursday cleared the name of senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for the Wayanad LS seat in Kerala but leaders said the panel has left it to him to take the final decision.

Sources said the CEC meeting, chaired by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, and attended by Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi decided to field former Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel from Rajnandgaon seat and former minister Tamardwaj Sahu from Mahasamund, while Jayotsna Mahant will contest from Korba, Chhattisgarh.

Sources said names would be officially announced in a day or two. It learnt the CEC could not arrive at a decision on the party's candidates in Chandni Chowk, Northwest and Northeast seats of Delhi as there were multiple names. CEC met to clear names of

60 candidates from 10 states, including Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Delhi and Chhattisgarh.

Congress leaders from Kerala said the list of candidates for the state will have a few surprises.

Most of the sitting MPs, including Shashi Tharoor, will be fielded again, they said. Sources said the panel cleared 10 names for Karnataka. The CEC did not discuss UP candidates and it is to be

seen whether Rahul will once again try his luck from Amethi.

In Chandni Chowk, sources said names of JP Agarwal, ex-MP Sandeep Dilshad and Mahila Congress chief Alka Lamba were placed before the panel. In Northeast Delhi, names including that of DPCC president Arvinder Singh Lovely and his predecessor Anil Chaudhary. In Kerala, there is no clarity on Alappuzha candidate.

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Walk in interviews for the posts of Guest Faculty in the following departments, will be held as per the schedule given below:

Sl.No.	Department	No. of Post	Interview Date & Reporting Times
1	Management Studies	01	12.03.2024, 09.00 AM
2	English and Foreign Languages	01	12.03.2024, 09.00 AM
3	Chemistry	04	12.03.2024, 09.00 AM

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E-TENDER

Divisional Railway Manager, N.W.Rly, Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed open tender for the following works on the date shown as below: Tender No.: S&T/BKN/ET 283. Name of Work with its Location: Annual Maintenance Contract of Kyosan make El installed at BNW junction, BNP, BNWC stations of BNW-ROK Section; BWC station of SOG-SGNR section and CRW, SWNI, JUP stations of HSR-SDLP section (07 stations) for three years over Bikaner Division. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 2,64,28,554.5, Bid Security: ₹ 2,82,200/-, Date & Time for Submission of Tender & Opening of Tender: Up to 15.00 Hrs. of 02/04/2024. Website from Which Complete Tender details can be seen & download: www.ireps.gov.in 309-AK/24

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e-TENDER NOTICE NO.

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Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (W.A/C), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works. Sr. No. 1: Tender No. DRM BRC 137 of 2023-24, Name of Work: Vadodara Division-Improvement of various staff amenities i.e. Kitchen, flooring, drainage line etc. in 55 nos. of staff quarters at Pratapnagar & Vishwamitri. Approximate Cost of the work (in ₹): 39,78,151.00, Bid Security to be deposited (in ₹): 79,600.00, Sr. No. 2: Tender No. DRM BRC 138 of 2023-24, Name of Work: Vadodara Division-Improvement of various staff amenities i.e. Kitchen, flooring, drainage line etc. in 55 nos. of staff quarters at Pratapnagar & Vishwamitri. Approximate Cost of the work (in ₹): 2,30,16,213.27, Bid Security to be deposited (in ₹): 2,65,100.00. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Tender is to be submitted on 26-03-2024 before 15:00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15:30 Hrs. Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Website @ www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (W.A/C), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004. BRC-344

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

For and behalf of the President of India, the Dy.Chief Engineer/Bridge Line-II/North Western Railway, Jaipur invites online open E-Tendering system (Single Packet) for the following works on prescribed electronics forms. E-Tender No.: Dy.CE/Bridge Line-II/23-24-4. Date: 05/03/2024. Name of the work with its location: Replacement of steel girder by PSC slab bridges of 12.20m span at bridge no. 156,164 & 125 on SMR-BLDI section, Span of 9.15 span at bridge no. 39 on MTD-JU section, Span of 12.20 at bridge no.170 & 179 on RKB-JSM section, span of 12.20m at Bridge No.42,43, & 47 of FL-DNA section and span of 12.20m at Br. No. 35 of MTD-JU Section of JU division. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 5,15,80,314.70. Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs.4,07,900.00. Completion Period: 18 Month. Date & Time closing of tender: 28/03/2024 at 15.00 Hrs. Website particulars and notice board location where complete detail of tender can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in 304-AK/24

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BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited	CORRIDENDUM-2 TARIFF BASED COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR PURCHASE OF POWER THROUGH DEEP PORTAL
Invitation from Entities for supply of power on Medium-term basis No.HOD (PMG)/2023-24/265 Date: 06.03.2024	
BPL had invited proposals from Entities for supply of 300 Mw (+additional 200 Mw under greenfield option) power for 3 years from all sources including renewable under Lump Sum Tariff category (except coal) on medium term basis w/b Tender document HOD (PMG)/BPL/2023-24/236 dated 30.01.2024 and corrigendum 1HOD (PMG)/BPL/2023-24/251 dated 21.02.2024. Tender document and their details are available on www.bpldelhi.com & www.mstcommerce.com . Due to unavoidable circumstances the revised date of bid submission is 18.03.2024	
Head PMG (BPL)	
Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 Corporate Identification No.: 040109DL300PLC11521, Telephone No.: +91 11 4900 7235 Website: www.bpldelhi.com	

Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
Department of Official Language

NOTICE

The Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs circulates list of books in Hindi language marked by qualitative excellence, with recommendation for their purchase by Libraries of the Central Government Ministries/Departments/Organizations etc. Accordingly, list of books of a range of subjects published in Hindi during the period from 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023 and meeting the parameters of excellence is to be circulated by this Department. Books are invited from writers, publishers, printers, distributors and NRIs persons of Indian origin for the above-said purpose. Complete details in this regard are available at the department's website www.rajbhasha.gov.in. The last date for submission of books is 30 April 2024.

Sd/-
(Prem Narain)
Deputy Secretary (Patrika)

CBC-19201/11/0011/2324

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

NIT No. ST_P_SER_ABS_ARC-BHC_02 dated 05.03.2024. On behalf of President of India, Assistant Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Project, Garden Reach invites e-tender for the following work: Brief Description of name of the work with its location : Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Automatic Block Signalling System between Arambda Road-Ex. Bhadrak (91 Route KM) section of Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway. Approximate Cost of work : ₹ 92,83,35,862.93. Bid Security Amount: ₹ 47,91,700/- Date of closing of tender: 10.04.2024 at 11:30 hrs. The detailed tender notice for the above tender has already been published in website www.ireps.gov.in (PR-1209)

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board
FC-18, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110092
Website: https://dsssb.delhi.gov.in

No. F.1(255)/P&P-I/DSSSB/2024/Advt./5253

Dated: 05/03/2024

VACANCY NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT NO.05/2024

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

Opening Date for Submission of Online Applications: 19/03/2024 (19th March, 2024) (From 12.00 PM)

Closing Date for Submission of Online Applications : 17/04/2024 (17th April, 2024) (Till 11.59 PM)

Online Applications are invited for recruitment to the following posts under different Departments/Local/Autonomous Bodies under Govt. of NCT of Delhi-

S. No	Post Code	Name of the Post	Name of Deptt.	Group	Vacancy* (Incl. Backlog Vacancies)							
					UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS	Total	PwBD (Incl.)	Ex-SM (Incl.)
1	09/24	Veterinary and Livestock Inspector	Animal Husbandry Unit	C	17	26	04	00	05	52	02	05
2	10/24	Canteen Attendant	Directorate of Training (UTCS)	C	01	00	00	00	00	01	00	00
3	11/24	Salesman Grade-I	DTTDC	C	10	05	03	01	01	20	00	02
4	12/24	General Correspondent Assistant	DTTDC	C	03	00	00	00	00	03	00	00
5	13/24	Store Keeper	DTTDC	C	06	02	01	00	00	09	02	01
6	14/24	Account Assistant cum Cashier	DTTDC	C	10	05	02	01	01	19	01	02
7	15/24	PGT (Informatics Practices/ Computer Science)	NDMC	B	03	00	00	00	00	03	00	--
8	16/24	PGT (English)	NDMC	B	03	02	01	01	01	09	00	--
9	17/24	PGT (Sanskrit)	NDMC	B	01	00	01	00	01	03	00	--
10	18/24	PGT (Music)	NDMC	B	00	01	00	00	00	01	01	--
11	19/24	PGT (Painting)	NDMC	B	03	01	00	01	01	06	01	--
12	20/24	Assistant Architect	NDMC	B	02	02	00	00	01	05	00	--
13	21/24	Assistant Director (Horticulture)	NDMC	B	03	01	00	00	00	04	00	--
14	22/24	Chair Side Assistant	NDMC	C	05	02	01	00	00	08	01	00
15	23/24	Dental Mechanic	NDMC	C	02	00	00	00	00	02	01	00
16	24/24	Dental Operating Room Assistant Gr III	NDMC	C	04	01	00	00	00	05	01	00
17</td												

BRIEFLY

UTTARAKHAND

FIR against BJP MLA after confrontation

Dehradun: An FIR was filed against Salt constituency BJP MLA Mahesh Singh Jeena after an alleged confrontation over a tender process with Dehradun Municipal Commissioner Gaurav Kumar and other staff Tuesday. Jeena's son's tender bid was allegedly declined. Dehradun Police said a complaint was lodged by Yashpal Singh, Secretary of Municipal Corporation Drivers Association. Kotwali Nagar police station lodged an FIR. CM Pushtkar Singh Dhami called for a probe led by Garhwali Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey.

UTTAR PRADESH

Woman shoots husband after row over money

Meerut: A 38-year-old woman allegedly shot her husband following a row over money Wednesday in Bareilly district. The police arrested Poonam Singh, an anganwadi worker, for allegedly killing Narendra Kumar Singh, 42, a chartered accountant with a private firm. Police said Narendra suspected Poonam had taken Rs 17,000 and was denying it. Poonam alleged her husband was an alcoholic and they fought frequently. The couple has two sons.

ENS

KARNATAKA

Hospital owner booked for 74 illegal abortions

Bengaluru: A private hospital owner in Bengaluru Rural district was charged with 74 illegal abortions. Although a case was filed on February 20, the matter came to light Wednesday. The hospital owner, Ravikumar NR is absconding. Dr SR Manjunath, District Health and Family Welfare officer, Bengaluru Rural district, lodged a complaint after an inspection on January 26. FIR stated that since 2021, the hospital had done 74 abortions without permission under Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

ENS

More air services to Manipur for CAPF personnel

New Delhi: The MHA has doubled to six-days-a-week the availability of chartered aircraft for CAPFs personnel travelling to and from Kolkata and Imphal due to their continued deployment in Manipur. As many as 150 companies have been sent to Manipur as additional reinforcements since violence erupted in the state in May last year.

ENS

First dengue bout can be as deadly as subsequent ones, says a joint study

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, MARCH 7

A NEW study from Indian researchers has found evidence to suggest that even first-time, or primary, infections of dengue can be deadly, challenging the prevailing understanding that only second or subsequent (secondary) infections resulted in severe or life-threatening situations.

The new insight was the result of collaborative work by researchers from institutions such as the Delhi-based International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB); All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi; Christian Medical College, Vellore; and Emory University, Atlanta, in the US state of Georgia; among others. Their findings have recently

been published in the journal *Nature Medicine*.

The research involved the study of 619 children admitted to three different hospitals. It was found that primary dengue infections accounted for more than half of the total number of clinical cases (344 of 619), severe cases (112 of 202), and fatalities (5 of 7). The findings could have important implications for dengue vaccine research and its treatment.

"The results of this study mean that primary infections cannot be ignored any longer. It also has global significance as worldwide expansion of the dengue viruses is expected to continue and more children and dengue-naïve populations could eventually face the risk of dengue infection, severe disease and fatality," Dr Anmol Chandele, an Associate Professor at ICGEB, and one of the re-

searchers involved in the study, told *The Indian Express*.

Dengue, a mosquito-borne viral illness, can result in a spectrum of clinical presentations – from mild fever to severe hemorrhagic fever and potentially fatal dengue shock syndrome.

Dengue infections have greatly increased in India in the past two decades. Data from the Central government's National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control indicates that in the last three years, there were over 5.20 lakh dengue cases and 740 deaths. There were 1,93,245 cases and 346 deaths in 2021, 2,33,251 cases and 303 deaths in 2022, and 94,198 cases and 91 deaths in 2023.

Despite its global impact and ongoing efforts to identify a universally approved vaccine and effective therapies, the prevalence of dengue has surged dra-

matically since the 1970s, now affecting more than 130 countries and causing an estimated 390 million infections and 100 million clinical cases annually.

Dengue infections are caused by four serotypes – four closely related viruses that attack the immune system in different ways – and studies have suggested that people can get lifelong immunity to the serotype that they were infected with. However, there is evidence to show that immunity to one serotype could exponentially increase the likelihood of severe disease if infected later with another serotype.

Most of these studies are from Southeast Asia and South America – regions that have seen dengue infection much before India, which experienced its first outbreak in the 1960s and then saw sporadic cases in the next few decades.

Addressing supporters outside

Arabinda Mohapatra

Kerala Gov gives 2 V-Cs 10 days to vacate offices

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
MARCH 7

KERALA GOVERNOR Arif Mohamed Khan, who is the chancellor of universities in the state, on Thursday asked V-Cs of Calicut University and Sanskrit University to vacate their offices within 10 days as their appointments were found in violation of the UGC norms.

Earlier, Governor had issued notices to the V-Cs of Sanskrit University, Calicut University, Kerala Digital Sciences University, and Sree Narayana Open University to explain their rights to continue in office in the wake of Supreme Court verdict in 2022 that had held the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University as "illegal" and "void ab initio" as it flouted the UGC norms. The incumbent V-Cs of these universities had approached the high court, which on January 22 this year, directed the Governor to consider the objections submitted by the incumbent V-Cs within six weeks.

The action from the Governor against Dr M K Jayaraj of Calicut University and Dr M V Narayanan of Sanskrit University came as six weeks fixed by the court elapsed. Khan had also heard the V-Cs before taking the decision. The Governor is yet to take a call on the fate of V-C of Digital University Dr Saji Gopinath, and Sree Narayanguru Open University VCDRPMUbarak Pash for a report from the UGC is pending.

LATEST OFFICIAL ENGAGEMENT; DELEGATION ALSO MEETS KARZAI

Indian team meets Taliban foreign minister

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

AN INDIAN delegation Thursday met the Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mottaqi in New Delhi's latest direct and official engagement with the leadership in Afghanistan.

The delegation, led by J P Singh (External Affairs Ministry Joint Secretary in charge of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran), also met former Afghan President Hamid Karzai in Kabul.

The Taliban foreign ministry spokesperson Abdul Qahar

Balkhi said in-depth discussions took place on Afghanistan-India relations, and economic and transit matters.

In a series of posts on X, Balkhi said: "Calling relation (between) the two countries historic, Mr. Singh said that India has provided humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan in various areas in the last two and a half years. Moreover, commending IEA's (Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan) efforts in ensuring overall security & stability, countering narcotics, fighting ISKP& corruption in the country, Mr. Singh said that India is interested in expand po-

litical & economic cooperation with Afghanistan, & enhancing trade via Chabahar port."

"Extending gratitude to India for its humanitarian assistance, FM Muttaqi said that in line with our balanced foreign policy, IEA seeks to strengthen political & economic relations with India as an important actor in the region. In the end, FM Muttaqi urged India's Joint Secretary to facilitate visa issuance process for Afghan businessmen, patients & students," the Taliban foreign ministry spokesperson said.

There was no official statement from the External Affairs

Ministry on the meetings between the Indian delegation and the Taliban leadership and others.

After Karzai's meeting with the Indian delegation, which included Deputy Secretary Deepi Jharwal (in charge of Afghanistan and Iran), his X account posted: "Former President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai met with the Joint Secretary of India Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. J P Singh (Head of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan Department). In addition to the exchange of views on issues related to #Afghanistan and the region, the former president men-

tioned the historical and good relations between the two countries, and the people of #Afghanistan about India's assistance and He expressed his gratitude for the cooperation and especially in the field of education, he asked for the continuation of the cooperation of the said country."

There have been at least two trips by Indian officials in the past two-and-a-half years since Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021. The first visit took place in June 2022 and another visit took place in October 2022.

YOUTHS LURED TO RUSSIA FOR JOBS, MADE TO FIGHT

CBI busts multi-state network trafficking Indians to war zone

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

The CBI has registered an FIR against various visa consultancy firms and agents for allegedly sending youths to the Russia-Ukraine war zone in the guise of lucrative jobs.

Multiple teams of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted searches at around 15 places in seven cities — Delhi, Thiruvananthapuram, Mumbai, Ambala, Chandigarh, Madurai, and Chennai. After conducting searches, the CBI has so far recovered ₹50 lakh, incriminating documents, and electronic records such as laptops, mobiles, desktops, and CCTV footage.



Around 20 Indians, working as support staff for Russian Army, have sought help from the government. Express

"Searches are on. Certain suspects have also been detained for questioning at various locations. So far, around 35 instances of victims sent abroad have been established. The identity of more trafficking victims are being es-

tablished. Investigation is continuing," a CBI spokesperson said.

According to the spokesperson, they have busted major human trafficking networks running across the country targeting gullible youths on the promise of offering lucrative jobs abroad. "Accused among others include; M/S 24x7 RAS Overseas Foundation, KG Marg, New Delhi, and its director Suyash Mukut; M/S O.S.D Bros Travels & Visa Services Pvt Ltd, Mumbai, and its director Rakesh Pandey; M/S Adventure Visa Services Pvt Ltd, Chandigarh, Punjab, and its director Manjeet Singh; and Baba Vlogs Overseas Recruitment Solutions Pvt Ltd, Dubai, and its director Faisal Abdul Mutualib Khan alias Baba," the spokesperson said.

NMC to launch portal for colleges to upload data on infra, faculty

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THE NATIONAL Medical Commission Thursday said it will soon launch a portal for medical colleges to annually update information regarding availability of beds, infrastructure, faculty, as well as patients to evaluate whether minimum standards are followed. While it is already mandatory for colleges to provide Aadhaar-based biometric attendance for faculty members, it will also be started for students.

Colleges will be encouraged to implement a patient information system linked with ABHA ID — the government's unique ID linked health record account.

These are all steps towards continuous monitoring of medical colleges instead of physical inspections now carried out for continued recognition of colleges. Officials said inspections don't always give a true picture of what happens in the colleges through the year.

Dr Vijayendra Kumar, a member of the UC board, said colleges can attract fines of up to ₹1 crore under the new norms for providing wrong information. The information submitted on the portal will also be made public, he said.

There has been a rapid increase in the number of MBBS seats over the last decade, crossing the 1 lakh mark, and now the government intends to increase the number of PG seats to match.

Sena vs Sena: SC asks if Speaker didn't go against ruling by relying on majority

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THE SUPREME Court Thursday fixed April 8 to hear a Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) plea challenging the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker's decision not to disqualify Shiv Sena MLAs owing allegiance to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, while wondering if the Speaker's reliance on legislative majority to decide which was the real party was contrary to its 2023 judgment in the Maharashtra Assembly crisis.

Appearing for the Sena (UBT) senior advocate Kapil Sibal urged that the SC should decide the matter as it had delivered the 2023 judgment in the related matter. He said it needed to be urgently decided as Assembly elections are due this year. He said, "We have a constitutional right to come under Article 136 (Special Leave to Appeal to the SC)."

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, also appearing for the Sena (UBT), said, "Where there is a legislative majority versus organisational majority issue arising after elections, then inherently legislative majority cannot be the basis because you are counting legislative majority based on defections. But the Speaker applies that."

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the Shinde group, said many of the documents produced before the Speaker and the top court "are brazenly fabricated" and the court is being asked to examine all that.



Towards a more equitable world

Women's Day 2024 is all about moving towards a digital world that is more inclusive for not just women and girls but living things on Earth

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WOMEN ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF SOCIETY AND ARE INCREASINGLY IMPACTING THE NATION-BUILDING PROCESS

HIS YEAR, the United Nations' theme for International Women's Day (March 8) is DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality. The UN is "calling on governments, activists and the private sector alike to power on in their efforts to make the digital world safer, more inclusive and more equitable for not just for women and girls, but for all humanity and all life on Earth."

Women are an important part of society and are increasingly impacting the nation-building process. More women are stepping out of the confines of their homes and families to other areas where they have achieved unprecedented success. Be it sports, politics, the Army and entertainment, women are becoming

leaders in all areas. International Women's Day is celebrated to increase women's participation, make them aware of their rights, and improve their lives.

This day is considered a worldwide celebration of the historical, cultural and political achievements of women and the women's rights movement. The primary purpose of celebrating this day is also to promote the rights of women. Even today, despite all the progress we have made, women around the world are still fighting for fundamental rights. In many cases, women have not got equal respect and rights even today. International Women's Day is celebrated every year to make society aware of these rights and to respect women.

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NDA, THEN & NOW

The alliance is attracting members ahead of elections. But nature of partnerships is different from era of coalition politics

MAY 28, 1996, marked a crucial moment that would shape the politics of the BJP – and the country at large – till 2014. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 13-day government fell that day, and the necessity of large parties wooing allies formed the bedrock of the logic of coalitions. In 1998, the NDA had 28 constituents. In 2024, two terms in, with a comfortable majority for the BJP and heading for an election, Narendra Modi's NDA is set to have over 40 members. The fundamental difference between 1998 and the current moment is this: The BJP now needs allies – by and large smaller, regional parties – much less than they need it.

In the first week of March, the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) and the TIPRA Motha joined the NDA. The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is in seat-sharing talks with the BJP. The latter is the principal Opposition in Odisha, and a deal with the BJD will make the NDA a formidable force in the state where the Congress is relatively moribund. In each case, the BJP has given the smaller party a reason to join the NDA. The Bharat Ratna for former Prime Minister Charan Singh wooed the RLD – headed by Charan Singh's grandson Jayant Chaudhary, the party was, till then, allied with the Congress and the SP. The TIPRA joined the NDA days after it signed a tripartite agreement with the Centre and the BJP-ruled Tripura government on a "constitutional solution" to tribal issues in the state. This has been a long-pending demand of the party, whose founder Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma said on several occasions that he would not join the BJP. Clearly, this shoring up of the NDA is a part of BJP's "Mission 400". The BJD has long backed the Centre on crucial issues within and outside Parliament – from the CAA and demonetisation to GST and curtailing the Delhi government's powers.

In Vajpayee's NDA, the BJP was forced to place key ideological issues – the Ram temple, abrogation of Article 370 and Uniform Civil Code – on the back burner. Modi's BJP has a comfortable majority, buttressed by wins in state elections. Simply put, it has no compulsion to listen to its allies. And at the root of the new NDA is the assumption that the BJP government is here to stay. For smaller regional and sub-regional parties, the choice appears stark: Either join the BJP, and by extension have a working and cordial relationship with the Centre or become part of an Opposition that is hobbled by rebellion, crippled by a lack of ideological clarity and seems to lack the drive to take on the BJP juggernaut. It's also beleaguered with cases against many of its leaders. However, even if it doesn't "need" to listen to allies, it is in the BJP's – and the country's – interest that it does. For, beyond the votes, they represent voices across regions and communities. Any formation that governs a country as large and diverse as India needs to reach out and listen.

TERMS OF CO-EXISTENCE

Kerala's declaration of human-animal conflict as state disaster must spur debate on conservation and development

IN RECENT YEARS, Kerala has been grappling with a spate of human-animal conflicts, predominantly involving elephants, tigers and wild boars. According to the state government's records, 98 people died after being attacked by animals last year. This year, wild animal attacks have claimed more than 10 lives. Protests have erupted in several parts of the state including Wayanad district, where elephants have killed at least three people in the last fortnight. Attacks by wild animals have also hurt the state's agriculture sector. On Wednesday, Kerala's cabinet declared the conflict as a state-level disaster. Committees at various levels, including at the districts and other local governance units, have been tasked with stepping up vigilance against aggressive animals. The state government has also sought the cooperation of plantation owners and decided to deploy more forest watchers in areas prone to human-animal conflicts. This wide-ranging response, though belated, is welcome. The time has also come to look at the issue from beyond the perspective of an emergency.

Kerala is not the only state to report loss of lives, property and livelihoods in the battle for space between humans and wildlife. According to data submitted by the government to the Lok Sabha in 2022, more than 1,500 people lost their lives in the country between 2019–2020 and 2021–2022 after being attacked by elephants. Tigers killed 125 humans between 2019 and 2021. The number of animals killed in this standoff adds to the depressing story. With forests thinning out, wildlife, especially elephants, and increasingly now leopards, have dispersed into areas with high density of human population. The conflict intensifies when people try to chase away animals with searchlights, crackers or guns, making them even more aggressive.

On February 14, the Kerala assembly passed a resolution that called on the Centre to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act. It asked for simplifying procedures to deal with wild animals that pose a threat to human life. The state also wants the Centre to declare wild boar as vermin. Extreme measures such as culling rogue animals, however, provide short-term solutions at best. The country needs a serious debate on balancing conservation with its developmental priorities. By all accounts, most protected areas in the countries do not undertake carrying capacity studies. At the same time, development projects fragment wildlife habitats, turning a large number of animals into ecological dislocates who have little option but to compete with humans. Kerala's predicament could be an occasion to start conversations that transcend the polarities of conservation and development.

A WRITER'S DILEMMA

Publication of Gabriel García Márquez's novella raises the question – what claims do a writer's wishes have on his legacy

WOULD FRANZ KAFKA'S *The Trial* or *The Castle* have reached readers had it not been for the obduracy of his friend Max Brod, who refused to honour the writer's wishes and have the manuscripts destroyed? Three decades after his death, Vladimir Nabokov's son, similarly, ignored his father's wishes: *The Original of Laura* was published as the writer's last incomplete manuscript. In his absence, what claims do a writer's wishes have on his estate and legacy? It is a question that has plagued the literary world over the years, gathering momentum in recent decades because of its considerable commercial implications. The publication of Gabriel García Márquez's novella, *Until August*, next week – a decade after his death – reignites it, given that the Nobel laureate left instructions for its destruction.

In his lifetime, the story of Anna Magdalena Bach – a 40-something woman whose annual pilgrimage to her mother's grave is also a day of rebellion against unfulfillment – had been Márquez's Achilles' heel. He had begun work on it in the late Nineties, around the time he was detected with cancer, abandoning it in favour of *Living to Tell the Tale* (2003) and *Memories of My Melancholy Whores* (2005). When he returned to the book, advancing dementia made its contours elude Márquez. Yet, from the vantage point of hindsight, his sons felt that the writer's wish could be overruled.

Early readers of the novella have claimed that the book is both Márquez and not quite. There are glimpses of his sorcery with words but they are gone too soon. As with Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, published in 2015, a year before her death, and in essence an early draft of her Pulitzer Prize-winning *To Kill a Mockingbird*, here, too, the writer is a shadowy presence. Publishing the book is unlikely to dent Márquez's legacy, but it also points at the possibility that perhaps, in the end, a writer remains the most honest critic of his work, bowing neither to commerce nor to vanity.



Maja Daruwala

Even when women find space in institutions such as police and judiciary, their progress is hobbled

ACROSS THE WORLD, diversity is a hallmark of effective institutions. The inclusion of women is one crucial element in operationalising this value. Institutions tasked with the delivery of justice are particularly obligated to demonstrate their commitment to diversity, including gender diversity. This Women's Day, whether or not there is an appetite to include women is evidenced by the numbers. Data tells its sadly honest story.

The latest India Justice Report (IJR) points out that the gender gap remains wide in each of the subsystems that make up the justice delivery system – police, judiciary, prisons, legal aid, and human rights commissions.

A quick back-of-the-envelope estimation shows there are only about three lakh women in the justice delivery system. Quotas have helped them get in, but even when they are included, inevitably, women's place remains restricted to the lower echelons: If 35 per cent of subordinate judges are women, the number comes down to 13 per cent in the high courts. In the Supreme Court today, there are only three women judges. According to IJR figures from 2022, from around 12 per cent women at the constabulary level, the number declines to 8 per cent at the officer level. The pathetically few women in prison administration (14 per cent) are almost all stuck in the lowest ranks. No one is rushing to fill the gender gap.

Until now, there has been no woman Chief Justice of India. The first woman judge on the Supreme Court bench was Justice Fathima Beevi in 1989. In the high courts too, in over seven decades there have been only 16 women chief justices. So leading by example is not on the cards.

In all its years of existence, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which ought to be an exemplar of fairness, including gender justice, there has been no woman commissioner. It has only ever had three women members, and never two serving at the same time. What's true for the NHRC is

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true for state commissions too. Across the country, these institutions remain unconcerned about their lack of gender diversity. The IJR finds that as of 2022, only six commissions had women as members or as secretaries. There were no women chairpersons and only Kerala, Meghalaya and Punjab had a lone woman member each.

Despite the dire need to bring more women into policing to make it more responsive and humane and despite long-agreed targets to bring their representation up to 30 per cent and more, the percentage of women in police hovers around 12 per cent, with most of them huddled at the lower ranks. Every now and then there are news reports of an "exceptional woman" reaching the dizzy heights of the Supreme Court or becoming director general of prisons or commissioner of police. But these individual beacons of success are not so much emblematic of a culture of open-mindedness as they are evidence that the exception proves the rule.

The truth is that a man, no matter how mediocre, weak or unworthy, moves up the ladder of position and power because of his gender. But a woman must jump through hoops of perception, opinion and judgement to prove exceptional qualities before she can lay claim to a place in the higher echelons. From Justice Ruma Pal to Kiran Bedi to Meera Borwankar, those who made it to the top were simply too talented to be held down and only got what was their natural due.

Numbers count and the poor representation of women in the justice system signals embedded institutional bias. Yet, those with their hands on the tiller too often place the onus on women themselves while remaining unquestioning of institutional structures and cultures that inhibit their entry and retention. Citing "difficulties" in "accommodating" more women into their ranks, they ask plaintively: Where are the women? Where will the on-ground facilities come from? How will de-

mands for flexibility of working conditions be met? Who will protect them in the field – and perhaps even within the walls of these male-dominated institutional sub-cultures?

These are deflections from the real questions: How prepared are institutions of justice to provide all genders with the basic requirements of any workplace and how much is being done to provide for women who are, after all, not men? What is it about my institution that does not welcome the social, cultural and biological realities of being a woman?

Research across the world shows that the induction of women – and indeed other diversities – into male-dominated mono-cultural institutions changes the internal dynamic and public response for the better. Undoubtedly, the pace of inclusion has sped up over the last decade. Yet, policy imagination still rarely goes beyond the aspiration to bring in "more women" or "at least one woman" or reserve places that will bring their share up to 30 or 33 per cent. Equal opportunity and parity – no more than 60 per cent of any gender – is a distant dream. To demonstrate they live by the core values of equality and equity, the administrators of justice must overcome the reluctance to prepare institutions for the inclusion of women, lead by example, re-examine existing practices of recruitment and retention and put in place incentives and disincentives that encourage measurable positive outcomes and discourage discrimination. Justice requires that it is not women who must twist and turn to be more like men to be able to "fit into" institutions. Mono-cultural male dominant institutional sub-cultures must acknowledge that they will always be sub-par when they are gender imbalanced.

The writer is chief editor, India Justice Report and executive director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative



Suranjali Tandon

AS FOSSIL-FUEL CONSUMPTION is phased down over the coming decades, the financial system will need to prepare for change. The banking sector is an important actor in the financial sector. As a result, the transition to net zero will have implications for the Indian banking system. RBI estimates that banks' current exposure to utilities, metal and transport is relatively higher. While the aggregate exposure level to climate-change risk remains moderate, there are sharp contrasts between the exposures of public- and private-sector banks. At the same time, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) extend nearly half of their gross credit to power and auto segments. Given the interconnectedness between banks and NBFCs, the risk to the financial system may be pronounced.

In the years to come, as fossil fuel-based assets and processes are phased down, there will be demand for green investments. The question is how can banking ensure that the two can be managed practically? The RBI is focussed on risk management and has signalled its intent to align policy with transition. The introduction of lending to renewable energy under priority sector lending, a framework for green deposits and the reports assessing climate risks are all efforts in this direction. The central bank has now followed through with its commitment to assessing climate change related risks in its draft disclosure framework on climate-related financial risks. The report underscores the need for comparable disclosure frameworks among Indian-regulated entities about climate-related financial risks to ensure that there is adequate information about

BANKING FOR NET ZERO

RBI's draft disclosure framework offers a path to green transition

The draft by RBI sets three thematic pillars for reporting: Governance, strategy and risk management. The regulated entities will have to specify the kinds of issues and impacts that may arise over different time horizons, that is, short, medium and long term. This is particularly important as the systemic risks will be more pronounced where there is more long-term lending to sectors in transition and prone to extreme weather events.

mispricing of assets and misallocation of capital. Therefore, the framework is set to deepen the understanding of current exposures and preparedness among the various entities regulated by RBI. The regulation will cover scheduled commercial banks, Tier IV primary urban cooperative banks, all India financial institutions and all top and upper layer NBFCs. RBI's survey of regulated entities in 2022 showed that 90 per cent of the respondents considered climate risk a material threat to business. However, detailed assessment of risks among the respondents is low. A disclosure framework fills in such gaps.

The draft by RBI sets three thematic pillars for reporting: Governance, strategy and risk management. The framework expects financial institutions to provide information on their internal processes to ensure capacity or understanding of climate change-related issues as well as oversight. In terms of strategy, the regulated entities will have to specify the kinds of issues and impacts that may arise over different time horizons, that is, short, medium and long term. This is particularly important as the systemic risks will be more pronounced where there is more long-term lending to sectors in transition and prone to extreme weather events.

In 2023, 64.2 per cent of bank loans had maturities less than or equal to three years. While the information on maturity of loans by sector is not available, a similar profile for the loans in fossil fuels-based sectors would mean that the banks may be able to prepare better for the transition.

Transition risks can impact differently under the various scenarios. Therefore, the

framework seeks information from entities on the assessment of stress through climate-scenario analysis as part of the risk management strategy. This would require banks to provide reasons for choosing the climate scenario and align it with national and state-level policies. In fact, the draft refers to scenario analysis based on nationally determined contributions. To support more robust reporting, it is important to update the scenarios to align with India's aspiration to achieve net zero. Therefore, national and sub-national governments must help provide a pathway to benefit from the disclosure framework.

Reporting of exposure and risks is not complete without metrics and targets. While reporting of information on the three pillars will begin in the financial year 2025–26, reporting of metrics and targets, which includes greenhouse gas emissions or intensity and financed emissions will begin in the financial year 2027–28.

As entities prepare to report in a year's time it is essential to recognise that the technical capacities of banks vary widely. Capacity building is key for the success of the framework.

RBI has taken a step forward by introducing the draft that aligns well with international standards. Even as regulated entities begin to respond to the regulatory shift, they must simultaneously keep a watch on the asset quality not just in fossil fuel-based sectors but also in "green" sectors so as to ensure a smoother journey to net zero.

The writer is associate professor, NIPFP



MARCH 8, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

TERROR IN PUNJAB

THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT decided to organise flying squads of paramilitary forces in the three districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Kapurthala to curb the terrorist violence in these "disturbed areas". The state government will also provide arms to the general public in the districts for self defence if necessary, official sources said.

POLICEMEN KILLED

FOUR POLICEMEN AND their driver were killed and one person was injured in an ambush by tribal extremists at Dangabari in

the north district. Of the four police personnel, three belonged to the Tripura police and one to the Central Reserve Police Force. They were ambushed while escorting a Tripura Road Transport bus to Gandachera.

FUNDS FOR RAILWAYS

THE RAILWAY MINISTER, ABA Ghani Khan Choudhury, bluntly told the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission that unless more funds were made available for expansion of railways there would be resentment in many quarters. Replying to the debate on the railway budget in the Lok Sabha, Choudhury agreed with the views

of several members that no meaningful development would be possible unless plan allocation for the railways was substantially increased.

VIOLENCE IN JAMMU

AT LEAST 15 persons were injured, some of them seriously, when the police resorted to tear-gassing and lathi-charge to separate two warring groups of people 15 km from Srinagar. According to an official report, one person opened fire with his double barrel gun on the other group, which resulted in injuries to at least six persons and escalation of tension in the district.

Opening doors

Services exports give India the legitimacy to anchor an orderly guest worker programme that will raise global prosperity



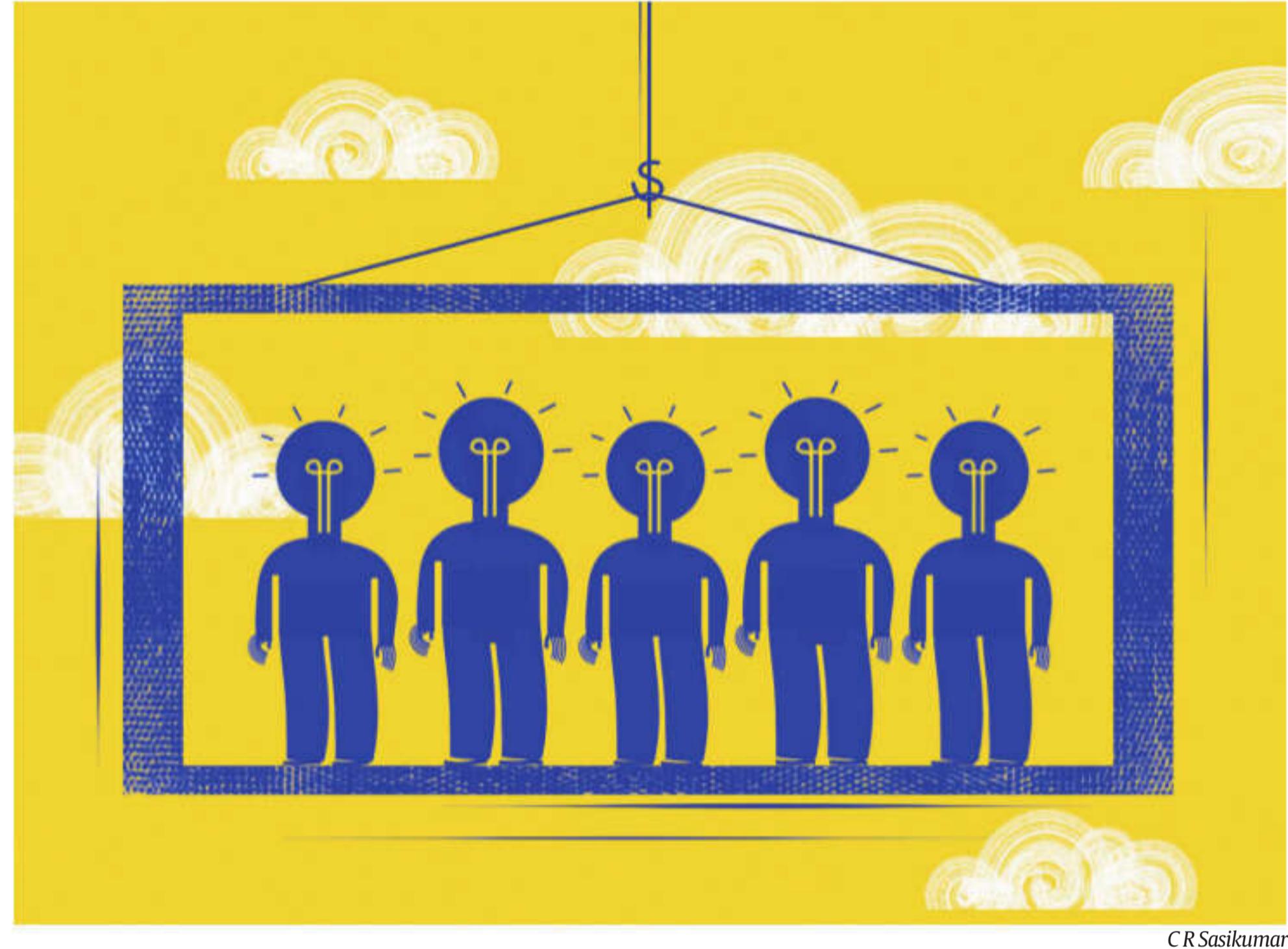
MANISH SABHARWAL AND CHINMAY TUMBE

IN 1937, THE American book reviewer of *Migrant Asia* disagreed with its author, Lucknow University professor Radhakamal Mukerjee's advocacy of higher migration to rich countries, suggesting "its objectivity is marred by a too evident anxiety" and "free migration is even less feasible than free trade". Donald Trump may ensure political rhetoric remains unchanged 87 years later, but we believe that the needs of rich countries will eventually trump fear and India must take the lead in a thoughtfully designed guest worker programme that addresses the concerns of rich country voters. This programme could raise our annual inward remittances from \$120 billion to \$300 billion, giving millions of skilled Indians higher wages temporarily, and résumé signalling permanently.

The current political weather around migration is brutal. Trump's Make America Great Again campaign is a thinly gift-wrapped "Make America White Again", and he believes immigrants are "poisoning the blood of our country". Germany's AfD party suggests remigration of asylum seekers and foreign-born citizens to their homeland "is not a secret plan but a promise". Britain's Conservative Party proposes to send asylum seekers on a one-way trip to Rwanda. But we also know that the sale of adult diapers now exceeds baby diapers in Japan, UK hospitals are turning away patients due to staff shortages, OECD countries need 14 million more care workers by 2040, and customers struggle to get help from a real person in many American stores and hotels.

According to Oxford Professor Lant Pritchett, rich-country migration political rhetoric — and therefore policy — is over-weight on three issues. Economic pressures drive the "global war for talent" for technology professionals, moral imperatives drive the "movers of distress" refugee problem, and rule-of-law and political imperatives drive the "illegal immigration" challenge. These obstruct a legal solution for the diminished supply but increased demand for essential, manual, non-routine, low but not unskilled workers in rich countries. Automation or offshoring are false gods in the political reconciliation of borders with ageing because they can't do jobs like lab technicians, nursing assistants, home health aides, paramedics, truck drivers, food preparation, machine maintenance, security, cleaning and janitorial work, servers, chefs, and much else.

An exciting organisation and potential ally, LAMP (Labour Mobility Partnerships), believes it's impractical to expect wealthy countries' trucking, healthcare and hospitality industries to manage the international labour movement for their needs. It's time to put some Indian diplomatic heft behind demonstrating the benefits to hosts, senders and workers of guest workers. In parallel, a professionalised, private-sector labour mobility industry could address the concerns of wealthy-country voters, including domestic worker impact, social tensions, or-



CR Sasikumar

derly movement, timely return without visa overstays, social security benefits without paying costs, skill certification with worker-employer fit, worker exploitation, and security background checks. Immense risks of abuse mean this industry must be carefully regulated and monitored, and LAMP believes an ethical global mobility service could be a force for good while being a \$30 billion industry.

India exported more services than Saudi Arabia did oil in 2021 — few economists believed a poor country could move the global needle on service exports or have services approach manufacturing export earnings. India's diaspora remittances recently crossed an important quantitative milestone of \$120 billion. India's global brand differs from China's; the complexity of software writing and inability to inventory services means higher physical visibility for our export workers. Recent worries that India's accelerating overseas migration replicates our 1970s human capital loss are misplaced; "brain drain" was better than "brain-in-drain". That drain has morphed into brain circulation with upsides in software exports, multinational global capability centres, global CEOs, unicorn board memberships, and venture capital. India has high legitimacy for anchoring a global guest worker programme. Software and services are siblings, more people speak English in India than in America, and democracies are natural friends (even if not allies).

Pritchett suggests higher global migration for skilled workers from developing countries is the most powerful tool for global prosperity but global policy attention to more and better rotational labour mobility has been scandalous. The UN Sustainable Goals have four goals for fish but none for expanding labour mobility. He believes mobility offers considerably higher global outcomes — over \$ 2 trillion in additional incomes from \$15–30,000 per worker per an-

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num — than the anti-poverty programmes funded by development assistance (\$180 billion) and philanthropy (\$70 billion).

We know that illegal migration is poisoning the politics around global labour mobility. We also understand that politics often doesn't change for a better option but changes when there is no option. Change has begun. Giorgia Meloni, Italy's far-right prime minister, campaigned against migration but recently tripled temporary worker visa numbers because 25 per cent of her country is more than 65 years old. There is something in the cynical suggestion that "the [political] war on migration is meant to be lost", but it is myopic to believe that Meloni and other rich country politicians can avoid some action on the fair and widely held notion among democratic voters that nations can't exist without borders. Trump might pull America out of the refugee convention of 1951. Weak borders weaken support for legal immigration.

Legal migration cannot solve global poverty — every country must create high-wage jobs locally — but it helps by reinforcing that there are no poor people but people in poor places. There are six potentially poor productivity places, three physical and three conceptual: Countries, states, cities, industries, firms and skills. India is reducing poverty by transitioning its citizens to five higher productivity places: North and east to south and west, rural to urban, farm to non-farm, informal to formal firms, and illiterate to skilled. Global labour mobility facilitated by institutional infrastructure isn't an idea whose time has come. But the time for legal and orderly doors in strong and tall walls is coming. India must take the lead because it has the most to gain.

Sabharwal is co-founder of Teamlease Services, and Tumble teaches at IIM Ahmedabad

She, the enabler

Addressing gender gaps in employment makes for more resilient and healthy society



PRITI ADANI

HARSHA SIDAR, a determined girl from a tribal village, realised her dream of becoming a doctor by successfully qualifying for medical studies in 2023 — a remarkable feat for a first-generation learner in her community. Despite the challenge of studying in Hindi and overcoming significant eye health issues, she never wavered. She compensated for lost time, juggled NEET preparation with her 12th-grade curriculum, took advantage of free online coaching classes, and secured admission to Raipur Medical College. Her success, alongside 16 other girls who gained admission to prestigious schools, paves the way for future aspirants from her community.

In Tamnar, Chhattisgarh, seven tribal women aged 20-25 seized a transformative chance with a free six-month training programme for careers in fire safety and disaster management in Vadodara. Their courageous action to step out of their village for education led them to become guards at Gare Palma mines, significantly improving their lives.

These stories of transformation in the lead up to International Women's Day provide an occasion to consider where we stand as a society on women's empowerment, to acknowledge the progress made, and to reflect on what will accelerate the pace of change given the enormity of the challenge.

India's ambition to be a developed economy by 2047, to mark the 100th anniversary of our Independence, is an exciting prospect.

But neither our nation nor our people can achieve that goal without the inclusion and involvement of India's women.

Much of the discussion has focused on the achievement of economic indicators, and rightly so, as GDP growth with consequent employment creation is a critical enabler of broader social progress.

Much has also been written about how society and the economy can leverage the untapped human potential of India's women population. A 2018 report by McKinsey noted that women contributed only 18 per cent to the GDP of India, despite constituting 48.4 per cent of the population. The report further noted that bridging the gender gap in employment could potentially elevate India's GDP by 30 per cent. The case is as compelling today as it was then.

There is growing evidence of social and health benefits to the family unit when women are economically engaged. More importantly, employed women are role models for their daughters — a critical factor as closing the gap is a multi-generational effort.

To understand the scale of the problem, it is worth looking at how India compares with the global and the OECD averages in terms of percentage of women in the labour force, defined as the number of women, ages 15 and older, who are in employment or looking for employment. The figure for India in 2023 was 37 per cent, the global average being 48.7 per cent and the corresponding OECD

figure at 66.7 per cent. The corresponding figures for men are 78.5 per cent for India, with the global average being 73 per cent and 80.9 per cent for OECD.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aspiration of achieving 50 per cent women's participation in the workforce by 2047 is both ambitious and laudable. The recent trajectory of improvement is very encouraging — as the 2017-18 figure for women's participation was only 23.3 per cent. This improvement is a result of government policies to ensure that women go to school, learn skills, start their own businesses and feel safe at work.

The story of Harsha Sidar and that of the tribal women from Tamnar are examples of interventions by the Adani Foundation as part of a multi-generational commitment to improving the lives of women in the communities where our businesses operate. Given our growing business footprint, our activities now span 19 states and 33 sites. Our women's well-being activities focus on three critical enablers — education, health, and economic empowerment/entrepreneurship. Of all the interventions, education is key to increasing women's participation in the formal economy.

Collaboration between government, corporate and social sectors will be key. Each has a vital role to play. At the Adani Foundation, we have tailored our interventions to make government programmes more effective — in a sense, addressing the last mile in the intervention.

Bhumika Sidar, a class 12 student and the daughter of a daily wage worker, persevered to hone her kabaddi skills with the Adani Foundation's Utthan Khelkumbh Kabaddi Training, despite many challenges and the untimely demise of her father. The training enabled her to be selected to represent Chhattisgarh in the Khelo India Rural Indigenous National Games 2023 organised by the Government of India and the Ministry of Culture. Bhumika quickly became one of the top players on the team and secured the third rank in the National Games 2023, winning a trophy and a cash prize for the Chhattisgarh Team.

These are all inspirational examples of resilience, of striving against odds and of boundless aspiration. Many organisations are doing similar work. I strongly believe there is a great opportunity for us to collaborate, learn from each other's best practices and encourage each other to do more. A repository of proven and tested interventions will go a long way in accelerating the work of women's empowerment.

Our young women have overcome the shackles of past thinking and are ready to take their place as full contributors to a developed India. The enormity of the problem and the benefit to the nation demand that we lend them a helping hand.

The writer is chairperson of the Adani Foundation

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Messi was sitting on the bench throughout the game... not explaining the reasons to the local fans. The disappointment of the HKSAR government and the fans is entirely understandable. The impact of this incident has far exceeded the realm of sports."

— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Women, welfare, whataboutery

Politics around women's security undermines strides made towards their development



SUSHMITA DEV

while there are 37 Shakti Kendras (shelter homes) for women in distress. These are policy interventions designed to promote higher education amongst girls, deter child marriage and empower women in their households. They have won many international accolades like the UN Public Service Award 2017 and the United Nations World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Prize 2016.

These giant strides in the holistic development of women cannot afford to leave out the crucial and sensitive issue of women's security. It is often the most politicised. Political parties use these issues and react to gender crimes more aggressively as an election issue rather than as an opportunity to show real concern and ensure any tangible action. Any crime against women or children will force a societal outrage and there would be demands for accountability. But the politics of "my rape vs your rape" helps nobody, except political parties. Any citizen, who truly wants the women of India to be safe must reject this politics of selective outrage.

The BJP's "double engine" hypocrisy has been exposed in Sandeshkhali. To remain silent because a crime against a woman is in a state where the government is with the party in power and to engage in vacuous hyperbole where the crime is committed in a state where an opposition party is governing, is hypocritical. It is aimed at cementing a section of women voters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi remained silent for a long time on the crimes which took place in the BJP-ruled Manipur but took the opportunity to meet with the victims of Sandeshkhali in Bengal. Why has the PM not made a single visit to Manipur? If law and order in Bengal are being brought into question, then why the government in Manipur remains in power must also be questioned.

If

anyone is outraged by the body language of the primary accused in Sandeshkhali when he was arrested, then they must be equally outraged by the fact that BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharai Singh, accused of molesting our women champion wrestlers, sat comfortably till the last session of Parliament without any disciplinary action from the BJP. When a BJP MP from Bengal cried in the Rajya Sabha at the fag-end of her tenure about an incident of arson that killed two children, tears must also be shed for the two minor girls raped and hung from a tree recently in Kanpur.

Sandeshkhali has become less about the security of women victims and more about the women's vote which is a strong hold of Mamata Banerjee. Accountability is a must, and no one should defend the indefensible. But let's also reflect on the hypocrisy and politics around women's security which attempts to eclipse the genuine welfare they have received.

The writer is Rajya Sabha MP, TMC

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A BOND TO REVEAL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Do not delay' (IE, March 7). The SBI's response to the Supreme Court, deferring the disclosure of donors and recipients of electoral bonds evokes suspicion. Electoral bonds are understood in the public as a tool to facilitate a *quid pro quo* between businesses and political parties. The SC's decision to cease this system is welcome. The SBI should make these details available in the public domain to enable electorates to make informed political decisions. Dawdling will only deepen suspicions and dent the credibility of India's largest financial institution.

Devendra Awasthi, Lucknow

INSULATE JUDICIARY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'An improper move' (IE, March 7). Former Calcutta HC judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay's transition to politics, within hours of submitting his resignation was hasty and ill-advised. It's not a recurring feature in India that judges walk into political fields straight from their chambers. At least, not yet. It is time our lawmakers thought about mechanisms that should insulate the members of the higher judiciary from the prying eyes of the world of politics.

A former Union law minister of India is on record for stating that "pre-retirement judgments are influenced by post-retirement jobs". It is time we faced reality and acted in good faith, taking the judiciary into confidence. Khokan Das, Kolkata

LEGEND IN MAKING

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'It's

'Swift's world' (IE, March 6). Taylor Swift's exclusive music tour has triggered a diplomatic dispute among Southeast Asian nations, highlighting her unparalleled influence in the entertainment industry. Swift's ability to command global attention and generate massive revenue underscores her status as a cultural icon. While some question the fairness of exclusive deals, Swift's knack for staying in the spotlight sets her apart in a world where social media and mythmaking play crucial roles in celebrity status. The diplomatic tension surrounding her tour serves as a reminder that in pop culture, Swift reigns supreme, and everyone else is just along for the ride. Moving forward, countries would do well to integrate arts, more so, into their idea of revenue generation and plan policy accordingly.

Sampada Sriram, Bangalore

CARE FOR CAREGIVER

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The thin-fat Indian' (IE, March 7). That there is a correlation between womb malnutrition and diabetes, obesity and heart disease later in life are significant findings. Poor and undernourished Indian mothers' progeny are exposed to multiple diseases in adult life. This information ought to guide government policy. The government should make financial provisions for the availability of proper diet for pregnant mothers. An appropriately addressed nutrition policy for expectant mothers will prove fruitful for the health of the country. A healthy adult generation will save expenses on disease and better contribute to nation building.

Narendra Dani, Lucknow



G N Saibaba with his wife Vasantha Kumari after his release from jail in Nagpur, Thursday. PTI

It's by chance I came out of prison alive: Saibaba after release

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, MARCH 7

FORMER DELHI University professor G N Saibaba, who had been sentenced to life imprisonment over his alleged Maoist links, was released from Nagpur Central Jail on Thursday morning, two days after his acquittal by the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court.

Addressing media persons on Thursday, the nearly 57-year-old wheelchair-bound Saibaba said that it was a wonder and "by chance" that he came out of prison alive. "My health is very bad. I cannot talk. I will have to first take medical treatment, and then only I will be able to speak," Saibaba told media persons after coming out of the jail on Thursday morning.

Hours later, while addressing media persons in Nagpur, Saibaba thanked his legal team for "bringing out truth and facts" to get justice and said life in prison was "brutal".

FULL REPORT: www.indianexpress.com

"Not once, but twice the higher

7-yr-old 'raped, murdered by relative' in MP: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, MARCH 7

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD girl was allegedly raped, attacked with a hand axe and strangled to death in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district, police said. The incident occurred on Tuesday and came to light Wednesday.

The victim's body was exhumed after the arrest of the suspect, who has been identified as the girl's relative, and sent to the district hospital for an autopsy.

According to police, the accused raped and murdered the girl when her mother went to the fields to harvest sugarcane. "The accused killed the girl after she said that she would inform her mother about the incident. So, he attacked her with a hand axe and later suffocated her,"

sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Krishna Kumar Awasthi told The Indian Express.

The accused then hid her body in a pile of wood near the house. When the family could not find the girl, they filed a missing person complaint at the local police station, after which members of the family and the police carried out a search for her. Meanwhile, the accused remained in hiding.

"The local police, which investigated the case, spotted blood spots at the home of the family and also found that the accused was missing when the whole family was searching for the girl," Awasthi said.

Under interrogation, the accused initially denied involvement, but later confessed to the crime and guided police to the location where the girl's body was buried, police said.

BJP office-bearer shot dead in UP's Jaunpur, main accused arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, MARCH 7

A BHARATIYA Janata Party (BJP) office-bearer was shot dead by unidentified assailants at Udhapur village in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur district on Thursday.

One person has been arrested in this connection, police said. The incident took place around 10 am when some persons intercepted Pramod Yadav (55) when he was travelling in his car and opened fire at him, they added.

Jaunpur Superintendent of Police Ajay Pal said, "A case has been registered against four persons under Section 302 (murder)

of the Indian Penal Code. We have taken the main accused in the case in custody, while teams have been dispatched to arrest others. The motive behind the murder is an old enmity. We are not revealing the identity of the accused at this point."

Earlier in a statement, the SP said, "The police received information about Pramod Yadav being stopped by some people at Udhapur village under the Sikrara police station jurisdiction on the pretext of giving him some cards. Then they opened fire at him. By the time he was taken to a hospital by locals, he was declared dead. Our teams are working, and we have received some information about some suspects. As per information,

three people attacked him."

Yadav sustained three-four bullets in his body, it is learnt.

Jaunpur ASP (rural) SK Singh said the post-mortem of the body was conducted by a panel of doctors and that the police are awaiting a written complaint from the family. "We are probing the case on priority and will release more details soon," said Singh.

Yadav had filed his nomination papers for the Assembly elections in 2022 from the Malhani constituency in Jaunpur but his papers were rejected. He was currently a 'zila mantri' of the BJP for Jaunpur.

"This (Yadav's) death has come as a huge loss to us," said BJP district president (Jaunpur) Pushpraj Singh.

Lucknow: A day after the body of a rape victim's 50-year-old father was found hanging from a tree in Uttar Pradesh's Hamirpur district, the police on Thursday filed an FIR against the mother and sister of one of the rape accused on charges of abetment of suicide.

In his complaint, the deceased's son alleged that the man took the step to end his life following threats from the family of the rape accused.

No arrest was made in the case till the filing of the report. "We have received the victim's post-mortem report that states that the death occurred due to hanging," said Hamirpur Circle Officer Shriyas Tripathi. ENS

Armed youngsters, children in farmers' protest: HC says 'sad state of affairs'

Chandigarh: Observing that the investigation into the death of Shubhkaran Singh cannot be entrusted solely either to Punjab or to Haryana as "both states have several things to cover up", the high court Thursday formed a panel headed by a retired judge to carry out the probe leading to the 22-year-old farmer's demise during a clash between protesting agriculturists and Haryana security personnel on February 21.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice G S Sandhawalia and Justice Lapita Banerji also expressed anguish that youngsters were seen with weapons and women and children "paraded in the front" during the protest.

The bench, passing the order on a bunch of petitions on the farmers' agitation, said, "It is a sad state of affairs that children... are being taught and are being exposed to violence... Young minds

being exposed to violent acts would lead to have a damaging effect on the psychology... and apart from that the threat of being injured on account of stone pelting which was taking place in the apparent riot-like situation".

The remarks by the bench came after the Haryana government showed some pictures of the protesters showing the presence of some children and women. ENS

Navlakha owes over ₹1 cr in house arrest expenses: NIA to top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THE NIA, probing the Elgar Parishad case, told the Supreme Court Thursday that accused Gautam Navlakha has only paid Rs 10 lakh of Rs 1.60 crore towards expenses for his security in a private building where he is under house arrest.

Additional Solicitor General S VRaju conveyed this to a bench of Justices M M Sundresh and SVN Bhatti, which took up the agency's plea to cancel the bail granted to him by the Bombay HC in December 2023 and its application to shift house arrest location.

Navlakha's counsel, senior advocate Nitay Ramkrishnan contested the figure and said, "the matter needs to be heard".

The ASG said "he must pay some amount". The court posted the matter for hearing in April.

MARCH 1 BENGALURU CAFE BLAST

Suspect took buses to Ballari, changed clothes on way: probe

NIA detains four members of Ballari-based ISIS module for questioning

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, MARCH 7

A SUSPECT in a blast that occurred at Rameshwaram Cafe in the Whitefield area of Bengaluru at 12.56 pm on March 1 was last spotted in CCTV footage at the Ballari bus stand around eight hours after the blast, at 8.58 pm, as per investigations.

On Wednesday, March 6, five days after the blast, the NIA took four persons of a Ballari-based "ISIS module" into custody, according to NIA records available in the public domain.

Minaj alias Md Sulaiman, 26; Anas Iqbal Shaikh, 23; Shayan Rahman alias Hussain, 26; and Syed Sameer, 19, were taken into custody for three days to carry out investigations.

They had earlier been arrested in December 2023 during an NIA crackdown.

The cafe blast suspect whose trail has been pieced together through the CCTV footage on his escape route travelled by two intra-state government buses to get to Ballari and travelled further to another unidentified destination, police sources said.

The CCTV trail on the escape route of the suspect shows him initially getting on to a Volvo bus (KA 47 P 4517) from a bus stop located very close to the blast.

The suspect changed his attire around 3 km from the cafe, where he discarded the baseball cap and the shirt he had been wearing and emerged in a casual T-shirt, sources said.

The baseball cap has been recovered from the location and is a key evidence in the case, police sources said.



The Rameshwaram cafe blast suspect

Rameshwaram Cafe and for his exit after the bombing.

"The suspect may have used a day pass for Volvo city buses for his commute to the site of the terror incident and get-away," sources said.

The day passes are issued like bus tickets for different values and can be paid in cash at Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation counters.

The suspect's CCTV trail was picked up first on the morning of the blast near the Silk Board in south east Bengaluru located around 20 km from Whitefield located in east Bengaluru.

"We have some crucial details about the suspect in the Rameshwaram cafe blast case. Investigation has revealed that the accused changed clothes and travelled by bus. We will arrest the accused soon," Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said Thursday.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah said there were leads which cannot be disclosed.

The NIA said the Bengaluru police are coordinating to carry out the investigation which the NIA will take over after being directed to do so by the MHA.

The NIA had incidentally carried out a crackdown on an ISIS module in Ballari in December 2023 and arrested eight persons.

"The eight ISIS agents arrested during the raids were involved in actively promoting terror and terror-related acts and activities of ISIS, the proscribed organisation," the NIA had said in December 2023 in an official statement.

"The raids also led to the seizure of explosive raw materials, such as sulphur, potassium nitrate, gunpowder, and sharp

edged weapons. According to initial investigations, the accused had planned to use the explosive raw materials for fabrication of IEDs, which were to be used for carrying out terror acts," the NIA said about the 2023 arrests.

The NIA registered a case against the ISIS-inspired Ballari module on December 14, 2023.

Among the eight arrested persons were Minaj alias Md Sulaiman and Syed Sameer of Ballari; Anas Iqbal Shaikh of Mumbai; Mohammad Muniruddin, Syid Samiullah alias Sami, Mohammed Muzammil of Bengaluru; Shayan Rahman alias Hussain of Delhi; and Mohammed Shahbaz alias Zulfikar of Mangalore.

The Rameshwaram Cafe blast has been found to have many striking similarities in terms of the timer, detonation system and explosives with an accidental blast that occurred on November 19, 2023, in Mangalore involving a local ISIS module from Mangalore and Shivamogga.

The NIA has arrested 10 persons linked to this module since November 2023 but key handlers are still missing.

Police sources said one of the efforts being made by investigators is to look at the sales of all digital timers with circuit boards — like the one used in The Rameshwaram Cafe — to find possible suspects. The kit can be purchased easily and is used for many purposes, sources said.

On Wednesday, the NIA announced a Rs 10 lakh reward for information on the suspect seen in the CCTV footage for the cafe blast.

Day after girl's father 'ends life', kin of rape accused booked

Lucknow: A day after the body of a rape victim's 50-year-old father was found hanging from a tree in Uttar Pradesh's Hamirpur district, the police on Thursday filed an FIR against the mother and sister of one of the rape accused on charges of abetment of suicide.

In his complaint, the deceased's son alleged that the man took the step to end his life following threats from the family of the rape accused.

No arrest was made in the case till the filing of the report. "We have received the victim's post-mortem report that states that the death occurred due to hanging," said Hamirpur Circle Officer Shriyas Tripathi. ENS

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

IN SECOND such incident this week, a Barbados-flagged merchant vessel came under a drone/missile attack drawing a response from an Indian naval warship.

During the rescue operation. PTI

A Liberian-flagged commercial vessel came under a drone strike Monday in the Gulf of Aden. Last month, a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker Marlin Luanda came under a missile attack and another drone strike was reported on another Marshall Islands-flagged vessel, MV Genco Picardy. The Navy has rendered assistance in both the incidents.

In December, a Liberia-flagged merchant vessel, MV Chem Pluto, carrying a crew of 22, of which 21 were Indians, came under a drone attack to about 220 nautical miles southwest of Porbandar, while it was on its way to New Mangalore.

The Navy has deployed around 10-12 warships at the Arabian Sea, including INS Kochi, INS Mormugao, INS Kolkata, INS Chennai, and a Talwar Class frigate.

The Israel-Hamas war began in October, a series of drone and missile attacks on commercial ships have taken place in the Red Sea, especially on those bound for Israel. The attacks have been reportedly perpetrated by Yemen's Houthi rebels. However, this is the first incident where the crew of a merchant vessel has been critically injured.

Police sources said one of the efforts being made by investigators is to look at the sales of all digital timers with circuit boards — like the one used in The Rameshwaram Cafe — to find possible suspects. The kit can be purchased easily and is used for many purposes, sources said.

On Wednesday, the NIA announced a Rs 10 lakh reward for information on the suspect seen in the CCTV footage for the cafe blast.

Adviser to the government of India Ajay Kumar Sood, the spokesperson said.

Senior officials from SPG, NSG, CISF, ITBP, SSB, BCAS, SFF and the Army were present. Sood dubbed the production of detectors as a shining example of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The detectors, based on Ion Mobility Spectrometry (IMS) technique and Raman Back Scattering (RBS) principle respectively, have been customised as per specific requirements of the agencies, as part of a development project initiated at the behest of IB in 2017.

The user agencies have been asked to provide feedback about the field deployment experience of the 2 detectors so that further improvements, if required, can be made.



Mumbai Port Authority
NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER
E-Tender cum E-Auction for Licensing of plot no. 2 at Lakri Bunder (North) having an area admeasuring 50 sq. mtrs. for a period of three years for water supply to ships/crafts/barges etc. in Mumbai Harbour. - Reg (Tender no. TM/BDR/01/2024). The above tender is available for downloading on MbPA's website <https://www.mumbaiport.gov.in> and also at the e-procurement website <https://eprocure.gov.in> from 1100 hrs. on 15/03/2024 to 1500 hrs. on 29/04/2024. Last Date for Online Submission of Tender is 29/04/2024 upto 1500 hrs. The Technical bid will be opened at 1500 hrs. on 30/04/2024.

MbPA-2024-24

Traffic Manager

TRADEMARK CAUTION NOTICE

HERBAMED AG (hereinafter referred to as "the Applicant"), a company duly registered and incorporated under the laws of Switzerland, having its place of business at, Austrasse 12, CH-9055, Buhler, Switzerland is a producer and marketer of homeopathic and herbal pharmaceuticals, creams, gels and dietary supplements.

The Applicant through a Sole Business Partner Agreement dated February 8, 2005 assigned the following sole rights to Bio-India Pharma Pvt. Ltd. (a Mumbai based Indian company) for the entire national territory of India:

- To import and distribution of pharmaceutical products manufactured by the Applicant.
- Price structuring, repackaging of products, and
- To register products in India on behalf of the Applicant.

Due to non-payment of invoices by Bio-India Pharma, the said Sole Business Partner Agreement was terminated/cancelled by the Applicant on June 24, 2014. In between, Bio-India Pharma got the trademark "HERBAMED (LABEL)" registered in their name without due authorization from the Applicant, which is likely to be removed from the Register of the Trade Marks Registry due to non-payment of renewal fees. Whereas the Applicant is the rightful proprietor of the trademark "HERBAMED".

In view of the termination/cancellation of the said Sole Business Partner Agreement, the Applicant has revoked all its authorization from Bio-India Pharma to use their trademarks and to register products/trademarks on behalf of them. Further, the Applicant has appointed a new Indian business partner for sales & distribution of Herbamed AG's Swiss homeopathic products in India.

The Applicant being the first adopter and user of the trademark "HERBAMED", has exclusive rights to use the aforesaid trademark and its variants in relation to herbal homeopathic medicine and herbal supplements and to obtain relief in respect of infringement of the aforesaid trademark and its variants. The Applicant is entitled to use the trademark "HERBAMED" and its variants thereof or authorize others to use such trademarks pursuant to a licensing agreement to such effect.

The members of trade and the general public are hereby cautioned and notified that some unscrupulous individuals/entities are illegally and without authorization from the Applicant using the name "HERBAMED" purporting to have imported products from the Applicant and/or applying for similar or same trademarks which causes confusion amongst public and thereby creating a false impression in general that such persons are associated or affiliated with the Applicant.

The Applicant hereby warns and cautions such individuals/entities to desist from unauthorized use of their aforesaid trademark and its variants or deceptively similar trademarks thereto, else severe civil and criminal actions will be taken against them at the cost and risk of such unscrupulous individuals/entities for such acts.

Date : 8-3-2024

HERBAMED AG

Place : Mumbai

KIND ATTENTION : RAIL PASSENGERS! →

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION OF NEW TRAIN SERVICE

It is notified for the information of passengers that Railways have decided to introduce a new train service between Puri-Anand Vihar(T)-Puri as per following detail:-

18427/18428 Puri - Anand Vihar (T) - Puri Express Train (Weekly)

Train No. 18427	STATIONS	Train No. 18428
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
-- 04:15	Puri	23:55 --
04:33 04:35	Sakhi Gopal	22:55 22:57
05:10 05:15	Kurha Road	22:30 22:35
05:40 05:45	Bhubaneswar	22:00 22:05
06:10 06:15	Cuttack	21:05 21:10
07:05 07:10	Jakhpura	19:30 19:35
08:10 08:15	Harichandanpur	18:40 18:45
10:00 10:10	Kendujhargarh	17:00 17:10
12:03 12:05	Banspani	15:18 15:20
12:45 12:50	Dangoaposi	14:10 14:15
13:38 13:40	Chailasa	13:23 13:25
14:48 14:50	Chandil	12:15 12:17
15:53 15:55	Muri	11:08 11:10
16:55 17:00	Bokaro Steel City	10:10 10:15
18:05 18:10	NSC Gomoh	08:55 09:00
19:10 19:12	Koderma	07:58 08:00
21:15 21:20	Gaya	06:45 06:50
22:54 22:56	Sasaram	04:28 04:30
02:00 02:10	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya	02:50 03:00
04:15 04:17	Prayagraj	00:23 00:25
06:35 06:40	Kanpur Central	22:12 22:17
09:20 09:22	Tundla	19:50 19:52
13:10 --	Anand Vihar Terminal	-- 17:20

Date of introduction :- 18427 Ex. Puri on every Saturday from 09.03.24 and 18428 Ex. Anand Vihar Terminal on every Sunday from 10.03.24.

Accommodation : 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General.

For detailed information, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrailways.gov.in

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Open Tender Notice

(Through e-Tender)

On the behalf of President of India e-Tenders are invited by the Sr. DMM/DSD/NWR, Jodhpur.

Tender Notice No.: 33245137

Date: 07/03/2024. Name of Item: Lukas Power Unit P 6303GS For High Capacity Hydraulic Rescue Device Make LUKAS (Spare Power Pack Unit for High Capacity Hydraulic Rescue Device).

Approx. Cost of Item: ₹ 28,34,472.96 (Rs. Twenty Eight Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Two Rupees Ninety Six Paisa Only). Earnest Money to be Deposited: ₹ 56,690/- (Rs. Fifty Six Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Only). Last Date and Time for Submission of E-Tender Opening of E-Tender: 28 March 2024, 14:25 hrs. Website from e-tender forms can be obtained: www.ireps.gov.in. Address of NIT Issuing Office: Office of the Sr. DMM/DSD, NWR, Jodhpur 342001 (Rajasthan). Note: (1) Manual Offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be summarily rejected. (2) Cost of Tender Document & EMD online through e-transfers i.e. through payment gateway facility on the IREPS website.

315-AK/24

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Tender Notice No. PGVCL/Civil/2024/1

PGVCL invites On-line tenders for "Procurement of 8M/200KG working load Readymade, Prestressed Concrete (PSC) Poles to be supplied under PGVCL up to March-2026". Interested parties may visit website <https://tender.nprocure.com> (for view, download & online submission) & PGVCL website <https://tender.guvnl.com> (for view & download only). The amendment if any in this regard, will be published on our website only.

Chief Engineer (Material)

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil)

Diary No. 4601 OF 2023

AND

I.A. NO. 29578/2023-APPLICATION FOR
CONDONATION OF DELAY
WITH

PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF
DELHI AND ANOTHER

.....Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

HARISH SAWHNEY AND
ANOTHER

... Respondent(s)

To,
HARISH SAWHNEY S/O CHANDER BHAN SAWHNEY,
R/O. KHASRA NOS. 1262, 1263, 1264, 1666/2, VILLAGE
CHATTARPUR,
DISTRICT- NEW DELHI, DELHI
RESPONDENT NO. 1(PROCESS ID:168210/2023)
(DIARY NO. 4601 / 2023 / XIV)

WHEREAS the Petition for Diary to Appeal with application for CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING, EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Ms. SUJEETA SRIVASTAVA, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 20th February, 2023 when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"The learned counsel for the petitioner placed reliance on the Judgment of this Court in Civil Appeal No. 944 of 2023 [Delhi Development Authority Vs. MGS (India) Private Limited & Ors.] decided on 17.02.2023.

Issue notice on the Special Leave Petition as well as on the application for condonation of delay, returnable in four weeks."

WHEREAS the Petition for Diary to Appeal with application for SUBSTITUTED SERVICE above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Ms. SUJEETA SRIVASTAVA, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 23rd August, 2023 along with the connected matters, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"Four weeks time, as last chance is granted to respondent No.2 to file the counter affidavit.

Ld. Counsel for petitioners has filed application for paper publication in respect of respondent No.1. The same is allowed.
Registry to proceed further.

List again on 16.10.2023."

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition will be posted for hearing before this Court in Due course at 10.30 O' Clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as may be convenient to the Court and show cause to the court as to why delay in filing be not condoned and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

Take Further Notice that the prayer for interim relief after notice will also be listed before the Court on the aforesaid date.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R.2013 within 30 days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated: 25th August, 2023

Sd/-
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Copy to :-

- MS. SUJEETA SRIVASTAVA (ADV.)
C-19, SECTOR-14, NOIDA-201301(UP)
NEW DELHI, DELHI
- MS. MALVIKA KAPILA (ADV.)
4, TODMAL LANE, BENGALI MARKET,
NEW DELHI - 110001 NEW DELHI, DELHI

Sd/-
ASSISTANT REGISTRARImportant Notice
LEGAL AID

(1) Legal Services of an advocate is provided by the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee and the Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society to eligible litigants.

For further information, please contact the Secretary, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee or the Member Secretary, Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society, 107-108, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block - Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel Nos. 011-23116353, 23116354 (Additional Building Complex) and 011-23381257 (Front Office))

MEDIATION

(2) The facility of amicable settlement of disputes by trained mediators in cases pending in the Supreme Court is now available in the Supreme Court.

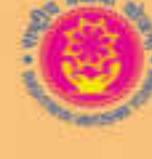
For further information, please contact the Coordinator, Supreme Court Mediation Centre, 109, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block - Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel No. 011-23071432) DIP/Shabdharth/Classified/0374/23-24

Deputy Registrar/Officer (Canara Bank)

732/24

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यानि जो समाज की आखिरी पंक्ति में हैं, उनका उदय।
21वीं सदी का भारत इसी विचार से प्रेरणा लेते हुए अंत्योदय के लिए काम कर रहा है।
जो विकास के आखिरी पायदान पर है, उसे विकास के पहले पायदान
पर लाने के लिए काम हो रहा है”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी



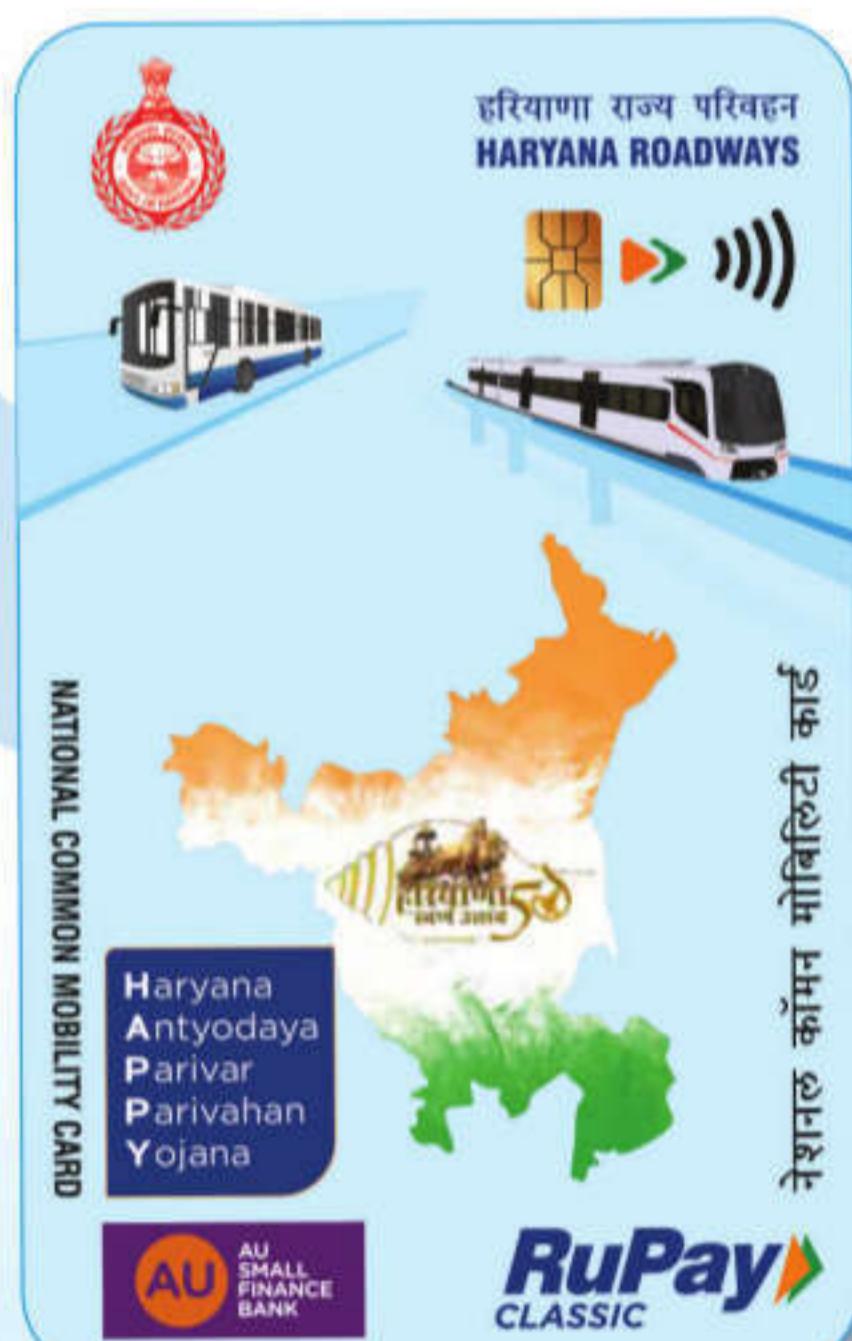
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Chief Minister, Haryana



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England's 10 Downing streak

Zak Crawley tried to set the tone, but there was a familiar underwhelming tenor to English batting as they self-destructed yet again

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
DHARAMSALA, MARCH 7

ON THE eve of the final Test of the long five-match series that they had already lost, England captain Ben Stokes had tried his best, not to sound like someone who wanted the ordeal to end and head home. "It's been a long tour. It's a great ground to have one last big push. We have a lot of fans coming here," he had said.

About 24 hours later that "one last big push" was conspicuous by its absence. Lacking in intensity and drive to stay at the crease or pursue the team's bold Bazballing goals, England batsmen seemed to be in a hurry to be on the flight back home, already thinking of last-minute gifts to pick for the family.

In a little over two sessions, England were all out for 218, with 8 of their batsmen facing less than 50 balls. At stumps, India, at 135/1, seemed all set to take a big lead and further decorate their series triumph. With England's spiritless batting following their listless bowling, going purely by the action on field on Day 1, this doesn't seem to be a Test that will go the distance. India seem to have taken the first step to change 3-1 to 4-1.

The tour that had started with the promise of England giving the world a new code to buck the trend of India's home domination might have a tame end.

Same old story

But for opener Zak Crawley's inning of 79, there was a sameness to the fall of England wickets. In a long five-match series, the visiting team's batting approach and their dismissals have become predictable. Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Jonny Bairstow and Ben Stokes - the biggest brand Bazball ambassador - got out doing what they have done so regularly since the first Test at Hyderabad in the last week of January.

Early in the morning, though, it seemed like England were pressing for their "big push." The Duckett-Crawley opening partnership seemed to be shaping well. They were justifying their captain's decision to bat first. But for the occasional cloudy phases, the sun was out. In the pavilion the Barmy Army was singing Crawley songs. Even a DJ at the stadium would do the English a favour and play UB 40. Crawley wasn't taking chances, he would mostly play with the straight bat, Duckett was the more adventurous playing square.

The introduction of Ashwin didn't change the tempo of the game. The introduction of wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav though, would give India the breakthrough. Duckett didn't wait to check the effectiveness of Kuldeep on the track. He did what he always does. The England opener threw his hands at a ball that was pitched far from him. He mis-timed the drive but Shubman Gill, running back from cover, didn't misjudge a very difficult catch. Seen that before.

A step ahead

At the end of the game, Kuldeep hinted how the Indian team has been second guessing the tactics of the English batsmen and succeeding.

SCORECARD

INDIA vs ENGLAND

HPCA STADIUM, DHARAMSALA

Toss: England won, chose to bat

ENGLAND

Z Crawley	b K Yadav	79 (108b, 11x4, 1x6)
B Duckett	c Gill b K Yadav	27 (58b, 4x4)
O Pope	st Jurel b K Yadav	11 (24b)
J Root	lbw b Jadeja	26 (56b, 4x4)
J Bairstow	c Jurel b K Yadav	29 (18b, 2x4, 2x6)
B Stokes	lbw b Kuldeep Yadav	0 (6b)
B Foakes	c Ashwin	24 (42b, 3x4)
T Hartley	c Padikkal b Ashwin	6 (9b, 1x4)
M Wood	c Sharma b Ashwin	0 (2b)
S Bashir	not out	11 (22b, 2x4)
J Anderson	c Padikkal b Ashwin	0 (3b)
■ Extras	(b2, lb1, nb2)	5
■ Total	(all out; 57.4 overs)	218
■ FoW:	1-64 (Ben Duckett, 17.6 ov), 2-100 (Ollie Pope, 25.3 ov), 3-137 (Zak Crawley, 37.2 ov), 4-175 (Jonny Bairstow, 43.4 ov), 5-175 (Joe Root, 44.2 ov), 6-175 (Ben Stokes, 45.4 ov), 7-183 (Tom Hartley, 49.2 ov), 8-183 (Mark Wood, 49.4 ov), 9-218 (Ben Foakes, 57.1 ov), 10-218 (James Anderson, 57.4 ov)	
■ Bowling:	Jasprit Bumrah 13-2-51-0, Mohammed Siraj 8-1-24-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 11-4-1-51-4, Kuldeep Yadav 15-1-72-5, Ravindra Jadeja 10-2-17-1	

INDIA

Y Jaiswal	st Foakes b Bashir	57 (58b, 5x4, 3x6)
R Sharma	batting	52 (83b, 6x4, 2x6)
S Gill	batting	26 (39b, 2x4, 2x6)
■ Extras		0
■ Total	(1 wicket; 30 overs)	135/1
■ FoW:	1-104 (Yashasvi Jaiswal, 20.4 ov)	
■ Bowling:	James Anderson 4-1-4-0, Mark Wood 3-0-21-0, Tom Hartley 12-0-46-0, Shaib Bashir 11-2-64-1	

He wasn't bothered about the extra turn Kuldeep was getting, he wasn't changing his plans. Well aware that Bairstow would aim for the leg-side slog, Kuldeep would bowl a faster googly that would take the edge of the bat and settle into the hands of the wicket-keeper. Seen that before.

Stokes didn't last long. His struggles against the spinner continued. Like so many times before, he once again failed to judge the length of the ball.

To go forward or fall back? He couldn't decide that in time. Stokes had tried to play him on the back foot and work the ball to the leg. But as Kuldeep mixed his length, Stokes couldn't overcome his dilemma. He did take the review but it was futile. Seen that before.

This was the third wrong DRS call that England had taken in successive overs. Before Stokes, Joe Root and Bairstow too had asked for a review even when there was hardly anyone on the field who would have thought that the ball was missing the stumps.

In the 30 overs that India got to bat, there was just one blip. Going by the theme of the day, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, the highest scorer of this series, too would get out in an all-too-familiar fashion.

His opening partner and captain Rohit Sharma would continue to talk to him. For every loose shot he played, Rohit would ask him to be more circumspect. He made a 58-ball 57 that had 3 sixes and 5 fours and then threw it away.

Like Pope, he too had a rush of blood. He danced down the track to Shoaib Bashir and was out stumped. It wasn't the first time, Jaiswal had missed his charge to a bowler.

Final visual of the day as the light faded, was coach Rahul Dravid on the pitch checking for patches. Seen it before.

well as turn. And so it turned out to be. Wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel would pass on the information. Perhaps, Kuldeep knew it too. Pope stepped out, Kuldeep spotted it, shortened his length, reduced the speed on the ball, beat him in length, drop and turn, making Pope resemble a novice. "He stepped out a bit early, so I changed my mind and bowled the variation. It worked," he explained.

In this series, Kuldeep has looked as mas-

I have worked a lot on my fitness in the last 18 months. I am doing specific things on my fitness which is allowing me to bowl long spells."



KULDEEP YADAV
LEFT-ARM WRIST SPINNER

terful as he has ever been. The biggest difference has been his control over length, he said. "As a spinner, you focus on the length. At times, you change plans as per conditions. If you are getting drift, you have to think about the line too. Speed also matters. If you bowl at a certain speed and change your pace, it gets difficult for the batters," he revealed.

Apart from his action – he now runs in a bit straighter and there is more energy through the crease – he worked incredibly hard on his fitness, especially after a surgery on his knee in 2021. "I have worked a lot on my fitness in the last 18 months. I have been able to make certain changes in my bowling because of improved fitness. I am doing specific things for my fitness which is allowing me to bowl long spells. At Rajkot (12 overs in the first innings) and Ranchi (14 overs in the second innings) also, I bowled long spells," he elaborated.

Either side of lunch on Thursday, he bowled 15 overs of guile and skill here. Tinkering with his action was not easy. "In the beginning, it was very challenging. I had changed my action, it took six to eight months to find that rhythm," he recollects. Now, he can make minor adjustments to his action and still be as effective. Like in Ranchi, because the surface was slow, he was slightly quicker through his action. "I practise those things regularly," he said.

Returning to the Test fold was no easy task, as Axar Patel became a regular in his absence. But once Kuldeep got a break, he seized it. The more he has played, the more deceptive he has looked. "If you play regularly, you get more confident about your bowling. Game awareness also comes with it. It is important to keep playing regularly as it makes your bowling sharp."

If he bowls as deceptively as he had in this series, he could make up for his years in the wilderness. If he ever requires a dose of inspiration, he could rewatch the Pope dismissal.

'I could change my action due to better fitness'

DEVENDRA PANDEY

DHARAMSALA, MARCH 7

ALL SUPREME bowlers, besides their skills, have great game awareness. Knowing which ball to bowl when. Lunch was just a few balls away. Kuldeep Yadav had bowled 11 balls to Ollie Pope. Apart from one that skidded past his bat early on, the England No. 3 had dealt with him reasonably comfortably. But two balls before the wicket-ball, he sensed Pope's design. Pope was looking to use his feet.

Kuldeep didn't immediately shorten his length. But he was ready, for he knew Pope loves to sashay down the track. "He is the kind of a player who doesn't like to stay in the crease," Kuldeep revealed his mindset in the post-day press conference.

If the batsman conveyed his intent, Kuldeep knew what to unleash. The floated googly, that would beat him with drop as

well as turn. And so it turned out to be. Wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel would pass on the information. Perhaps, Kuldeep knew it too. Pope stepped out, Kuldeep spotted it, shortened his length, reduced the speed on the ball, beat him in length, drop and turn, making Pope resemble a novice. "He stepped out a bit early, so I changed my mind and bowled the variation. It worked," he explained.

In this series, Kuldeep has looked as mas-

NAGAL TAKES NADAL'S PLACE

Indian tennis star Sumit Nagal has advanced to the main draw of the BNP Paribas Open as a 'lucky loser' after Spanish superstar Rafael Nadal withdrew from the event citing lack of readiness to play at the highest level. The 26-year-old Nagal had lost in the second round of the qualifying tournament but got the big break as he was the highest ranked player in that draw. PTI



Kuldeep Yadav after completing his five-wicket haul on Thursday. PTI

close-in fielders.

Young wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel, playing just his third Test, would soon utter words that would make viral content. The

stump mic would catch his shout across the pitch to Kuldeep - "Agge badhne waada hai (He is about to step out)." Kuldeep would pull his length back and bowl the spin tribe's popular antidote to those charging out of the crease - the wrong 'un. There aren't many sights in world cricket better than a batsman stranded close to the middle of the pitch and looking back at the wicketkeeper with the ball in his hands. Pope would have lost his appetite as he walked ahead of the players heading to the hut for lunch, not to return.

A rare breed

Kuldeep is a one-of-a-kind cricketer and becomes a cricketing rarity on a hunch of his coach. Since he wasn't tall enough to bowl fast, his early passion, Kuldeep's coach, one fine day, threw the ball to him and asked him to try spin. The coach would be surprised with what he saw - the young boy used his wrist and not fingers to spin the ball. Thus was born a left-arm wrist spinner - he wasn't orthodox, he was exotic.

Beyond the cricket field, Kuldeep's choices give a peep into his analytical mind. YouTube has many videos of him involved

in detailed discussions with local football experts that last hours. A passionate fan of Barcelona's complex short passes - tiki-taka style - he too is in the business of unlocking tight defences.

Angles and mindgames

Kuldeep's bowling is also about understanding angles and reading the mind of batsmen. For most of the first session, England seemed to have parked the bus and occasionally the openers - Ben Duckett and Crawley - would launch counter-attacks. That would change after Kuldeep's entry. This was a pitch for wrist-spinners. They impart more revolutions to the ball than finger-spinners do.

An Australian research shows that offie Nathan Lyon's stock ball has 2,000 revolutions, while the corresponding number for leg-spin legend Shane Warne was 2,800. The hard and bouncy Day 1 Dharamsala pitch was the kind that would make a captain look at his wrist-spinners do.

However, it was Kuldeep's range that helped him fox the English. He had four deliveries in his arsenal and kept juggling them. There was the over-the-wicket

tossed-up ball that drifts outside the off-stump of the right-handers before breaking into the batsman appreciably. It also has

a variation - the one that is flatter and is bowled just outside off. This one breaks less. Then there's the faster, flatter, fuller straight one that traps the sweepers in front of the stumps.

And the googly, the sucker punch delivered after long set-ups.

Kuldeep got Crawley for 79, denying him a century, with one that turned in sharply, and left-hander Duckett was tempted with one tossed up wide outside off. Ben Stokes was caught on the crease, LBW failing to read the wrong 'un.

Another important dismissal was of Jonny Bairstow, who seemed to have decided to hit Kuldeep out of attack. He hit him for a six and four reaching 29, and that's when another quip from the hangars-on around the bat, Rohit, came up with a tip. "Hawaa mat de (Don't give the ball air)" he would say. On demand came a flat-top googly and Bairstow was caught behind.

They all once again rushed to ruffle the thick brownish mop of hair. On demand, the enforcers had delivered once again.

TACTICAL MASTERCLASS

When Kuldeep is in rhythm, it's like a chess mehfil at the town square

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
DHARAMSALA, MARCH 7

EVERY TIME Kuldeep Yadav would take a wicket, his highly-obliged teammates would crowd around him and lovingly ruffle his thick brownish mop of hair. On a hard brownish true pitch where pacers and finger-spinners found it tough to get wickets, the wrist spinner from Kanpur proved the saviour for his team. On a typically overcast English morning, at a venue that had more Barmy Army flags than Tricolours, Kuldeep Yadav hammered home the fact to the world that this was no home-away-from-home for Ben Stokes and his men.

His figures of 5/72 were an exhibition of his extensive repertoire that has many stock balls plus several versions and variations. England's first innings total of 218 all out reconfirmed that India, under Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma, don't need pitch manipulation to dismiss visiting teams cheaply.

And Kuldeep's unchanged 15-over spell, during which England went from 55/0 to 179/6, was a reconfirmation of the many match-winners that have emerged in

WFI tells court it will not hold selection trials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THE WRESTLING Federation of India (WFI) told the Delhi High Court on Thursday that it will withdraw its February 26 circular about the selection trials for the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships 2024 and Asian Olympic Games Qualifier, paving the way for the Indian Olympic Association-appointed ad-hoc committee to conduct the trials.

The High Court order states that consequently, "there shall be no parallel selection trials" as apprehended in the plea moved by the petitioner wrestlers.

The court thereafter said, "Needless to say, the ad-hoc committee shall ensure that all athletes, which are found eligible, are permitted to participate in the trial."

The matter is next listed for April 26.

The High Court was hearing a plea moved by Olympic medallist wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik and World Championship medalist Vinesh Phogat to declare the WFI election held in December 2023 illegal on the grounds that the federation was not compliant with the national sports code.

Among various reliefs, the petitioners have also sought directions against the "illegal action" of the "suspended" WFI in conducting selection trials notified in the February 26 circular, claiming that it had gone against the directives of the ad-hoc committee for WFI.

A single-judge Bench of Justice Sachin Datta, in its interim order, said, "After some hearing, Mr. Dayan Krishnan, learned senior counsel who seeks to appear for respondent no.2 (through Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh) submits, on instructions, that without prejudice to his rights and contentions, the circular dated 26.02.2024, filed as Annexure P-26 to the present petition, may be treated as withdrawn. It is directed accordingly".

"The selection trials shall proceed as per the circular/press release (of the ad-hoc committee) dated 09.02.2024...," the court added. As per this circular, the trials for the Olympic Qualifiers & Asian Championships are to be held by the ad-hoc committee between March 10-11 at NSNIS Patiala and SAI Sonipat.

Sanjay Singh, a close aide of former president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, a BJP MP, was elected president of the WFI late last year. On December 24, the sports ministry suspended the elected body of the WFI.

Sindhu passes Zhang test

Wins 2nd successive close match to showcase sharper game, fitness

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
MARCH 7



PV Sindhu had Prakash Padukone and Indonesia's Agus Dwi Santoso in her corner as coaches. File

IN ESSENCE, the key for PV Sindhu was spelt out in the first point of the match itself. Up against Beiwen Zhang in the Round of 16 at the French Open Super 750, the Indian took the shuttle early and hit a crosscourt smash winner to go 1-0 up. But she'd go away from that strategy, allowing the veteran American - who Sindhu first met all the way back in 2011 for the first time - to take charge of the opening game. Sindhu repeatedly went for clears to the backcourt, evidently hoping to pin Zhang to the backcourt but the shuttle more often than not landed long.

It is in these moments when coaching tweaks truly come in handy. In the heat of battle, players can sometimes misread the conditions and try things that don't work. And as Sindhu mentioned in her social media post after her first-round win: "...having a true legend of Indian badminton by my side, taking on a coaching assignment after 25 years just to be in my corner! Prakash sir, I hope this is just the beginning of many more memorable moments together."

Alongside Indonesia's Agus Dwi Santoso, Padukone told Sindhu to play flatter and not rush. Sindhu's control of the shuttle let her down in what was a sluggish start, and the opening game slipped away rather quickly. In the break between games, after Santoso's tactical

Michelle Li on Tuesday, Sindhu battled for 80 minutes for a scoreline that couldn't be closer (20-22, 22-20, 21-19). On her comeback trail after a few months out of the game, Sindhu can now feel confident that her body can last the distance in consecutive matches.

That said, it was also important for Sindhu to feel good about her game. The match against Li, while gritty, wasn't of the highest quality from two players making their way back from injuries. It was mostly about the fight. The match against Zhang, however, tested Sindhu's skills and tactics.

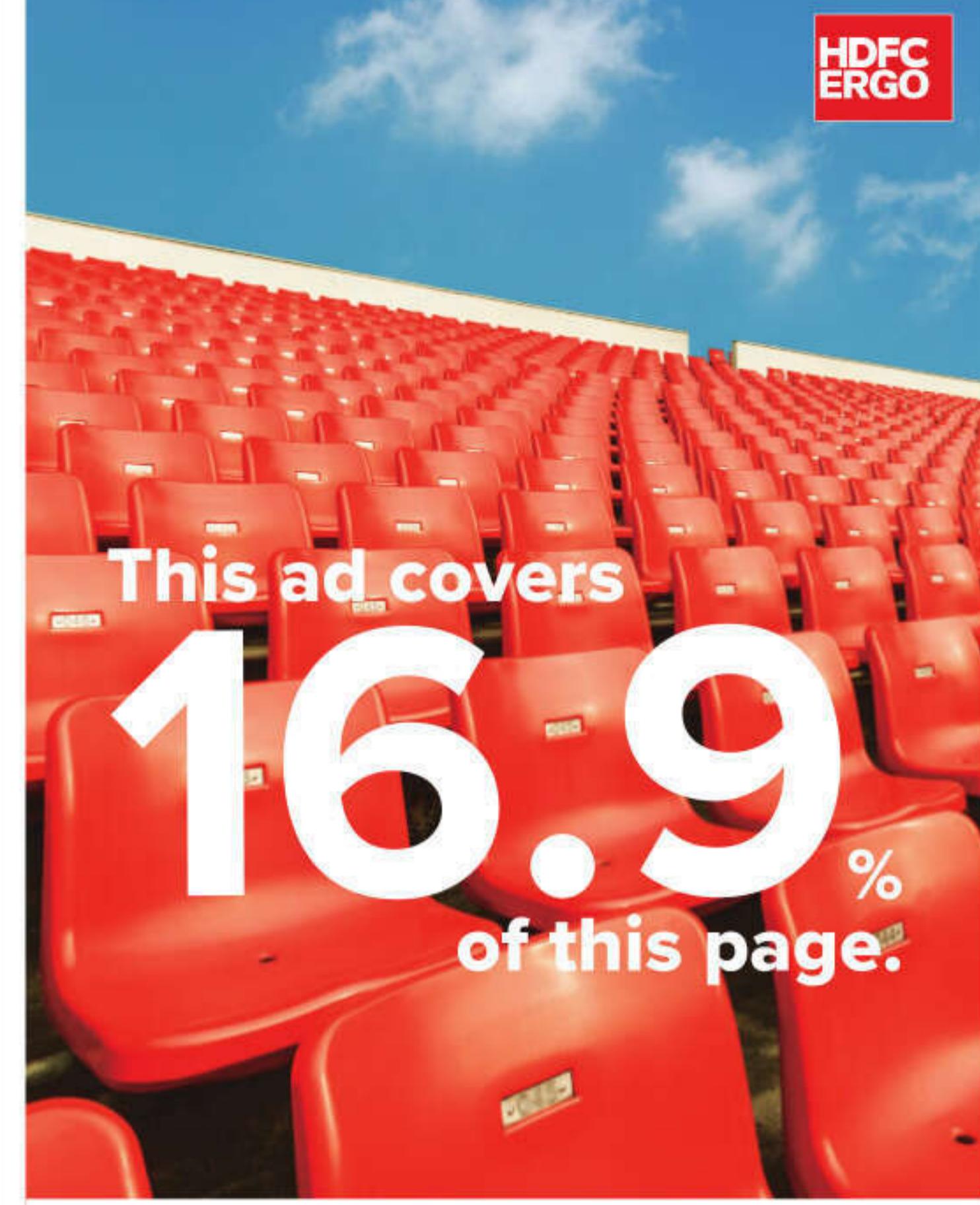
Treesa-Gayatri win

Later in the day, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Copichand pulled off an impressive win against former world No.1s Sayaka Hirota and Yuki Fukushima 21-18 21-13. Hirota came to Paris with a heavy knee brace as the Japanese stars have decided to give Olympic qualification a shot despite not being active on the tour recently. Fukushima had to do the bulk of the work on court and the Indians, despite some moments of individual brilliance from the Japanese duo, were solid throughout. It's now their second win in two meetings against the three-time World Championships silver medalists. The win, on the back of getting the better of Tanisha Crasto-Ashwini Ponnappa, keeps the Race for Paris between these two Indian pairs finely balanced.

advice, Padukone's calming voice evidently steadied Sindhu. "This end will be better for you," the former All England champion told her. "Play confidently, bring her to the net, make her lift, and then go for your smash. OK? All the best. Do well. Don't worry."

Thereon, Sindhu took charge. Down 0-3, she drew Zhang forward to the net, forced her to lift, and sent down a kill shot at her body. A dominant performance in the last two games saw Sindhu win 13-21, 21-10, 21-14 over the world No. 10 and enter the quarterfinals.

For starters, winning back-to-back matches in three grueling games is good news for Sindhu physically. Against



Because that's the viewership of women's cricket compared to men's*.

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Source: Indianexpress.com, dated March 28, 2023

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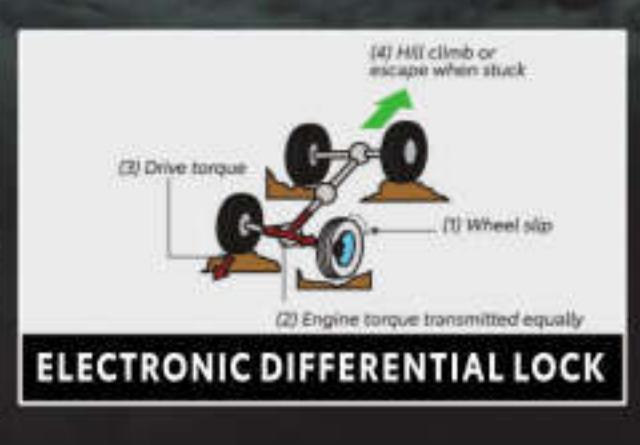
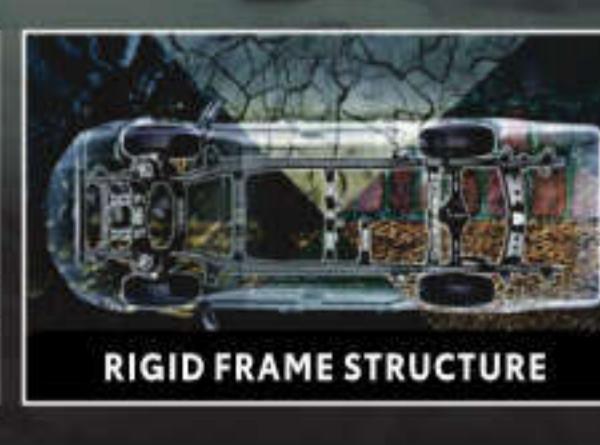


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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024

ECONOMY

SENSEX: 74,119.39 ▲ 33.40 (0.05%) NIFTY: 22,493.55 ▲ 19.50 (0.09%) NIKKEI: 39,598.71 ▼ 492.07 HANG SENG: 16,229.78 ▼ 208.31 FTSE: 7,692.46 ▲ 13.15 DAX: 17,842.85 ▲ 126.14


GOLD
₹65,650


USD RATE
₹82.78


OIL
₹83.15


SILVER
₹74,900

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

International market data till 1900 IST

Flipkart planning entry into quick commerce sector

AYANTI BERA
BENGALURU, MARCH 7

WHERE ARE THE PROFITS?

- None of the quick commerce firms are profitable
- Zepto's losses widened to ₹1,272 crore in FY23 from ₹390 crore in the previous year
- Swiggy's losses stood at ₹4,179 crore, compared to a loss of ₹3,629 crore in FY22
- Blinkit's losses widened to ₹1,190 crore in FY23 from ₹1,021 crore earlier

WALMART-OWNED Flipkart is planning to enter the quick commerce delivery business soon, and will launch its services in around 20 cities in the next few months, according to people familiar with the matter. Once the services are rolled out, the e-commerce major will directly compete with the likes of Zepto, Zomato's Blinkit and Swiggy's Instamart.

A company spokesperson did not explicitly confirm the development, but said that that over the past few months, it has made several investments to enhance its delivery capabilities, including adding same-day delivery in 20 cities, covering mobiles, essential items, electronics, home appliances, fashion, books and lifestyle products.

This will be Flipkart's second attempt to grow big in the quick commerce space after it decided to scale down its Flipkart Quick offering in the late 2022.

The development comes at a time when orders on quick commerce platforms have doubled over the last year, and now accounts for 40%-50% of India's e-grocery spend, a report by Bain & Company noted, adding that leading players in this space have improved unit economics through a

combination of scale, average order value growth, higher order density, and value-added fees.

While the quick commerce market is much smaller than the \$60-billion e-commerce market in India, the majority of it is captured by the top three players - Blinkit, Zepto and Instamart. Bain's report says the e-commerce market in India is estimated to grow by 17%-20% between 2022-2023, which is slower than the 25%-30% historic growth rate. FE

Moody's raises FY24 growth forecast to 8%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

MOODY'S RATINGS Thursday raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY24 to around 8 per cent from 6.6 per cent on the back of strong domestic consumption and capital expenditure.

The estimate comes a day after RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the economic growth in the current financial year could be close to 8 per cent in view of the third quarter GDP data released by the government.

The latest estimate of Moody's is about 140 basis points higher than the earlier projection of 6.6 per cent made in November 2023.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) has projected 8.4 per cent growth in December quarter of the current financial year. It has also revised GDP estimates for the first and second quarters to 8.2 per cent and 8.1 per cent from 7.8 per cent and 7.6 per

cent, respectively.

"We expect India to be the fastest-growing economy among major G20 countries, with its real GDP growth to accelerate to around 8 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 2024 (fiscal 2023-24) from 7 per cent in fiscal 2022-23," Moody's said in a report.

Government capital expenditure and strong domestic consumption will underpin India's economic growth. Moreover, India is poised to benefit from increased global trade and investment opportunities arising from companies' strategies to diversify away from China, it said.

"We expect India's inflation rate will decline to 5.5 per cent in 2023-24 from a peak of 6.7 per cent in fiscal 2022-23, and further disinflation will support monetary easing going forward," it said.

With regard to the banking sector, the report said, non-performing assets (NPAs) will continue to fall as the operating environment improves. ENS

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

MUMBAI, MARCH 7

MARKET REGULATOR Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Thursday barred JM Financial, a registered merchant banker, from acting as a lead manager for any new public issue of debt securities.

Sebi's action against JM Financial (JMFL) comes days after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) told JM Financial Products Ltd (JMPL) to stop financing against shares and debentures. JMPL is a non-banking finance company (NBFC) and a subsidiary of JMFL.

Sebi Thursday said JMFL, along with its connected group entities, appeared to have given an assured exit to certain investors at a profit, thus incentivising them to apply to the public issue in contravention of regulatory mandates.

The Noticee (JMFL-MB) is barred from taking any new mandate for acting as a lead manager for any public issue of debt securities," said Sebi whole-time member Ashwani Bhatia in the interim ex parte order. But it can continue to act as lead manager for existing mandates for 60 days from the date of this order, Sebi said.

The matter came to light when the market regulator undertook a routine examination



Sebi said JMFL can continue as lead manager for existing mandates for 60 days

of the public issues of non-convertible debentures (NCD) during the year 2023.

In a particular issue, Sebi said, a significant number of individual investors sold the securities allotted to them on the day of listing itself. The issue, which was the first tranche of NCDs issued under a shelf prospectus dated October 16, 2023, had a base issue size of Rs 200 crore with a green shoe option of Rs 800 crore. JMFL was one of the lead managers to the issue.

The holding pattern of the securities showed that a large percentage of securities issued changed hands on the day of listing as a result of which retail ownership came down sharply, which was unusual, the regulator said.

On examination of the transactions on the day of listing of the said issue, Sebi observed that JMPL acted as counterparty to the trades of these individual investors and had also provided the

funds deployed by these investors for subscribing to the issue.

"JMPL-NBFC, subsequently, on the very same day, offloaded at a loss, a significant portion of the securities that it had acquired from these investors to corporate investors," the order said.

The examination also revealed that these investors had submitted their applications in the public issue through the stock broker JM Financial Services Ltd (JMFL), another subsidiary of JMFL.

It said the manner in which the subscriptions have been managed was shocking.

"We can also conclude from the data with us that JMPL-NBFC was the seller, buyer and then a reseller of the NCDs of which JM Financial Ltd was the merchant banker. They were able to seamlessly pull this off because they were the Power of Attorney holders for many of the investors in question," Sebi said.

Vaishnav backs simplification of economic laws

Union minister Ashwini Vaishnav

New Delhi: Union minister Ashwini Vaishnav Thursday called for simplifying economic laws to make them modern and relevant. Simplification, he said, was one of the four thrusts of the government's approach towards policymaking, the others being inclusive growth, manufacturing, and physical, social and digital infrastructure.

The Minister for IT, Communications and Railways was speaking at the launch of NITI Aayog's 'NITI for States', an integrated platform hosting documents and datasets for the Viksit Bharat action plan.

Vaishnav said that over 1,500 "archaic laws" have been addressed by the government. "Now, with the same comprehensiveness, we need to further simplify economic laws in a modern and relevant way based on our growth requirements," he said.

Vaishnav added: "NITI has the flexibility of a think tank to onboard 2,000 good lawyers and give each of them one law to explore how it can be simplified. According to a study, there are around 35,000 laws which require simplification. If we address all those laws, in the next five years we can create a legal framework to reach the goal of Viksit Bharat."

Having underestimated a sudden surge in prices two years ago, the central bank for the 20 countries sharing the euro has been re-

"Though progress has been made, more work must be done to ensure equal opportunities for women in the workplace. There is a need for continued efforts in fostering a supportive environment, addressing biases and providing avenues for professional development"

AKSHAY MUNJAL,

Founder and CEO, Hero Vired

SOME KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT:

85% of respondents believe that upskilling can help women keep pace with opportunities in the modern workplace

77% of respondents observed an increase in the representation of women in leadership positions compared to previous years

69% cited lack of time as the primary barrier for women pursuing upskilling opportunities

65% of women are inclined to invest in upskilling and career development, motivated by advancement opportunities and career growth prospects

59% of women now believe they have equal workplace opportunities as men, indicating shifting dynamics towards workplace equality

ECB lays ground for rate cut as inflation falls

REUTERS

FRANKFURT, MARCH 7

THE EUROPEAN Central Bank kept borrowing costs at record highs Thursday while cautiously laying the ground to lower them later this year, saying it had made good progress in bringing down inflation.

Having underestimated a sudden surge in prices two years ago, the central bank for the 20 countries sharing the euro has been re-

luctant to declare victory over what turned out to be the most brutal bout of inflation in decades.

But with new forecasts pointing to lower inflation and growth, ECB policymakers on Thursday indicated they were preparing for a first cut in inter-

est rates, probably in June, provided incoming data, especially on wages, confirms the trend.

"We did not discuss cuts for this meeting, but we are just beginning to discuss the dialing back of our restrictive stance," ECB President Christine Lagarde told a press conference.

Lagarde hinted strongly that was more likely to happen at the ECB's June 6 meeting. She noted that inflation, including nearly all underlying measures, has been falling towards the ECB's 2% target.

vived at the time of the next renewal of the credit card.

Is there any exclusion?

The regulator said the new directions are not applicable to credit card issuers with the number of active cards issued by them being 10 lakh or less in number.

The RBI also said that card issuers such as American Express, who issue credit cards on their own authorised card network, are excluded from the norms.

What happens to existing credit card customers?

The RBI said for existing cardholders, the option to choose the card network should be pro-

vided at the time of the next renewal of the credit card.

For further details and to download tender document, please visit website link:

<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/searchTender/live>

DIPR/CP/YC/4142/2023-24

Sd/- Executive Secretary, KSCST

KWA-JB-GL-6-2594-2023-24

KWA-JB-GL-6-2577-2023-24

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, मंडल क्रमांक 1, रायपुर (छ.)
दृष्टिगत: (0771) 231431 पैकेज: (0771) 4055885 ईमेल: sel.raipur@gov.in

निविदा संशोधन सूचना

आग्रह क्र. 40/87/सा. 5 (142) रायपुर, दिनांक /03/2024

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आभारित निविदा सूचना क्र. 13/Raipur/2023-24 दिनांक 19.02.2024 शासकीय कला एवं वाचनिक एवं महाविद्यालय देवेन्ड्र नगर, रायपुर में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय निरुक्त करने हेतु निविदा में निम्नलिखित विवरण किया जाता है:-

विवरण	पूर्व विवरण	संशोधित विवरण
RFP No. 13/Raipur/2023-24	Bid Submission due Date 11.03.2024 17.30	Bid Submission due Date 15.03.2024 17.30
	Earliest money (In shape as per annexure I)	Earliest money (In shape as per annexure I)
	Favor of Executive Engineer Division No.-01 Raipur	Favor of Executive Engineer PWD Division No.-03 Raipur
	हस्ताक्षर-	अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, मंडल क्रमांक 1. रायपुर (छ.)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rajesh S/o Sh. Mahender Singh, R/o H. No. 661, B-Block, JJ Colony, Inderpuri, Delhi** has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 263/17 U/s 33 F Delhi Excise Act P.S. Patel Nagar, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Rajesh** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rajesh** has absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rajesh** of case FIR No. 263/17 U/s 33 F Delhi Excise Act P.S. Patel Nagar, New Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **08.04.2024**.

By Order

Ms. Upasana Satija

Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate

West Distt., Room No. 145, 1st Floor,

Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/2763/CD/2024 (Court Matter)



कार्यालय अधिक्षण
स्वामी शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायगढ़ (छ.)
Bendrauchha, Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, ph-07762-215619 E-mail: gmcrraigarh.2013@gmail.com
क्रमांक / चिकित्सा क्रमांक/2023-24/2596 रायगढ़ दिनांक 05/3/24
// प्रथम निविदा आमंत्रण //

स्व. श्री लंगीगम अधिकारी स्वामी शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायगढ़ (छ.)
Bendrauchha, Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, ph-07762-215619 E-mail: gmcrraigarh.2013@gmail.com
क्रमांक / चिकित्सा क्रमांक/2023-24/2596 रायगढ़ दिनांक 05/3/24

स्व. श्री लंगीगम अधिकारी स्वामी शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय रायगढ़ (छ.) के अधीक्षण विभिन्न विभागों के लिए आवश्यक चिकित्सक उपकरण (Equipments) क्रय किये जाने के संबंध में दर अनुबंध (Rate Contract) करने हेतु इच्छुक फर्म/प्रदर्शकों/अधिकृत विकेता फर्म/निर्माता कम्पनियों से खुली निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है:-

निविदा की तिथि निम्नानुसार है:-
निविदा प्राप्ति तिथि / निविदा प्राप्ति विक्रय तिथि दिनांक 11/03/2024 समय 10:00 AM से

निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 09/04/2024 समय 03:00 PM के पूर्व

(निविदा संभव दर्शकों की हात कींजी जमा)

निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय दिनांक 09/04/2024 समय 04:00 PM

टॉप:

(1) निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय के वेबसाइट www.gmcrraigarh.edu.in का अलाइनकर कर सकते हैं।

(2) निविदा प्राप्त कार्यालयनिविदा एवं समय में रुपय 1,00/- निविदा शुल्क लेखा शाया में जमा कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

(3) वेबसाइट www.gmcrraigarh.edu.in से डाउनलोड कर निविदा प्राप्त ग्राह करने पर निविदा शुल्क रुपय 1,00/- का छोड़ी. "अधिकारी स्व. श्री लंगीगम अधिकारी स्वामी शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय रायगढ़ (छ.)" के नाम से तैयार कर दर्शकोंने के साथ प्रत्युत करना अनिवार्य है। निविदा शुल्क की गण वापसी योग्य नहीं है।

हस्ता-

अधिकारी

स्व. श्री लंगीगम अधिकारी स्वामी

शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायगढ़ (छ.)

08333

GOVT. OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, WATER

'e' Procurement Notice No. CEMKS 24 of 2023-24

1. Name of the work : Protection to scouring bank on Nuna Karandia right embankment from village Bahakandia to Dhasahi.

2. Amount put to Tender : Rs.9,26,27,985/-

3. Bid Document Cost : Rs.10, 00,000 (online)

4. E.M.D : Rs.9,26,300/-

5. Class of Contractor : "A" Class & Special Class

6. Period of Completion : 11 calendar months

7. Other details are as follows.

Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Availability of Tender On-line for bidding Date of Technical Bid (Cover-I)

Chief Engineer & BM, Mahanadi Kathajodi System, Bhubaneswar 02 of 2023-24 11.03.2024 17.00 hrs 27.03.2024 11.00 hrs 28.03.2024 11.00 hrs

8. e-mail Id : celmbbsr@yahoo.co.in

Further detail conditions can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager

Mahanadi Kathajodi System

Bhubaneswar

OIPR-32252/11/0032/2324

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Chief Engineer & BM, Mahanadi Kathajodi System, Bhubaneswar 02 of 2023-24 11.0

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Nazima alias Nazima Saifi D/O Riyazuddin, W/O Abid Ali Khan R/o 165/A, Shyam Colony Phase-2, Budh Vihar, North West Delhi-110086, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nazima Parveen 0070892871-1

I, Narinder Singh S/o Sujan Singh R/o H-18, G/F Kailash Colony South Delhi-110048 changed my name to Narinder Singh Bedi. 0040718501-1

I, Monu W/O, Sachin Garg R/o F-202 Sunshine Helios, Sec-78 Noida, UP-201301 have changed my name to Monu Garg for all purposes. 0040718592-1

I, Mohammad Younis S/o Nisar Ahmad R/o 28/1, 26, Rukan Saray, Gali-5, Bulandshahr have changed my name to Mohd Yunus. 0070892864-1

I, MEENU PATHAK W/O ANIL KUMAR PATHAK R/O 201, KEWAL PARK, AZADPUR, DELHI-110033. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MEENA PATHAK. 0040718574-9

I, Kusum Kaur, W/O Gurinder Singh Sikka R/o C-23, Preet Vihar, Shakar Pur, Baramad, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kusum Kaur 0070892877-1

I, Bhawana D/o Anoop Manral R/o RZI-35A, Mahavir Enclave, Palam, Delhi-45 have changed my name to Bhawana Manral. 0070892854-1

I, Anand Kumar S/O Sachidanand Jha, R/o Flat No. 91, 2nd Floor, Pocket 10, Dwarka Sector-23 B, South West Delhi, Delhi-110077, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anand Kashyap. 0070892879-1

I, Raghunandan Das Gupta S/o Rameshwar Das Gupta R/o D-54, North Ghonda, Majupur Delhi 53. Have changed my name to Raghunandan Gupta for all purposes. 0070892922-1

I Mrs Poonam Kapoor Address-house no 320 nilgiri apartments gate no 1 alakhnanda New Delhi 110019 have changed my minor daughter name from GEET TRIVEDI to GEET KAPOOR TRIVEDI for all future purposes 0040718565-1

I, Manu S/o Radhey Shyam Garg R/o House No.- 2008 B, Nai Basti Anaj mandi, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi-110040, have changed my name to Aditya Garg 0070892906-1

I, Mahabir Parshad Singal,S/o-Tek Chand Singhal R/o-A-74, Saraswati Vihar,Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Mahabir Prasad for all purposes. 0040718500-1

I, Chikka Mariyappa S/o Narasannappa R/o # 2125, 6th Cross, Pipe Line Road, Near Ganesh Temple Prashanth Nagar, Tadasrahalli, Bangalore North, Dasarahalli Bangalore North Bangalore, Karnataka-560057, have changed my name to Mariyappa 0070892905-1

I, Anita Rani G/Anita Garg/Anita Rani W/o-Late Sh.Balbir Chand Garg R/o-E-125, Prashant Vihar, Sector-14, Rohini,Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Anita Devi for all purposes. 0040718499-1

I, SUMAN DEVI M/o No.219471Z RANK LA(AH) AMAN YADAV R/o H.No.18A, SHIVPU, SAMAPUR DELHI-42 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUMAN YADAV VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATE 6.3.2024 BEFORE DELHI 0070892899-1

I Samridhi Gandhi W/O, Davin Wadhawan R/o D-12, 2nd Floor, Lajpat Nagar-3, New Delhi 11-024 have changed my name to Samridhi Wadhawan. 0040718553-1

This is for general information that I Ritu Bahl W/o Rohit Malhotra, in whose passport my name is wrongly written as Ritu Bahl Malhotra. This should read as Ritu Bahl. We both are residents of 10/6A, 2nd Floor, Nehru Enclave East, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019. 0040718544-1

This is for general information that I Gurbachan Malhotra W/o Late Maj M.M. Malhotra and my son is Rohit Malhotra, in whose passport my name is wrongly written as Guddi Malhotra. This should read as Gurbachan Malhotra. We both are residents of 10/6A, 2nd Floor, Nehru Enclave East, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019. 0040718545-1

I,hitherto known as REENA UPADHYAY,W/o Vineet Upadhyay,R/o A-174/T-1,Shahil Garden Extr-2,Sahibabad-Ghazibabad,uttar pradesh-201005,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Reena Rani. 0040718576-8

I,hitherto known as Mohan Singh,S/O Daulat Singh,R/O.Plot.No-26-a,First Floor, Left-Side, Block-a,Gali No-15,Raja Puri,Uttam Nagar, West-Delhi-110059,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mohan Singh Butola. 0040718571-7

I, Ranul S/O Pitam Singh,R/o 00, Baldhari, Karkoli,Bah, Agr, Uttar Pradesh-283123 Have Changed My Name To Ranul Singh,For All Future Purposes. 0040718574-10

I, YASHIKA/YASHIKA SINGHAL,W/O-KRISHAN KUMAR,R/O-B-1/10,third Floor,Paschim Vihar,Delhi-110063,have changed my name to YASHIKA MITTAL. 0040718593-1

I, Vimla Devi w/o, Late Shri Ram Sanjwan R/o,village Agaya Khurd,Post Mahuwa Dabar,Distt Basti,UP have changed my name from Shanti Devi to Vimla Devi for all purpose. 0040718573-1

I, Sunil Kumar,s/o Ashok Kumar,R/o-B-339,3rd floor,prashant vihar sector-14,Rohini-Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Sunil Ahuja 0040718576-1

I, Satnam Kour W/o Sarbjit Singh R/o 409/WZ-198A, Chand Nagar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 changed my name to Satnam Kaur Ajjan. 0040718501-3

I, Satish Chander@ Satish Chander Budhiraja,S/o Late Shri Ram Dhadwya,R/o, A-110,Ground-Floor,Vihari-Vihar,Phase-1,Delhi-110095,declare that Satish Chander & Satish Chander Budhiraja both name are one and same-person. 0040718574-9

I, Saroj Jangra,W/o Sh.Sunil Kumar,R/o H.No.21,Block C,Roshan Vihar,Part-1, Najafgarh,New-Delhi-110043,Have Changed My Name,From Saroj Kumari to Saroj Jangra,for all Future Purposes. 0040718570-7

I, Sarbjit Singh S/o Kuljit Singh,R/o 409/WZ-198A,Near Lal Building School, Chand Nagar,Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 changed my name to Sarbjit Singh Ajjan. 0040718501-4

I, Sapna kumari sah d/o Sunil sah,R/o-B-9,1402 and -1502 M3M woodshire dharampur-road,sector-108,dautlabad, gurgaon-122006,have changed my name to Sapna sah,for all purpose. 0040718574-7

I, SWETA SAXENA,W/O PALLAV SAXENA,R/o,A-1004,10TH-FLOOR,ARHANT, Vihar,SECTOR-1,GREATER NOIDA WEST, BISHRAKH,GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR,UTTRAPRADESH-201306,changed my name to SWETA SAXENA. 0040718570-8

I, S,SMRITI HURIA PAUL W/O AMAN PAUL R/o B-25,THIRD-FLOOR,SHUBHAM ENCLAVE,PASCHIM VIHAR,DELHI-110063.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SMRITI HURIA. 0040718576-4

I, SHAHIDA USMANI,W/o MOHAMMED SALEEM USMANI,R/o 2821,MOHALLA NIYARIYAN G B ROAD,DELHI-110006,have changed my name to SAEEDA USMANI. 0040718600-3

I, SANJEEV JAIN,S/O-RAMESH CHAND JAIN R/o-334, GOLDEN JUBILEE APARTMENT, SFS FLAT,SECTOR-11,ROHINI,Delhi-110085,have Change my name to SANJIVE KUMAR JAIN. 0040718593-3

I, SALEEM USMANI,S/o MOHD USMANI,R/o 2821,MOHALLA NIYARIYAN G B ROAD,DELHI-110006,have changed my name to MOHAMMED SALEEM USMANI. 0040718600-3

I, Khushii Dhiman,D/o Manoj Kumar,R/o B-181,Amsa-Plaza Ayurvijayan-Nagar Andrewsurganj,South-Delhi-110049,declare that name of my-father has been wrongly written as Manoj Dhigan in my 10th-class And 12th-Class documents the actual-name of my-father is Manoj Kumar. 0040718576-9

I, Jitender Kumar,S/o-Lala Ram,R/o-A-156,Friends Enclave,Mundka,Delhi-110041,inform that Jitender Kumar & Jitender both are one & the same person. 0040718593-5

I, Ishwar Singh,S/o Uday Singh,R/o-55/20,Pawan Dham Triveni-Colony,Bakhtawarpur Delhi-110036,declare that my wife,late Mrs.Vimala Devi,died on-18.01.2024.By mistake,her name has been written in the bank account as Bimla Devi,Vimala Devi and Bimla Devi are names of the same-person. 0040718576-10

I, RAJENDER KUMAR,S/O-PRITAM DASS, ADD-B-18,3R-D-FLOOR AMAR COLONY LAJPAT NAGAR-4,SOUTH-EAST,DELHI-110024,Changed my name to RAJENDER KUMAR CHOPRA,for all,future purposes. 0040718574-5

I, Paridhi Ghai W/o Shivan Supra R/o-152 Chander Lok Enclave, Pitampura,Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Paridhi Supra 0040718571-3

I, PRATIBHA ALIAS PRATIBHA PANDEY D/O GIRISH CHANDRA PANDEY R/o-Flat No.24A LIG.Flat,Pocket-108,Jasola Vihar, Okhla,Delhi-110025,have changed my name to PRATIBHA PANDEY. 0040718571-5

I, PARVEEN KUMAR MITTAL S/o Shyam Lal Mittal R/o-H.No.D-3/9, SECTOR-11,Rohini, Delhi-110085,have changed my name to PARVEEN MITTAL,for all future purposes. 0040718574-8

I, Nikhil Kumar Mangla,S/o Jitendra Kumar Mangla,R/o G-6,F/Lawyers Colony Agra-282005(U.P)Have Changed My Name To Nikhil Mangla. 0040718576-1

I, SONAL BATRA, W/O-SAHIL SIKKA, R/O-A-563 SARITA VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110076, CHANGED MY NAME TO SONAL SIKKA, FOR ALL PURPOSES 0040718510-1

I, MOHAMMED TARIQ KHAN, S/o-AAMIN KHAN, R/o-B-1st/558, MADANGIR, NEW DELHI-110062, have changed my name to MOHD. ARIF KHAN, for all purposes. 0040714975-9

I, NAGENDRA DATT S/O DHARA NAND GAUR R/O-A-17,3RD-FLOOR,GALINO,4,SANATAN DHARM-MANDIR,SHASHI-GARDEN,MAYUR-VIHAR PHASE-1,DELHI-110091.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NAGENDRA DUTT GAUR. 0040718574-2

I, Bhawna kumari,D/o-Mahesh,Add-C-62, Flat No-2,Duggal colony,Devi-Road Khanpur South Delhi-110062,changed my name to Bhawna. 0040718575-4

I, NAGENDER KUMAR S/O MOHAN LAL,R/o A-28, 228,SHAHBAD DAIRY,DELHI-110042,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NAGENDER KUMAR SONI,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040718573-2

I, Momin S/o Mohd Muqeem, R/o 7193,Gali Ghariya,Quresh-Nagar,Sadar Bazar,Delhi-110006,have changed my name to MOHAMMAD MOMIN USMANI. 0040718594-2

I, Muddasir Usmani,S/o MOHAMMED SALEEM USMANI,R/o-2821 MOHALLA NIYARIYAN G B ROAD,DELHI-110006,have changed my name to MOHAMMAD MUDDASIR USMANI. 0040718600-2

I, Meherjeet Singh Ahluwalia, S/o-Balvinder Singh Ahluwalia, R/o-B-703, Saraswati Apartments, Sector-108,Gurgaon Haryana-122017,hereby declare that my Given-Name is Aryan & Surname is Singh, for all purposes 0040718574-4

I, Manzoor Ahmad Khan,S/o,Late Wakeel Ahmad,House,n/o-B-81,Abul Fazal-Enclave Part-2,Near-Firdos Masjid Shaheen-Bagh Jamia-Nagar Okhla,New-Delhi-110025,Have changed my name to Manzoor Ahmad, Permanently. 0040718570-2

I, Arman Chauhan,S/o Late Sh.Singh,Nath Singh,House.no-A-7,Gali,no.1,Shiv Durga Vihar Lakkarpur Faridabad-121009,have changed my name to Amar Singh, Permanently. 0040718575-3

I, Ashok Kumar Chaturvedi S/O SUDARSHAN PARSHAD CHATURVEDI R/o F-17/66,III-FLOOR,SECTOR-8,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHOK KUMAR SHASTRI. 0040718575-6

I, I, I have changed my name from Bhupendra Singh Rawat to Bhupendra Rawat. In future I may be known as Bhupendra Rawat. Bhupendra Rawat: S/o Late Gaur Singh Rawat R/o D-369, Gali No.12, Sadh Nagar Part-2, Palam Colony, South West Delhi 110045. 0040718496-1

I, Mahesh Kumar S/o Jai Singh,R/o H.No.233,Mata Chowk,Sher Singh Gholi Wali Gali,Chhattarpur Mandir New Delhi-110074 changed my son's name from Ananya Kumar to Arash Kumar. 0040718501-5

I, MOHD.TARIQ KHAN, S/o-AAMIN KHAN, R/o- B-1st/558, MADANGIR, NEW DELHI-110062, declares that my mother's name wrongly written as SEEMA KHAN in my Passport. Actual name of my mother is AKILA BEGUM. 0040718570-9

I, Anju Kasana,W/o Rakesh Kumar,R/o 6/143, Sector-5, Rajendra Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad,have changed my name to Anju,for all purposes. 0040718587-3

I, MOHAMMAD ASFAQ,S/O MOHAMMAD AKBER ALI, R/o R-265, GALLONI-11,RAMESH PARK,LAXMI NAGAR DELHI-92.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME MOHAMMAD ASFAQ TO MOHAMMAD ASFAQ,FOR FUTURE. 0040718570-6

I, MEHROOZ D/O AINUL ARFEEN,R/o 2/DK-54 NAGA BABA COLONY FARIDABAD HARYANA-121001,have changed my name to MEHROOZ ARFEEN. 0040718600-1

I, Vishal Palpia S/o Vijender Singh,R/o H No.276, Near Hanuman Mandir, Tajpur Kalan, North West Delhi, Delhi-110036, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Vishal Prajapati. 0070892900-1

I, Vaibhav Gupta S/o Dinesh Kumar Gupta, R/o Flat No 504, Metro Vihar, Dmrc Officers Quarters, New Ashok Nagar Metro Station, Mayur Vihar, Phase-3, East Delhi, Delhi-110096 I have changed the name of my minor Son Gouransh Gupta aged about 2 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Gouransh Gupta 0070892895-1

I, Suman Bhutani,w/o Sunil Ahuja,R/o-B-339,3rd floor,prashant vihar,sector-14 Rohini,Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Suman 0040718576-2

I, Satish Kohli S/o Late Shri Amar Nath Kohli R/o Flat No.2801, 27th Floor, Block-D, Skardi Greens,Ghaziabad-201002, have changed my name to Satish Kumar Kohli for all future Purposes. 0070892895-1

I, SUHLADA DEVI W/o, No. 14530671X RANK HONY NAIB SUBEDAR BIRENDRA SINGH GUSAI R/o B-5/88-89, FIRST FLOOR, SECTOR-7, ROHINI, DELHI-85 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUSHILA GUSAIN VIDE AFFIDAVIT DT 6.3.24 BEFORE DELHI 0070892903-1

I, HARI KRISHAN GAUR/HARI KRISHNA,S/o NAGENDRA DUTT GAUR,R/o-A-17,3rd-FLOOR,GALINO,4,SANATAN DHARM-MANDIR,MAYUR-VIHAR PHASE-1,DELHI-110091.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARI KRISHAN GAUR. 0070892861-1

I, Rajeev,S/o Hem Raj,R/o-F-73, Nihal Vihar, Delhi-41,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rajeev Attar. 0040718576-3

I, Paridhi Ghai W/o Shivan Supra R/o-152 Chander Lok Enclave, Pitampura,Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Paridhi Supra 0040718571-3

I, Dolly P/o Balbir Singh,R/o F-24 Jawahar Park Devi,New Delhi-110062,have changed my name to Jismine Kaur Permanently. 0040718587-1

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**EVENT— ASIAN EDUCATION GROUP**

Asian Education Group successfully organized its 11th annual sports meet, Athleema recently. Held at Jasola Sports Complex, the event witnessed an unprecedented energy with around 3000 athletes from 65 colleges marking their presence. To motivate & inspire students, Ranvijay Singh, roadies sensation and youth icon & Dr. Sandeep Marwah, president Asian Education Group graced the occasion.

PROGRAM—NDIM

Students from Delhi/NCR's leading institutes participated in the hackathon, aimed at addressing the critical issues of air pollution & climate crisis. The event witnessed the emergence of innovative solutions that promise to make a lasting impact on the environmental challenges faced by the region. The participants, fueled by a sense of responsibility, rose to the occasion and generated inspiring solutions.

**FEST— MANGALAYATAN UNIVERSITY**

Mangalayatan University, Aligarh hosts the annual festival 'Atharva' 2024 with this thought in mind. The sports festival Colosseum & the Cultural Festival have been co-organized this year. Atharva is now closely associated with cultural advancement among the university students. During a press conference, Prof. P.K. Dashora, the VC of Mangalayatan Uni, stated that winning students will receive training.

CONCLAVE—IIT ROORKEE

Recently marked the inauguration of the highly anticipated Roorkee Water Conclave 2024, a collaborative initiative by the IIT Roorkee & the National Institute of Hydrology Roorkee. Esteemed participants, experts, and stakeholders from around the globe convene here in Roorkee, a city renowned for its contributions to water management, to delve into the critical issues of responsible water management.

**FEST— JAMIA HAMDARD**

The much-awaited sports and cultural week of Jamia Hamdard was hosted in the university campus recently. This year the celebrations were held with great pomp to suit the occasion. The event was inaugurated by the VC Prof. (Dr.) M. Afshar Alam & Sajid Ahmed, CEO & Secy., Hamdard National Foundation-(HECA). DSW Prof. Dr. Reshma Nasreen welcomed the huge gathering of students, faculty members and distinguished guests.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE

O-2750 E-Mail Id: serw_balasore@yahoo.in, Ph-No-06782/260318 Balia, Balasore

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work

Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 90 for 2023-24

Letter No. 1427

Date:- 04/03/24

1. Name of the work :- Special Assistance to States Capital Investment (SACI)
2. Total No. of work :- 1No. of work.
3. Estimated Cost :- From Rs. 412.10 lakhs (Approximately)
4. Eligible Class of Contractor :- As per annexure.
5. Period of Completion :- As per annexure.
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of bid
		From	To	Technical Bid Financial Bid
1 Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	2 NCB No-90	13.03.2024 at 11:00 A.M.	27.03.2024 to 05:00 P.M.	22.03.2024 up to 5:00 P.M. Will be intimated later

• Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd/-

N.V. Haribar Rao
Chief Engineer,
R.W. Circle, Balasore.

OIPR-25105/11/0121/2324

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA

NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR

B-1898 E-mail ID:cebbuildings_@yahoo.co.in cebuildings@rediffmail.com

Tel. - (0674)- 2391523

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No-B-I-(C)-ITI-11/2022 Lr. No.- 10722 Dt. 6th Mar. 2024

Invitation for Bids

Bid Identification No. C.E. (Civil)-75/2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer (Civil), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works (1) "Construction of New Building in the premises of B. K. College of Art & Crafts, Bhubaneswar for the year 2022-23" amounting to Rs.11,05,95,00/- (Approximate), (2) "Construction of Work Shop Building at TTI, Takatpur, Baripada" amounting to Rs. 11,42,28,36/- as detailed below.
2. Nature of work : Building works
3. No. of work : 02 Nos.
4. Cost of Bid Document : ₹10,000/- (Each)
5. Class of Contractor : 'A' Special Class
6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From dt.11.04.2024 to 17:00 hours of dt. 02.04.2024.
7. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 03.04.2024 at 11:30 AM.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-

Chief Engineer, (Civil)
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR- 34117/11/0143/2324

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.

(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)

Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC)

Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002

(E-mail:cetjusnl@gmail.com)

URGENT SHORT e-TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. – 711/PR/ JUSNL/ 2023-24

E-tender in two parts i.e. Technical (Part-I) and Financial (Part-II) is invited from reputed, capable, experienced and financially sound firm for the following works :-

Name of work	Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning for height raising of 220 KV S/C Chandil – Santhalpur transmission line of JUSNL crossing NH-32 at Km. 149+00 under Bharatmala Project of NHAI on turnkey basis.
Estimated cost (Rs.)	Rs. 71,18,240.00 (including GST)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1,42,500.00 (On line mode)
Completion Period	04 (Four) Months
e-Tender fee	Rs. 10,000.00 + 18% (Online mode).
Start Date & Time of Download the Tender Documents	11.03.2024 at 11:00 AM
Start Date and time of upload of BID	11.03.2024 at 11:00 AM
End date and time of upload of BID	26.03.2024 upto 04:00 PM
BID Opening date for technical part	27.03.2024 at 04:00 PM
BID Opening date for price part	Will be communicated
Procurement Officer and address for communication	General Manager, C&M (NWBP), 2 nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002

1. e-Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned (8987421011) during office hours.

2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.

3. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

स्वाहित एवं सार्वदातत में कर्मसुक्षम। कृपया अपनी शिक्षकान्तरा को 1800456578/(फैसले बचाव) पर दर्ज करें।

SD/-

PR 321915 Jharkhand Urja General Manager, C&M (NWBP)

Sancharan Nigam Ltd.(23-24).D JUSNL,Ranchi

CORPORATE BRIEFS**EDUCATION****INAUGURATION—ICSI**

With the intent to facilitate Arbitration, Mediation and Conciliation at National and International level, the Institute of Company Secretaries of India est. its first ICSI International ADR Centre at Noida (U.P.). Justice P. Satishavam, former Chief Justice of India and former Governor of Kerala inaugurated the ICSI International ADR Centre at ICSI House, C-36, Institutional Area, Sector - 62, Noida (U.P.)recently.

**PROGRAM—THE STUDY IAS**

The Study IAS, under the guidance of Manikant Singh, recently concluded a very successful program on 'Comprehension for CSAT' Examination, in its ORN & Mukherjee Nagar Centres. As the founder of the Institute & a veteran faculty with 30+ yrs of experience, Manikant Sir, summarised - "Reading correctly can transform your entire preparation - from the way you absorb reading materials.

**EVENT—IGDTUW**

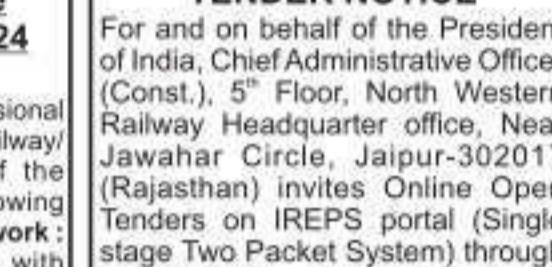
The Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW) proudly presents the 11th edition of its annual cultural festival, Taarangana '24, themed "CitySpace." This year's fest is a testament to the university's legacy and its perpetual quest for purpose & imagination, symbolizing a journey that knows no finish line. Expanding Horizons: Taarangana '24 is set to provide a vibrant and cheerful experience.

**PROGRAM—I.T.S. DENTAL**

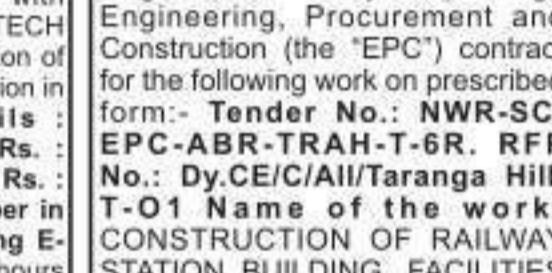
On the occasion of National Dentist Day, Chairman of I.T.S.- The Education Group, Dr. R.P Chadha & V.C Arpit Chadha expressed their views on the importance of maintaining a good oral health & also appreciate the work of Dentist for their valuable co-operation to the society. He stated that it is a day to bring awareness to dentistry so that people will know more about how to take care for their teeth.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

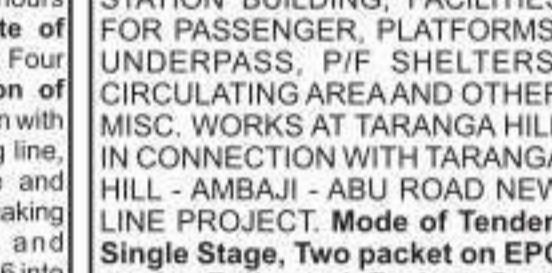
The Government of India has issued an Open E-Tender Notice for the construction of a new building at Tarangana Hill, IIT Roorkee, Roorkee, Uttarakhand. The estimated cost of the project is approximately ₹11,000.00 lakh.



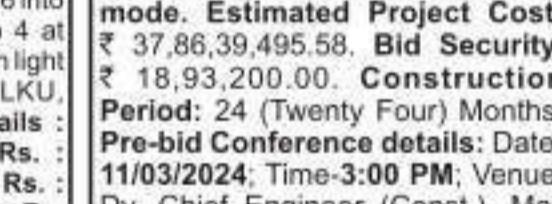
The tender notice specifies that the project involves the construction of a new building on a plot of land measuring 1.25 acres. The building will be used for research and development purposes. The tender notice also mentions that the project is expected to be completed within 18 months.



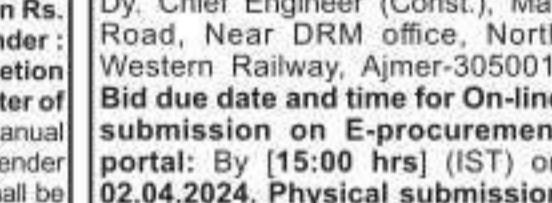
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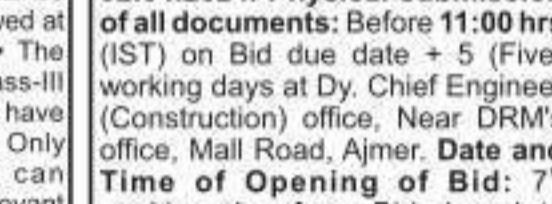
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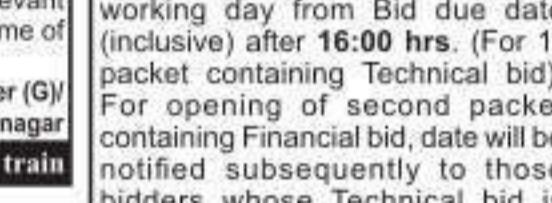
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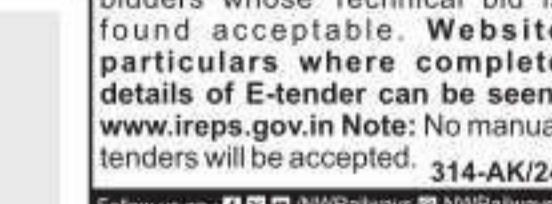
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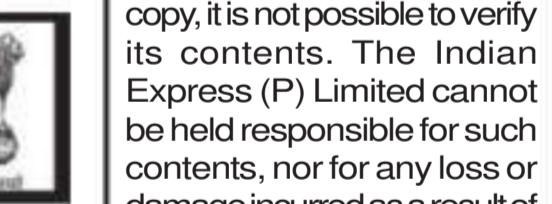
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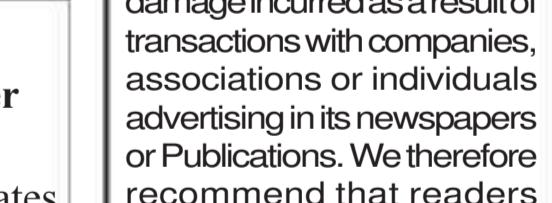
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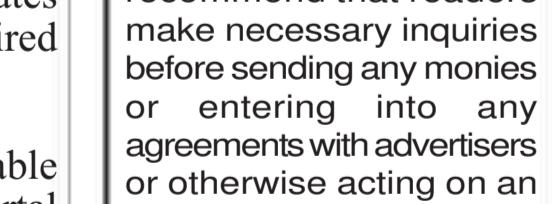
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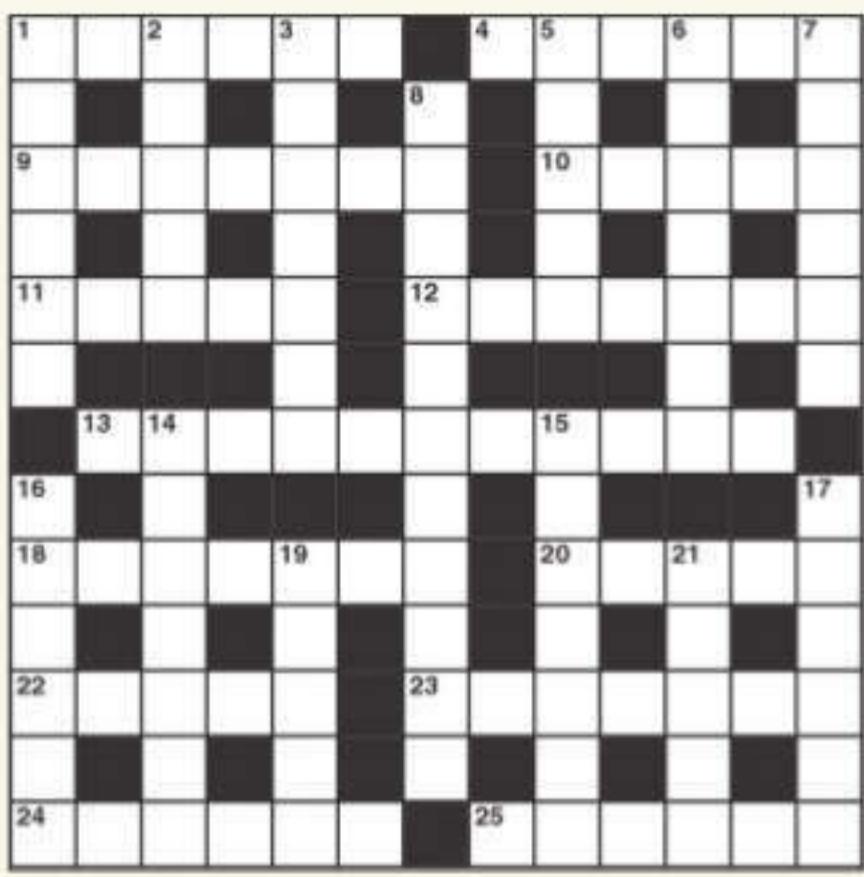


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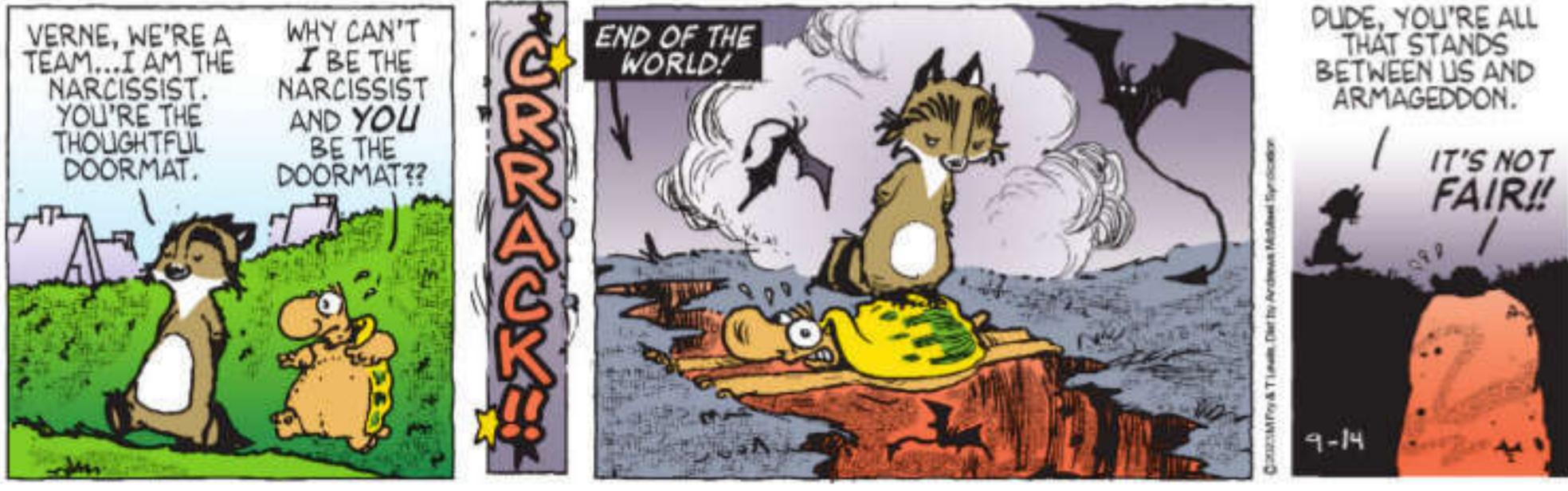
CROSSWORD 5307



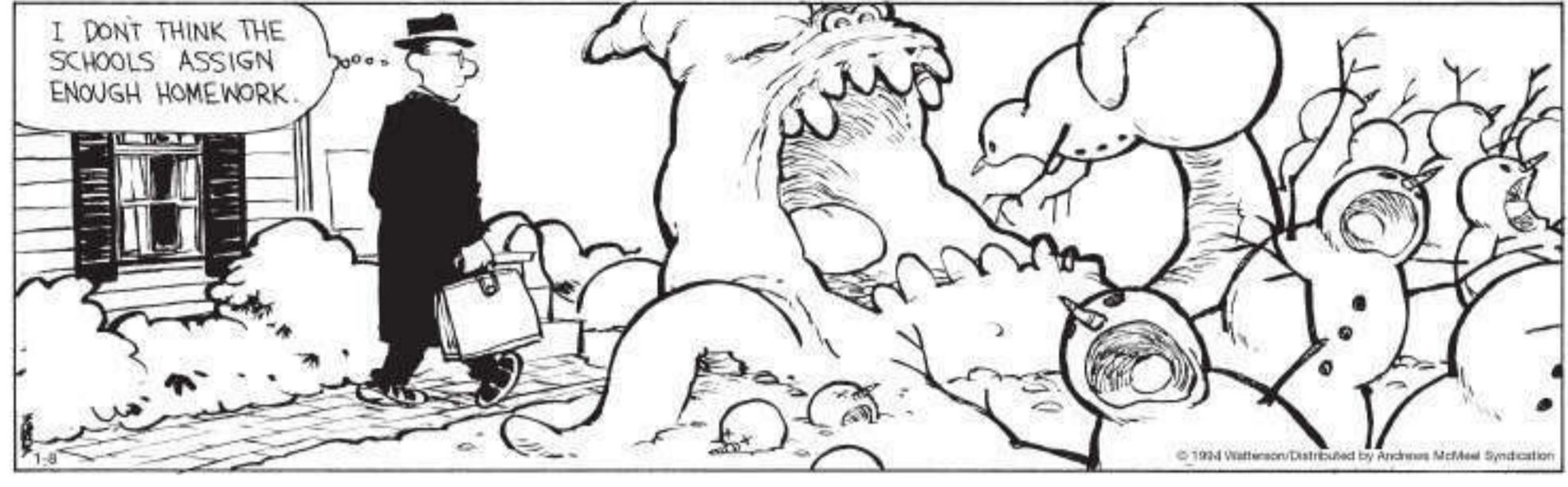
- ACROSS**
- 1 Remains in rows (6)
 - 4 A professional apt to benefit (6)
 - 9 Swinger's bar (7)
 - 10 You'll find Arabs around this city (5)
 - 11 Plant that means a great deal to us (5)
 - 12 Don't approve; but is liked somehow (7)
 - 13 His products are really wicked (11)
 - 18 Fruit that's new to Capri (7)
 - 20 Ocean-tossed paddle boat (5)
 - 22 Care nothing for ridicule (5)
 - 23 Accepts another contract and quits (7)
 - 24 Thought it would be back in time (6)
 - 25 Newspaperman found to be in dire trouble (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Pay for a seat (6)
 - 2 Respond to a trace of difference (5)
 - 3 Delighted when record rise took the pressure off (7)
 - 5 Unusually sober attire (5)
 - 6 Number set about making the interior cheerful (7)
 - 7 Refined eastern taste in china service (3,3)
 - 8 Uncalled-for correspondence (4,7)
 - 14 Where to find duty-free dry wine (7)
 - 15 Charged for a small volume shown as secondhand (7)
 - 16 Was not prepared to be detective's assistant (6)
 - 17 Screen off in church (6)
 - 19 Is unable to write long song (5)
 - 21 Lancelot for example loses his head in the dark (5)

Solutions Crossword 5306 Across: 1 Reserve, 5 Mover, 8 Consequential, 9 Seers, 10 Extreme, 11 offend, 12 Status, 15 Younger, 17 Tarot, 19 Shot in the dark, 20 Yards, 21 Desists, Down: 1 Races, 2 Sense of humour, 3 Reels in, 4 Eludes, 5 Manet, 6 Veiled threats, 7 Rollers, 11 Odyssey, 13 Tethers, 14 Grated, 16 Grins, 18 Takes

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 5495

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.

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

Difficulty Level

1s = Very Easy; 2s = Easy;

3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;

5s = Very Hard;

6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5494

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

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

At your most prolific you're capable of rushing along at an incredible rate. Now that Mars is having such an impact on your working life you should brook no opposition and accept no compromise. Even though the planet has moved on, turbulent effects remain.

 You have been playing the romantic lead for long enough.

However, there's no need to come down to earth just yet. Hopefully you have by now recovered from a recent fright or upset. Your equilibrium will be restored sooner than usual.

 SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Travel stars are still strong, but you may have been blown off course by what

friends and acquaintances have done or said in the last twenty-four hours, or perhaps over the past week. You can't go wrong if you stick to what you know to be right in the circumstances.

 SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Tie up loose ends and get trivialities out of the way before you make any more bold moves. You might have bright ideas of your own, but you may be wise to sit back and let others call the shots for a while, at least until your stars have settled down.

 CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Unlooked-for benefits will be an added bonus in all group activities. However, you may prefer the intimacy of one-to-one relationships, which is where the real gains will lie. Meanwhile, your charming manner is paying special dividends at work.

 AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

It is difficult to know just where you should turn. If you wish, you may put pressing and important matters on hold and spend your way to happiness. This is without doubt an extravagant phase, but at least you can choose between what is worth it, and what is not.

 PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

In spite of your doubts, social prospects are bright, so please take the chance to relax, unwind and get a change of scene. Pleasant companionship is all very well, but you may want something more intense. Plus, you will cope well with a temporary increase in the financial pressure. It helps to keep a close eye on the details.

JUMBLED WORDS

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

Events tend to _____ - W. Clement Stone (5,2,6)

FREER

EHUCNU

WILLS

ISTCCY

Answers: FREER SWILL EUNICLIC CESTIC

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III,
Bhubaneswar - 751 001
CADD-4499 Tel.: (0674) 2380608 Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Notification No. 1674/OSMCL/2024

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER for SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF CARDIAC CATH LAB UNIT FOR DEPT. OF CARDIOLOGY, SCBMCH-CUTTACK AND BMRC CARDIAC CARE HOSPITAL-JHARSUGUDA

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMI PATH ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI-600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967
(ONLINE ONLY)

Tender Notice NIT.No.62/CD/T.No.62/2023-24 Dt.07.03.2024

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, tenders are invited under "Two Cover System" through online only for the following work from qualified Bidders having experience in similar nature of works as mentioned under. Tenders will be received upto 15.30 Hrs (as per server system clock) on 16.04.2024 and the same will be opened at 15.30 Hrs (as per server system clock) on 17.04.2024.

Name of Work:	Approx. value of work	EMD
A). Formation of internal roads with RCC Box Culverts & RCC Drains in Joint Venture Industrial Park, Varapatti.	Rs.4564.00 Lakhs (including GST @18%)	Rs.22,95,000/-

* EMD should be paid through online in the portal (<https://intenders.gov.in>)

The tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the website <https://intenders.gov.in>

DIPR/1447/TENDER/2024 MANAGING DIRECTOR



पंचम विवाहो वृत्त लोक निर्माण विभाग, हल्द्वानी
Office of the Superintending Engineer 5th E/M Circle P.W.D. Haldwani(Nainital)

Website: <http://pwd.uk.gov.in> Tel./Fax: 05946-220782

E-Mail ID: seemhd.pwdvuk@gov.in

Tender Notice No. 491/18 C.B-05/23-24 Date : 06/03/2024

National Competitive Bidding (e-tender)

The Superintending Engineer, 5th E/M Circle, PWD, Haldwani on behalf of "Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand" invites online tender for the following work in two bid system. The Bid Documents will be available online at website <https://uktenders.gov.in> from 26-03-2024 after 05:00 P.M.

S. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Tender Cost	Category of Registration
1	Facade Illumination Work of Thandi Sadak Nainital"	15,50,000.00	120 Days	06 Months	Cost of Tender Rs. 5000.00 and 18% GST Extra	"A" Class Electrical Contractor Registered in Center Govt. / State Govt. or their Undertakings

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHED DIVISION ALWAR

Manu Marg ALWAR (RAJ.) E-Mail- ee.alw.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, phed eealw@rediffmail.com No. 7781-94 Date- 28.02.24

NOTICE INVITING BID (NIB No. 57/2023-24)

Bids for Annual rate contract for transportation of water through tankers from April 2024 to August 2024 in UWSS Alwar under the jurisdiction of Executive Engineer PHED Division Alwar, District Alwar, are invited from interested bidders from date 29.02.2024 to Date 11.03.2024 upto 05:00 PM. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rj.gov.in>) of the state and pheddivisionalwar.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.

NIB- PHE-2324A5907 UBN- PHE-2324WSRC14104

S.No. Item DETAILS

- Estimated Cost Rs 120.00 Lacs
- Earnest Money Deposit Rs. 24,00,000(@ 2%) Rs. 60,000 (@ 0.5%) for contractors enlisted in PHED Deposited in Budget head 8443-00-108-00-00 through e-grass portal in favour of DDO code 5655 Executive Engineer, PHED Division ALWAR From 29.02.2024 to 11.03.2024 up to 5:00 PM
- Cost of BID Document (Non Refundable) Rs. 5000/- To be deposited in revenue head 0075- 0-800-52-01 online through http://egrass.raj.nic.in in favor of Code 5655 Executive Engineer, PHED Division ALWAR
- E-Procurement processing fees (Non Refundable) Rs.150/- RISL Fees per bidder per bid. The above charges will be collected additionally through single challan on e- GRAS along with prescribed bid document fee from the bidder. Head 8658-00-102-16-02

Sd/-

Executive Engineer PHED Division Alwar

DIPR/C/2043/2024

Executive Engineer, W.R Division No-II Agartala Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No:- 19/E/WRD-II/2023-2024 Dated 04-03-2024.

SI. Name of the Work/ DNIT Estimated Cost Earnest Money Time for Completion Cost of tender form

1	Development of Inland Water Transport (IWT) on Gomti River in Tripura/ SH: Dredging contract /Detailed Hydrographic Survey between Srimantapur (Sonamura to Maharanji (Udaipur), Tripura, Length= 54.00 Km. DNIcT No: 17/ SE/ WRC- I/ DNIcT / 2023-24.	₹28, 35,000.00	₹56,700.00	6