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THE WORLD

TOP OF THE
WORLD



Fumio Kishida. File

JAPAN

At hearing, PM
vows no more
fundraisers

Tokyo: Japan's beleaguered prime minister renewed his apology over his governing party's corruption scandal, promising to not hold any more parties himself as leader during a political ethics committee Thursday. Fumio Kishida has fought against plummeting support ratings since his party's scandal rocked the government. The scandal centers on political funds raised through party event tickets bought by individuals, companies and organizations. It led to 10 people being indicted in January. While Kishida himself is not a focus of the scandal, the surprise announcement of his personal appearance broke a deadlock between the opposition and his party Wednesday when the five implicated attendants refused to go public. AP

FRANCE
Senate passes
Bill making
abortion a right

Paris: France's Senate on Wednesday adopted a bill to enshrine a woman's right to an abortion in the constitution, clearing a key hurdle for legislation promised by President Emmanuel Macron in response to a rollback in abortion rights in the US. Wednesday's vote came after the lower house, the National Assembly, overwhelmingly approved the proposal in January. The measure now goes before a joint session of parliament for its expected approval by a three-fifths majority next week. AP

UNITED KINGDOM
Labour launches
Indian group for
diaspora ties

London: The UK's Opposition Labour Party has launched a new diaspora outreach organisation to connect with British Indians and also to strengthen its interactions with India in a year when both countries are preparing for general elections. The party's shadow foreign secretary, David Lammy, marked the launch of "Labour Indians" in the Houses of Parliament complex in London on Tuesday evening by giving an update on his recent visit to India and sharing his ambitions for the India-UK partnership if Labour were to win the next polls. PTI

THAILAND

Recreational
cannabis to be
banned by Dec

Bangkok: Thailand will ban recreational use of marijuana by the end of this year but continue to allow its use for medical purposes, the health minister told Reuters. After Thailand became the first country in Southeast Asia to free up medicinal use in 2018, and then recreational use in 2022, tens of thousands of cannabis shops have sprung up in an industry projected to be worth up to \$1.2 billion by next year. In the long run it could lead to other drugs," the minister said. REUTERS

THREAT ISSUED IN STATE-OF-THE-NATION ADDRESS

Can use nuclear weapons: Putin warns West against sending troops to Ukraine

'(The West) must realise we also have weapons to hit their territory'

REUTERS
MOSCOW, FEBRUARY 29

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin told Western countries on Thursday they risked provoking a nuclear war if they sent troops to fight in Ukraine, warning that Moscow had the weapons to strike targets in the West.

Putin has previously spoken of the dangers of a direct confrontation between NATO and Russia, but his nuclear warning on Thursday was one of his most explicit.

Addressing lawmakers and other members of the country's elite, Putin, 71, repeated his accusation that the West was bent on weakening Russia, and he suggested Western leaders did not understand how dangerous their meddling could be in what he cast as Russia's own internal affairs.

He prefaced his nuclear warning with a specific reference to an idea, floated by French



A Ukrainian serviceman takes part in radiation hazard drills near Kharkiv, Thursday. Reuters

President Emmanuel Macron on Monday, of European NATO members sending ground troops to Ukraine - a suggestion that was quickly rejected by the US, Germany, Britain and others.

"(The West) must realise that we also have weapons that can hit targets on their territory. All this really threatens a conflict with the

use of nuclear weapons and the destruction of civilisation. Don't they get that?" said Putin.

Visibly angry, Putin suggested Western politicians recall the fate of those like Nazi Germany's Adolf Hitler and France's Napoleon Bonaparte who had unsuccessfully invaded Russia in the past.

"But now the consequences will be far more tragic," said Putin. "They think it (war) is a cartoon," he said, accusing Western politicians of forgetting what real war meant because they had not faced the same security challenges as Russians had in the last three decades.

The veteran Kremlin leader



Responds to suggestion by Macron of France on NATO troops for Ukraine war. AP

dismissed Western suggestions that Russian forces might go beyond Ukraine and attack European countries as "nonsense". He also said Moscow would not repeat the mistake of the Soviet Union and allow the West to "drag" it into an arms race that would eat up too much of its budget.

"Therefore, our task is to develop the defence-industrial complex in such a way as to increase ... potential of the country," he said. Putin said Moscow was open to discussions on nuclear strategic stability with the United States but suggested that Washington had no genuine interest in such talks and was more focused on making false claims about Moscow's alleged aims.

PAYOUT TERMINALS FAIL TO AUTO-CALIBRATE WITH FEB 29 DATE

NEW ZEALAND'S PETROL PUMPS STOP WORKING ON LEAP YEAR

DOZENS OF gas stations across New Zealand malfunctioned on Thursday, with car and truck drivers reporting problems filling up in the early hours of the morning. Drivers were unable to pay for their fuel because the software used by payment terminals at gas pumps "couldn't calibrate itself with the fact that this is the 29th of February," he said. This affected all unattended gas pumps across the country because all fuel companies use one technology provider, Invenco, an official said. NYT

HOUSE CONVENED IN ELEVENTH HOUR

Pak's newly elected Parliament takes oath as Imran party protests poll fraud

Prime Minister to be elected Sunday



Newly elected PTI-backed lawmakers with Imran Khan posters at Pakistan Parliament on Thursday. AP

general Omar Ayub Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, PTI chief Gohar Khan said that PTI-backed lawmakers made it to the assembly despite hurdles.

"Our symbol was taken, our leader was convicted in three cases [...] but the nation has shown that the most popular leader of the country is... Imran Khan," he said.

A five-member bench of the Election Commission of Pakistan began the hearing on the Sunni Sunni Ittehad Council's plea seeking allocation of reserved seats, which swelled its ranks after PTI-backed members joined it. Gohar Khan also said that the House was incomplete as reserved seats had not been allocated to SIC, urging the speaker to halt the election of the speaker and deputy speaker until they swear in.

The opening session of the 16th Parliament, headed by the outgoing Speaker, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, began after a delay of more than an hour. The delay was chiefly due to sloganising by the PTI members as the speaker took time to bring the house in order.

The new parliament would elect the next Prime Minister Sunday. The new oath-taking lawmakers included PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif, PPP Co-chairman Asif Zardari and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, PTI chief Gohar Ali Khan and its secretary

The PTI-backed independents won majority seats at the 266-member National Assembly in the February 8 general election. Since the election resulted in a hung Parliament, the PML-N and the PPP have struck a post-poll deal along with four other parties to form a coalition government, which may effectively end Khan's chances of returning to power.

China slams UK, US criticism of Hong Kong's upcoming national security law

"their strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition" to British Foreign Secretary Cameron and others' making "irresponsible remarks" on the legislation of Article 23.

The US State Department also said Wednesday that it was closely monitoring the legislation and its implications for US citizens and companies operating in Hong Kong. "We are particularly concerned by Hong Kong authorities' proposal to adopt broad and vague definitions of 'state secrets' and 'external interference' that could be used to eliminate dissent through the fear of arrest and detention," department spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

Hong Kong's Security Bureau Thursday said 98.64 per cent of the submissions received during the consultation supported the legislative proposals.



Palestinians gather as they wait for food-aid trucks near an Israeli checkpoint in Rafah. Reuters

Israel occupies 650 acres in West Bank

REUTERS
JERUSALEM, FEBRUARY 29

ISRAEL APPROPRIATED several tracts of land abutting a major Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank on Thursday, but a source briefed on the decision told Reuters there was currently no plan for construction there.

An announcement by the Civil Administration, part of Israel's Defence Ministry, said the tracts amounted to 652 acres. The Israeli source said they would now be a part of Maale Adumim settlement, east of Jerusalem.

"The Israeli occupation au-

thorities deliberately defy international legitimacy and its resolutions, which have consistently declared the illegitimacy of settlements in all Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem," Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a spokesman for President Mahmoud Abbas, said.

The West Bank is among territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war and where Palestinians, with international support, seek statehood.

Most world powers deem the settlements illegal. Israel disputes that, citing historical claims to the West Bank and describing it as a security bulwark.

Netanyahu's religious-nationalist government has promoted

HOUDHISSAYT HAVE 'SURPRISES' FOR ENEMIES

Dubai: Yemen's Houthi will introduce military "surprises" in their Red Sea operations, the group's leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi said. "Our military operations will continue and advance and we have surprises that our enemies will not expect at all," he said. REUTERS

the settlements, creating friction with the United States even as the allies close ranks over Israel's war with Palestine's Hamas.

REUTERS
HONG KONG, FEBRUARY 29

CHINA ON Thursday criticised British Foreign Secretary David Cameron and other foreign politicians for "smearing" an upcoming Hong Kong security law, as local authorities said feedback on the law had been largely positive.

The law, known as Article 23, will target crimes including treason, theft of state secrets, espionage, sabotage, sedition and "external interference". A public consultation period on the proposed legislation ended this week, with the city's legislature, dominated by pro-Beijing lawmakers, expected to soon approve the draft laws.

The Hong Kong Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs express

STARTED IN EARLY 20TH CENTURY, GENRE DISAPPEARED DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, RESURGING AGAIN

Chinese sci-fi: From underground magazines to Netflix extravaganza

SIMINAMISTREANU
CHENGDU, FEBRUARY 29

FOR A few days in October 2023, the capital of the science fiction world was Chengdu, China. Fans traveled from around the world as Worldcon, sci-fi's biggest annual event, was held in the country for the first time. It was a rare moment when Chinese and international fans could get together to celebrate the arts without worrying about the increasingly fraught politics of China's relationship with the West or Beijing's tightening grip on expression.

Getting there took decades of work by dedicated authors and cultural bureaucrats who believed

organizers of the Hugo Awards — sci-fi's biggest prize, awarded at Worldcon — disqualified candidates to placate Chinese censors. The event embodied the contradictions that Chinese science fiction has faced. In 40 years, it's gone from a politically suspect niche to one of China's most successful cultural exports, with author Liu Cixin gaining global following.

With a big-budget Netflix adaptation of his *The Three-Body Problem* set to drop in March, produced by the same showrunners as *Game of Thrones*, Chinese sci-fi could reach its biggest audience.

But three months later a scandal erupted over allegations that



With a Netflix's of 'The Three-Body Problem' set to drop in March, Chinese sci-fi could reach its biggest audience. AP

science fiction could unite people.

Chinese sci-fi's journey abroad started with another convention in Chengdu three decades ago, but politics nearly derailed that one before it could get off the ground.

Science Fiction World planned to host a writers' conference in the city, known for its panda sanctuary and countercultural bend, in 1991. But as news of the crackdown on student protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square circled the globe in 1989, foreign speakers were dropping out. The magazine sent a small delegation to Worldcon 1990 in The Hague, to save the conference. In The Hague, translator Shen Zaiwang and former magazine editor Yang

Xiao used toy pandas and postcards of Chengdu to make the case that the city was safe to visit. In the end, a dozen foreign authors attended the conference.

Chinese sci-fi had faced decades of suspicion at home.

The genre flourished in China in the first half of the 20th century, fueled by an interest in new technology and translated stories from abroad. But it disappeared during the Cultural Revolution in 1966 when Maoist radicals targeted "bourgeois" elements including many types of literature.

It resurfaced as China opened to the world in the late 1970s. Authors wrote stories about traveling into space, while China's

In 1997, six years after the Chengdu conference, it organized another international event, which got attention in the Chinese press. It also paved the way for an international liftoff.

Despite the frictions, Chinese sci-fi remains poised to continue its international rise. Netflix's adaptation of the *The Three-Body Problem* could bring it to a vast audience, a coming-out orders of magnitude bigger than Shen Zaiwang's trip to The Hague. AP



cbc 22/201/13/0318/2324



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Atal Setu, longest Sea-bridge;
Chenab, world's highest Rail Arch bridge



Scan for more information

Hamara Sankalp
Viksit Bharat

KEY DECISIONS BY UNION CABINET ON THE DAY NSO RELEASES GROWTH DATA

GDP growth accelerates to 8.4% in Q3, estimate for FY24 pegged at 7.6%

Shows strength of Indian economy, its potential, our efforts will continue: PM

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

INDIA'S GROSS Domestic Product (GDP) growth surged to a six-quarter high of 8.4% in October-December, pushing up

the growth rate for 2023-24 to 7.6% as against the earlier estimate of 7.3%, data for third quarter GDP and second advance estimates for 2023-24 released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Thursday showed.

Even as agricultural growth is

expected to remain subdued at 0.7%, FY24 GDP is seen gaining from a low base effect, and an over 8% growth in manufacturing, mining and financial services.

In the third quarter of the current financial year, among sectors, manufacturing posted the highest growth rate in double digits at 11.6%, while the construction sector grew 9.5%. Agriculture

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Not even the wickedest FM can tweak state tax share: Sitharaman

'Govt agencies will go after every fellow who has got black money'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

THE TAX devolution share of states is decided by the Finance Commission and no Finance Minister, not even the "wickedest" one, can tweak it in favour of one state or the other; Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said



FM Sitharaman at the Adda in Bengaluru. Amit Chakravarty

at the Express Adda organised by The Indian Express in Bengaluru Wednesday. She also said more than domestic factors, external



factors are a cause of worry for the economy.

"The Central government has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RAJASTHAN SCHOOL AT CENTRE OF ROW

A play and an interfaith elopement: What led to suspension of 3 teachers over conversion claims



The government school in Kota's Khajuri Odpur. Hamza Khan

HAMZA KHAN
SANGOD (KOTA), FEBRUARY 29

ON REPUBLIC Day, at a government senior secondary school in Rajasthan's Kota district, a girl student personifying Bharat Mata took centerstage in a play. One by one, a Hindu, a Muslim, a Sikh and a Christian character attempted to mould her into their identity, before beginning to fight over her.

Watchful citizens, also played by students, thwarted their attempts, with the play ending with the "religions" uniting and the Tricolour being waved.

"It was a sarva dharma sadbhav natak, and as teachers, it is our responsibility to try and send a good message to the community, one of unity," said Kamlesh Bairwa, principal of the Government Senior Secondary

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Trinamool Congress leader Shahjahan Sheikh being produced at the Basirhat court in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, on Thursday. The party suspended him for six years. PTI

TMC strongman Shahjahan Sheikh, on the run for 55 days, finally held

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 29

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS (TMC) strongman Shahjahan Sheikh, who had been on the run for 55 days, was arrested by West Bengal Police on Thursday in connection with an attack in

January on Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials who had gone to conduct searches at his house in Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district.

Hours after his arrest, the TMC suspended him for six years. Sheikh was taken into custody a day after the Calcutta High Court said that he could be ar-

rested by the CBI, the ED or the West Bengal Police. When Sheikh's lawyer approached the High Court after the arrest on Thursday to seek urgent hearing of a bail plea, the court refused to grant it and said it had "no sympathy" for the TMC leader. It asked his lawyer to appear before

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

All six MLAs were disqualified

Cong staves off crisis in Himachal for now, 6 rebels disqualified



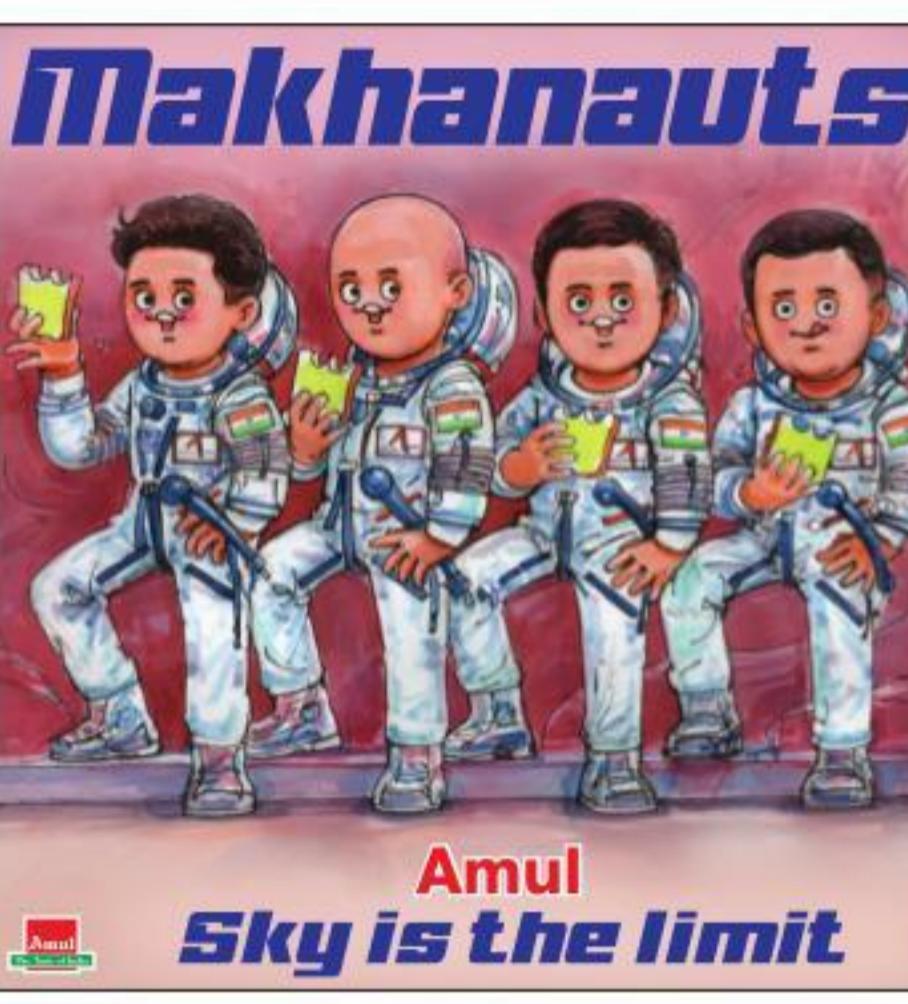
Himachal CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and state party president Pratibha Singh in Shimla on Thursday. ANI

SAURABH PARASHAR & MANOJ CG
SHIMLA, NEW DELHI, FEB 29

THE CRISIS that gripped the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh following cross-voting by six of its MLAs in the Rajya Sabha election on Tuesday seems to have blown over for now.

All six MLAs were disqualified

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP

Delhi cricket's steep slide: Association sits on report that flagged what's wrong

Madan Lal, Valson, Lamba report indicts DDCA on selection; chief Rohan Jaitley says he wasn't asked, never got report



The Arun Jaitley Stadium is the home ground of DDCA. File

two 1983 World Cup winners Madan Lal and Sunil Valson and first-class player Vinay Lamba, was set up before the start of the 2022-23 season.

Delhi had finished sixth in Group B in last season's Ranji Trophy and failed to qualify for the knockouts this season too.

The TEG report, submitted last March, is part of a police complaint filed in December 2023 at the IP Estate Police Station by one Avash Sharma, that names top DDCA officials accusing them of mismanagement

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK



MODI, JUGNAUTH INAUGURATE AIRSTRIP, JETTY ON MAURITIUS ISLAND P6

SC: NO AUTOMATIC VACATION OF STAY AFTER 6 MONTHS P9

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



India's young sitting on rising obesity curve, shows Lancet study

ANURADHA
MASCARENHAS
PUNE, FEBRUARY 29

INDIA COULD be facing an obesity epidemic, with alarm bells ringing, particularly for the young. A new global analysis, published by The Lancet, found that 12.5 million children (7.3 million boys and 5.2 million girls) in the country, aged between 5 and 19, were grossly overweight in 2022, up from 0.4 million in 1990.

The report showed more

than three per cent prevalence among children and teens, an increase of over three percentage points from 1990.

Obesity is also a concern among adults, with female obesity prevalence increasing sharply — women had a 9.8 per cent prevalence, an increase of 8.6 percentage points from 1990.

For men, this number stood at 5.4 per cent, an increase of 4.9 percentage points.

Obesity, as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO), is an abnormal or excessive accumulation of fat that

presents a risk to health. A body mass index (BMI) over 25 is considered overweight and over 30 is obese. The new study reveals that 44 million women and 26 million men aged above 20 in India were found to be overweight; this figure being 2.4 million women and 1.1 million men in 1990. India ranks 182 among 197 countries for the prevalence of obesity in women and 180 for men in 2022. The country ranked 174 in the world for both girls and boys.

This finding is significant at a time when India already has a

		THE OBESITY NUMBERS	
		India	World
		1990	2022
Men	1.1	26	67
Women	2.4	44	374
Boys	0.2	7.3	128
Girls	0.2	5.2	504
		All figures in million	

high burden of non-communicable diseases — heart disease, strokes, and diabetes topping them. Obesity is a major risk factor and a trigger for early onset of these diseases, even Type 2 di-

abetes among teens.

Dr Guha Pradeepa, co-author of the study and Head, Department of Research Operations and Diabetes Complications at the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation,

flags that the primary drivers of the obesity epidemic in India are

a shift in diet choices away from traditional foods and physical inactivity. "We have shifted away from whole foods such as pulses, whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. Our traditional food was

low on animal products, salt, re-

fined oils, sugars, and flours, but

we have now moved towards a diet that is high in energy but low in nutrients — refined carbohydrates, high fat, meat products, and processed foods. In addition, a range of behavioural

factors could also have a potential effect on obesity among children," says Dr Pradeepa.

The study also flags severe under-nutrition in the country among all age groups. India ranks the highest in the world for underweight girls and the second highest for boys. Obesity and underweight are both forms of malnutrition. These two di-

vergent peaks show that India has a double burden of both thinness and obesity, which remains a significant health challenge in the country.

Analysing the study, senior author and Professor of Imperial College, London, Majid Ezzati says India has a big challenge in tackling both kinds of malnutrition — that of the under-fed and the overfed. "To successfully tackle both forms of malnutrition, it is vital we significantly improve the availability and affordability of healthy, nutritious

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Big leap for chip mission: 3 plants, Rs 1.26 lakh cr investment get Govt nod

In tumultuous times, when global value chains are more prone to collapsing, the government wants to ensure a steady supply of the components needed for future technologies – from artificial intelligence to electric vehicles, and defence capabilities to space exploration.

Besides boosting domestic job prospects, the move will also offer India leverage in the chip wars by increasing its say in the geopolitics of technology that has so far been shaped by China and the United States. The government es-

timates that 1 lakh indirect jobs will be created when the approved projects start getting efficient.

"This fab will have manufacturing capacity of up to 50,000 wafers per month and will include next generation factory automation capabilities deploying data analytics and machine learning to achieve industry-best factory efficiency," the Tata Group said in a statement. The chips rolling out of this assembly will primarily be of the 28 nanometre node size, along with 50 nm and 55 nm chips.

"This partnership has the potential to redefine the contours of global semiconductor manufacturing... On one end, India has a large and growing domestic demand, and, on the other end, global customers are looking at India for supply chain stability," said Frank Hong, Chairman, PSMC.

In December 2021, the government had rolled out a Rs 76,000 crore chip incentive scheme, under which it offered half the amount of a plant's capital expenditure costs as subsidy. Thus, the proposals cleared on

Thursday will receive 50% of their capex costs from the Centre. The states where the plants come up will sweeten the deal further by offering additional incentives on land acquisition and other factors.

The Tata Group will also set up a chip assembly plant in Morigaon, Assam at a cost of Rs 27,000 crore to primarily cater to needs in the automobile market. This plant will have a capacity to manufacture 48 million chips per day, and will primarily cater to export needs. It is a relatively less sophisticated operation with its pri-

mary task being to manufacture chips on a contractual basis – where the technology will be provided by Tata's consumers itself.

A third proposal by CG Power to set up a chip packaging facility in Gujarat's Sanand was also approved by the Cabinet. The company has partnered with Japan's Renesas Electronics to set up the plant, which will cost Rs 7,600 crore. This facility will focus on niche areas like defence and space exploration – and ISRO could become a potential customer of chips, Vaishnav said.

GDP growth surges to 8.4% in Q3

recorded a contraction of 0.8% in October-December.

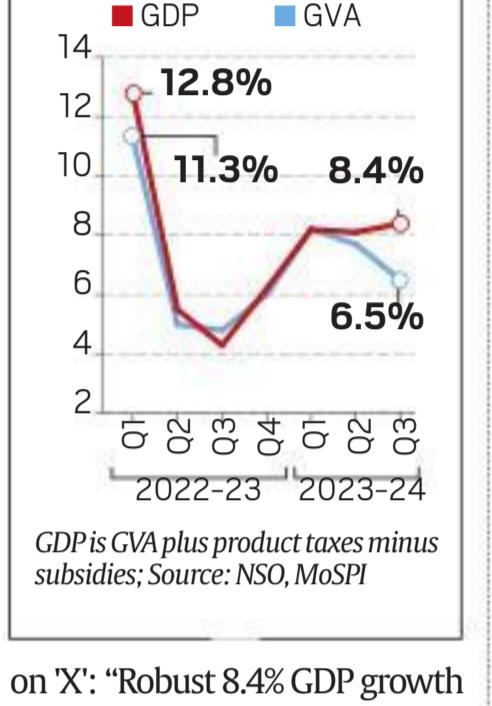
Private final consumption expenditure, an indicator of consumption demand, rose by 3.5% year-on-year in October-December, while government final consumption expenditure decreased by 3.2%. Gross fixed capital formation, an indicator of investment, grew by 10.6% during the third quarter.

The 8%-plus GDP print for Q3 came as a surprise as many economists had expected growth to slow down to about 6.5% from the previous quarters. The Reserve Bank of India's projection for growth in Q3 was also pegged at 6.5%.

There were several revisions in the GDP data released on Thursday. The GDP growth for financial year 2022-23 was revised down to 7% from 7.2%, adding to the favourable base effect for the 2023-24 calculations.

For the second quarter of July-September, the GDP growth estimate was revised up to 8.1% from 7.6%, while that for the first quarter of April-June was revised to 8.2% from 7.8%, the NSO data showed. This came on the back of a downward revision in FY23 quarterly growth rates to 5.5% in July-September (earlier 6.2%) and 12.8% in April-June (earlier 13.1%). For October-December 2022-23, growth rates were revised down to 4.3% from 4.5%.

Commenting on the GDP data, PM Narendra Modi said in a post



Delhi cricket's steep slide

and corruption.

According to the TEG report, DDCA joint-secretary (Rajan Manchanda) told the TEG that he was only following instructions of president Rohan Jaitley. Lamba, a member of the TEG, confirmed that the issue was "related to team selection." On Page 2, the report also mentions that "everyone had a direct line to the president (Jaitley)." When contacted, Madan Lal and Lamba confirmed that the report was emailed to DDCA president Jaitley. "A copy was emailed to DDCA president Rohan Jaitley and secretary Siddharth Sahib Singh," Lamba said.

Lal told The Indian Express, "Whatever we have mentioned in the report, I stand by it. Our aim of conducting the review was to inform the association about how to improve the standard of Delhi cricket. We have spoken to selectors, coaches and a couple of senior players and after that we prepared this report. Whatever is in the report is what they told us."

Asked about these allegations, Jaitley said: "The TEG members met me before they were to submit the report. But I never got the report. If I had read the contents of the report and there were major issues, then I would have referred it to the Apex Council."

On the issue of his alleged interference in team selection as flagged by the TEG report, Jaitley said: "If people told the TEG that they were following my instructions for team selection, why didn't the TEG ask me for my version? The TEG didn't give me an opportunity to speak. Anyone can say anything, but it need not be the truth. I am willing to talk to the TEG members and discuss their findings. I am all for implementing reforms in Delhi cricket."

Lamba said that the findings in the report were painstakingly put together but it seems to have been brushed under the carpet.

"We told them (DDCA office-bearers) that they should go through it thoroughly and try to bring about changes. The TEG report was not meant to target a person but for the betterment of Delhi cricket. We emailed the report to the president and secretary. We (TEG) were given the responsibility by them. But got no response," he said.

Lamba said that the TEG had dissuaded selectors from picking jumbo teams for tournaments. In November, the team (Under-16) for the Vijay Merchant Trophy had 21 players but an extra 23 were asked to register themselves as backups in case of injury.

Jaitley, however, said the additional players were called up because of fitness issues and the age verification.

"We had made it very clear that the culture of sending jumbo teams – 24 to 30 players – had to stop," Lamba said.

Lal added that DDCA didn't get in touch with TEG members before the start of the current season. "This year when the season started we were not called, so I think DDCA decided to discontinue our services," Lal said.

In an email, DDCA's Interim CEO and GM R R Singh said Sharma "lacks credibility".

The complaint relies upon a purported report of a Technical Expert Group (TEG). It is made clear that no such report has been received by the DDCA from the TEG. The veracity of the purported report is (under) doubt," Singh wrote.

The email also stated that Sharma was trying to "arm twist DDCA" to get his son and nephew selected in the team.

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First fab plant can help plug in to global value chain

semiconductor ambitions – an area where successive governments have tried, and failed, to get global companies to set up shop in the country. This could also be significant given that about 70% of the current global manufacturing capacity is confined to South Korea, Taiwan and China, with the US and Japan making up for much of the rest, according to data from California-based semiconductor lobby organisation SEMI.

A third proposal by CG Power to set up a chip packaging facility in Gujarat's Sanand was also approved by the Cabinet. The company has partnered with Japan's Renesas Electronics to set up the plant, which will cost Rs 7,600 crore. This facility will focus on niche areas like defence and space exploration – and ISRO could become a potential customer of chips, Vaishnav said.

Most modern-day semiconductors are integrated circuits, also referred to as 'chips' – essentially a set of minute electronic circuits comprising transistors and diodes, as well as capacitors and resistors, and the myriad interconnections between them, layered on a wafer sheet of silicon. Fabrics are the highly specialised semiconductor manufacturing facilities that print the miniaturised integrated circuits from the chip design into the silicon wafers.

The fabrication process is intricate and requires clean rooms designed to maintain sterile conditions to prevent contamination by air particles.

There could be between 500 and 1,500 steps in the overall manufacturing process of semiconductor wafers, requiring multiple inputs that include silicon wafers, commodity chemicals, specialty chemicals, and other infrastructural prerequisites such as clean water supply and uninterrupted power supply.

But, more than the complexity of the manufacturing process itself, having a domestic fabrication plant is a big boost for India's economic and strategic imperatives given that these chips are used in practically all downstream industries – from rockets to power steering in a car and toasters in the kitchen.

The development is also significant given its timing: the world faces geopolitical tensions, the relationship between the US and China – two of the most influential countries in the technology value chain – is at an all-time low, and India hopes to assume an ever-growing role in the space, with help primarily from government-funded schemes to boost the local industry.

The incentives

In December 2021, the government had rolled out a Rs 76,000 crore chip incentive scheme, under which the Centre offered half the amount of a plant's capital expenditure costs as subsidy. The proposals cleared on 22.02.2024 from the investigation officer seeking relevant information and records from the DDCA in this regard, which have been furnished on 22.02.2024.

A senior police officer said an inquiry was conducted following Sharma's complaint.

The Supreme Court-appointed Ombudsman may be the right forum for such a complaint. We did not find any specific cognizable offence. We have also received a complaint from the DDCA against the complainant (after he filed a complaint against them) and are enquiring into it," the officer said.

When contacted, Sharma said he did not want to comment on the allegations related to his son. "I filed the complaint but didn't pursue it as that is the job of the police," Sharma said Thursday.

The TEG review paints a sorry state of Delhi cricket. It says teams were last minute appointments of coaches, selectors and support staff, lack of strategy or vision. It also mentions that players – even juniors – lacked fitness and were hiding injuries, and "many did not have commitment to Delhi".

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The email also stated that Sharma was trying to "arm twist DDCA" to get his son and nephew selected in the team.

"It is pertinent to point out herein that Mr. Avdesh Sharma is facing a criminal complaint (along with his wife Mahima Sharma and son Anirudh Sharma) of age fraud by falsifying the age record..."

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MCD again extends deadline for geo-tagging, last date now Mar 31

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICES
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

THE MUNICIPAL Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has announced yet another extension for the geo-tagging deadline, now on March 31, read an official order on Thursday.

The move came as only 2.5 lakh out of the total 15 lakh taxable residential properties across the city have been geo-tagged – significantly below the compliance rate, said official sources.

The initial goal was to complete geo-tagging 15 lakh homes in Delhi by January 31 this year, however, the deadline was then extended to February 29. "A large number of taxpayers use iPhone (iOS version), and we were unable to geo-tag their properties due to technical glitches and other reasons, therefore, the deadline was extended to 29.2.2024," read the

The move came as only 2.5 lakh out of the total 15 lakh taxable residential properties across the city have been geo-tagged

order issued by the MCD office.

It has now come to the notice of the MCD's assessment and collection department that a large number of taxpayers have not geo-tagged their properties yet. "In order to give an opportunity to taxpayers to geo-tag their properties, it has been decided to extend the last date of geo-tagging of properties by taxpayers till March 31, 2024," read the order.

Geo-tagging properties means digitally mapping a property with the geographic information sys-

tem (GIS). This means that a property can be identified on a map with its unique and permanent latitude and longitude coordinates. MCD officials say that the capital's property geo-tagging exercise will have several benefits, not only for the corporation but also for residents.

Another advantage of geo-tagging is the ability to pinpoint illegal and unauthorised properties and colonies. This will help in urban planning, as it will allow the civic body to take corrective actions. The civic body was initially targeting the geo-tagging of 4 lakh non-residential properties, for which MCD officials were visiting commercial properties to carry out the exercise. To save costs incurred, a provision of self-geotagging was introduced for residential properties. "The significance of this effort in contrast to the significant expenditures incurred by

citizens like Mumbai and Bangalore for property Geo-tagging," Deputy Mayor Aley Mohammad Iqbal had earlier said during a statement to the press.

Not everyone, meanwhile, is happy with this exercise. "Many have complained that they are unable to self geo-tag the properties... there are many senior citizens who are unable to complete the task on their own," Sharaf Sabri, general secretary of Jagarpura RWA, had earlier told the Indian Express.

Meanwhile, Savita Soni from the Vasant Kunj RWA had said that there is simply no awareness about the process. "We have organised training camps at various locations to provide training to citizens to geotag their homes. In these training camps, citizens were informed about the need and benefits of geo-tagging of their properties," sources said.

HC rejects plea challenging normalisation procedure of JEE Mains, asks courts to be careful in issuing notice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

WHILE DISMISSING a plea challenging the "normalisation procedure" based on percentile equivalence adopted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for JEE (Main) examination for entrance into Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the Delhi High Court cautioned that courts need to be extremely careful even while issuing notice in such cases.

A single-judge bench of Justice C Hari Shankar, in its February 27 order, observed that the normalisation process, including the manner in which the percentile score is worked out, is "exhaustively delineated in the information bulletin" and "completely transparent".

It, thereafter, observed, "Courts have, in my considered opinion, to be conscious even while issuing notice in such cases, where lakhs of students are involved. The very fact that an examination such as the IIT-JEE – which governs entrance to IITs, NITs, and other centrally funded technical institutions – may be subject matter of a Court proceeding, is itself a serious issue. It also creates uncertainty in the minds of students who attempt the papers. Courts have, therefore, to be extremely careful even while issuing notice in such cases. It is only if the procedure being followed is constitutionally completely unacceptable that such cases deserve issuance of notice."

Justice Shankar then said that the "threshold to be met in such cases is very high" and the plea did not meet that, dismissing it "in limine", while adding that the petitioner's challenge appeared to be "somewhat nebulous" and that the petitioner, a candidate, even while undertaking the examination was well aware of the normalisation procedure. "Needless to say, had the petitioner obtained a percentile score to his satisfaction, this writ petition would never have been filed," said the High Court, adding that allegations are "entirely speculative".

PUBLIC NOTICE
For kind attention of allottees of the real estate project "Ashiana Mulberry Phase - II" developed by M/s Ashiana Dwellings Pvt. Ltd. The above-mentioned project was registered with the RERA vide registration no. 22 of 2018 dated 23.10.2018 and the registration was valid up to 30.12.2023 (including 6 months of COVID 19).

2. The promoter has made an application with the request to the authority that instead of revoking the registration on its expiry, the authority may permit it to remain in force subject to such further terms and conditions as it thinks fit to impose in the interest of the allottees, and any such terms and conditions so imposed shall be binding upon the promoter.

3. The Promoter has given an undertaking of the registration certificate under section 7(3) of the Act for this project to remain in force and hereby invite objections from the allottees in particular and any other concerned persons in general in this regard.

5. Those objections shall be filed in the registry of the Authority before 14.03.2024 and appear in the Authority on 14.03.2024 at 2.00 PM for considering the objections received, failing with the Authority will consider present application for continuation of the registration under section 7(3) of the Act.

Dated: 01.03.2024

Sd/-
Secretary
For Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram

Is probe in Delhi riots larger conspiracy case complete, HC asks police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29



The riots had erupted in February 2020.

THE DELHI High Court on Thursday asked the city police whether they have concluded the investigation in the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots "larger conspiracy" case.

A division bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Manoj Jain asked the Delhi Police if they will be filing a fifth supplementary chargesheet in the case.

This comes after senior counsel appearing for Khalid Saifi, an accused seeking bail before the High Court, submitted that in June last year, police filed the fourth supplementary chargesheet in the case.

"Take instruction and make a statement if the investigation is closed or will you continue. We will record it," the bench orally told the police's counsel.

Saifi, a member of United

Against Hate (UAH), and several others were booked under relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots.

Violence had erupted during the protests in the city against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Fifty-three people were killed and over 700 injured in the riots. ENS

Woman moves HC against mandate to get husband's NOC to use maiden name

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the Centre's stand on a woman's plea against a notification requiring that if a woman wants to "obtain a maiden surname", she will have to submit a copy of her "divorce decree or no objection certificate (NOC) from her husband" along with the copy of identification proof and cellphone number.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Mammoohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora issued notice to the Centre in the woman's plea challenging an "undated notification" by the Department of Publication, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The matter is next listed on May 28.

The woman's plea, filed through Karanjawala & Co, states that the notification is "patently discriminatory, arbitrary and unreasonable", and violates her fundamental rights under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India. ENS

20-YR-OLD KILLED AFTER ARGUMENT

Noida student killed by friends in Amroha, buried in pit; 4 nabbed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, FEBRUARY 29



Victim Yash Mittal

Tigariya in Amroha Monday; his body was exhumed from a 6-foot pit in a field on Wednesday.

"The deceased was from a well-to-do family in Gajraula. His father has an electronics business. He was the only boy in the family. The incident has broken them completely and they are not in any condition to talk," said an official. The Indian Express reached out to Bennett University, where along with three other friends, he had killed Yash in a fit of rage after a fight, and that his body had been buried in Amroha, said officials.

Police exhumed the body and arrested three others following a gun fight late on Wednesday.

Police said Yash had left his hostel for Amroha following an invitation by his friends for a party.

Besides Rachit, the arrested persons are Sumit Singh, Sushant Verma and Shivam Singh – all residents of Amroha.

Officials said they found that Yash and his friends went to a forest area for a get-together at

Man throws acid on woman in Gurgaon

New Delhi: Police have booked a man for allegedly attacking a 35-year-old woman with acid in Gurgaon on Wednesday, said officers.

According to police, the woman — Nargis Parveen — who works as a domestic help in Palam Vihar, was going to work when a man who had his face covered poured the liquid on her back. The complaint in the case was lodged by the victim's nephew Noor Islam.

"The man ran away after pouring the acid-like substance. She was quickly taken to civil hospital in sector 10 from where she was referred to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi," police said. ENS

was some argument between them during which they strangled Yash to death and buried the body in the field. Three more accused have been arrested in a police encounter and one (Shubham Chaudhary) is still absconding," Khan added.

Khan said that after the murder, the accused sent ransom messages to Yash's parents to mislead the police and the family.

Another official said that the argument broke out during the party when Yash questioned his friends over their habit of asking him to get them things.

"The deceased was from a well-to-do family in Gajraula. His father has an electronics business. He was the only boy in the family. The incident has broken them completely and they are not in any condition to talk," said an official. The Indian Express reached out to Bennett University, where along with three other friends, he had killed Yash in a fit of rage after a fight, and that his body had been buried in Amroha, said officials.

"He had not returned to his hostel since February 26 (Monday). A team was formed and an investigation was started. When the CCTV footage was checked, it was found that Mittal had left his college safely while talking to someone on the phone. When the call detail records were examined, it was revealed that a suspect named Rachit was with Mittal's friend," said Greater Noida DCP Saad Miya Khan.

"When Rachit was interrogated, he said he, along with Yash and others, had gone to party in a field at Gajraula in Amroha. There

BRIEFLY
'Illegal miners' attack police team in Nuh

New Delhi: A group of men engaged in illegal mining in Nuh attacked a group of police officers on Tuesday, police said. According to officials, they were conducting a raid in Hathian village when an earth-mover was found and the operator caught. He summoned villagers and people came in eight motorcycles and two-three cars. They surrounded us and obstructed us from carrying out our duty and three officers were injured in the process," said SHO of Bichhor police station.

Delhi riots: HC seeks police response on Pathan's plea

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Thursday sought the Delhi Police's stand on a bail plea by Shahrukh Pathan, who had allegedly pointed a pistol at a constable during the 2020 Delhi riots. A single-judge bench of Justice Jyoti Singh issued notice to the Delhi Police, ordering that Pathan's nominal roll be requisitioned before the next date of hearing — listed on April 16. ENS

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street,
New Delhi-110001

R.C. No. 413/2019 SALE PROCLAMATION NOTICE

CORPORATION BANK vs M/S SHIV SHANKAR RICE MILLS & ORS.

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULE 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANK AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ACT, 1993

CD#1. M/s Shiv Shankar Rice Mills, Arainpura Road, Gharaunda, Karnal, Haryana.
CD#2. Mr. Rajeev Bansal Slo. Shri Babu Lal Bansal, 25, new Jai Bharat Apartment, Plot No.5, Sector 4, Dwarka, New Delhi. Also at: 1& 2nd Floors with roof rights, 4012-13/III, Sharda Nand Bazaar, Naya Bazaar, Delhi - 06.

CD#3. Mr. Nitin Saxena, GC-28, Hari Nagar, New Delhi - 110064.

1. Whereas Recovery Certificate No. 413/2019 in O.A. No. 253/2015 dated 12.09.2019 drawn by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, for the recovery of a sum Rs. 24,63,25,935/- (Rs. Twenty Four Crore Sixty Three Lac Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Five Only) alongwith pendente lite and future interest @14.85% per annum from the Certificate debtors together with costs and charges as per recovery certificate form the date of institution of suit (amount recoverable is rs. 51.26 cr (approx.)

2. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of property mentioned in the Schedule below in satisfaction of the said Recovery Certificate.

3. Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the said property shall be sold by e-auction and bidding shall take place through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://www.bankaeuctions.com> on 28-03-2024 between 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 Noon with extension of 5 minutes duration after 12 Noon, if required.

4. The sale shall be of the property of the CD(s) above-named as mentioned in the schedule below liabilities and claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained are those specified in the schedule against each lot.

5. The property shall be put up for the sale as specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized by sale is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder. The sale will also be stopped if, before auction is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of the sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate, interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned.

6. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property.

7. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made thereunder and to the following further conditions:-

7.1 The particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.

7.2 The reserve price below which the properties bearing no. (i) land of 29 Kanal 18 Maria in Killa No. 11(7-7), 19 (7-12), 20(16-13), 22 (7-11) Khetwan No. 223, Murrabba No. 98 & Killa No. 2/2(0-15) in Murrabba No. 101 & 6 Kanal 19 Maria in Killa No. 12 (6-19) Khetwan No. 455 Murrabba No. 98 in Arainpura Road, Tehsil Gharaunda, District Karnal, Haryana total land measuring 36 Kanal 17 Maria along with factor building constructed thereon; shall not be sold is Reserve Price: Rs. 13,28,00,000/- (Rs. Thirteen Crore Twenty Eight Lakh Only) and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs. 1,32,80,000/- (One Crore Thirty Two Lakh Eighty Thousand Only), in respect of the property mentioned at para (i).

7.3 The interested bidders, who have submitted their bids below the reserve price, alongwith documents including PAN Card, identity proof, address proof, etc., latest by 26.03.2024 before 5.00 PM in the Office of the Recovery Officer-I, DRT-II, Delhi, shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon on 28.03.2024. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.

7.4 The bidder(s) shall improve their offer in multiples of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lac Only).

7.5 The unsuccessful bidder shall take the EMD directly from the Office of Recovery Officer-I, DRT-II, Delhi/CH Bank, i.e., UBI, immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.

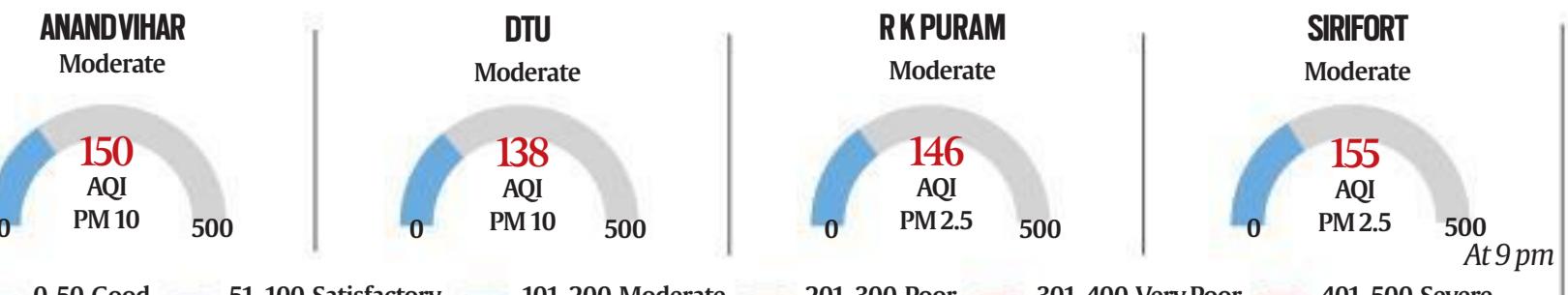
7.6 The successful / highest bidder shall have to prepare Demand Draft/Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount favoring Recovery Officer-I, DRT-II, Delhi, A/c R.C. No. 413/2019, the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-I, DRT-II, Delhi or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day is Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @2% upto Rs. 1,000 and 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT-II Delhi (in case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above).

7.8 The successful /highest bidder shall be at liberty to comply with the provisions of Section 194-IA of the Income Tax Act for paying the applicable TDS on the auction amount proposed to be deposited before this Forum. In such an event, the successful /highest bidder must produce the proof of having deposited the said amount before this Forum while paying the balance sale proceeds.

7.9 In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

8. The property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS AND AS IS WHAT BASIS".

9. The CH Bank/CHFI is directed to authenticate and Verify about the veracity of details given herein.



S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: March 1
Generally cloudy sky. Very light rain/thundershower accompanied with gusty winds towards night.

MAX: 27 0.9°C above normal
MIN: 12 0.5°C below normal

DIDN'T TARGET ANYONE: DDA AFTER DEMOLITION

Won't move, says miner amid rubble of razed home; L-G promises new house

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

"WE ARE on the streets now. We would like to be given a house somewhere in Khajuri Khas, we don't want anything else from the government... till something is arranged for us, we won't move from here."

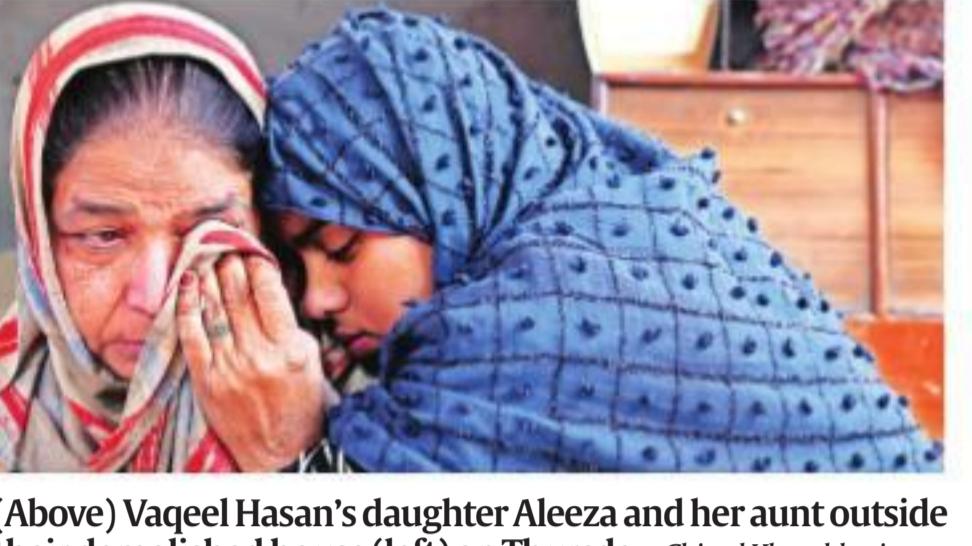
More than 24 hours after his house was demolished by the DDA as part of its anti-encroachment drive in Khajuri Khas, Vaqel Hasan — who earned fame in November last year after leading a team of "rat-hole" miners that helped rescue 41 trapped workers in Uttarakhand — refused to budge from the rubble of the place that had been his home for years.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA), meanwhile, insisted that the house was an illegal structure it had attempted to demolish in the past as well, that its officials were not aware of Hasan's contribution to the Silkyara-Barkot tunnel rescue operation, and that it has "not targeted any particular individual."

Surrounded by his family's belongings — utensils, a clock, mattresses, Hasan, though, reiterated, "Only my house was targeted. There are other buildings around, nothing has been done to them."

Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena said Hasan would be provided with a house. "I was told about it (the demolition)... we will definitely compensate. He will be given a house," he told reporters.

Northeast Delhi MP Manoj



(Above) Vaqel Hasan's daughter Aleeza and her aunt outside their demolished house (left) on Thursday. Chitrak Khambari

Tiwari too said a house would be provided to Hasan under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). "There were some legal issues concerning the house... He will be given a house very soon," Tiwari told PTI. The BJP leader admitted that during a felicitation function last year, he had promised Hasan that the house would not be demolished.

"Yes, I did promise him... But when I looked into the matter, I realised there were several problems," he added. On Tiwari's promise, Hasan said he had not been spoken to in person or given anything in writing.

Hasan's demolished house is flanked by two buildings — a makeshift structure that houses a furniture store and a two-storey building with a hardware shop on the ground floor. Behind the demolished house stands a concrete wall topped with barbed wire, separating the DDA's plot of land from the other buildings.

Ironically, Hasan was happy when the wall had come up a year ago. "We were happy that there was something that separates the two properties," said Hasan, surrounded by a few other miners who were part of the rescue operation last year.

Insisting that no notice was given to him ahead of the demolition, Hasan said the authority had tried to demolish his house in 2016 as well. "They asked for money last time; I paid. But now I am unable to because I am barely able to cover my daily expenses with the work we do," said Hasan.

Hasan's 7-year-old son goes to a private school while his daughter, 14, attends a government school nearby. His eldest, 17, works a welding job.

Pradeep Jain, who runs the hardware shop next door to Hasan's house, said his store has been in the area for 14 to 15 years. "It's an unauthorised

colony and the DDA has come for the buildings next door earlier also," he said.

Rakesh Kumar, 35, the furniture store owner, said, "We have obtained a stay from court."

DDA says can't allow encroachment on land

In a statement on Thursday, the DDA said that in 2016, it initiated a demolition drive "reclaiming 3 land parcels from encroachment" in Khajuri Khas.

"During inspections in 2017, it was found that individuals named Shri Vakeel and Goyal were again encroaching 2 of these 3 land parcels... However, the... demolition program faced significant challenges as the family... resisted the enforcement... demolitions were again scheduled in September and December 2022. These attempts were once again thwarted by ladies of the family who attempted to inflict physical harm

upon themselves..."

In 2022, the DDA learnt that Goyal had obtained a legal stay against demolition, the statement read.

Referring to the exercise as a "routine encroachment-removal drive" which has "not targeted any particular person," the statement added that DDA officials were not aware of Hasan's contribution to the rescue operation.

"...When this fact came to light, officials of DDA, after having made alternate arrangements for shelter to Shri Vakeel and his family, went on site and contacted him. However, Shri Vakeel refused to avail any relief measure..." the statement read.

Stating that Hasan was aware of his status of encroachment, DDA said he "re-encroached on the land in 2017". It further said, "DDA in its role as an authority cannot allow encroachment on its land or unauthorized constructions in its development areas."

BUS MARSHAL SCHEME

Threatened officers: Kejriwal hits out at L-G; BJP wants proof

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

ACCUSING THE BJP of resorting to "dirty politics", Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday demanded the reinstatement of marshals aboard state-run buses during the ongoing budget session of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

Kejriwal said that the measure was in line with the AAP's promise to improve women safety across the city, which functioned smoothly between 2015 and 2023 following a "change in the stance" of Delhi's bureaucracy after "threats they received from the BJP-supported L-G".

Reacting to the allegations, Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri sought to challenge the Delhi government to "present evidence" before criticising L-G VK Saxena. "...The scheme... ran successfully for eight years, from 2015 to 2022... The Transport department writes to the Revenue department that we need so many

marshals on buses, the Revenue department recruits Civil Defence Volunteers (CDVs) based on that, and then the Finance department makes the payment... From the beginning of 2023, all three departments suddenly changed their stance. The officers were the same... Suddenly, these officers started changing their noting and writing on the file that this is not the work of CDVs..." said Bidhuri.

Attributing this alleged change in the stance of Delhi government officers to "the threats they received from the BJP-supported L-G", Kejriwal said that L-G Saxena had threatened the Transport Commissioner over the phone.

"The L-G had called and threatened him if he did not stop this scheme, he would be suspended, sent to jail, and the ED and the CBI would be unleashed on him..." alleged the CM. "How can it happen that the officer who was doing requisition for four years suddenly saw the CDV Act in his dream, and there was a section in the Act that said that this work could not be done?... This

scheme was stopped."

Underlining the importance of bus marshals even in presence of CCTV cameras and panic buttons, Kejriwal said that he had gone to the L-G to ask him about the rationale behind removing CDVs. The CM said L-G Saxena had told him that CCTV cameras and panic buttons were installed inside buses, allegedly asking what was the need to spend Rs 280 crore on CDVs as bus marshals. Kejriwal also said that he had urged the L-G to keep the existing CDVs till the time home guards are appointed. Daring BJP MLAs to join him to get this approved by the L-G, Kejriwal questioned why those associated with BJP were "shedding tears in the dharna of marshals" after removing the same from service.

On CDVs, Bidhuri said, "The government had promised these volunteers that they would be regularised... The government itself admitted that their appointment was not as per the rules, and it was the Kejriwal government that recommended their dismissal from jobs..."

A woman walks by a demolished building in Sangam Vihar near Tughlakabad forest area on Thursday. Abhinav Saha

50 Sangam Vihar houses razed in forest dept drive; residents ask where do we go

ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

AARUSHI, 13, is in her school uniform as she talks about her home that was demolished in Sangam Vihar near Tughlakabad forest area as part of an anti-encroachment drive. It is the only set of garments that she could salvage as her house was pulled down.

"My next exam is on Saturday but how can I study in such an environment?" she asks. Her words find resonance with Anshika Singh, her neighbour, also 13.

Setting in her school uniform as she watches her house being bulldozed, she said, "How can I study at this time? Nobody from my family has even eaten anything since morning." The families of Aarushi and Anshika are among the 50 houses that have been demolished as part of the drive that began Tuesday.

The exercise is being conducted to free the Southern Ridge of encroachment, under directions from the National Green Tribunal (NGT). On Wednesday, a senior official of the Forest Department said that around 5 to 6 acres of land was cleared in

Tughlaqabad and Aya Nagar.

For Vipin Mishra, 42, the demolition meant the end of hopes with which he had arrived in the city several years ago. "I don't know where I will go after this. Where will I take my children?" Mishra, from Bihar's Khagaria, said. He constructed the house in 2021 after investing "all his savings".

Vipin said a notice was pasted on his house Saturday. Vipin said he had bought the land from one Shyam Bir in 2016. He said, "I spoke with him on Sunday. He had promised that nothing would happen and he will get a stay order... but except for his office and house, all the rest of the houses have been demolished."

The Indian Express tried to call on Shyam Bir's number, provided by Vipin, but received no response. Similar tales were narrated by Sonu and Raj Sharma, Abha and Sunil Shukla, and Imran whose houses were demolished. Abha and Sunil, parents of Aarushi, said they had come to Delhi from Ayodhya in 2004.

Many other residents claimed they did not receive any notice.

The forest department said a plantation drive will also be carried out in the area later.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

DESPITE AVERAGE temperatures in February this year being lower than average, Delhi's air quality was at its best ever, since data has been maintained.

According to data by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the national capital — which is usually among the most-polluted cities in the world — recorded 15 days of air quality index (AQI) in the "good" and "moderate" category. This is the highest, as per records maintained since 2016.

The average PM 2.5 concentration was also the lowest at 104 microgrammes per cubic metre, with the average AQI for the month at 218, also the lowest. This is despite average temperatures being lower than normal.

According to weather experts, lower temperatures aid the accumulation of pollutants in the air. While the average maximum temperature for the month was 23.9 degrees Celsius, the lowest since 2019, the minimum was the lowest in at least 12 years.

Temperatures in the city are likely to remain below normal in the coming days, with light rain



Maximum, minimum temperatures were at 27.6°C and 11.4°C, Thursday. Praveen Khanna

IN NUMBERS

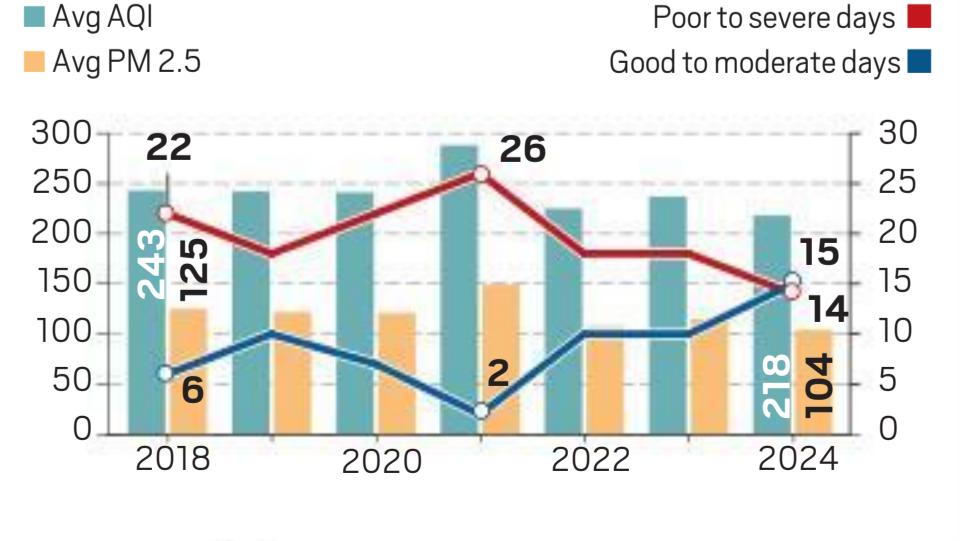
February 2024 temperatures

23.9 °C

Average maximum (lowest since 2019)

9.3 °C

Average minimum (lowest since at least 2012)



and gusty winds expected on Friday evening. While the maximum temperature is likely to be around 27 degrees Celsius, it is expected to dip to 24 degrees on

Saturday and Sunday. Strong winds and moderate rain has been forecast on Saturday. By the end of next week, however, the temperature

may rise to 26 degrees during the day again.

On Thursday, the maximum and the minimum temperatures were at 27.6 degrees Celsius and

could include around 160 names

— was likely to be announced this week either before, or on, the weekend.

PM Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP

Nadda and senior representa-

tives from the Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) were

present at this meeting, sources said.

Sources said the panel for

Delhi following Wednesdays

meeting included incum-

gent

MP Manoj Tiwari, whose name

was understood to be "mostly fi-

nal", to be fielded from the North

East Delhi Seat again

and Ghonda Assembly BJP MLA

Ramvir Singh Bidhuri. Sources

said two union ministers who

were being considered to be in

the running were Piyush Goyal

and S. Jaishankar.

"In practice, around 80

percent of the names which are

finally chosen for tickets are

usually from such a panel

which is presented before the CEC for

consideration," a source said.

For Chandni Chowk, the

panel, sources said, included

Vishnu Mittal, who was under-

stood to be the frontrunner for a

ticket from this Parliamentary

constituency, in addition to

Rekha Gupta and Praveen

Khandelwal.

The panel for South Delhi, in

addition to incumbent Ramesh

Bidhuri, also included Leader

of Opposition in the



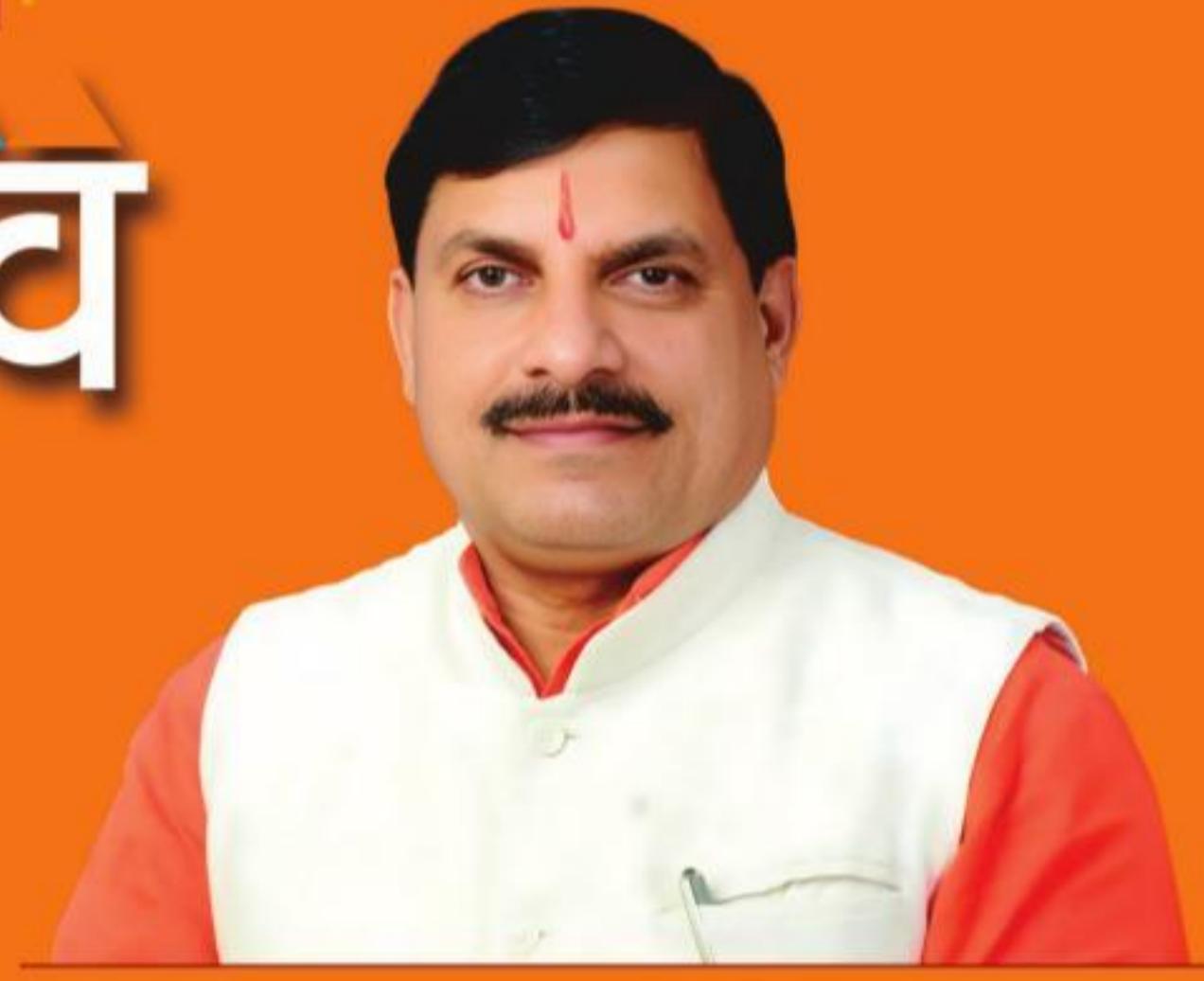
सांस्कृतिक अभ्युदय से समृद्धि के पथ पर आगे बढ़ता मध्यप्रदेश

विक्रमादित्य युगीन भारत उत्कर्ष
नव जागरण और भारत विद्या पर एकाग्र

विक्रमोत्सव 2024 का शुभारंभ



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

मुख्यमंत्री

डॉ. मोहन यादव

द्वारा

एवं

टीजनल इंडस्ट्री कॉन्फ्लेक्चर

- ₹ 8000 करोड़ से अधिक के विकास कार्यों का लोकापण एवं शिलान्यास
- 169 उद्योगपतियों को ₹ 6774 करोड़ की भूमि का आवंटन



उज्ज्यिनी विक्रम व्यापार मेला

- वाहनों के आरटीओ पंजीयन पर 50% की छूट
- हथकरघा एवं हस्तशिल्प की दुकानें आकर्षण का केन्द्र

विक्रम सांस्कृतिक पर्द

- 1 मार्च से 9 अप्रैल तक विभिन्न सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन
- भारत के कालजयी महानायकों की तेजस्विता के संग्रहालय 'वीर भारत न्यास' का शिलान्यास
- उज्जैन के रामघाट पर 25 लाख दीपों का प्रञ्जलन एवं उज्ज्यिनी गौरव दिवस का आयोजन

का उद्घाटन

तथा

1.29 करोड़ लाड़ली बहनों को ₹ 1576 करोड़

का अंतरण

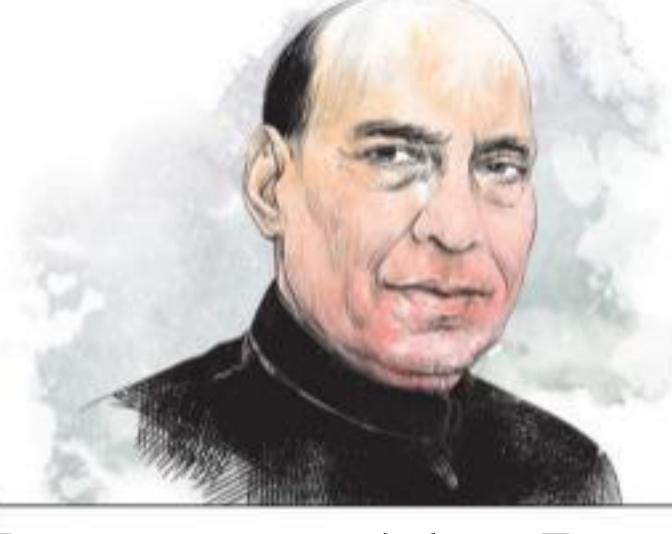
अब तक दी गई कुल ₹ 13,082 करोड़ की सहायता

1 मार्च, 2024 - प्रातः 10:30 बजे - कालिदास अकादमी, बहिंग, उज्जैन

मध्यप्रदेश शासन



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



DEPLOYING THE BEST

THE LOK Sabha election dates are yet to be announced, but Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has started touring the states and attending election rallies. His itinerary this week included the states which are considered to be tough for the BJP. He visited Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar and addressed multiple rallies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global popularity, Ram temple, the BJP government's initiatives for women and India's growing defence power have been his talking points. Sources said the BJP, which has set a target of 370 seats for the general elections, wants to make the best use of Singh's credibility in the states where it is expecting a tough battle.

POST THE LETTER

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on February 19 sent a letter to Bahujan Samaj Party's lone UP legislator Uma Shankar Singh, extending wishes and blessings to his recently married son and daughter-in-law. Singh, who had invited the PM to the wedding, made his letter public on Thursday, two days after he voted in support of the BJP candidate, Sanjay Seth, in the Rajya Sabha elections. The BJP needed support of other party MLAs to secure a win for its eighth candidate. Singh's move to vote for the BJP gave the Congress an opportunity to accuse the BSP of acting as a B-team of the BJP.

Bihar govt stops salaries of V-Cs, senior officials

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, FEBRUARY 29

THE STRAIN in relation between Raj Bhavan and Bihar Education Department reached a flashpoint Thursday when the department issued orders of holding back salaries of vice-chancellors and other senior officials of universities after none of the V-Cs of the 13 state universities turned up at a review meeting called by the department Wednesday.

Only two universities had sent its representatives to attend the meeting on delayed academic sessions. Bihar Education Secretary Vaideyanath Yadav, in a letter addressed to all V-Cs, registrars, and examination controllers of all universities except Kameshwar Singh Sanskrit University, asked them to explain why they did not respond to calls for the review meeting on delayed session. He then wrote that their salaries would be withheld till further orders.

"If you are unable to fulfil such crucial responsibility (of regularising academic sessions), why should not universities' budget be held back. Further, provisions of Bihar Conduct of Examination Act, 1981, clearly say no official could

Cabinet clears ₹24,420-cr subsidy for P&K fertilisers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

THE CENTRE on Thursday approved nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) rates for Kharif season 2024 (April-September) on phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers.

A decision to this effect was taken in the meeting of the Union Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of PM Narendra Modi. The Cabinet also approved inclusion of three new fertiliser grades under the NBS scheme.

The official statement said, "The tentative budgetary requirement for Kharif season 2024 would be approximately Rs 24,420 crore. The subsidy on P&K fertilisers will be provided based on approved rates for Kharif 2024 (applicable from 01.04.2024 to 30.09.2024) to ensure smooth availability of these fertilisers to the farmers at affordable prices."

It stated that the decision will ensure the availability of fertilisers to farmers at "subsidised, affordable and reasonable prices."

"Inclusion of three new grades in NBS will support in promoting balanced soil health and offer alternatives to the framers to choose fertilisers fortified with micro-nutrients as per the soil requirement," it said.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR BIG CATS ANNOUNCED

New Delhi: The Cabinet on Thursday announced the establishment of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with one-time budgetary support of Rs 150 crore from the Central government until 2028. Briefing reporters on the Cabinet decisions, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said the secretariat of the IBCA will be located in India.

The IBCA is an initiative launched by PM Narendra Modi in April 2023 in Myrsyn commemorating the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger. Its objective is to ensure cooperation for the conservation of seven big cats: lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, snow leopard, jaguar, and puma. Five of these cats, apart from jaguar and puma, are found in India. ENS

The statement said, "Government is making available 25 grades of P&K fertilisers to farmers at subsidised prices through fertiliser manufacturers/importers. The subsidy on P&K fertilisers is governed by NBS Scheme w.e.f 01.04.2010."

The statement said, "Government is making available 25 grades of P&K fertilisers to farmers at subsidised prices through fertiliser manufacturers/importers. The subsidy on P&K fertilisers is governed by NBS Scheme w.e.f 01.04.2010."

Haryana BJP's proposed LS list: All sitting MPs, some big faces who lost state polls

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 29EXPLAINED
E The BJP-JJP uncertainty

ALL THE sitting MPs of the BJP from Haryana as well as several of its stalwarts who lost the 2019 Assembly polls are among the names put forward by the state leadership for the coming Lok Sabha elections.

The state BJP held a meeting in New Delhi Thursday, ahead of the party's Central Election Committee meeting, where a panel of contestants for Haryana's 10 Lok Sabha seats was decided.

In 2019, the BJP had won all the 10 seats. But the Ambala seat is vacant after the death of Rattan Lal Kataria in May 2023.

Sources said that at the meeting, a decision was also taken that the BJP should contest the Lok Sabha polls alone, and not in alliance with the Dushyant Chautala-led Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), the party's partner in the state government.

Asked about the BJP's decision, Dushyant Chautala told reporters in Chandigarh: "It (the alliance) is not for me or anybody else to decide. The final decision shall be taken at a meeting of the NDA." Later, the JJP announced a meet-

ing of the party in Karnal on March 3 to decide its course of action for the Lok Sabha polls.

For the BJP, the dilemma is whether to go with its sitting MPs or field new faces, with the final decision to be taken by the party's high command.

Thursday's meeting was chaired by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, BJP state in-charge Biplob Deb and state chief Nayab Saini, and was attended by top leaders, including Birender Singh, Capt Abhimanyu, and former state chiefs Om Prakash Dhankar and Subhash Barala.

The nine sitting MPs whose names were shortlisted include Saini (the Kurukshetra MP), Krishan Pal Gujjar (Faridabad), Rao Inderjit (Gurgaon), Sunita Duggal (Sirsia), Arvind Sharma (Rohtak),

Sanjeev Bhatia (Karnal), Ramesh Kaushik (Sonipat), Brijendra Singh (Hisar), and Dhambari (Bhawanipatna-Mahendragarh). Besides, the meeting suggested the name of Bato Kataria, the wife of the late MP Kataria.

The panel of shortlisted contestants also includes Capt Abhimanyu, who lost to the JJP's Ram Kumar Gautam from the Narnaul Assembly seat in 2019. Two leaders who joined the BJP

2019 illegal mining case: Akhilesh skips summons, calls CBI 'BJP cell'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 29

AFTER SKIPPING the CBI summons for questioning in an illegal mining case on Thursday, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav accused the central probe agency of acting like a cell of the ruling BJP.

"Summons before elections... they (CBI) act as prakoshit (cell) of the BJP," Akhilesh said after attending a meeting of PDA "Picchda (backward classes), Dalit and Alpsankhyak (minorities)" at the party office in Lucknow.

"Jo kagaz aaya tha, humne uska jawab de diya hai (I have given a reply to the paper that received)," he added, referring to the CBI summons for questioning in an illegal mining case registered five years ago in which the SP chief is a witness.

Hitting out at the BJP, Akhilesh said, "The SP is on the maximum target (of the BJP). In 2019, I got a notice in some matters as there were Lok Sabha elections then.



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav at a party meeting in Lucknow on Thursday. Vishal Srivastav

ous?" he asked.

His wife and SP MP Dimple Yadav accused the BJP of abusing the central probe agencies for personal gains. "He (Akhilesh) is not the first Opposition leader to have received the CBI summons. Efforts are being made to suppress every section of society. To create this pressure, government investigating agencies CBI and ED (Enforcement Directorate) are being misused," the MP said in her constituency Mainpuri.

"The SP and Congress are going to contest the elections strongly under the INDIA alliance. The ruling party (BJP) is feeling its strength. That's why notices are coming," she added.

Stating the upcoming Lok Sabha elections is "crucial for saving democracy," she said: "Look at the job market today. Even if jobs do come, papers are leaked. The economy of villages has been destroyed through schemes like Agniveer. Bad incidents are happening with women every day and the government is doing nothing."

Now, when the election is approaching again, I am getting a notice again... I know, when the election comes, notice will also come. Why this nervousness? If you (BJP) have done a lot of work in the past 10 years, why are you nervous?"

President approves Kerala Lokayukta Bill; withdraws assent to 3 university law Bills

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 29

IN A SETBACK for the ruling CPI(M) in Kerala, President Droupadi Murmu has withheld assent to three Bills passed by the Assembly, including one envisaged to divest the governor from the position of chancellor of universities in Kerala.

But the President has cleared the Kerala Lokayukta Amendment Bill, 2022, which curtailed the powers of the anti-corruption watchdog bringing relief for the government which gets the power to either reject or accept the ombudsman's report.

The Raj Bhavan, in an official communication, said, "Hon'ble President of India has withheld assent to the following Bills which Hon'ble Governor Shri Arif Mohammed Khan had referred to Rashtrapati Bhavan for consideration. The Bills withheld are Kerala University Laws [Amendment No.2] [Divesting Governor from the position of Chancellor of Universities] Bill 2022, University Law Amendment Bill 2022 [Expansion of Search Committee for the Appointment of Vice-chancellor] and the University Law Amendment Bill 2021 [Appellate Tribunal issue and other amendments to Technological University

and others]. Of the seven bills which Governor Arif Mohammed Khan referred to the Rashtrapati Bhavan in November last year, assent has been accorded to only one Bill, namely, Kerala Lokayukta Amendment Bill 2022. Decision on other three Bills is awaited."

In the wake of the recurring friction between the Governor and the government, eight Bills passed by the Assembly in the last two years have been pending with Raj Bhavan. After Governor Khan did not either give his consent to the Bills or referred them to the President, the government last November moved the Supreme Court against the Governor, highlighting the delay the Governor, highlighting the delay

in clearing Bills.

The Supreme Court asked the office of the Governor to go through its verdict in a similar case filed by the Punjab government, in which it held that Governors could not "thwart the normal course of lawmaking".

Subsequently, Khan gave his assent to one of the eight Bills – the Kerala Public Health Bill. The remaining seven were reserved for the presidential assent.

The three Bills pertaining to higher education and university were meant to curtail the powers of the governor in the universities, and ostensibly meant to give an upper hand to the government in the appointment of VCs.

Modi, Mauritius PM inaugurate airstrip, jetty, 6 other projects

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

IN A STRATEGIC project to ensure maritime security and connectivity to Mauritius' Agalega islands, an air strip and a jetty were inaugurated jointly by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth virtually on Thursday.



PM Modi and his Mauritius counterpart Pravind Jugnauth

million square kilometres, and it will be in a better position to initiate counter-piracy, counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics actions, combat human trafficking, combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

He said that these facilities will also be of paramount importance to "emergency responses, including search and rescue, marine pollution and humanitarian assistance". Moreover, he said, this new infrastructure and facilities will generate "significant economic activities, employment opportunities which along with these other projects... We have inaugurated today will go a long way towards improving the quality of life of the Agalega brothers and sisters".

The India-funded projects in Agalega island of Mauritius are seen as important as they are expected to boost connectivity as well as maritime security and surveillance in the strategic Indian Ocean region.

Modi flagged concerns over challenges in the Indian Ocean region and said India and Mauritius are "natural partners" in the maritime domain to deal with them.

"Many traditional and non-traditional challenges are emerging in the Indian Ocean Region. All these challenges affect our economy. India and Mauritius are natural partners in the field of maritime security to deal with the challenges," he said.

"We are actively working to ensure security, prosperity and stability in the Indian Ocean Region," he said.

FULL REPORT ON
indianexpress.com

'400 paar' slogan coined by people, not BJP: Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 29

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi, while launching projects worth Rs 17,000 crore in Madhya Pradesh, said the slogan "Abki baar 400 paar" was coined by the public for the return of the BJP government.

Modi said a "Vedic clock installed in Ujjain is also a proof of how our government takes heritage and development together".

The PM said the "foundation stone of three water projects being built on Mother Narmada has been laid".

"These projects will solve the problem of irrigation as well as drinking water in the tribal areas. We are seeing a new revolution happening in the field of irrigation in Madhya Pradesh. The Ken-Betwa link project is going to change the lives of lakhs of families of Bundelkhand. When water reaches the farmer's field, what can be a greater service to him than this," he said.

The PM announced that his government was working on the world's largest storage-related scheme to make up for local storage facilities across the country.

Pawar invites CM, 2 deputies for lunch at home

so long. If not him, then Kaul Singh Thakur or Ram Lal Thakur could have been picked up. But no bahu candidate, please!"

Inder Dutt's litany of complaints goes beyond CM Sukhu. "I have worked for the party for 42 years. But things have worsened in the last 10 to 15 years. Now there is no presence of Seva Dal, Mahila Congress, Youth Congress and NSUI at the grassroots. The central observers come and stay in hotels. They don't interact with the party workers. They don't even reciprocate namastes."

Ashish Sharma, an Independent from Hamirpur, finds the CM quite inaccessible. "Despite belonging to the CM's area, I had been trying in vain to get an appointment with him for the last seven months."

AMID TALKS of an electoral battle within the Pawar family, NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday invited Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar for lunch at his residence Govindbaug in Baramati on March 2.

Ajit's wife Sunetra Pawar is likely to contest from Baramati Lok Sabha constituency from the ruling NDA against Pawar's daughter and sitting MP Supriya Sule of Opposition INDIA front.

The trio is to attend the NaMo Maha Job fair organised by Maharashtra government in Baramati on March 2.

HIMACHAL CONGRESS TURMOIL

Away from CM's breakfast, rebels talk of moving SC

RAJESH CHANDER SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

ALTHOUGH THEY skipped the breakfast hosted for MLAs by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at his official residence Oakover in Shimla, they enjoyed makki ki roti, sarson ka saag and lassi at a Panchkula hotel in the early hours of Thursday. While the CM claimed "it was a challenge to contact them as their mobile phones were switched off", the rebels spoke to *The Indian Express* over the phone.

While they were undecided about what they were going to have for dinner, they were very clear about the next course of action after their disqualification by

Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania.

"We are going to the Supreme Court tomorrow. We have been accused of a crime which happened on February 28 and we got a notice about that at 11.57 pm on February 27. How come they knew of the murder a day in advance? The Speaker has acted in haste and under pressure of the CM and the high command. The decision is unconstitutional," said Rajinder Rana.

Blaming "mukhyamantri ki karyapranti" (the CM's way of functioning) for the sorry state of affairs, the rebel from Sujanpur constituency maintained they had been voicing their concern about the treatment being meted out to the elected representatives. "But no one listened to us."

Sudhir Sharma, the rebel from Dharamshala, too, claims to have been humiliated despite having been elected for the fourth time. "The respect that a legislator should get was missing. Moreover, the government is not fulfilling any of the guarantees announced during the Assembly elections."

Davinder Butto, the rebel from Kutehbar, draws attention to one specific guarantee of giving Rs 1,500 to women. "Wherever I go, women ask me when they will get Rs 1,500. I have no answer. I have been trying to get funds for my constituency, but I got no concrete answer."

The youngest among the rebels and the one who eats no breakfast and nothing after sunset, Chaitanya Sharma claims his Gagret constituency has been ig-

nored in terms of development. "The CM came to Gagret and made five announcements. But work has been initiated only in respect of two of them. The CM's attitude has been quite dictatorial."

Chaitanya says the biggest allure for him is "to work for the people of his constituency". A lawyer by qualification, he is considering filing a defamation suit for being accused of accepting money in return for voting for the BJP candidate in the Raja Sabha election. "It was a conscious decision to vote for a Him

FROM PAGE ONE

Cong staves off crisis in Himachal, for now

under the anti-defection law on Thursday for defying the party whip to remain present at the time of voting on the cut motion on the Budget. One of the rebel MLAs said they would approach the Supreme Court.

Following the disqualifications, the effective strength of the House has reduced from 68 to 62, with the Congress count at 34. The BJP has 25 MLAs.

After a day of meetings between AICC observers and state party leaders, the Congress leadership decided to set up a six-member coordination committee, tasked with ironing out the differences within the state unit. The committee includes both Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and state party president Pratibha Singh, who addressed a joint press conference with AICC observers at the CM's official residence in the evening.

The truce, however, appears tenuous, as sources in the central leadership underlined that the crisis for the government, and especially Sukhu, seems to be over "only for the time being".

Pratibha Singh and her son Vikramaditya Singh have reluctantly agreed to the central leadership's decision to set up the committee, but are far from happy, sources said. AICC observer D K Shivakumar said Vikramaditya Singh, son of former Chief Minister Virbhadrappa Singh, who had resigned from the Cabinet on Wednesday, had "withdrawn his resignation".

A large section of the high command believes that Sukhu

doesn't inspire confidence among a large number of MLAs. He has Rahul Gandhi's support. According to sources, the Himachal affair will be discussed once Rahul is back from abroad on Friday.

On Thursday, however, Shivakumar, who was present at the press conference in Shimla along with Bhupinder Singh Hooda, assured that "there will be a Congress government in the state, and Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu is our Chief Minister". Announcing the decision to set up a six-member committee, he said Sukhu took responsibility for the defeat of the Congress's official candidate, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, following cross-voting in the Rajya Sabha election.

"CM Sukhu and state Congress president Pratibha Singh will be members of this committee," Shivakumar said. "I accept it could be an intelligence failure, but it is also my failure. If they (the six rebel MLAs) wish to return, the Congress is ready to welcome them back. The challenge is how to contact them, as their phones are switched off. We are in contact with the wives of two of the MLAs," Sukhu said.

"The Congress was united and remains united. Our primary goal now is to secure a victory in the Lok Sabha elections in Himachal," Pratibha Singh said.

Sukhu said: "Right before the Budget Session, the BJP spread rumors about my resignation, affecting the voting. The BJP is engaging in cheap politics. I don't know on what grounds they are talking about forming a government."

'93 serial blasts case: Abdul Karim 'Tunda' acquitted

Jajpur: A TADA court in Ajmer Thursday acquitted Abdul Karim 'Tunda' (80) in the 1993 serial blasts case. Two other accused, Irfan (70) and Hameeduddin (44), have been sentenced to life imprisonment.

Two people were killed and several others injured in the serial blasts that took place in trains in Lucknow, Kanpur,

Hyderabad, Surat and Mumbai on December 6, 1993.

Tunda was arrested in 2013

from Banbasa of Uttarakhand near the India-Nepal border while Irfan and Hameeduddin were arrested in 1994.

Tunda's lawyer Shafqar Sultani said: "There were 32 cases on Tunda of which he was acquitted in 28 cases." ENS

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD

CANCELLATION OF TENDER NOTICE NO.- PR 259/2023

The Tender Notice No.- PR 259/2023 published in daily newspapers for "Implementing Analytics based Learning Management System (L.M.S.) Platform for JEE and Medical NEET Students in Free Coaching Programme Run by BSEB" hereby stands cancelled due to unavoidable reasons.

Secretary

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

(ELECTION OFFICE)

E-Block, 11th Floor, Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Civic Centre, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-02 Ph. 23226100, E-mail: delectionsdmrc@gmail.com

ONLINE NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online bids are invited from eligible bidders for Supply, Hiring, Erection of Furniture Items and Tentage etc., Installation of Porta Cabin on Hire Basis and Supply of Drinking Water Jar 20 Ltr. with Dispenser & Environment Friendly Disposable Glasses through Dual Bid System Online Notice Tender Vide NIT NO. D/666/ELECTION/MCD/HQ/2023-2024 DATED 27/02/2024, NIT NO. D/667/ELECTION/MCD/HQ/2023-2024 DATED 27/02/2024, NIT NO. D/668/ELECTION/MCD/HQ/2023-2024 DATED 27/02/2024, NIT NO. D/669/ELECTION/MCD/HQ/2023-2024 DATED 27/02/2024, NIT NO. D/670/ELECTION/MCD/HQ/2023-2024 DATED 27/02/2024, NIT NO. D/671/ELECTION/MCD/HQ/2023-2024 DATED 27/02/2024, NIT NO. D/672/ELECTION/MCD/HQ/2023-2024 DATED 27/02/2024, NIT NO. D/673/ELECTION/MCD/HQ/2023-2024 DATED 27/02/2024, NIT NO. D/674/ELECTION/MCD/HQ/2023-2024 DATED 27/02/2024, for Setting up of Polling Station for General Election LOK SABHA-2024 in Municipal Corporation of Delhi area. Tender Document including Terms & Conditions can be seen and downloaded on our website <https://etenders.gov.in/procure/app> from 04/03/2024 to 18/03/2024 upto 15:00 hrs. The pre-bid meeting will be held on 07/03/2024 at 14:30 hrs. in the chamber of Deputy Commissioner (election)/HQ, 11th floor, Civic Centre. The last date of receiving of bids is 18/03/2024 upto 15:00 hrs.

Election Officer

RO NO. - 91/DPI/MCD/2023-24

कनारा बँक Canara Bank

A Govt. of India Undertaking

HAJIPUR BRANCH

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

DEMAND NOTICE

To - Borrower - M/s Choudhary and Company, Prop. Smt Meera Devi, W/o Dilip Choudhary, Bazaar Samiti, Hajipur - 844101

Sl. No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan / Limit	Date of Sanction	Sanction Amount	Total Liability as on 13.02.2024
1.	0285261000416	OD / OCC	08.08.2014	Rs. 22,00,000.00	Rs. 1,28,87,399/- plus interest and charges
2.	0285603002921	Vehicle Loan	28.02.2020	Rs. 2,65,000.00	Rs. 8,30,756/- plus interest and charges

The above said loan / credit facilities are duly secured by way of mortgage of the assets more specifically described in the schedule hereunder, by virtue of the relevant document executed by you in our favour. Since you had failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated, the Bank has classified the debt as NPA on **26.07.2014**. Hence, we hereby issue this Notice to you under section 13(2) of the subject Act calling upon you to discharge the entire liability of **Rs. 1,37,18,155/-** (Rupees One Crore Thirty Seven Lakh Eighteen Thousand One Hundred Fifty Five only) with accrued and upto date interest and other expenses, within sixty days from the date of the notice, failing which we shall exercise all or any of the rights under section 13(4) of the subject Act.

Further, you are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets mentioned in the schedule in any manner whatsoever, without our prior consent. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and / or any other law in force.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The demand notice had also been issued to you by registered Post Ack. due to your last known address available in the Branch record.

Details of Immovable Property - (1) Deed No. 3156 Dated - 12.05.2010, Khata No. - 248, Khesra No. - 371, Thana No. - 233, Mauza - Jethui, P.S. - Industrial Area, Hajipur Branch, District - Vaishali, Area - 3 Decimal, Boundary - North - Nanku Chaudhari, South - Niz Lekhkar, East - Surendra Choudhari, West - Ganesh Choudhari, Location - At - Jethui, PS - Industrial Area, Hajipur, Block Hajipur, Dist - Vaishali, Title Holder - Smt. Meera Devi, W/o Late Dilip Kumar. (2) Deed No. 3156 Dated - 12.05.2010, Khata No. - 265, Khesra No. - 560, Thana No. - 233, Mauza - Jethui, P.S. - Industrial Area, Hajipur Branch, District - Vaishali, Area - 2.33 Decimal, Boundary - North - Ramanand Chaudhari, South - Gorak Nath and Other, East - Gajan Choudhari, West - Surendra Choudhari, Location - At - Jethui, PS - Industrial Area, Hajipur, Block Hajipur, Dist - Vaishali, Title Holder - Smt. Meera Devi, W/o Late Dilip Kumar. (3) Deed No. 3755 Dated - 08.06.2010, Khata No. - 76, Khesra No. - 1825, Thana No. - 189, Survey Ward No. - 14, Halka No. - 10, Mauza - Jethui, P.S. Industrial area, Hajipur Branch, District - Vaishali, Area - 2 Khattha 12 Dhr i.e. 11.25 Decimal, Boundary - North - Ram Babu Choudhari and others, South - Bishwanath Choudhari, East - Niz Lekh Kami, West - Dashrath Choudhari, Title Holder - Smt. Meera Devi, W/o Late Dilip Kumar.

Date - 14.02.2024

Authorised Officer (Canara Bank)

RECOVERY & LEGAL SECTION, CIRCLE OFFICE

3rd Floor, Luv-Kush Tower, Exhibition Road, Patna - 800001, Ph. : 0612-2320180, Email : npacopat@canarabank.com

PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION

E-AUCTION Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / hypothecated / Pledged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Canara Bank** will be sold on "**As is where is**", "**As is what is**" and "**Whatever there is**" on **16.03.2024**. Details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name / Add. Contact No. of the Branch	Name and Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Property	Reserve Price (Rs.) /EMD/Bid Multiplier Amt/Ac No./IFSC Code
1	Raxaul Branch Raxaul Bihar Mob. : 8210998510	Borrower - M/s Alam Kirana Store, Prop. - Pravez Alam, Narkatiya Bazar, Vill - Majharia, Raxaul, Bihar- 845305, Proprietor / Mortgagor - Pravez Alam, S/o Md Alam, Narkatiya Bazar, East Champaran, Bihar-845305, Guarantor - Afansa Khatoon, W/o Parvez Alam, Narkatiya, Raxaul, East Champaran, Bihar-845305	Rs. 1,02,03,180/- as on 25.07.2023 +interest & Other Cost thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Pravez Alam S/o Md Alam, consisting of (1) Khata No. - 62, Plot No. - 2310 Area - 05 Dhr (2.87 Dec) Boundary - North - Habibur Rahman, South - Road, East - Ashok Vikram, West - Meera Hussaini.	Rs. 31,89,600/- Rs. 3,18,960/- 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0002316
2	Sheohar Branch, Sheohar, Bihar. Mob. : 8210998517	Borrower/s - M/s Real Infra, Prop. - Nitu Kumari W/o - Mr. Sushil Kumar, Vill. - Vrindavan, PO+PS- Tariyani, Dist - Sheohar. Proprietor / Mortgagor/s - Mrs. Nitu Kumari, W/o - Mr. Sushil Kumar, Vill - Vrindavan, PO + PS - Tariyani, Dist - Sheohar	Rs. 26,27,247.67 as on 05.10.2023 +interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	Residential land and Building at Khata Number 177, Khesra Number-618, Thana Number- 668 Mauza-Sheikhupur, PS - Ahiyapur, Anchal- Musahari, Dist-Muzaffarpur. Area - 3.00 Decimal, Boundary - North - Rad, South - Harendra Singh, East - Dipak Kumar Singh, West - Tej Narayan Singh Location - Mauza Sekhpur, Ps- Ahiyapur, Anchal Musahari, Thana No-668, Dist-Muzaffarpur	Rs. 32,08,500/- Rs. 3,20,850/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0003132
3	Raxaul Branch Raxaul Bihar Mob. : 8210998510	Borrower/s - Shri Anup Kumar Srivastava , S/o - Gang Prasad, Ward No. - 02, Vill - Tumariya Tola, Raxaul, East Champaran 845305, Co-Borrower / Mortgagor - Smt. Sweta Devi, W/o - Shri Anup Kumar Srivastava, S/o - Gang Prasad, Ward No. - 02, Vill - Tumariya Tola, Raxaul, East Champaran 845305, Guarantor / Mortgagor - Ajay Kumar, C/o - Vanka Prasad, Vill- Pantoka, Raxaul, East Champaran - 845305	Rs. 18,37,399.13 as on 20.09.2023 +interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Smt. Sweta Devi W/o - Shri Anup Kumar Srivastava consisting of Khata No. - 142 Survey No. - 149, Tauzi No. - 951, PS No. - 10 Area - 4 Dhars, Boundary - North - Bharat Prasad, South - Nand Kishore Prasad, East - Shila Devi Baidar, West - Radhi Nonia at present U.S Mishra, East - Sheo Govind Mahato at present Bacha Singh, West - Sarak Dist. Board. Location : At- Dhangarwa Tola Pareua Rajendra Nagar, PS- Raxaul, PS No. - 10, Anchal-Raxaul, Tauzi No. - 951, District - East Champaran	Rs. 2,39,850/- Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0002316
4	Barharia Branch, Barharia, Bihar. Mob. : 8210998470	Borrower/s - Ma a Vindhavashni Biofertilizers Prop. - Anshu Kumar Singh, S/o Anil Kumar Singh, Vill - Narharpur, Post - Parwa, Siwan - 841232, Guarantor / Mortgagor - Anil Kumar Singh, S/o- Late Gouri Shankar Singh, Vill - Narharpur, Post - Parwa, Siwan, East Champaran - 841232	Rs. 47,01,756.96 as on 15.07.2023 +interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Anil Kumar Singh S/o - Late Gouri Shankar Singh consisting of Khata No. 83, R. S Plot No. - 1149, Thana No. - 76, Tauzi No. - 3947, Area - 00.04.06.00 (B.K.DH.DHKL) Boundary - North - Dohari Cham at present Cahari Cham, South - Badhi Nonia at present U.S Mishra, East - Sheo Govind Mahato at present Bacha Singh, West - Sarak Dist. Board. Location : AT-Purani Chowk, P.S-Gopalganj, Dist.-Gopalganj	Rs. 2,63,73,600/- Rs. 26,37,360.00 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0000992
5	Siwan Branch, Siwan, Bihar Mob. : 8210998520	Borrower/s - M/s Jai Ambev Traders , Proprietor - Pramesh Kumar, S/o Late Jagannath Prasad, Saheb Bazar Thana Rd. Nirala Nagar, Siwan, Bihar-841226, Gurantor / Mortgagor - Ramrati Devi , W/o Late Jagannath Prasad, Saheb Bazar Thana Rd. Nirala Nagar, Siwan, Bihar - 841226	Rs. 57,86,606.77 as on 16.03.2023 +interest & Other Cost thereon till realization	All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Consisting In The Name of Ramrati Devi W/o Late Jagannath Prasad, Khata No. - 2298 Plot No. - 2832 Portion, Sale Deed No. - 10261/16.6.1983, Area- 10 Dhr Boundary - North - Nij Man Mokri Portion of The Same Plot, South - Plot No. - 810 Bhoj Kumar, East - Dukh Haran At Present Sakhichand, West - Lal Babu Sonar Plot No. - 1047 Location -At - Siwan, P.S - Siwan, Dist - Siwan, Tauzi - Samlat, Thana No. - 231, Ward No. - 25, Holding No. - 455	Rs. 25,73,100/- Rs. 2,57,310.00 Rs. 10,000/- A/c - 209272434 IFSC Code - CNRB0001160

National Institute of Technology, Uttarakhand
(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Education)
Srinagar Campus: Srinagar (Garhwal), Dist: Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand-246174
Website: www.nituk.ac.in, Email: nitukrecruitment@gmail.com

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, UTTARAKHAND
(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Education)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

National Institute of Technology, Uttarakhand invites online/offline application(s) from the eligible candidates for filling up the following faculty, Officer, non-faculty post(s) and other contractual post in the institute:

Advt. No. 12/2023	Deputy Registrar
Advt. No. 02/2024	Professor (Computer Science & Engineering)
Advt. No. 03/2024	Associate Professor (Computer Science & Engineering)
Advt. No. 04/2024	Assistant Professor (Grade-I & Grade-II)
Advt. No. 05/202	

Medical Attendance Scheme
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh

ATTENTION PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS

Sealed Quotations are invited from reputed Pharmaceutical firms for the supply of medicines in Medical Attendance Scheme, AMU, Aligarh for the year 2024-25. The duly filled quotation form should reach to the office of undersigned by 27.03.2024 (Wednesday) till 02.00PM on prescribed proforma which may be obtained from the office of M.A.S during 09.00AM to 01.00PM on working days and till 12.00(noon) on Fridays up to 23.03.2024 (Saturday). The form may be downloaded from Central Procurement Portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in>) and University/M.A.S website (<https://amu.ac.in>).

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)		
SL.No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.
1	CE/NCTPS	244
For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tangedco.gov.in , www.tenders.tn.gov.in . DIPR/1310/Tender/2024		

HIMACHAL PRADESH
IRRIGATION CUM P.H.DEPARTMENT

CORRIGENDUM

In Notice Inviting E-Tenders RO No. 6439/2023-24 (Classified) Black & White Ad in 112 size is Released for publication on 29.02.2024 to 01.03.2024, date in E. The Hindustan Delhi, E. The Indian Express Delhi & Chandigarh, H. Divya Himachal All Editions., Weekly Giriraj Shimla, which has published in H. Divya Himachal All Editions on dated 29.02.2024 in which work Name "Channelling of Various Khad & Nallah of Barchar, Paplog and Adjoining Area in Distt Mandi HP Under SDMF, (Sub Head - C/O wire crate embankment & Apron of various RD's and C/O Protection wall of Various RD's). Estimated Cost- Rs. 2,95,45,336/- Earnest Money- 3,27,953/- Cost of Tender Form -Rs. 2500/- Time limit-Eighteen Months. This tender to be opened on dated 07-03-2024 at 2:00 P.M through online is hereby cancelled due to administrative Reasons.

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Sarkaghat,

6475/HP

भारत सरकार कार्यरोपेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कार्यरोपेट समाप्ति प्रसंगकरण केंद्र (सी - पैसे),
आई.आई.सी.ए. विभिन्न, 7वीं मंज़िल,
प्ला. P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम.टी. मानेसर,
गुडगांव, हरियाणा-122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in



G20
Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs Centre
for Processing Accelerated
Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.

FORM No. STK-6
PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice No. ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/1007 Date: 14.02.2024

Reference:

(1) In the matter of striking off or removal of names 69 of companies in the State of Delhi under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

SL NO	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AA6616428	U63040DL2019PTC346735	SNOW REGION TRAVELS & HOSPITALITY PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AA6715228	U18101DL2022PTC404611	FAIRFAX APPARELS PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AA6618898	U45300DL2022PTC405038	ECO ASSETS CARE PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AA6739528	U748999DL1979PTC009390	NIMESH AGENCIES PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AA6703574	U51505DL1981PTC012832	TC AND COMPANY (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AA6663891	U748999DL1988PTC033331	CARDIOMED SYSTEMS (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AA6458632	U748999DL1994PTC060838	ASSOCIATED LABEL INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AA6635921	U67120DL1996PTC075288	SHUBHAM CRESEC PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AA6630067	U45201DL2000PTC105240	JAI MATA PROMOTERS PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AA6759190	U31300DL2003PTC120368	SONITEK CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AA6543021	U85110DL1999PTC101512	BATRA HEALTH CARE CONSULTANCY SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AA6791728	U00313DL2005PTC140733	APPLAUSE PACKAGING PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AA6773688	U70101DL2005PTC132146	PGR DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AA6753571	U47000DL2007PTC168521	NS AQUASOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AA6759029	U93000DL2009PTC188419	LIFE STRATEGIES HUMAN CARE PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AA6785872	U51909DL2005PTC133816	NITI ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AA6554517	U74999DL2010PTC203129	IMPAACT INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AA6650827	U55101DL2010PTC208098	FLYING TURTLE RESORTS PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AA6663092	U40104DL2010PTC197536	SOLARATHERM ENERGY VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AA6727059	U51909DL2012PTC233437	VYONEESHROSEBANK ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AA6677309	U54500DL2012PTC238332	MCS DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AA6089540	U74140DL2011PTC227065	SHRIYA MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AA6457754	U51216DL2006PTC148373	JCI IMPEX PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AA6553547	U45400DL2014PTC272671	WPS ENGINEERS PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AA6518258	U55101DL2014PTC269792	RED FOODWORKS PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AA6712318	U72200DL2012PTC245955	VOXAPP PRIVATE LIMITED
27	AA6668883	U51909DL2012PTC246111	ONS ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED
28	AA6554405	U33100DL2013PTC261000	WELLS BIOSCIENCES PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AA6755447	U74999DL2015OPC283620	AVOWS CONSULTING & CORPORATE SOLUTIONS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AA6688667	U74999DL2013PTC260846	SILVER VINE CAPITAL PRIVATE LIMITED
31	AA6742029	U27100DL2015PTC276847	UTKRISHIT INCAAST PRIVATE LIMITED
32	AA6683429	U51909DL2016PTC302814	ALLSTAR CONSERV PRIVATE LIMITED
33	AA6698377	U74999DL2017PTC322981	OSHARE MERCHANTIZE PRIVATE LIMITED
34	AA6761550	U74999DL2016PTC299706	PURPLE FENCE PRIVATE LIMITED
35	AA6663093	U74999DL2017PTC31619	AGATESNSTONES PRIVATE LIMITED
36	AA6645520	U72900DL2017PTC321215	CREDACE SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
37	AA6687033	U25090DL2017PTC320094	XISTENCE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
38	AA6725220	U74999DL2018PTC330935	ULSSKA GREENTECH PRIVATE LIMITED
39	AA6739125	U74999DL2017PTC327029	RIGOR LAB PRIVATE LIMITED
40	AA6679448	U74999DL2021PTC378476	M-LINE MEDIA MARKETING PRIVATE LIMITED
41	AA6623385	U93000DL2015PTC280634	DIASPORA MEDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
42	AA6737469	U63040DL2018PTC342434	EASY EVENTO PRIVATE LIMITED
43	AA6673883	U74999DL2019PTC349740	DIKSHA SHARMA TRANSPORTER PRIVATE LIMITED
44	AA6746013	U74999DL2004PTC128013	MC FOREX PRIVATE LIMITED
45	AA6738120	U01120DL2020PTC363503	SHRI RADHEY AGRO PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED
46	AA6714649	U63030DL2020PTC369810	FLIGHTTALLE PRIVATE LIMITED
47	AA6540177	U52100DL2020PTC365101	HIRAL ARORA ASSOCIATES PRIVATE LIMITED
48	AA6650827	U72900DL2020PTC368119	PREMIURLY ONLINE PRIVATE LIMITED
49	AA6691879	U24230DL2020PTC367124	NEMESIA PHARMACEUTICALS PRIVATE LIMITED
50	AA6734304	U74999DL2021PTC376589	HIND MAAPI PRIVATE LIMITED
51	AA6758476	U74999DL2021PTC381099	PICXINITY PRIVATE LIMITED
52	AA6735223	U72200DL2021PTC380957	FINKIDS EDTECH PRIVATE LIMITED
53	AA6786603	U51909DL2008PTC378168	DAFFODIL E-MERCANTILE PRIVATE LIMITED
54	AA6501589	U52100DL2019PTC377701	DEALSTEALER GODDIES PRIVATE LIMITED
55	AA6772358	U72900DL2021PTC383982	EUICCI PKT VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
56	AA6772046	U63030DL2021PTC383872	PARALLELS AND MERIDIANS LEISURE TRAVEL PRIVATE LIMITED
57	AA6573689	U52300DL2021PTC378873	FLAXEN INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED
58	AA6497429	U74999DL2021PTC390252	INNOXPACE VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
59	AA6749056	U55200DL2021PTC390620	MARCELLUS BRANDS PRIVATE LIMITED
60	AA6728794	U74140DL2010PTC203133	KEY INDIA ADVISERS PRIVATE LIMITED
61	AA6735016	U52609DL2022PTC400980	JUVAS MULTITRADE INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LIMITED
62	AA6770647	U15400DL2022PTC397710	GRINDO UNICORN PRIVATE LIMITED
63	AA6735072	U55101DL2022PTC406145	THEISTIC HOSPITALITY PRIVATE LIMITED
64	AA6717157	U74999DL2023PTC409906	VURN MEDIA INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
65	AA6782202	U74899DL1982PTC103243	NORTHERN SANITATION PRIVATE LIMITED
66	AA6735589	U63090DL1996PTC075209	MALIK DISTRIBUTORS PRIVATE LIMITED
67	AA6763882	U63040DL2003PTC122684	AS INSTANT RESERVATION NETWORKS PRIVATE LIMITED
68	AA6794017	U29309DL2020PTC371904	UNITONE INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LIMITED
69	AA6762825	U45202DL2022PTC406685	VISVABHARATHY INFRA-BUILD (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED

(2) Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

(3) Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

(4) Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off of name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

(Harihar Sahoo)
Registrar

CBC- 07123/11/0450/2324

Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

ePaper: www.indianexpress.com

ARCHAEOLOGIST ARUN SHARMA DIES AT 90

Raipur: Archaeologist Arun Kumar Sharma has died at 90. He was part of a team that excavated the Ram Janmabhoomi site and submitted a report that a temple was razed to build a mosque. ENDS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 29

TWO GIRLS, aged 14 and 16 years, were found hanging from a tree with their dupattas in a village in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh late Wednesday night. The families of the two girls told police that they died by suicide hours after they were allegedly "raped and filmed".

Police have arrested three men, the contractor of the brick kiln where the two girls worked with their families, his son and nephew, both 19 years old. "While the two young men have been booked for gangrape, abetment of suicide, and under the POCSO; the contractor has been

charged with only abetment of suicide," Additional Commissioner of Police (Kanpur) Harish Chander said, adding both the girls and the accused belong to the backward community.

According to police, the families of the two girls – they are distant relatives – received their fortnight wages on Wednesday and left for the market, leaving the two girls at home. The girls' parents alleged that in their absence, the son and nephew of the contractor came to their house, forcibly made the girls drink alcohol and raped them. "They also allegedly filmed the act and took objectionable pictures of the two girls with their mobile phone cameras. In their complaint, the par-

ents of the girls said that their daughters confirmed it," said the senior police officer.

The same night, around 11 pm, the

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

NEW DELHI
INSV Tarini embarks on expedition

A INSV Tarini carrying women officers has embarked on a historic expedition from Goa to Port Louis in Mauritius, the Navy said Thursday. This is the "first-ever trans-oceanic sortie undertaken by Indian women in a double-handed mode", a statement said. As per Navy, INSV Tarini embarked on the expedition from INS Mandovi, Goa to Port Louis, Mauritius on February 28. This expedition is being conducted under the aegis of the Indian Naval Sailing Association. **ENS**

CHHATTISGARH
Inquiry ordered into Kanker encounter

Raipur: A magisterial inquiry was ordered Thursday after relatives and local residents alleged that the 3 killed in last Sunday's encounter in Kanker district during an operation were not Maoists. The Opposition Congress had demanded a high-level inquiry into the incident. The deceased were identified by local residents as Rameshwar Negi and Suresh Teta, natives of Marda village, and Anil Kumar Hidko from Pairvi village. Kanker Collector Abhijeet Singh on Thursday ordered a magisterial inquiry. **ENS**

GUJARAT
2 Bilkis convicts withdraw their parole plea

Ahmedabad: Two convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case, who moved the Gujarat HC seeking parole, withdrew their pleas after the HC expressed its disinclination to grant them parole Thursday. The HC had earlier granted parole to two other convicts after they surrendered on January 21 following the SC cancelling early remission to them by Gujarat government. The convicts, brothers Mitesh Bhatt and Shailesh Bhatt, sought parole to attend "Navchandi and Vaastu puja". This is the first instance when HC has shown its unwillingness to grant parole to a convict in the case since the 11 convicts surrendered in January. **ENS**

Stating that the ED had told

the Calcutta HC stop West Bengal Police from arresting Sheikh, the TMC minister said: "They wanted to keep the Sandeshkhali issue alive till the PM's Bengal trip. After our leader Abhishek Banerjee's remark on the HC's stay and the court's clarification, we arrested Shahjahan Sheikh. Only TMC can set such an example". Modi is scheduled to visit Bengal on a two-day tour from Friday.

Terming arrest of Sheikh as a "mutual adjustment" between TMC and Bengal Police, Leader of Opposition Surendu Adhikari, said, "Unless the central agencies take him into their custody, the people there (Sandeshkhali) won't get justice." BJP state chief Sukanta Majumdar alleged Sheikh's arrest was a pre-meditated move orchestrated by TMC

and state police. "He has been arrested as part of a well-scripted story," he said. **FULL REPORT** www.indianexpress.com

(Non-Political), respectively said the protesting farmers would decide the future course of the agitation after Shubhkaran's anti-ardas.

The cremation took place after the eight-day-long stalemate between the protesting farmers and the Punjab government over an FIR into Shubhkaran's death broke by a Zero FIR registered at the Patiala police station in Patiala district. Shubhkaran's body was in the mortuary of Rajindra Medical College and Hospital in Patiala. The farmers said they would allow post-mortem only if the FIR was registered.

Pandher and Jagjit Singh Dallewal, coordinators of the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) and the Samyukt Kisan Morcha

Inspector General of Punjab Police (Headquarters) Sukhchain Singh Gill Thursday said, "A Zero FIR was registered into Shubhkaran's death following legal advice. The Chief Minister has announced Rs 1 crore compensation for his family and a police constable job for his sister as per the family's wish. We stand by his family and will do everything to support them." In the FIR, the Punjab Police mentioned the place of crime as Garihi in Haryana's Jind district, the officer said. Shubhkaran's family claimed he died after a Haryana Police bullet hit him on the back of his head.

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, FEBRUARY 29

EIGHT DAYS after he died of a fatal head injury suffered during the Dilli Chalo protest at the Khanauri border on February 21, 22-year-old Shubhkaran Singh, a farmer from Ballooh village in Bathinda district, was cremated in his native village Thursday afternoon after Punjab Police registered a Zero FIR in connection with his death late Wednesday night.

His 'antim ardas' (last prayer) will be held Sunday.

Meanwhile, Sarvan Singh

arrived on Thursday, besides pop-star Rihanna who landed in an Airbus, and is expected to perform at the event.

Till March 6, the Jamnagar airport has turned into an "international terminal" to handle around 150 unscheduled flights that include Airbuses and Boeings, as the closest international airport is Ahmedabad, which is nearly 300 km away.

The other guests include Qatar PM Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, former Canadian PM Stephen Harper, former Australian PM Kevin Rudd, former Swedish PM Carl Bildt, former US president Donald Trump's daughter and advisor Ivanka

From the Indian industry, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, Aditya Birla group's Kumar Mangalam Birla and the

Godrej family are expected.

Mukesh Ambani and his wife Nita Ambani have organised a series of events as pre-wedding

celebrations at RIL township in Moti Khavdi village in Jamnagar between March 1 and 3. The wedding is likely to be organised

in June-July, a source said.

While singers Rihanna, Arijit Singh, Ajay-Atul and Diljeet Dosanjh as well as illusionist David Blaine will perform during the celebrations, the guest list also includes actors Amitabh Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Rajinikanth, Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, Kajol, Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Katrina Kaif, Madhuri Dixit and Anil Kapoor, among others.

Jamnagar Airport Director Dhananjay Kumar Singh told The Indian Express, "Jamnagar airport has been permitted to handle in-

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"Accordingly, the first international flight landed at Jamnagar airport on February 26. In three days, we have handled approximately 10 international flights, including six on Thursday," he added.

"On Wednesday, we handled 22 non-scheduled flights... on Thursday, the figure was 25... Normally, we handle three scheduled flights every day."

However, since February 23, our airport is handling flights round-the-clock. In all, we are likely to handle around 150 non-scheduled flights and around 90 per cent of them will be international flights," said Singh.

The airport is using 6 parking bays to park the arriving aircraft. "The AI has sent six staff members to Jamnagar on deputation to handle the increased air traffic. Ground-handling agencies have deployed around 100 additional staffers... We have also engaged 30 additional staffers for housekeeping jobs... 25 to 30 additional personnel from the Gujarat Police are helping with security and law and order aspects," Singh said.

GOPAL KATESHIYA
RAJKOT, FEBRUARY 29

ALL FLIGHTS lead to Jamnagar, as global CEOs, heads of states, Bollywood and sports stars, singers, pop artists as well as industry leaders began arriving to be part of the three-day pre-wedding festivities of Anant Ambani, younger son of RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani, and fiancee Radhika Merchant, the daughter of Encore Healthcare CEO Viren Merchant, beginning Friday.

The guest list of around 2,000 included King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk and wife Jetsun Pema of Bhutan who ar-

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READING THE SPIKE

GDP growth comes in higher than expected. Economy is likely to slow down in the last quarter

THE INDIAN ECONOMY will grow at 7.6 per cent in the ongoing financial year (2023-24) as per the National Statistical Office's second advance estimates of national income. GDP growth for the year has now been pegged to be higher than the NSO's first estimate of 7.3 per cent. However, both estimates have pegged gross value added (GVA) to grow at 6.9 per cent this year. This could imply that the difference between the two estimates may, in part, lie in net taxes on products. This gap reflects in the third quarter data as well — while GVA growth has been estimated at 6.5 per cent, GDP growth has been pegged at 8.4 per cent. According to analysts, the gap stems from a surge in net taxes on products. This may not be sustainable. There have also been substantial revisions in the previous data. Accounting for them, value added in the economy has declined from 8.2 per cent in the first quarter to 6.5 per cent in the third quarter.

The sector wise data reveals the subdued performance of the agricultural sector. It has been estimated to grow at a mere 0.7 per cent in 2023-24, down from 4.7 per cent in 2022-23. Value added by the sector, in fact, fell by 0.8 per cent in the third quarter of this year. On the other hand, the industrial sector (mining, manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply, and construction) has picked up pace, growing at 9 per cent this year. The healthy performance of the sector is on the back of a pick-up in manufacturing and a sustained performance in construction. The manufacturing sector, which had contracted by 2.2 per cent last year, is now expected to grow at 8.5 per cent this year. This also reflects in the data from the index of industrial production. Alongside, the construction sector is pegged to grow at 10.7 per cent this year, up from 9.4 per cent last year. The services sector, though, has seen a mild deceleration when compared to last year. Segments — trade, hotels, transport and communication, financial, real estate and professional services, and public administration — have grown at a slower pace this year.

Despite the economy growing at a healthy pace, consumption continues to disappoint. Private spending grew by just 3.5 per cent in the third quarter, and is expected to grow at 3 per cent for the full year. This touches off questions. Investment activity, though, continues to remain heartening, growing at 10.2 per cent for the full year. But implicit in the NSO's latest estimates is that the economy is likely to grow at 5.9 per cent in the fourth quarter.

CAMPUS IN THE DOCK

Conduct of Gujarat National Law University vis-a-vis students' sexual harassment complaints frames an institutional failure

HOW WILL THESE people protect the children?" asked the Gujarat High Court on February 28, as it pulled up authorities at the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) for "suppressing" complaints about incidents of "rape, molestation, discrimination, homophobia" on campus. The Bench, led by Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal, was responding to the contents of a sealed report by a fact-finding committee that had enquired into allegations of sexual assault and harassment made by students. The findings of the report, described by the Bench as "scary", point towards a disturbing institutional failure — in ensuring the safety of students, and following the mandated procedures for investigating allegations of this nature.

A recap of the saga serves as a guide on how not to act when complaints of sexual assault and harassment are made. Following a news report on September 22 last year, based on anonymous Instagram posts by GNLU students, the High Court took cognisance of the matter and issued a notice to the university to confidentially record students' statements and take the necessary steps if the allegations were found to be genuine. The independent fact-finding body set up to look into the complaints included the chairperson of the GNLU's internal complaints committee (ICC), creating the possibility of a conflict of interest. The body was disbanded when the Court raised concerns about its independence. The HC also noted in its order that "the intimation about such alleged incidents was received by the registrar GNLU as per his own admission on September 19, 2023. The manner in which the inquiry is being done by the university, seems to be an effort to cover up the issue to save the image of the institution." A new fact-finding committee was formed, this time headed by a retired High Court judge. It was this committee's report, submitted last week, that evoked a strong response from the Bench — over the incidents, a practically defunct ICC and "lack of information to students about ICC".

A decade after the passage of the POSH Act, which followed the December 2012 gangrape in Delhi, institutions have no excuse for failing to put in place measures that create a safe and non-discriminatory environment. The provisions of the Act put the onus of ensuring harassment-free workplaces and campuses not just on individuals, but also on institutions. The Court has rightly put GNLU in the dock for failing in its duty towards its students, for making it difficult for them to speak up and suppressing the voices of those who dared to, and for carrying out an investigation that was "an eyewash". Its strong words should echo not only through GNLU, but through campuses across India: Student safety cannot take second place to so-called institutional reputation and prestige.

TWINKLE ON, MOM

Bollywood actors announcing pregnancies at peak of careers speaks of a new confidence — in themselves and the audience

ONE OF THE off-screen tropes marking Bollywood's celebrityhood has been the short shelf life of female actors. Marriage, the birth of children, have had to be measured against how badly one wanted success or how prepared one was to relinquish it for a life of domesticity. While their male counterparts continued to bag plum projects through marriage and fatherhood, it seemed quite inconceivable for women at the height of their careers to have the same privilege. Like Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor in 2022, the announcement by Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh on social media about the arrival of their baby in September is heartening because it breaks this stereotype in the best possible way.

With a reported net worth running into hundreds of crores, headlining projects and global endorsements, at 38, Padukone is at the top of her game, and alongside Bhatt, one of the biggest stars whose clout is not restricted to India alone. Their decision to go public with the news of their pregnancy, in the early stages, displays both a confidence in their professional standing and an ownership over the biggest decisions of their lives. While Padukone and Bhatt are to be congratulated for bucking the trend — Bhatt had, in fact, worked on her first Hollywood project, *Heart of Stone*, during her pregnancy — it was actor Kareena Kapoor Khan who was among the first to challenge the status quo when she was pregnant with her first child. In a profession that places a high premium on appearances, Kapoor Khan refused to be closeted away, appearing on talk shows, walking the ramp at fashion weeks, wearing the changes to her body with complete ease.

In an industry where change is slow and incremental at best, these challenges have managed to counter an inherently patriarchal mindset with the female gaze: Childbirth, like ageing, is a normal process, not at odds with professional competence or interest. Their decisions also speak of a confidence in the maturity of the audience willing to confront its own insecurities and look beyond face value.



SHARAT SABHARWAL

RAVAGED BY THE harmful policies of its army-led establishment, Pakistan is desperately in need of a new direction that could restore a modicum of internal stability and put its economy on an even keel. However, its recent election has been a throwback to its past of widespread poll rigging and flawed mandates. It has resulted in a political muddle.

No political party has a simple majority in the National Assembly. The single largest group of PTI-backed independents — who have since got themselves a party tag by joining the little-known Sunni Ittehad Council — is anathema to the army. Consequently, the second largest party, PML(N), is set to form the government with Shehbaz Sharif as Prime Minister. Following tough bargaining, PPP, the third-largest party in the assembly, has agreed to extend outside support to the government in return for Asif Ali Zardari being made president and some other constitutional posts. The combined strength of PML(N) and PPP barely touches the halfway mark. Therefore, PML(N) is also looking for the support of 20 to 25 legislators of the smaller parties, notably 17 of MQM-Pakistan, that have served as instruments for the army's political engineering in the past.

The new government takes charge at a time when Pakistan finds itself in choppy waters — a precarious economy, sharp political polarisation and a fraught security situation. It will be faced with tough challenges, including PTI's obstructionist tactics and widespread resentment against poll rigging.

To begin with, managing the unwieldy coalition will in itself be a challenge. Cognisant of the onerous governance agenda ahead, PPP has so far refused to take any cabinet berths. The glue that kept PML(N) and PPP together in the last Shehbaz Sharif government — their shared anxiety about Imran Khan's popularity — continues to exist. However, in case PPP continues to stay out, it will be free to question the government's policies, and worse, still may

New Pakistan government faces a precarious economy, sharp political polarisation, a fraught security situation

ditch it if it sees political costs rising.

Further, the setback suffered by the army as a result of PTI's impressive showing in the election will not put it out of the business of governance. Having consolidated his position within the army following the PTI violence against some army establishments in May 2023, army chief Asim Munir has remained engaged in governance matters, including economic management. He is unlikely to step back. Nawaz Sharif has passed up the prime ministerial favour of his brother, who is more acceptable to the army, because of the poor numbers of his party in the National Assembly and the consequent greater vulnerability of the government to the army's machinations. He has invested more in Punjab, where his party needs to revive its political fortunes, by giving the chief ministership to his daughter and political heir Maryam Nawaz. However, he will wield considerable influence on both the federal and Punjab governments.

Because of the above pulls and pressures, the incoming government is likely to be weak and unstable.

Budget deficits remain large and inflation is high. The country does not have the money to finance the annual external sector gap of \$20 to \$25 billion over the next few years. The short-term \$3 billion arrangement negotiated by the first Shehbaz Sharif government with the IMF ends in March. Pakistan's external creditors, including China, have been circumspect in lending more money or restructuring past loans till it enters into a longer-term arrangement with the IMF. This, therefore, will be among the top priorities of the new government. It will necessitate further belt-tightening not only by the common man, but also by the articulate and politically influential elite, thereby entailing large political costs. The PML(N) paid heavily for the harsh economic measures of the last Shehbaz Sharif government in the recent election, but seems prepared to incur further such costs to keep

Imran Khan at bay, hoping the economy will stabilise in two to three years.

Pakistan's internal and external security environment has deteriorated. There has been a sharp spike in terror attacks by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Baloch groups. The relationship with India remains frozen in a tense standoff. Tension has mounted with the Afghan Taliban, Pakistan's erstwhile protégés, on the issues of recognition of the Durand Line as the border between the two countries and reining in the violent activities of TTP from Afghan soil. Things could take a turn for the worse. There was a flare-up with Iran recently. The relationship with the US needs to be rebuilt. All these relationships will need deft handling.

Pakistan's internal compulsions make a case for expanding the tactical thaw with India beyond the restoration of the LoC ceasefire in February 2021. Large segments of industry and traders in Pakistan have been calling for the restoration of bilateral trade. The ongoing suspension of trade hurts the Pakistani economy far more than it does India. However, the new government's room for manoeuvre remains constrained by three factors. First, its internal preoccupations will leave it with little energy to devote to the complex India dossier. Second, the highly polarised political environment rules out the political consensus necessary to move forward constructively with India. And lastly, the government's ability to deliver will remain contingent upon the will of the army.

The thinking of Army Chief Asim Munir on the India relationship is far from clear. The best we can do under the circumstances is to wait and watch how things pan out. However, should there be any constructive move by the incoming government, we should respond positively.

The writer is a former High Commissioner to Pakistan and author of India's Pakistan Conundrum: Managing a Complex Relationship



R SUBRAHMANYAM AND ARJOMA MOULICK

EVEN AS PARLIAMENT was deliberating on the Public Examinations Prevention of Unfair Means Bill of 2024, the stage was being set for another question paper leak — in constable recruitment in Uttar Pradesh. Question paper leaks are not only clear proof of loopholes in the examination system, but they also create widespread frustration among the youth who worked relentlessly for the exam. The Public Examinations Prevention of Unfair Means Act (Act 1 of 2024), notified by the Centre on February 12, imposes severe penalties on persons resorting to unfair means, with punishments of imprisonment, not less than three years, whereas the service providers (who conduct the exam on behalf of the government) are liable for fines upto Rs 1 crore, apart from prison sentences. The Act covers examinations being conducted for recruitment by all the central government recruitment agencies and the National Testing Agency (NTA). It covers not only job-selection exams but also major educational entrances like JEE/NEET.

The government's intent is clear, but the question is: Are increased punishments for cheating the solution to the problem? Already many states — including Gujarat, Rajasthan, UP, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, AP and Odisha — have legislation that criminalises cheating. Notably, there have been no convictions so far under these Acts. So, crimes are being committed despite the laws and culprits have not been convicted in most cases.

The attributes of a good exam are:

Reliability (should give the same result for

HOW TO REDUCE CHEATING

One good way is to reduce the importance of the examination itself

the same type of performance), validity (measure what it intends to measure), objectivity (eliminates subjectivity in evaluation), clarity and comprehensiveness. The processes of the examination — setting the question paper, maintaining secrecy, organising the exam centre and evaluation/evaluation — have to be separately laid out and brought together using advanced IT systems. Unfortunately, many of these processes are compromised by exam-conducting authorities. Many unfair practices also go unnoticed and the culprits go scot-free.

So, when we argued for creating a professional exam-conducting body for a more scientific examination system, the government approved the formation of the NTA. The NTA is a beginning in the journey towards making conduct of exams more scientific, reliable and professional. This journey is long and needs continuous effort.

The challenges in conducting an examination have multiplied manifold with a very high premium attached to government jobs. For long, setting question papers and their printing and transport to examination centres, and transporting the completed answer (or OMR) sheets to the evaluation centres, have all been wrought with loopholes. None of these processes have ever been audited by any knowledgeable agency.

Moving exams online was thought to be a solution to paper-based exams since the risks of unfair practices associated with printing/distribution can be effectively curbed. However, it has given rise to new challenges. The authorities have started outsourcing the conduct of online exams to

service providers who claim to have "fool-proof" technology, which is not adequately tested. There is inadequate knowledge or expertise in the government machinery to test the robustness of the IT systems being deployed. This leaves the system vulnerable to hackers and organised cyber criminals.

As long as high premiums are attached to the exams, they are always vulnerable to hacking. One good way to disincentivise cheating is to reduce the importance of the examination itself. Can we make them — instead of being the basis for selection — just qualifying exams?

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Organised cheating impinges on the lives of millions. The time has come for us to create a special investigation agency that has the power to investigate all types of examination offences and quickly bring culprits to justice.

In the quest for fair and reliable exams, it is not fear but a robust foolproof and innovative system that is the key.

Subrahmanyam is former education secretary, Government of India. Moulick is a CRISP Fellow



MARCH 1, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

BUDGET 1984-85

A MARGINAL REDUCTION in income tax rates and a substantial reduction in excise duties on several consumer items, including khandsari sugar, cloth and paper, marked the budget for 1984-85 presented by Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee to Parliament. The budget wholly depended on customs duties to raise additional revenues to Rs 458 crore still leaving an uncovered gap of Rs 1,763 crore.

VAJPAYEE ON BUDGET

OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE described the Union Budget for 1984-85 as "an election

budget" aimed at wooing the electorate, while the ruling party has extolled it as "balanced". Atal Bihari Vajpayee (BJP) saw it as an election-year budget which gave no relief to central government employees. Similar opinions were expressed by many others who pointed out that there was no move to reduce unemployment and check inflation.

AMRITSAR BLAST

AT LEAST THREE persons were killed and 35 others injured, some of them seriously, in a hand grenade explosion at a Shivratri "mela" outside a religious place on Shivala Batala Road in the Hussainpura area. Seven others were

injured in the police firing on the angry mob there. The hand grenade was reportedly lobbed by three unknown scooterists, on a stall in the "mela".

AP GOVERNMENT CRISIS

ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF Secretary G V Ramakrishna, who sought to go on two months' leave following differences with Chief Minister N T Rama Rao, was relieved. He has handed over the charge to Shrawan Kumar, principal secretary to the chief minister. Ramakrishna is the second chief secretary to relinquish office after Rao formed the government 14 months ago.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Lure of the magic cure

Patanjali controversy highlights vulnerability of the consumer, who assumes that some regulatory body would have checked that nothing unsafe, hazardous, or ineffective is sold as medicine



SHAILAJA CHANDRA

THERE IS SOMETHING deeply disturbing about the way the marketing and sale of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) medicine is going on. In November 2023, the Supreme Court had given directions to Patanjali Ayurveda to stop publishing misleading advertisements but a day later, to establish its credibility, the company issued a press release reporting that it has conducted preclinical and clinical trials on a database of more than one crore people, to test the efficacy of its products.

Earlier this week, the matter came up again before the apex court, which took umbrage at the continued issue of advertisements despite having been given an assurance. The next date is March 19.

Advertising drugs purported to treat or cure certain diseases is prohibited under DMR, that is, the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act 1954, which applies to all systems of medicine. Promoting drugs intended for the treatment and cure of 54 specific medical conditions, which include cancer, diabetes, heart disease and blood pressure, is explicitly barred.

For decades, the prohibitions under the DMR Act have been more flouted rather than respected. Seeing countless advertisements for treating and curing any number of conditions displayed in newspapers, and the electronic media, consumers have become inured to risks. Even as the claims are made with growing impunity, no visible action seems to have been taken by the state governments to whom the Ministry of Ayush has sent hundreds of complaints. The regulatory watchdog, Advertising Standards Council of India, has failed to take effective cognisance or to set guidelines.

The extant case is against Patanjali, but the ramifications raise broader issues. The Drugs and Cosmetics (D&C) Act was enacted in 1940 and a new Chapter IV A was introduced in 1964 for ASU medicine. The difference between classical medicine and patent and proprietary medicine is explained there. Classical ASU medicine refers to manufacture of ASU drugs by modifying the classical recipe and introducing new combinations. For this category, the efficacy and safety of the medicine is required to be proven by following the Good Clinical Practice Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Ayush – to document evidence of safe and effective use. A large proportion of P&P medicine professes to treat new conditions that aren't mentioned in the ancient texts – for instance, fits, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, or cancer, to name a few.

To obtain a manufacturing licence, citing scientific sources is essential and if unavailable,



CR Sasikumar

able, pre-clinical or clinical trials are required to be held along with clinical data as stipulated. During Covid, the Ayush Ministry had mandated the registration of all medical research projects with the Indian Council of Medical Research's CTRI – Clinical Trials Registry of India database – which has been established to cover medical research involving human subjects – without distinction between allopathic or ASU research. The objective was to promote evidence-based clinical practice to ensure patient safety. Not only Patanjali, but several others too have been proactively promoting their P&P drugs but whether they have complied with CTRI requirements is unclear.

The intention behind the DMR Act is, however, different, limited and specific. Quite simply, it was enacted to control misleading claims and advertisements involving medicinal substances and products. Whether the products have been licensed or not, whether they are evidence-based or otherwise, whether R&D has been done, goes beyond the ambit of DMR. The news about Patanjali which has been flashed countrywide is disturbing because it highlights the vulnerability of the consumer who assumes that some regulatory body would have checked that nothing unsafe, hazardous, or ineffective is sold as medicine.

In the case of ASU drugs (of which Ayurveda constitutes more than 75 per cent), there is greater danger, because the consumer assumes all products are natural and consequently safe. When she sees advertisements about efficacious treatment and cure of intractable diseases, she goes for self-medication instead of being diagnosed by a *vaidya* or medical practitioner, trained to diagnose the overall constitution of the individual in a holistic way. Prompted by advertisements, she purchases P&P medicine over the counter. But unlike chemists dispensing allopathic drugs whose credentials are checked (notwithstanding several gaps), selling ASU medicine requires no sale licence and all phar-

macists, and even general stores and groceries, have the latitude to sell these drugs, possessing zero knowledge of the drug use, dosage, or ingredients – including presence of heavy metals.

This can be dangerous, because many ASU drugs can be unsafe if ingested through self-medication, especially by those in compromised health. Unfortunately, the need for a sale licence for ASU products has been negated by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB); likewise, the progressive Rule 170 introduced in 2018, which required clearance of advertisements from the state licensing authority (as a preventive against misleading advertisements,) has also been nullified for now, by the DTAB.

On implementation, however, the buck stops with the Ayush state drug controllers, and considerable patchiness exists in the way the two Drug Acts are being administered – be it licensing, quality control, enforcement or advertising. The country needs a unified structure and system for regulating and administering the licensing, manufacture, sale, safety monitoring and drug advertising of ASU drugs when sold across states in inter-state commerce. This will instil not just oversight of safety but will bring greater ownership among new consumers worried about quality and claims.

The vagaries of the state drug control systems (where posts lie vacant for months or are handled by non-qualified persons and enforcement is ineffective), will otherwise take their toll.

And finally, in the fight between IMA and ASU, the goodness of ASU treatment which has helped countless people, must not be lost. Even so, advertorials and advertisements on anything related to drugs or therapeutics, whether they emanate from the modern medicine sector or from ASU, must not be stomached. Consumer safety comes first.

The writer is a former health secretary and former chief secretary of Delhi

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The writer is a former health secretary and former chief secretary of Delhi

Chipping away at the Bench

Efforts to undermine the judiciary are dangerous for democracy



V CHITAMBARESH

IN THE RICH tapestry of Indian democracy, where diverse threads of thought and ideology intertwine to create a vibrant polity, the judiciary has stood as a steadfast beacon of justice and impartiality. This noble institution, designed to act without fear or favour, is today facing an unprecedented assault from within and also from a small section of the legal fraternity with a vested interest. A cabal of lawyers and a section of retired judges, either disenchanted by unmet ambitions or seeking relevance, have embarked on a dangerous path to malign the judiciary. They weaponise legal proceedings to further the political agendas of their clients, and when their efforts falter, they resort to vilifying this esteemed institution. It's necessary to unveil the depth of this conspiracy against the judiciary and underscore the importance of defending it against such unwarranted attacks through orchestrated "playing the victim card" seminars and YouTube talk shows.

The judiciary's role as the guardian of the Constitution and the ultimate arbiter of justice is being undermined by a disturbing trend of politicisation and a public display of playing the victim card to bring it under pressure. Selective outrage, manipulation of public sentiment and attacks on the judiciary's independence have become alarmingly frequent.

Teesta Setalvad received preferential treatment, with an immediate hearing on the same day and just a few hours after the case was filed. This, after the Court was closed and there were two changes of the bench in only one hour. The episode raises

questions about special treatment meted out to some litigants. And this very section now plays the victim card when corrupt politicians are not getting relief from the courts.

Gautam Navlakha's unprecedented "home custody" arrangement under a judicial directive, allowing him to reside with his partner, stands out as a glaring anomaly in legal precedents. But this very section, representing many special litigants like Setalvad and Navlakha, is up to its old game – maligning the judicial institution in the public eye to bring the judiciary under pressure and get undeserved relief.

These instances are not anomalies, but part of a broader pattern where the judiciary has been swift in coming to the rescue of opposition leaders and entities challenging the government just to prove that this calculated victim card is wrongly played against it.

The Supreme Court's (SC's) interventions in politically sensitive matters like the electoral bonds scheme and the Chandigarh mayoral elections have underscored its pivotal role in adjudicating issues of significant political relevance. The electoral bonds case, in particular, showcased the Court's agility in addressing concerns over transparency and potential misuse of funds, reflecting its commitment to upholding democratic values and electoral integrity. The SC's involvement in the Chandigarh mayoral elections, among other instances, highlights its active engagement in ensuring fairness in the electoral process.

However, the alacrity with which the judiciary addresses these concerns has become

a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it demonstrates the judiciary's responsiveness to issues of national importance; on the other, it has provided fodder to those aiming to politicise the judiciary's actions.

Individuals like Pawan Khera and Setalvad, who have benefited from the judiciary's unusually prompt interventions, paradoxically engage in maligning the institution post-relief through those who are or were a part of the system. This duplicitous behaviour is meant to undermine the judiciary's authority and independence, especially as the nation approaches general elections, and to ensure that the judiciary tilts in favour of such vested interests who have no match in bringing such pressure through seminars, interviews, planted articles and choreographed YouTube talk shows.

The criticism and interference from retired judges like Justice Madan Lokur, Justice A P Shah, and Justice Kurian Joseph exacerbate this issue. Instead of upholding the dignity and respect of their erstwhile positions, they choose to critique the current judiciary based on personal biases, thus lending credence to the narrative that the institution can be swayed.

The concerted effort to malign the judiciary under the guise of advocacy or activism poses a grave threat not just to the institution but to the fabric of Indian democracy. It is a dangerous precedent that, if unchecked, could erode the judiciary's independence, making it susceptible to manipulation by those with vested interests. This is particularly concerning in the context of politically

sensitive cases, where the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary are paramount.

The judiciary's decisions in cases involving electoral bonds, the Chandigarh mayoral elections, and other politically charged issues reflect its commitment to upholding the Constitution and the democratic ethos of the nation. However, the narrative being constructed by these elements with ulterior motives seeks to cast these interventions in a different light, portraying them as instances of judicial overreach or bias. This narrative is not only misleading but also detrimental to the health of our democracy.

The judiciary, in its pursuit of justice, must navigate a delicate balance between intervention in matters of public importance and maintaining its independence from political pressures. The challenges it faces from within, in the form of baseless accusations and attempts to politicise its proceedings, require a robust defence of its autonomy and integrity.

As a society, we must recognise the critical importance of a strong, independent judiciary in safeguarding our democratic principles and constitutional rights. We must stand against attempts to undermine it, whether through baseless allegations, undue pressure, or politicisation brought by holding selective seminars, interviews, articles and talk shows. There are always other positive ways of remaining relevant in the public's eyes.

The writer is a former judge of the Kerala High Court

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Safeguarding the hard-won free trade and multilateral trading system requires global joint efforts. Looking back, it will be realised that the development of world trade is a process of advancing in waves and rising in a spiral, and it will not stop due to obstacles encountered along the way." — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

The nari shakti fiction

From Shaheen Bagh clampdown to inaction in Manipur, the BJP-led Centre has failed the women of India

speak with them. Of course, he did not.

Champion sportspersons

The sickening story of Brij Bhushan Singh – a BJP Lok Sabha MP and former President of the Wrestling Federation of India – is too well documented to bear repetition. He was present and voting when the Women's Reservation Bill was being passed in the Lok Sabha. Enough said.

Community healthcare workers

In 2022, 10 lakh female health workers, who tirelessly provided last-mile primary care in India's villages, were honoured with the WHO Director General's Global Health Leaders Award. Once the Prime Minister's tweets ceased, they were promptly cast into obscurity. Despite being the backbone of the nation's healthcare system, ASHA workers continue to wait for the recognition they deserve. For the last two years, more than 6,00,000 ASHA workers from all over the country have been protesting against the lack of protective gloves, PPE kits, and masks, delayed payments since the pandemic, absence of insurance coverage, and exploitative working conditions that have pushed them to the brink of poverty.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had promised to increase the honorarium for ASHAs in Uttar Pradesh, purportedly to end the protests. Turns out, it was another *jumla*.

Women for Manipur

Since May 2022, over 180 lives have been lost and 60,000 people displaced in Manipur. The much-touted double-engine sarkar has miserably failed to control the situation. In July 2023, horrifying news broke about Manipur. Two women had been stripped naked and were video-graphed by a mob of men. Women's organisations from across the country rose in solidarity and organised protest marches and demonstrations in Imphal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Delhi, Goa, Bhopal, and Bengaluru. Thousands of women took to the streets demanding the resignation of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh, owning moral responsibility for the incident.

It has been nine months, yet neither the state nor the Union government has taken any responsibility. The Prime Minister has not visited the state. In a dangerous precedent, not a single question on the issue has been admitted and answered in Parliament.

MGNREGA workers

Despite being one of the best performers under the scheme, the wages of 59 lakh MGNREGA workers from West Bengal have been withheld. Women constitute more than 50 per cent of the beneficiaries. Their access to livelihood has been cut off.

MGNREGA was more than just an Act; it was a guarantee, a promise by Parliament to the people of India, especially women. Today, that promise lies broken.

The writer is MP, TMC. Research by Anagha, Chahat Mangatani and Varunika Mishra

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TUG OF WAR

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Breaking & winning' (IE, February 29). BJP's aggressive brand of politics came to the fore in the recently concluded elections to the Rajya Sabha. Due to its power and influence through majority support, it is becoming relatively easy for the BJP to make dents in the Opposition ranks.

At the same time, such machinations might not go down well with the voters, with an enfeebled Opposition rightly crying "foul". It will be good if the BJP exercises restraint and respects democratic norms. The shades of vanity, displayed by its own leaders in no uncertain terms, do not augur well for a vibrant democracy.

Vijai Pant, Hapur

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Breaking & winning' (IE, February 29). BJP's unexpected success in the Rajya Sabha polls in UP and HP again shows its hunger for success and ambition to dominate all available political spaces. While the UP result isn't very serious, in HP it poses a threat to the Congress government. The Opposition's weakest link is clearly Congress, which hasn't been able to effectively counter even in states where there are only two national parties in the fray. Is there enough Opposition ambition and hunger for political success? Modi and BJP win because it weaponises identity politics and taps into the hope and fear of a large section of people – while the Opposition is only able to woo a small section of its loyalists.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

PERILS OF COACHING

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Fast food education' (IE, February 27). The coaching industry, edtech companies in particular, were never meant to replace traditional schooling. But our one-size-fits-all approach has eroded faith in the system, whereas the flexibility of coaching centres and edtech platforms has been able to offer personalised solutions to students. Byju's hasn't lived up to the expectations of its stakeholders. The aggressive sales strategy and unethical handling of finances have ruined the reputation of the organisation.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

NO ONE SIZE FITS ALL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Other side of beautiful' (IE, February 29). The fact that AI tools are now able to reinforce the beauty standards that took decades for us to unlearn is problematic, especially in this age of social media. For teenagers, it is already stressful to have to cope with body image issues and the unrealistic expectations set by the "effortlessly" glamorous on Instagram. Instead of assuaging such desires, this AI tool has the capability of worsening the situation. Certain clothing brands nowadays such as Brandy Melville only offer their clothes in one size – size zero – which is detrimental to the cause of "accepting yourself" as you. It's time to let go of this mental block and just let people be – live and let live.

Aiza Ansari, Mumbai

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

WHY HOMOSEXUALITY IS FOUND 'NATURALLY' IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

The two males were seen off the coast of Hawai'i. *Marine Mammal Science*ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

FOR THE first time in history, researchers have witnessed humpback whales having sex. Interestingly, the mating whales were both male. Homosexuality, or same-sex sexual behaviour (SSB), is not uncommon in the natural kingdom. Its incidence has been reported in over 1500 animal species, in both males and females, in captivity and the wild.

A Darwinian paradox

The prevalence of homosexuality in the animal kingdom presents a paradox. The very basis of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution is that the goal of all organisms is reproduction. Not only does SSB not serve this purpose, it diverts scarce resources and time into activity that actively precludes organisms from reproducing. Thus, as per Darwin's theory, this behaviour should simply not exist in the natural world. However, that is definitely not the case. What then explains the prevalence of homosexuality?

'Indiscriminate mating'

In recent years, the "indiscriminate mating" hypothesis has gained popularity as an explanation for SSB.

According to it, "the ancestral animal species mated indiscriminately with regard to sex" since "mate recognition [or a species' ability to recognise reproductive partners] can require physiologically and cognitively costly adaptations." Moreover, "being excessively discriminating in choosing mates can lead individuals to miss out on mating opportunities that lead to reproduction". (A Kamath, C E McDonough, Julia D Monk, Max R Lambert, and Erin Giglio, 'An alternative hypothesis for the evolution of same-sex sexual behaviour in animals' in *Nature, Ecology and Evolution*, 2019).

Maintaining social bonds

Evolutionary biologists N W Bailey and M Zuk first hypothesised that SSB "contributes to establishing and maintaining positive social relationships". (Same-sex sexual behaviour and evolu-

tion' in *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, 2009). Consequently, such behaviour is more common in social rather than non-social species.

A more recent study found evidence to support this hypothesis. It stated that there is a "direct correlation" between the incidence of SSB and sociality, and that it "has been favoured evolutionarily as a way to establish, maintain and strengthen social relationships that may increase bonds and alliance between members of the same group." (J M Gomez, A Gonzalez-Megias and M Verdu, 'The evolution of same-sex sexual behaviour in mammals' in *Nature*, 2023).

Bailey and Zuk also suggested that SSB contributes towards "diminishing intra-sexual aggression and conflict". Such interactions, they hypothesised, "may serve to communicate social status and establish and reinforce dominance hierarchies,... or may contribute to diverting aggressive behaviour toward courtship behaviour".

This too was supported by the evidence gathered by Gomez, Gonzalez-Medias, and Verdu. They found that SSB "mitigates" adulticide (killing of other adults of the same species), although only among males. "This is so because adulticide in mammals seems to be the consequence of intrasexual conflicts only in males, whereas it seems to be displayed by females primarily to protect their progeny against infanticidal conspecifics," they wrote.

Notably, they found that "rather than a maladaptive or aberrant behaviour, same-sex sexual behaviour in mammals is a convergent [evolving in multiple species, independently] adaptation" with specific survival benefits.

EVERYDAY LAW

MISLEADING ADS: VIOLATIONS THAT EARNED PATANJALI REBUKE FROM SC

THE SUPREME Court Tuesday came down heavily on Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved for publishing misleading advertisements, and banned it from marketing its products until further orders.

The case relates to a petition filed by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) in August 2022, following a Patanjali ad titled "Misconceptions Spread By Allopathy: Save Yourself And The Country From The Misconceptions Spread By Pharma And Medical Industry". The IMA claimed the advertisement violated two laws.

DOMA: First is the Drugs & Other Magical Remedies Act, 1954 (DOMA). Section 4 of DOMA prohibits publishing

misleading ads relating to a drug. This is punishable with up to six months imprisonment, and/or a fine for the first offence. On the second offence, the period of jail can extend to one year.

CPA: The IMA has also claimed that Patanjali violated the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (CPA). Section 89 of the CPA contains even stricter punishments for publishing misleading ads "prejudicial to the interest of consumers". This includes a prison term of up to two years and a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh for the first offence, which can extend to five years and Rs 50 lakh for subsequent offences.

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM

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080-6220-6311 www.vajiramandravi.com	

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Wednesday virtually launched India's first indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell ferry. The vessel, manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), will be deployed for service at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

Built at a cost of Rs 18 crore, the ferry will be handed over to the Inland Waterways Authority of India by the CSL after rigorous trials. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways met 75 per cent of the project cost.

The Mauritius case

Following Prime Minister Modi's visit to

EXPLAINED FOREIGN POLICY & STRATEGY

Mauritius, Maldives, and India

India has deep strategic stakes in the Indian Ocean. New Delhi has to manage its diplomatic relationships with the governments of island nations in the region while continuously pursuing its strategic interests



SHUBHAJIT ROY

EARLIER THIS week, the first team of Indian "technical personnel" reached the Maldives to take charge of one of the three aviation platforms stationed in the country. They will replace Indian military personnel whose first batch is required to leave the islands by March 10.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth of Mauritius jointly inaugurated an airstrip and a jetty that India has built on Agaléga, a two-island Mauritian dependency 1,100 km to the north of Port Louis and 2,500 km southwest of Malé.

As Indian Ocean outposts, Mauritius and the Maldives have great strategic significance for India. New Delhi's maritime security and strategic imperatives in the Indian Ocean are linked to the presence and increased activities of China in the region.

The Maldives case

Soon after coming to power in November 2023, Mohamed Muizzu, the pro-China President of the Maldives, requested India to withdraw its military personnel from his country. Muizzu had defeated the incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential election on the "India Out" plank.

Late on Monday, the Maldives defence ministry said the first team of Indian civilians had arrived, and would take charge of the operation of a helicopter in Addu, the country's southernmost atoll. The two countries had agreed on February 2 that India would pull out 80-odd military personnel stationed in the Maldives between March 10 and May 10.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs had said that the two helicopters and a Dornier aircraft in the Maldives would be operated by "competent Indian technical personnel" who would replace the "present personnel".

The Mauritius case

Following Prime Minister Modi's visit to

STRATEGIC OUTPOSTS IN INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD



India has upgraded the airstrip and jetty at Agaléga Island, a strategically located Mauritian dependency in the Indian Ocean



PM Narendra Modi and his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurate India-assisted development projects at Agaléga Island via video conference on Thursday. PTI

Mauritius in March 2015, India signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the "improvement in sea and air transportation facilities" at Agaléga island.

The MoU, signed in the Mauritian capital Port Louis in the presence of Modi and then Prime Minister of Mauritius Anerood Jugnauth, provided for "setting up and upgrading of infrastructure for improving sea and air connectivity at the Outer Island of Mauritius which will go a long way in ameliorating the condition of the inhabitants of this remote island...[and] enhance the capabilities of the Mauritian Defence Forces in safeguarding their interests in the Outer Island".

At the inauguration of the new airstrip and jetty on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Jugnauth recalled that several attempts to upgrade the airstrip on the 70-sq-km island since 2003 had not been successful. He said that India was committed to assisting his country, and "deplored" the "India-bashing campaign" by "ill-minded persons in and outside Mauritius".

"The March 2015 MoU (to upgrade the

airstrip and the Set James jetty) reflected India's commitment to continually assist Mauritius in meeting its development goals satisfying the principles of mutual benefit..." Prime Minister Jugnauth said.

"There has never been any agenda for Mauritius to relinquish its sovereignty over the Agaléga islands, as some ill minded persons in and outside Mauritius attempted to make believe. Likewise, there has never been any agenda to transform Agaléga to a military base... I wish to forcefully deplore, condemn India-bashing campaign, some people in Mauritius have commented," he said.

The presence of India would lead to more effective monitoring of Mauritius' vast 2.3 million sq km Exclusive Economic Zone, and equip it to better counter piracy, terrorism, narcotics and human trafficking, and illegal and unregulated fishing, Prime Minister Jugnauth said.

China in Indian Ocean

China sees great value in having a powerful presence in the Indian Ocean region. "Nine of China's top 10 crude oil suppliers

transit the Indian Ocean... [which] is also the primary theatre of transit for China for engagements with Africa, Middle East, island nations, and littorals across the vast ocean," Darshana M Baruah, a maritime security analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said in a testimony to the House Foreign Affairs Committee of the United States Congress in April 2023.

Baruah said the Indian Ocean is "also the main trading route between China and Europe", and "as history will tell us, the flag follows trade". There was little doubt that China's interest in the Indian Ocean would only grow," she said.

Baruah noted that "China is the only nation with an embassy in each of the six islands in the Indian Ocean — Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros", and "none of the traditional players — the United States, the UK, India, or France have embassies on all six". Beijing had gone beyond diplomatic and trade partnerships in the region, and had begun to maintain a consistent military presence as well, she said.

In 2017, China opened its first overseas military facility in the Indian Ocean in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa. Analysts believe that it is only a matter of time before a second Chinese military facility comes up in the Indian Ocean — whether in Pakistan, Myanmar, or the western Indian Ocean.

View from New Delhi

India sees the urgency and importance of working with the governments of all these island nations. The domestic politics of these nations often impact their behaviour and policies abroad — and India will have to manage its diplomatic relationships well while continuously pursuing its strategic interests in the region.

The Jugnauth government in Mauritius has so far been able to manage the domestic criticism of India's presence better than the Solih government was able to do in the Maldives.

New Delhi will be keenly watching the situation in Malé. The former Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid, who has recently been elected president of the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party, said on Saturday that President Muizzu's claims about "thousands of Indian military personnel" were "just another in a string of lies", and that "there are no armed foreign soldiers stationed in the country".

The hydrogen-powered ferry PM launched



The ferry cost Rs 18 crore to build. PTI

hydrogen. It releases only pure water, not discharging pollutants. The energy within the hydrogen is converted into electricity and heat, which is then used to power the vessel's propulsion mechanism. In the fuel cell, the hydrogen reacts with the oxygen in the air to produce electricity. Unlike batteries, hydrogen fuel cells do not require recharging. Provided uninterrupted supply of fuel and oxygen, these cells would work continuously.

What type of cells have been used here?

This vessel uses a 50-kW PEM (proton-exchange membrane) fuel cell, with Lithium-Ion Phosphate batteries. The advantage is that the cells can quickly change their output depending upon the power demand. PEM fuel cells are popular in automotive applications because they operate at a lower temperature, and are lighter and more compact.

How was it developed?

The vessel has been built completely by the CSL, which also developed the vessel automation system and power management system. The hydrogen fuel cell system was

developed by KPIT Technologies, Pune, in collaboration with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Labs, under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

While hydrogen fuel cell technology has been under development for maritime applications, only a few countries globally have done demonstration projects. This ferry, thus, has given India an early mover advantage to tap the potential of hydrogen as an emerging green fuel in the marine sector.

The Centre's 'Harit Nauka'(green boat) initiative envisages a green transition of inland vessels. In line with this, the ferry can be replicated in other parts of the country.

What is the Harit Nauka initiative?

In January 2024, the shipping ministry unveiled the Harit Nauka guidelines for inland vessels. As per the guidelines, all states have to make efforts to use green fuels for 50 per cent of inland waterways-based passenger fleets in the next one decade, and 100 per cent by 2045.

LONGER VERSION ON
indianexpress.com/explained

Cars now more software than hardware: why Apple unplugged EV plans

ANIL SASI

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

APPLE IS reported to have dropped its secretive, decade-long effort to build an electric self-driving car. Chief Operating Officer Jeff Williams, and Kevin Lynch, vice president of technology who headed the project, made the announcement internally, Bloomberg said in a report.

There is speculation that the project, codenamed Titan, was jettisoned so Apple could focus on its other big bets, including generative AI and mixed-reality headsets.

But it is likely that Apple's decision was prompted by realities of the market: as vehicles go from being heavily engineered mechanical devices with hundreds of moving parts to software-driven contraptions with fewer than two dozen moving parts, a car is now more about software than hardware. This situation is very different from 2014, when Apple kicked off its electric car project.

Importance of software

The electrification of vehicles and the growing demand for advanced safety features has meant greater integration of components — and software will define the next phase of growth for tier 1 suppliers (companies that supply parts or systems directly to equipment manufacturers in the automotive industry).

Computing and software are at the heart of electric vehicles, with a central processor managing the battery, and running the electric motors, generators, and other vital systems. Apple already has an edge here, with the increasing trend in favour of smartphone integration platforms such as Apple CarPlay and Android Auto having changed the way people interact with their vehicles.

About 98% of new cars in the US support either Apple CarPlay or Android Auto. These smartphone integration platforms are now a must-have feature for nearly 80% of new car buyers, a study by Straits Research shows.

According to the popular tech analyst Marques Brownlee, Apple "has realised they

don't need to make a whole car to control the entire car software experience... Car manufacturers are so bad at software that everyone just puts CarPlay on anyway".

Apple CarPlay

CarPlay and Android Auto allow drivers to integrate their smartphones with the vehicle's infotainment system. Apple introduced CarPlay in 2014 as a way to integrate the iPhone and a car's dashboard, and has over the years managed to insert itself between customers and car companies — and ensure that its interface is the one that every iPhone user wants while driving.

For customers, CarPlay connected iPhones to the car's infotainment screen and took it over, offering a seamless experience for maps, driving information, and connections to smartphone apps.

While CarPlay does not contribute directly to Apple revenues, it promotes the

loyalty of iPhone users and, more importantly, gives Apple control over the data of drivers, which has emerged as a problem area for legacy automakers.

The next generation of CarPlay promises to offer content for all the driver's screens, including the instrument cluster. Vehicle functions such as radio and temperature controls can be handled through CarPlay, and personalisations ranging from widgets to selecting curated gauge cluster designs can be done using the Apple software.

Going forward, there could be even greater integration of software, including vehicle telematics that allow for the collection of a range of vehicular data on a centralised system to boost performance and safety, and possibly even Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), which use a combination of sensors, lidar (light detection and ranging), radar, and cameras to assist the driver with feedback and prompts.

Rising consumer demand

The market for connectivity solutions and in-car digital offerings such as entertainment and advanced hazard warnings is growing, the consulting company McKinsey said in a September 2023 update to an earlier consumer-focused study. By 2030, core connectivity use cases such as gaming and over-the-air upgrades could deliver \$250-400 billion in annual incremental value across the mobility ecosystem, it said.

The survey data on the need for smartphone integration, preferred services and payment options, data-privacy concerns, and regional trends, showed that about 50% of car owners want to use connectivity solutions and in-car digital offerings more in the future. EV buyers were most open to these services, with about 69% planning to increase their use of connectivity solutions compared with 47% of buyers who intended to purchase traditional

SENSEX: 72,500.30 ▲ 195.42 (0.27%) NIFTY: 21,982.80 ▲ 31.65 (0.14%) NIKKEI: 39,166.19 ▼ 41.84 HANG SENG: 16,511.44 ▼ 25.41 FTSE: 7,652.32 ▲ 27.34 DAX: 17,676.96 ▲ 75.74



GOLD

₹62,970



USD RATE

₹82.91



OIL

\$82.30



SILVER

₹74,100

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of February 28

International market data till 1900 IST

STERLITE PLANT CLOSED SINCE MAY 2018

Public health utmost concern: SC junks Vedanta plea to reopen TN copper plant

CJI-led Bench says closure was not first choice, but flags 'repeated' and 'severe' violations by unit

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

THE SUPREME Court Thursday dismissed Vedanta Ltd's plea to reopen the Sterlite Copper smelting plant in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi, which has been shut since May 2018 over pollution concerns, making it clear that the residents' health was paramount.

The copper plant had been at the centre of widespread protests in Thoothukudi. In May 2018, police opened fire on protesters, killing 13 people.

Vedanta had moved the top court against an August 2020 Madras High Court order which upheld the plant's closure on an order by Tamil Nadu's pollution watchdog.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra Thursday acknowledged



In 2018, police in Thoothukudi opened fire on protesters demanding the plant's closure, killing 13 of them. Express

that the closure was "undoubtedly not a matter of first choice". But it also flagged the plant's repeated and severe violations while backing the High Court order. "...the repeated nature of these breaches coupled with the severity of the violations would in this analysis have left neither

the statutory authorities nor the High Court to take any other view unless they were to be oblivious of their plain duty," the court said.

Referring to its 2013 ruling that allowed the plant to operate after remedying alleged violations of environmental norms,

the top court observed that the unit has been "contributing to the productive assets of the nation and providing employment and revenue in the area".

But it added: "Equally, while these aspects have undoubtedly relevance, the court has to be mindful of other well settled principles, including the principles of sustainable development, the polluter pays principle and the public trust doctrine."

"The health and welfare of the residents of the area is again a matter of utmost concern. And in the ultimate analysis, the state government is responsible for preserving and protecting their concerns," it said.

The top court said that after having heard the matter for several days "and after a careful evaluation of the factual and legal material, we have come to the conclusion the Special Leave Petition by the industrial unit does not warrant interference un-

der Article 136 of the Constitution".

The court also dismissed an appeal by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) challenging some of the observations made by the HC against it.

Hearing the appeal earlier this month, the top court, citing "national interest", had proposed the formation of an expert committee to look into environmental concerns around reopening the plant. The Tamil Nadu government opposed this, citing repeated violations by the industrial unit.

The top court also pointed out a number of violations by the petitioner, Vedanta, including a failure at the material time to remove copper slag which was dumped "indiscriminately" at almost 11 sites in the vicinity, including private land adjoining a river. It also flagged Vedanta's failure to obtain authorisation for the disposal of hazardous waste.

INDIA LAUNCHED the second part of its critical minerals auction worth an estimated ₹30 lakh crore (about \$362 billion), the country's mines minister, Pralhad Joshi, said on Thursday.

A total of 18 critical mineral blocks, including tungsten, vanadium, cobalt and nickel, will be auctioned in eight states across the country, including Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, a government statement said.

Seventeen mineral blocks have been put up for a composite licence, while one block is for a mining lease, it added. A composite licence includes a licence to examine a block and mine it

REUTERS

NEW DELHI, BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 29

Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan will auction blocks for exploration licence of critical minerals, separately.

He said that in the first round of the first part of auctions launched in November last year, the government received 56 bids from entities including Vedanta Ltd, Coal India, Ola Electric, Dalmia group and Jindal Power.

The second round of bidding for the first tranche of auctions will be held in mid-March and the bid winner will be announced in mid-April.

Separately, Joshi said there will be no shortage of coal in the country this year. His comments come after the Coal India, the world's largest miner, lowered its annual production target for the FY25 on adequate stockpiles.

Production of refined products fell 4.3% year-on-year, while fertiliser production dropped 0.6%. Crude oil output grew just 0.7%. Coal production was the best performing segment, rising 10.2% on the back of a 5.2% increase in electricity generation.

Cement output rose 5.6% and steel and natural gas production were 7% and 5.5% higher, respectively.

In the first 10 months of the financial year that started on April 1, infrastructure output rose 7.7% from the year earlier period, the data showed.

January infra output rises at slowest pace in 15 months

REUTERS

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

INDIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE output rose at the slowest pace in 15 months in January due to weakness in refinery products and fertilisers production.

Infrastructure output rose 3.8% year-on-year compared with a revised 4.9% in December. The growth rate is lowest since the 0.7% recorded in October, 2022. Infrastructure output, which accounts for 40% of the country's Index of Industrial Production, measures activity in eight sectors, including coal, steel and electricity.

Production of refined products fell 4.3% year-on-year, while fertiliser production dropped 0.6%. Crude oil output grew just 0.7%. Coal production was the best performing segment, rising 10.2% on the back of a 5.2% increase in electricity generation.

Cement output rose 5.6% and steel and natural gas production were 7% and 5.5% higher, respectively.

In the first 10 months of the financial year that started on April 1, infrastructure output rose 7.7% from the year earlier period, the data showed.

Sebi moves to curb inflows into small and mid-cap funds

REUTERS
FEBRUARY 29

THE MARKET regulator has asked money managers to consider restricting one-off investments from clients in small- and mid-cap stock mutual funds and cut commissions offered for their sale, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) communicated this to the money managers in a meeting earlier this month, the sources, who included a regulatory official, said. The regulator did not specify the quantum of flows it wants restricted, they said.

Sebi's communication shows heightened concern on the surging inflows into small- and mid-cap mutual funds and any potential ripple effects if investors yanked their money.

Small-cap stocks are those with market capitalisation of less than ₹50 billion while mid-cap stocks are those with market values of between ₹50 billion and ₹200 billion. Small- and mid-cap stocks are generally less liquid compared to large-cap peers.

Assets managed by small-cap funds in India vaulted 86.5% over a 10-month period to ₹2.48 trillion as of end-January and mid-cap funds jumped 58.5% to ₹2.9 trillion. Their assets were not

MANAGING RISK



■ Investors are increasingly pumping in one-off funds to take advantage of the soaring stock market.

■ The regulator is moving to tamp down the rapid asset growth

■ Association of Mutual Funds in India has also asked fund houses to moderate inflows

Cabinet OKs ₹75k cr rooftop solar scheme, 1 cr households to get subsidy of up to ₹78k

DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

THE UNION Cabinet has cleared a ₹75,021-crore rooftop solar scheme under which one crore households in the country will get a subsidy for installation of such units.

Approved Thursday, the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana will offer a subsidy of up to ₹78,000 per household for the installation of solar plants, under which they will get 300 units of free power, the government said.

"The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana with a total outlay of ₹75,021 crore for installing rooftop solar and providing free electricity up to 300 units every month for one crore households," Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters after the Union Cabinet meeting. The PM had launched the scheme on February 13.

Through this scheme, households will be able to save electricity bills as well as earn additional income through sale of surplus power to DISCOMs. A 3-kW system will be able to generate more than 300 units a month on an average for a household.

The scheme provides a central financial assistance (CFA) of 60 per cent of system cost for 2 kW systems and 40 per cent of

The scheme will run for four years – from 2023-24 to 2026-27, Thakur said, adding that it is expected that one crore household target will be saturated much earlier.

Thakur said subsidies for resident welfare associations (RWAs) and group housing societies will also be offered for solar-powered lighting. "Out of 45 GW solar capacity being targeted, 30 GW will be for domestic housing requirements," he said, adding that under the scheme, rooftop solar panels will be installed in all government buildings by 2025.

The scheme provides a central financial assistance (CFA) of 60 per cent of system cost for 2 kW systems and 40 per cent of additional system cost for systems between 2 kW and 3 kW capacity; the assistance is capped at 3 kW. At current benchmark prices, this will mean ₹30,000 subsidy for 1 kW plant, ₹60,000 for 2 kW and ₹78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher, Thakur said.

According to a statement issued by the government, households can apply for subsidy through a national portal launched for the scheme, where they can also select a suitable vendor for installing rooftop solar units. The portal will offer information about appropriate system sizes, benefits calculator and vendor rating. Households can register on pmrsuryaghar.gov.in to avail of the benefits.

Trade delegates were expect-

ing negotiations to carry on throughout the night as officials sought to hammer out agreements on a cross section of changes to trade rules.

NEGOTIATIONS AT the World Trade Organisation ministerial meeting in Abu Dhabi on Thursday were extended for another day, with the WTO announcing the closing session had been delayed, and no sign of a breakthrough in talks to set new global commerce rules.

The biennial conference is seeking deals on ending fishing subsidies and extending a moratorium on digital trade tariffs – a move that India and South Africa oppose.

New Zealand's trade minis-

ter Todd McClay said it was a good sign that delegates were still trying to thrash out issues and expected this to continue late into the night.

India's trade minister said it was a shame some nations were blocking agreements, but he gave little sign that New Delhi would drop its own opposition to extending a waiver on digital tariffs.

"Of course we feel sad that some countries are still obstructing significant outcomes that could have helped less developed countries and developing countries gain confidence in the working of WTO," Piyush Goyal told reporters on the final day of the talks.

SoftBank cuts stake in Paytm to under 3%

Bengaluru: Japan's SoftBank Group has further reduced its stake in beleaguered Indian payments firm Paytm to 2.83% from 5.01%, an exchange filing showed on Thursday.

The conglomerate, which held 17.5% stake in Paytm in September 2022, has trimmed its ownership for more than a year through multiple open market deals, with its most recent cut being in January.

While some global investors like Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and China's Alibaba Group exited the firm in 2023, others, including a Netherlands-based unit of Chinese firm Ant Financial cut stake.

REUTERS

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No: T_1N6.231&T232/2023-24/SEQ
JJM-Thrikiruvu, Chithara panchayat - Construction of OHSP, laying RWPM & CWPM, replacement of existing AC transmission main and allied works EMD: Rs. 50,000.00 Tender fee: Rs. 16540+2978 Last Date for submitting Tender: 15-03-2024 02:00:pm Phone: 0474 2745293 Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in

Superintending Engineer PH Circle Kollam

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
Savitribai Phule University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune 411 007

Expression of Interest No. 10 /2023-2024
Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) regarding work for the Construction Phase of the Indian Contribution to SKA-Low Signal Processing System (SPS) and allied services of the Square Kilometer Array. EoI Document Fee : Rs. 8,850/- (including GST)

For details EoI notification and downloading please visit our website: <http://www.nrao.tifr.res.in/nrao/mcr1/public-tenders-1and on CPPP e-procure portal>

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001 Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in

(Office: SE/Civil Design, PSPCL, E-2, Shakti Vihar, Patiala. Phone No. 96461-12974 Email. Id: se-civil-design@pspcl.in)

Open Tender Enquiry No. 01/2024-25/CD

Superintending Engineer/Civil Design, PSPCL, E-2, Shakti Vihar, Patiala, invites E-tender for TRANSPORTATION OF 10000 MT OF CEMENT PACKED IN BAGS (EACH BAG CONTAINING 50KG) FROM M/s AMBUJA CEMENTS LTD. ROPAR TO VARIOUS PSPCL STORES LOCATED AT PATIALA, MOHALI, MUKTSAR, LUDHIANA, JALANDHAR, AND SARNA EXCLUDING LOADING AND UNLOADING TENDER ENQUIRY NO 01/2024-25/CD.

For detailed NIT & tender specification, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> (Contact No. 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284) from 29.02.2024 from 11:00 AM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C-169/24 32973/PB

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001 CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 7526/P-2/EMP-12588 Dated: 27.02.2024

Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID. No. 2024_POWER_118882_1 for Procurement of Online monitor (Leakage current Monitor) for checking healthiness of Lightning Arrestor for EM-IV, GGSSTP, Roopnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 27.02.2024 onwards.

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

RTP-26/24 32965/PB

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala (Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813/ Website: www.pspcl.in) Contact number 96461 47777

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Bhavya Varshini W/O Sh. Satyam Govila, R/o Govila Gas Godown, Ramghat Road, Koil, Aligarh-20001, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Bhavya Govila for all future purposes. 0040717285-1

I, BHUMIKA D/O LATE RAJIV SINGH R/O C-342, VEER AWAS, SECTOR-18A, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110078 have changed my name from BHUMIKA to BHUMIKA SINGH vide affidavit dated 28.02.2024 for all future purpose. 0040717276-1

I, ARATI RAJESH VANTANKAR W/O Vantankar Rajesh Mallu R/o Noida Nagar, Ardhapur dist Noida (MH) 431704 have changed my name to AARTI RAJESH VANTANKAR VIDE Affidavit DTD 16.02.24.

0070891618-1

Thitherto known as Sheetu Gulati Bajaj alias Sheetu Gulati W/o-Sumit Saggi, residing at H.No.43, Bhagya Laxmi Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sheetu Saggi. 0040717268-1

I am Havildar Nasru Khan Army No. 2702546X S/o Chhote Khan R/o Pinan Rani District Alwar, in my army record my wife's name has become Kasmira Bano whereas my wife's correct name is Kashmira, in future she should be known as Kashmira. 0070891691-1

I, SHRI NARAYAN S/O RAM PRAKASH, R/O 4630/14, JAI MATA MARKET, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NARAYAN SHARMA 0070891620-1

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o-Devraj Bhutani R/o-C-37, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar Bhutani for all purposes. 0040717270-1

I, Manpreet Kaur D/o Savinderjeet Singh and W/o Gagan Deep Singh Bhatia R/o UTG-032, DLF THE ULTIMA, Sector-81, Loknath (110), Gurgaon, Haryana-122004 have changed my name to Manpreet Kaur Bhatia 0070891676-1

I, Avantika Mishra D/o Vinay Kumar Mishra and W/o Deepak Sehwari R/o No. 24, Palam Vihar, Road Ashok Vihar, Phase-Extn- 3, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Avantika Sehwari 0070891670-1

I, Anila Reji D/o. Sivanandan W/o. Reji, T.R/o. Flat No. UGF-2, Plot No. 55-56, Khasra No. 506, Behind Shalimar Palace, Shakti Enclave, Burari, North Delhi-110084, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name from Anila to Anila Reji for all future purpose. Anila Reji and Anila both are the same and one person. 0040717337-1

I, Swati D/o Ram Kumar R/o House No. 135, Street No.- 5, Block-G, New Palam Vihar, Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Swati Dharma 0070891642-1

I, It is for general information that I, Deep Kumar Sharma S/o Jainti Parsed Sharma, R/o 1569, Third Floor, Sec-46, Urban Estate Gurgaon-II, Haryana-122003, declare that in my service record and Education documents. The actual name of mine and my father is Deep Kumar Sharma and Jainti Parsed Sharma, which may be amended accordingly 0040717345-2

I, SYED FAKHRUL HASNAIN NAQVY-S/LATE SYED HUSAIN,R/O-FLAT.NO.-350,DDA SFS FLATS,SECTOR-22,POCKET-1,DWARKA,NEW DELHI-110077,inform that SYED FAKHRUL HASNAIN NAQVY and FAKHRUL NAQVY,both names are of the same person. 0040717356-7

I, PRAMOD KUMAR CHAUHAN/PRAMOD KUMAR S/PATI RAM CHAUHAN R/O RZK-2-32B,NIHAL VIHAR,NANGLOI,DELHI-110041,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRAMOD CHAUHAN. 0040717307-3

I, PARDEEP SINGH MANKU S/O SANTOKH SINGH MANKU R/O A-801/A,ASHASTRI NAGAR,DELHI-110052,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PARDEEP SINGH. 0040717307-1

I, Nasim w/o Rajuddin Khan, R/O A-145 Shyam Colony phase-2,Budh vihar, North West Delhi-110086..have changed my Name to Nasim Khan,for all,future purposes. 0040717307-5

I, VIHAN Sharma, S/o.Narend Kumar Mudgil,R/o.H.No.E-2/198-A, 1st-Floor,Shastri-Nagar,Delhi-110052,have Changed my name,from Sharma Vihaan Narend to Vihaan Sharma,for future purposes. 0040717352-8

I, VISHWANATH JOSHI,S/O GYAPRASAD JOSHI R/O-177,PRATAP VIHAR-2,KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR ROHINI DELHI-110086,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VISHWANATH JOSHI. 0040717327-6

I, Nalini Kalra W/O, Tushar Dawar R/o YO 94th Floor Oxy Homez Near Royal Enclave Loni Bhopura Road, Ghaziabad-201005 have changed my name to Nalini Dawar for all purposes. 0040717285-1

I, TEJ SINGH GAUR,S/O KALIKA SINGH GAUR,R/O-766/7,GOVINDPURI KALKAJI NEW-DELHI-110019,Have changed my name to TEJENDRA SINGH GAUR. 0040717327-4

I, TARANNUM QAZI,W/O MANVER ALAM,R/O-I,19,FLAT-7,REHMAAN STREET BATLA HOUSE JAMIA-NAGAR OKHLA,NEW DELHI-110025,have changed my name to TARANNUM, permanently. 0040717352-4

I, Sneha Sharma W/o:Narend Kumar Mudgil R/o.H.No.E-2/198-A, 1st-Floor,Shastri-Nagar,Delhi-110052,have Changed my name,from Sneha Lata and Sneha to Sneha Sharma,for future purposes. 0040717352-7

I, Shah Alam,S/o-Mohd. Isak,R/o-A-33,Mang Ram Park,Budh Vihar,Phase-1,Delhi-110086,in my daughter school record her name is wrongly mentioned as Nabia but her correct name is Nabia Siddique. 0040717357-2

I, Sahab Singh Chhillar S/o Ram Kishan Chhillar R/o-239 V.P.O Nizam Pur Rashid Pur Delhi-110081,changed my name to Sahab Singh. 0040717356-4

I, SUMALYA,D/O MOHD AKHTAR,R/O,HOUSE-NO.1013,LAL QUARTER, SUDAMPURI,VIJAY NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201014,changed my name to SUMALYA AKHTAR. 0040717307-4

I, SULTANA KHATOON W/O-NEMAT ALI,R/O-WARD.NO.01, THANA-BHAIRAVSTHAN, RAIAM, MADHUBANI, BIHAR-847404,have changed my name from SULTANA BEGUM to correct name SULTANA KHATOON in my husband passport. 0040717356-8

I, SIMA KUMARI,W/O SATYA PRAKASH,ADD-E-3, HARI-NAGAR PART-II, BADARPUR, NEW DELHI-110044, CHANGED MY NAME TO SEEMA PRIYA,for all,future purposes. 0040717356-2

I, TIRJANA KUMARI,W/O RAMESH KUMAR RAI R/O HNO.671,BLOCK-A, BHALSWA DAIRY,LIBASPUR,DELHI-110042, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RANJAN DEVI. 0040717360-1

I, Khushboo,D/o Late Yogesh Kumar,R/o C-1172,Tigri,New Delhi-110062,have changed my name,from Khushboo to Khushboo Kumar,for all,future purposes. 0040717327-1

I, KANIKA AJMANI ALIAS KANIKA,W/O Sarabjeet Singh,R/o C-525,First-Floor,C-Block,Vikas Puri,Delhi-110018,Changed my name after marriage is KANIKA KAUR. 0040717327-5

I, Jyoti @ Jyoti Tyagi,W/o Sh. Pr'veen Tyagi,R/o-Flat No-B-805,Fortune Residency,Raj Nagar Extension,Ghazipur,Uttar Pradesh-201017,have changed my name From Jyoti to Jyoti Tyagi for all purposes. 0040717327-5

I, Preeti Arora, W/o Kulwant Singh D/o Sukh Rajender Singh R/o 24, G/F, Street No.1, Gagan Vihar Ext., Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have changed my name From Preeti Bedi to Preeti Arora, for all purposes. 0040717271-1

I, Praveen Kumar Jain, S/o Jai Chand Jain R/o C-164, G/F, Sector-19, Noida, UP. 201301,have changed my name to Praveen Jain, for all purposes. 0040717266-1

I, Mansi Shiyupuri D/o Late Anil Zutshi R/o 11085/T4, Mahagun Mywoods, Greater Noida West, G.B.Nagar, (UP) state that all the names Mansi Shiyupuri, Mansi Shiyupuri and Mansi Mohit Shiyupuri are of same person and I will be known as Mansi Shiyupuri for all purposes. 0070891667-1

I, Kumari Deepika W/o Somnath R/o 1038, Sector-29, Noida(UP) have changed my name to Deepika Bhaduria for all future purposes. 0040717275-1

I, DHARAM VIR KHATRI,S/O MANGER RAM R/O-2127,OUTRAM-LINES GTB-NAGAR DELHI-110009,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DHARM VIR KHATRI. 0040717327-7

I, Azvender Kumar, S/o Amrit Singh,R/o H.No.V-259, Khajur Wali Gali,Arvind-Nagar, Ghonda,Delhi-110053,declare that name and date-of-birth of my minor son wrongly written as Atharya Kumar and-27-03-2011 in his School Records.The actual name and date-of-birth of my minor son are Atharv Kumar and-27/06/2011. 0070891646-1

I, Hira Wati, W/O Hemant Kumar Singh R/o House No-26, FF Pocket-18, Sector-24, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Suman Singh 0070891660-1

I, Himanshi Sharma W/o Rahul Aghi,H.no.223/28,Gali.No.-4,Jyoti Park,Gurgaon(Haryana)-122001,have changed my name to Himanshi Aghi. 0040717356-6

I, DEEPAK,S/O SHAMSHER SINGH,ADD-6772/1,2-FLOOR-BLOCK-10,STREET-3,DEV-NAGAR KAROL-BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005, CHANGED MY NAME TO DEEPAK ROHILLA for all, future purposes. 0040717356-1

I, Chander Prabha, W/O Ravi Chauhan R/o A-2/96, Rohini Sector-16, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Chanderprabha Singh 0070891657-1

I, Nasim w/o Rajuddin Khan, R/O A-145 Shyam Colony phase-2,Budh vihar, North West Delhi-110086..have changed my Name to Nasim Khan,for all,future purposes. 0040717307-5

I, Nisha Arora W/o KANWAL BASSAMBOO, H.NO-10170, BLOCK-15, STREET.NO-2, GURUDWARA ROAD, KAROL BAGH, DELHI-110005,have changed my name to NISHA BASSAMBOO, for all,future purposes. 0040717356-3

I, INARINDER JAIN,S/O PAWAN KUMAR,R/O A-129,Sector-11,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Narend Kumar Jain,for all,future purposes. 0040717307-8

I, NARENDER KUMAR, S/O,HARBANSI LAL R/O-B-75,BLOCK-DERAWALA NAGAR,Delhi-110009,have Change my name to Narend Kumar Jain,for all,future purposes. 0040717327-2

I, Ravi Kumar Agarwal S/o Om prakash Agarwal R/o-1133, Sector-23-A, Faridabad, have changed my name to Ravi Agarwal 0040717283-1

I, NANDANI GUPTA,D/O SUMIT GUPTA,R/O-A13,SECOND-FLOOR ADITYA ENCLAVE SECTOR-23,DWARKA,DELHI-110075, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NANDINI GUPTA. 0040717352-2

I, Mohammad Shaz Qamar,S/o QAMRUDDIN,R/o-A11,803, Tulip-Veet,Near Tulip Chowk,Sector-69, Darbarpur(162), Gurgaon,Haryana, 122101,have changed my name to Mohammed Shaz Qamar. 0040717269-1

I, HARI RAM,S/O/HIRALAL GUPTA,R/O A13,SECOND-FLOOR,ADITYA-ENCLAVE SECTOR-23 DWARKA,DELHI-110075, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARI RAM GUPTA. 0040717352-3

I, Shanti Saggi W/o-Sumit Saggi residing at H.No.43, Bhagya Laxmi Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed the name of my minor son Aditya Bajaj age-5 years and he shall hereafter be known as Aditya Saggi. 0040717269-1

I, Satiq Kumar S/O,Hans Raj Ahamed, R/O-A-15, Old-Quarters, Ramesh-Nagar, New-Delhi-110015,inform that Satiq Kumar and Satish Kumar Juneja both are one and the same person. 0040717358-6

I, Mahavir,s/o Bhile Ram,H.no-106,ward-No.6,Punjabi Colony Govt BOYS HIGH-SCHOOL,VILLAGE-HASSANGARH,ROHTAK,HARYA NA-124001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAHABIR SAINI. 0040717327-8

I, T,SHAFI LAT W/o Rajeev Agarwal, R/o 4J-302, AWHO, GURJINDER VIHAR, GREATER NOIDA-201310 have changed my name to Shafiq Lat Agarwal. 0070891678-1

I, Satish Kumar S/O,Hans Raj Ahamed, R/O-A-15, Old-Quarters, Ramesh-Nagar, New-Delhi-110015,inform that Satiq Kumar and Satish Kumar Juneja both are one and the same person. 0040717358-6

I, Sangeeta Bhati W/o Dharmendra Kasana R/o House No.51, Alpine Society Sector-Omega-1 Greater Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar U.P have changed my name to Sangeeta Kasana. 0040717301-1

I, RAFAF MONAF W/o MD Monaf Ahmad, r/o 4741, 4th Floor, Main Ballimaran, Delhi-06, declares that I, Rafat Monaf also known as Rafat Bano and both the names belongs to me. In future I will use my name as RAFAT MONAF for all purpose 0040717345-1

I, ROHIT SINGH'S/O/MANMOHAN SINGH R/O RZ-165, SAYYED NANGLOI, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110087 declare that name of mine and my father and my mother has been wrongly written as ROHIT SINGH RATHOR, MANMOHAN SINGH RATHOR and SEEMA RATHORE in my 10th class marks- sheet and certificate. The actual name of mine, my father and my mother are ROHIT SINGH, MANMOHAN SINGH and SEEMA. 0070891675-1

I, Khushboo,D/o Late Yogesh Kumar,R/o C-1172,Tigri,New Delhi-110062,have changed my name,from Khushboo to Khushboo Kumar,for all,future purposes. 0040717327-1

I, KANIKA AJMANI ALIAS KANIKA,W/O Sarabjeet Singh,R/o C-525,First-Floor,C-Block,Vikas Puri,Delhi-110018,Changed my name after marriage is KANIKA KAUR. 0040717357-1

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I, Kumari Deepika W/o Somnath R/o 1038, Sector-29, Noida(UP) have changed my name to Deepika Bhaduria for all future purposes. 0040717275-1

I, KUNJUMOL, D/O PALAPARMPIL VARGHESE JOSEPH, R/HOUSE NO. D-16/457-458, 2ND FLOOR, SECTOR-7, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, Have changed my name to KUNJUMOL SAM for all future purposes. 0070891646-1

I, Hira Wati, W/O Hemant Kumar Singh R/o House No-26, FF Pocket-18, Sector-24, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Suman Singh 0070891660-1

I, Himanshi Sharma W/o Rahul Aghi,H.no.223/28,Gali.No.-4,Jyoti Park,Gurgaon(Haryana)-122001,have changed my name to Himanshi Aghi.

PNiT No.: 23/EE-BRG/PWD/2023-24 Dated 22.02.2024

1. Name of Work:- Setting up of Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for drug addicted at Bishramganj, Sepahijala District, Tripura.

2. DNiT No.: CE(Buildings)/PWD/ACE/Project unit/ DNiT 69/2023-24,

3. Estimated cost:- 121.90 Cr.

The bid forms and other details including online activities should be done in the e- procurement portal <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Bishramganj Division, PWD (R&B)
Sepahijala District, Tripura

ICA/C/4909/24

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY

General public is hereby informed that one lady named Priya Chauhan, W/o Vicky Chauhan, R/o Matru Ka Makan, Nala Par Khizrabad, New Friends Colony, New Delhi. Age 26 years, Height 4'8", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Medium Built, Wearing Blue colour jacket, yellow colour gown and salati colour jutti in feet

Priya Chauhan has been missing since 13.02.2024 from her house. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this lady but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 34A, dated 15.02.2024 has been lodged at PS New Friends Colony, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing lady may kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218
DP/2492/SE/2024 Ph.: 011-26834563, 8750870924SHO
PS: New Friends Colony
New Delhi

Ph.: 011-26834563, 8750870924

Priya Chauhan

One lady named Priya Chauhan, W/o Vicky Chauhan, R/o Matru Ka Makan, Nala Par Khizrabad, New Friends Colony, New Delhi. Age 26 years, Height 4'8", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Medium Built, Wearing Blue colour jacket, yellow colour gown and salati colour jutti in feet

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Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218
DP/2492/SE/2024 Ph.: 011-26834563, 8750870924SHO
PS: New Friends Colony
New Delhi

Ph.: 011-26834563, 8750870924

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons namely (1) Sanjay Parcha S/o Lt. Ranbir Singh (2) Urmila W/o Lt. Ranbir Singh and (3) Deepak Parcha @ Ronak Vasudeva S/o Lt. Ranbir Singh all R/o ESIC Hospital, Sec-7, Dwarka, Delhi have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide FIR No. 252/22 U/s 498A/406/323/34 IPC registered at P.S. Maurya Enclave, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said

(1) Sanjay Parcha, (2) Urmila and (3) Deepak Parcha @ Ronak Vasudeva could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused (1) Sanjay Parcha, (2) Urmila and (3) Deepak Parcha @ Ronak Vasudeva have absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Sanjay Parcha, (2) Urmila and (3) Deepak Parcha @ Ronak Vasudeva are required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 09.05.2024.

By Order
Ms. Preeti Rajoria,Metropolitan Magistrate (Mahila Court -02),
(North West), Room No. 18, Ground Floor,
Rohini Court, Delhi.**कार्यालय अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, रोही।**कमरा नं० 302, तृतीय तला, अधिवेशन भवन, कच्छरी चौक, रोही- 834001
ई-मेल - emridman-cemr-jhr@nic.in, midranchi2018@gmail.com
फोन नं० - 0651-3512781पत्रांक..... / रोही, दिनांक / / 2024
शुद्धि-पत्रकार्यालय अभियन्ता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, रोही का पत्रांक -130
दिनांक-19.02.2024 द्वारा PR No.319741 Minor Irrigation (23-24):D
दिनांक 22.02.2024 से प्रकाशित निवादा में निम्न प्रकाश संशोधन किया गया है:-

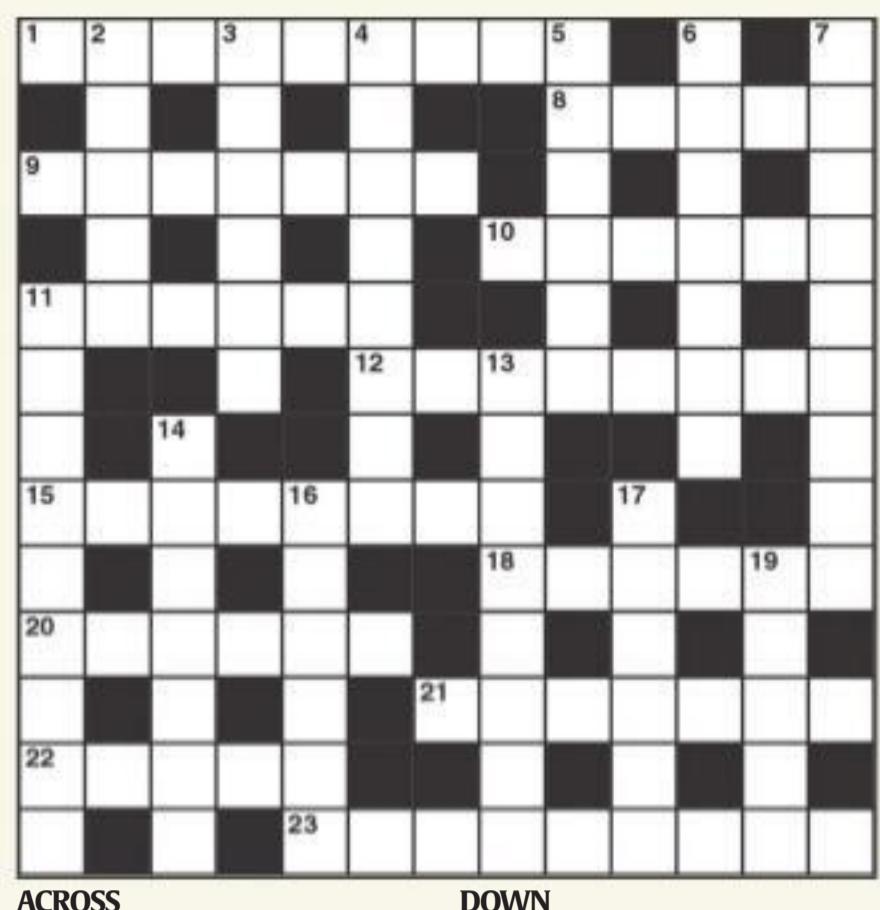
PR 320864 Minor Irrigation(23-24)D कार्यालय अभियन्ता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, रोही।

विवादासामाजन

कार्यालय अभियन्ता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, रोही।

कार्यालय अभियन्ता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल,

CROSSWORD 5301



- ACROSS**
- Entering a foreign country (9)
 - Number one's direction is sound (5)
 - The VIP's back on the board (7)
 - Go through a new recipe (6)
 - All the players or just one runner (6)
 - Made inflammatory speeches when disturbed (8)
 - Its trend is disposed to be unpleasantly harsh (8)
 - Be exceptionally kind to a taxpayer (6)
 - Medicines that vary in cost (6)
 - Distribute free (7)
 - Provide proper directions first (5)
 - Not a good state of mind for painting (9)
- DOWN**
- 2 Girl strangely hard about love (5)
 - 3 Performs a new ascent (6)
 - 4 Permit - strange to relate (8)
 - 5 Come into service? (6)
 - 6 Be all atremble yet brave it somehow (7)
 - 7 One kept - in suspense? (9)
 - 11 Exceptional test cases create records (9)
 - 13 Profit is the attraction (8)
 - 14 Out of range of French explosive device (7)
 - 16 Cut short - a cruise perhaps? (6)
 - 17 Mid-channel? (6)
 - 19 Sound of harmony in musical composition (5)

Solutions Crossword 5300 Across: 1 Adamant, 4 Bleak, 7 Ache, 8 Bell rope, 10 Disc brakes, 12 Evolve, 13 Fibres, 15 Obituaries, 18 Giveaway, 19 Like, 20 Soled, 21 Damages Down: 1 Award, 2 Adhesion, 3 Trep, 4 Ballerinas, 5 Eros, 6 Keepers, 9 Above board, 11 Braiding, 12 Engages, 14 Strand, 16 Seeds, 17 Evil

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & I Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 5488
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.

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

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5487

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at on patri near, Azad Market Chowk in dead condition on 29.02.2024. In this regard a vide DD No.23A U/s 174 CrPC, Dated 29.02.2024 has been lodged in P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o:

Unknown, Age: About 35 Years, Height: 5'6"

Feet, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Red & Black T-Shirt and Black Lower.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O. P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi.
Ph: 9311925639, 9869860285
DP/2513/N/2024

SCHEDULE I FORM-A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
(Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY CORPORATION (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED

- Name of Corporate Debtor Renewable Energy Corporation (India) Private Limited
- Date of incorporation of Corporate Person 27/07/2012
- Authority under which Corporate Person is Incorporated / Registered Registrar of Companies Delhi / Companies Act, 1956
- Corporate Identity Number/ Limited Liability Identification number of Corporate Person U40106HR2012TC090670
- Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of Corporate Person Office No. S-01, Regus Business Centre, 10th Floor, Tower-B, Unitech Cyber Park, Sector 39, Gurugram Gurgaon Sector 45, Haryana, India, 122003
- Liquidation commencement date of Corporate Person 28th February, 2024
- Name, Address, Email Address, Telephone number and The Registration Number of the liquidator V. Shankar,
Email: 1981shankhy@gmail.com,
Address: 303, Block A, Legend Commercial Complex, 3-4-770 & 136, Opp. ICICI Bank, Above Keshav Medicals, Barkatpura, Hyderabad-500027.
IBBI Reg: IBBI/PA-002/IP-N00145/2017-18/10436
- Last date for submission of claims 29th March, 2024 by 5:00 PM (IST)

Notice is hereby given that the RENEWABLE ENERGY CORPORATION (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED has commenced voluntary liquidation on 28th February, 2024.

The stakeholders of RENEWABLE ENERGY CORPORATION (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims on or before 29th March,

2024, by 5:00 PM (IST) to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.

The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Date: 01.03.2024 Name and Signature of Liquidator: V. Shankar

Place: Hyderabad AFA: AA2/10436/02/181024/202922

OIPR-11001/11/0095/2324

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Life is full of surprises, but it all depends on how you deal with them. Sometimes you can be too brash. However, over the next few weeks you can probably get away with being outspoken and even argumentative. Don't forget to follow your own advice.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Mercury has now withdrawn from its one relationship with your sign, only to replace it with another, so a great deal of what has been said in haste or anger may now be considered no more than water under the bridge. There's no use in dwelling on the past.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Venus, a planet with a benevolent role in your affairs, is now coming to your aid, which means that, personally and professionally, you have much going for you to be sidetracked by people who don't understand you. You might even end up making a profit.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

An emotional tie may now be reconsidered. Important planetary pressures have been lifted, which means that you may take a fresh look at all current relationships. If anything seems to be bothering you, it's that a partner's sincerity is open to doubt. Give them time to explain themselves.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Just to look at the minus points in what is otherwise a very positive situation, I am concerned that you might become too selfish and demanding emotionally. This will not serve your cause, so watch it! You'd do better to start by asking partners what they want.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

To those who know you, you are often an exciting person to be around, encouraging change in all things, even though your actions are often very helpful and positive. However, it may now be your turn to stick to the past and hang on to what you know best.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Much depends on how you handle discussions with people at home. If something seems to be unsaid, be the first to bring it into the open. Powerful planetary relationships will help you accomplish most practical tasks, perhaps because they give you the determination to win through.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

It's time to give a special message to all you creative types, whatever your forte: this is the time for wild self-expression, but rather for practical skills and traditional disciplines. You'll never make a dream come true unless you work at it.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

What other people often fail to realise is that you can be extremely good at building up a shrewd grasp of the facts, a quality which means that you are about to experience certain very important advantages in the financial arena. Stick to your guns.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

An entire group of planets is now encouraging you to go forth and multiply, metaphorically speaking of course! Spread yourself as widely as possible and let the whole world share in your hope and faith in the future. Traditional values will sustain your vision of a better world.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

When it comes to long-term finances, timing is of the essence. Do not be tempted to follow get-rich-quick schemes. The lure of instant winnings may be nothing more than an illusion, so be patient. When a loved one comes to you with a spending plan, tell them to think again.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

To those who know you, you are often an exciting person to be around, encouraging change in all things, even though your actions are often very helpful and positive. However, it may now be your turn to stick to the past and hang on to what you know best.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Much depends on how you handle discussions with people at home. If something seems to be unsaid, be the first to bring it into the open. Powerful planetary relationships will help you accomplish most practical tasks, perhaps because they give you the determination to win through.

JUMBLE WORDS

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

It is better to in a cause that will ultimately than to in a cause that will ultimately

— Peter Marshall (4,7,7,4) (two words twice)

SVAAE

HNRCCU

LICKS

EEINDF

Answers: SVAAE HNRCU LICKS EEINDF
SOLUTION: EVADES SILIC CRIN DEFENDS THAT TO SUCCESSFULLY FIGHT IN A CAUSE THAT WILL ULTIMATELY WIN

ANSWER LINE: EVADES SILIC CRIN DEFENDS THAT TO SUCCESSFULLY FIGHT IN A CAUSE THAT WILL ULTIMATELY WIN

SOLUTION: EVADES SILIC CRIN DEFENDS THAT TO SUCCESSFULLY FIGHT IN A CAUSE THAT WILL ULTIMATELY WIN

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Green brought up his second Test ton on the penultimate ball of the day.

Green rallies Australia with fighting ton

REUTERS
FEBRUARY 29

ALL-ROUNDER Cameron Green thwarted New Zealand with a sparkling, unbeaten century after the hosts' seamers threatened to dominate the opening day of the first Test against Australia in Wellington on Thursday.

Running out of batting partners, Green brought up his second Test ton on the penultimate ball of the day, smashing Will O'Rourke past backward point to the fence as Australia went to stumps at 279/9.

The 24-year-old survived the final ball to march off unbeaten on 103, with tailender Mitch Hazlewood yet to score.

"It obviously feels pretty good... It was a pretty tough wicket out there," said Green, who kissed the crest on his helmet after bringing up his hundred. "I thought the boys played pretty well. It was nice to kind of stick out there and hopefully put a semi-competitive total on the board."

Green's century and a rollicking, 132-run final session ensured Australia narrowly took honours on a pulsating Day One, having been sent in to bat on a green-top pitch after home captain Tim Southee won the toss.

Matt Henry took four wickets, while Scott Kuggelein took two victims as the fourth seamer, with selectors opting for more pace rather than the slow-bowling all-rounder Mitch Santner.

New Zealand's bowlers swung the ball but were sometimes wayward and ultimately expensive, racking up 30 runs in extras for the day as balls repeatedly ballooned over wicketkeeper Tom Blundell for byes.

They also laboured fruitlessly in the morning as openers Steve Smith and Usman Khawaja held firm until the verge of lunch.

Henry eventually broke through by having Smith caught behind for 31, ending a 61-run partnership.

Rejuvenated after the break, New Zealand's quicks tore through Australia's top order in an electrifying hour.

Shackled by tight line-and-length bowling, out-of-form number three Marnus Labuschagne made only one run from 27 balls, edging Kuggelein to first slip.

Green survived, though, building a 67-run partnership with Mitchell Marsh, who came out swinging in a 39-ball 40 before he was caught top-edging Henry.

Australia were 176 for six soon after tea, when wicketkeeper Alex Carey tossed his wicket away for 10, driving Kuggelein straight to Kane Williamson's safe hands.

Yet, Green went on the offensive and foiled New Zealand's hopes of rattling through Australia's batsmen in a day.

The towering all-rounder anchored valuable partnerships with tailenders Mitchell Starc (9) and Pat Cummins (16) and moved into the nineties with Nathan Lyon.

Henry produced another brilliant ball to have Lyon caught behind for five, though, leaving Green's hopes of a century in peril.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia 279/9 (Cameron Green 103 batting, Mitchell Marsh 40; Matt Henry 4/43) vs New Zealand at stumps on Day 1

Kuldeep Yadav, the hard-working class hero

Former India bowling coach Bharat Arun says improved fitness and technical tweaks mean wrist-spinner's best days are ahead of him

SIRRAM VEERA
FEBRUARY 29

FORMER BOWLING coach Bharat Arun remembers a moment that then India head coach Ravi Shastri had with Kuldeep Yadav about his fitness.

"This puppy fat you have na has to be melted away boss! I can't think of a single reason with improved fitness that you won't become a world-class Test bowler," Arun paraphrases Shastri's words from memory.

Arun brings it up in the context of the "insane hard work" that Kuldeep has put in since late 2021 from the moment he was sidelined due to a serious leg injury that needed surgery.

"It seems rather silly to say this but that injury, I think, gave him no option but to get fitter. He had to do all the hard rehab work, shed himself of that puppy fat, to continue his dream of playing cricket. And he has obviously worked a lot on his bowling - that energy through the crease is a standout feature now. It allows him to increase pace without sacrificing turn, loop, drift," Arun tells The Indian Express.

It's also the reason why India will now have to play Kuldeep ahead of Axar Patel in any Test they play. Especially, in the context of the pitches they are serving - not rank turners - where Axar the bowler is almost nullified, or at least his effectiveness vastly reduced.

On such tracks, the comparison can be simplistically reduced to a battle between their stock balls. Axar's landing on a length and skidding on a good day with a hint of turn has no chance against Kuldeep's wristy

loop offering with a bit more turn that has the potential to beat batsmen in flight, with dip and turn. Aligned with it, are his other variations. Axar was one of India's most valuable batsmen in the home Test series against Australia, but of late, Kuldeep the batsman has fought doggedly, putting a big price on his wicket.

Energy, not pace

One returns to Arun and the perception floating around then was that during his stint, Kuldeep wasn't played that frequently as he wanted the spinner to bowl faster. Arun laughs.

"Any bowler can bowl quicker - that was never the point. It had to be done without sacrificing turn, loop and dip. And it was always about the energy through the crease. The ultimate result is a visible increase in pace. Not the other way around. Not going there and firing the ball. None of us are idiots! It was about being patient and working hard."

"How do you do that? Fitness certainly is a factor to bowl in Tests with that kind of energy. We always knew Kuldeep can deliver: Who can forget the ball he bowled in the 2015 World Cup to Babar Azam! How to sustain that through longer spells? When your release point's hand position is precise, you have a quicker arm speed. All the spinner's nuances can come through the wrist position."

"Now look at him, quicker arm-speed, that bustle through the crease, near-perfect hand position at release, and it's all going in the direction it ought to go - towards the batsman at the other end. With better fitness, his basics (of bowling action) taken care of,



The new improved Kuldeep Yadav has done enough with both bat and ball to be preferred over the team's spin-allrounder Axar Patel in Tests. Sportzpics

he is now actively channeling all his energy at the other end, trying to beat the man there," Arun says.

Back from the brink

It wasn't an easy journey, though. In IPL 2021, Kuldeep didn't feature in a single game for Kolkata Knight Riders and left the bubble after suffering a knee injury, which forced him to go for surgery. Former spinner and selector Sunil Joshi had spoken to this newspaper about his work with Kuldeep since 2021-22 after his return from surgery.

"I got his delivery stride shorter, front arm better, arm-speed better, got him to rip more revolutions on the ball... Ravi Shastri asked me, 'Sunil, what have you done with Kuldeep?' I said, 'Ravi bhai, I have not done anything special. If you look at Kuldeep 2.0, his front arm is going toward the target, his bowling arm is towards the target, he is running towards the target. Shorter stride, there is a free follow-through, he has got quicker through the air.'

A stint with Delhi Capitals under Ricky Ponting's coaching helped. More encouragement came via Rishabh Pant, his IPL captain. And now, he has flourished more under Rohit Sharma's captaincy.

"Tu aisa daalega toh bowling nahi doonga (If you bowl like this, I will take you off)." Rohit would shout from slip during a game last year when he felt Kuldeep was slipping into a flatter trajectory. Rohit can cajole; he also can be a firm guiding hand. Both traits have helped Kuldeep. In the ongoing series against England, Rohit has been spending a lot of time with Kuldeep in the nets, with long chats on his batting. Everything is syncing up nicely now.

He might not be able to play the last Test owing to the conditions that may prompt India to go with a pace-heavy composition, but in the bigger picture, the future looks bright. As Arun puts it: "He is not even 30 yet, his best years as a Test spinner are ahead."

Promise to play white-ball domestic games saw all-rounder Hardik get Grade A contract

VENKATA KRISHNA B
FEBRUARY 29

EVEN AS the decision to omit Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan from the central contracts list for not turning up for domestic tournaments continues to receive mixed reactions, there was plenty of discussion about Hardik Pandya's inclusion as well.

The Indian Express understands that the selectors and the BCCI only handed Hardik a contract after he gave an undertaking that if there are no white-ball commitments with the national team, he would feature for Baroda in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s and Vijay Hazare Trophy.

During the recent meeting, apart from Shreyas and Ishan, there was discussion regarding Pandya's place in Grade A of the annual contract list as well. Since injuring his ankle during the World Cup in October, Pandya had remained out of action till last week when he returned to competitive cricket in the DY Patil tournament, where he is turning out for Reliance. Like Ishan, Pandya has been training individually in Vadodara, but what worked in his favour is that he has been reporting at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) on a time-to-time basis to have his fitness assessed.

According to a top BCCI official, Pandya has also given assurance that he would feature in domestic tournaments if they don't overlap with international commitments.

"We have had discussions with Pandya, who has been told to play domestic white-ball tournaments when he is available. At this stage, according to the assessment of the BCCI's medical team, he is not in a position to bowl in red-ball tournaments. So playing Ranji Trophy is out of the equation for Pandya. But he has to play other white-ball tournaments if there are no India commitments. If not, he will miss out on a contract," the official told The Indian Express.



Since injuring his ankle during the ICC World Cup in October last, all-rounder Hardik Pandya had remained out of action. AP

tournaments when he is available. At this stage, according to the assessment of the BCCI's medical team, he is not in a position to bowl in red-ball tournaments. So playing Ranji Trophy is out of the equation for Pandya. But he has to play other white-ball tournaments if there are no India commitments. If not, he will miss out on a contract," the official told The Indian Express.

According to the Future Tours Programme, India are scheduled to play only three T20Is at home against Bangladesh as the team has a busy Test calendar. In the October-December period, when India don't have any white-ball commitments, the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s and Vijay Hazare Trophy would be conducted. And unless Pandya has any fitness issues, he has been directed to

feature in both these tournaments.

Different yardsticks

While former cricketers have welcomed the BCCI's decision to drop Shreyas and Ishan from the contracts list, Irfan Pathan raised the question regarding Pandya on X.

"They are talented cricketers, both Shreyas and Ishan. Hoping they bounce back and come back stronger. If players like Hardik don't want to play red-ball cricket, should he and others like him participate in white-ball cricket when they aren't on national duty? If this doesn't apply to all, then Indian cricket won't achieve the desired results!" Pathan tweeted on Thursday morning.

It is understood that the Indian board will also instruct contracted players to report to their respective state units when they are not part of the national team set-up. There have been instances when in the middle of the domestic season, players from several states attended short camps with their respective IPL franchises, a move which didn't go down well with the state units. Shreyas, for instance, attended a KKR camp after missing a Ranji fixture with Mumbai.

On Wednesday, based on the recommendations of the selectors, BCCI secretary Jay Shah announced that Shreyas and Ishan were not considered for the 2023-24 annual contracts. Though the two were part of the national set-up across all three formats for the majority of 2023, that the duo didn't turn up for Ranji Trophy had drawn sharp criticism from several quarters.

Goswami alleges match-fixing in Kolkata league

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 29

WICKETKEEPER-BATSMAN Shreevats Goswami, a member of the 2008 Under-19 World Cup-winning team, on Thursday alleged that a match in the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB) first division league seemed fixed from the manner in which some dismissals took place during the game.

Goswami shared videos of a game between Mohammedan Sporting and Town Club on his Facebook page.

He alleged that Mohammedan Sporting batsmen seemed to be intentionally getting out to concede seven points to Town Club, which is associated with former Team India manager Debabrata Das, the current CAB secretary. Das was the Indian team's administrative manager during the tour of England in 2022.

"This is a Super Division match in Kolkata Club Cricket, two big teams doing this, any idea what's going on here?" Goswami posted.

In the first video, a right-handed batsman is seen leaving the ball coming straight to his stumps as he then walks off the field.

In the second video, a left-hander comes out of the crease to a wide delivery to be stumped. While Debabrata Das was not available for a reaction, CAB president Snehasish Ganguly said they have sought the umpires' and observer's report.

Medvedev, Rublev enter Dubai semifinals

DANIIL MEDVEDEV and Andrey Rublev stayed on course for a potential rematch for the title at the Dubai Championships after the Russians won their quarterfinals on Thursday, the defending champion and No.1 seed, defeated eighth-seeded Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-2, Rublev will face seventh-seeded Alexander Bublik, who reached the last four after his Czech opponent Jiri Lehecka also retired. The big-serving Bublik was leading 6-4, 4-1. A year ago, Medvedev defeated Rublev 6-2, 6-3. Rublev advanced when Sebastian Korda retired with an unspecified injury. Rublev was up 6-4, 4-3 at the time, 6-2 in the all-Russian final.



Advani won 37-81, 83-40, 41-83, 6-98, 94-2, 73-23, 67-5, 94-34. FILE

Second seed Ankita in last eight of ITF meet

INDIA'S Ankita Raina and Sahaja Yamlapalli registered straight-game wins to advance to the quarterfinals of the ITF Women's Open here on Thursday. Second seed Ankita beat an error-prone Zeel Desai 7-6(4) 6-3, while fifth seed Sahaja overcame stiff resistance from wild card entrant Riya Bhatia before beating her 7-6(8) 7-5 in the pre-quarterfinals. Two other Indians who played the last 16 -- Rashmika Srivalli Bhamidipati and Vaishnavi Adkar -- bowed out but not before staging a brilliant fight against their seeded opponents.

Advanta Pankaj Advani cleared the round of 16 with a 5-3 win over Digvijay Kadian but Ishpreet Singh Chadha was beaten 0-5 by Kamal Chawla in the CCI Snooker Classic tournament here on Thursday. Advani staved off a spirited fight from the young cueist Kadian to win 37-81, 83-40, 41-83, 6-98, 94-2, 73-23, 67-5, 94-34 in his round of 16 match. The multiple times world champion Advani had a solitary break of 72 in the eighth frame while Kadian compiled a break of 94 in the fourth.

Chawla kept it simple against Chadha who went down without putting up a fight. Chawla capitalised to build useful breaks, to secure a win 83-4, 53-36, 92-5, 70-14, 77-14 and a place in the final eight. Meanwhile, Habib Sabah from Bahrain who is also an IBSF World Masters Snooker champion, lost to Laxman Rawat. Laxman constructed breaks of 80, 60 and 66 to outdo Sabah by a margin of 60-69, 60-66, 80-48, 64-36, 88-49, 77-19, 45-71, 81-54 and emerge 5-3 winner.

Manipur in Santosh Trophy quarters

MANIPUR booked their quarterfinals spot in the National Football Championships for the Santosh Trophy with a 4-1 win against Mizoram here on Thursday. Philam Sanathoi Meetei (35th, 90th minutes), Leimajam Sangkar Singh (8th) and substitute Pebam Renedy Singh (56th) scored for Manipur while Malsawmzuila Tlangte (84th) pulled one back for Mizoram. Manipur, thus, remained at the top of Group B with 10 points from four matches and are guaranteed a top-four finish in the standings. A draw against Delhi in their last Group B match will be enough to secure the top spot for them. PTI

Aditi makes even par start to be T-23

INDIAN golfer Aditi Ashok, playing her second event on LPGA's Asian Swing, opened with an action-packed even par round to be placed tied-23rd at the Women's Championship golf tournament. Aditi, ranked 40th in the world, is lying inside top-25 in the 66-player field in the USD 1.8 million event, being played at the Tanjong Course on the Sentosa Island. Aditi had five birdies and as many bogeys with eight pars. She found only half the greens in regulations and nine of the 14 fairways. Last week Aditi was T-31 in LPGA Thailand. American Sarah Schmelzel, who made 20 cuts in 27 starts with two top-10s in 2023.

Praggnanandhaa commits blunder

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa committed a time-pressure blunder as he suffered defeat at the hands of Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran in the second round of Prague Masters Chess tournament in Prague. The defeat ended Praggnanandhaa's impressive 47-game unbeaten streak in Classical Chess. The 18-year-old Praggnanandhaa also lost the top ranking in live ratings among Indians -- a spot reclaimed by the legendary Viswanathan Anand who is also the brand ambassador of this event. D Gukesh, meanwhile, came up with an impressive performance with black pieces to beat Nguyen Thai Dai of Vietnam. Praggnanandhaa's win over Gukesh.

Wrestlers move HC against WFI, allege sports code violations

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

ALLEGING that the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) elections were held in violation of the sports code, protesting wrestlers including Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik and World Championship medalist Vinesh Phogat have filed an urgent petition in the Delhi High Court with a plea to set aside the poll results and de-recognise the federation, it is learnt.

This development comes days after the WFI issued a circular stating that it would conduct national trials for Olympic qualifiers and invited the protesting wrestlers to participate in the trials.

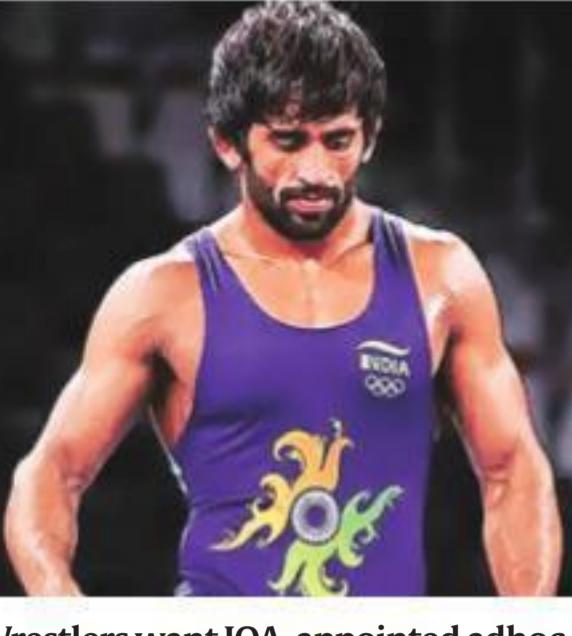
The urgent plea also mentions that without the court intervening, the trial con-

ducted by the WFI won't be free or fair and would affect the careers of wrestlers, a source said.

The WFI, in a circular, had announced that it would conduct trials on March 10-11 – the same dates as the trials announced by the Indian Olympic Association-appointed ad-hoc committee. The WFI announced that the trials would be conducted at the IG Stadium in New Delhi. The ad-hoc committee has also scheduled trials – for the men in Patiala and for women in Sonipat.

According to sources, the urgent petition also mentions that the sports ministry, despite suspending the elected body of the WFI, has allowed the WFI to use facilities (IG Stadium) owned by it for trials.

The urgent petition also questions how the suspended WFI got permission for conducting trials at a venue which belongs to



Wrestlers want IOA-appointed adhoc committee to conduct trials for Olympic qualifiers instead of the WFI.

the Sports Authority of India/sports ministry.

The sports ministry had suspended the elected body of the WFI three days after its polls on December 21 for 'blatant disregard for established legal and procedural norms'.

Sanjay Singh, a close aide of former president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, a BJP MP, was elected president of the WFI. Some of the country's top wrestlers had protested demanding Brij Bhushan's arrest after six women wrestlers filed a complaint against him alleging sexual harassment.

The sports ministry also directed the Indian Olympic Association to set up an ad-hoc committee to run the day-to-day affairs of the WFI.

The United World Wrestling (UWW) had suspended the WFI for six months because of a delay in conducting elections. However,

earlier this month, the UWW had lifted its provisional suspension of the WFI, which meant Sanjay Singh was back as president. At the same time, the sports ministry has remained silent post UWW lifting the suspension imposed on the WFI.

The petition also alleges that the sports ministry has turned a blind eye to the WFI not being in conformity with the sports code.

According to sources, the urgent petition mentions that the elected body of the WFI includes members who have been in power in their state wrestling units for more than 12 years or three terms and have not undergone any cooling-off period.

The petition adds that some of those who are part of the executive committee of the WFI are older than 70 years and that there is no proper Athletes' Commission in the WFI or the state

units.

It is learnt that the urgent petition in the high court also calls for the ad-hoc committee to continue to run the day-to-day affairs of the WFI or appoint an administrator to run the federation. The petition has also appealed to the court to direct the WFI office-bearers not to be in communication with UWW without getting clearance from the ad-hoc committee. According to sources, the urgent petition also calls on the court to issue an order to stop the WFI from taking any decision contrary to those of the sports ministry or the ad-hoc committee.

The urgent petition also highlights the fact that the suspended WFI conducted a separate national championships even though they were aware that the ad-hoc committee had announced dates for their event.

Mandhana dazzles, but RCB lose

RAHUL PANDEY
FEBRUARY 29

OF THE few things that the Women's Premier League missed last year was a signature Smriti Mandhana innings. One of the only two Indian captains – and likely the future Indian captain – underperforming, didn't sit well. Few batters in world cricket are as soothing to watch as the southpaw and to have her deliver in the wham-bam setting of T20 cricket was always going to be paiza vasool.

It took 11 innings but the RCB captain finally arrived at the party on Thursday with a stylish 74. Her free-flowing innings, however, went in vain as Royal Challengers Bangalore lost to the Delhi Capitals by 25 runs, a result which may gnaw them for a while.

With 195 to chase down against a resourceful Delhi bowling attack, RCB needed their captain to get going from the start to have any shot at it. She'd do just that.

Marizanne Kapp had rendered the likes of Alyssa Healy and Tahilia McGrath ineffective a couple of nights ago with the new ball. Mandhana though decided to target her in the very first over, calling for an early change of plans from Delhi.

Off-spinners have got the better of her more than any other kind but a young Minnu Mani's introduction didn't bother Mandhana as she clobbered her for a couple more boundaries.

Dc captain Meg Lanning then tried her luck with a more experienced spinner in Jess Jonassen, going after the same angular advantage with her left-arm orthodox. But the boundaries continued to flourish and before long, Delhi were under the pump. Arundhati Reddy served up a juicy full toss and was deservedly punished with a six. Shikha Pandey, known for her controlled line and length, offered another as Mandhana helped RCB across the 50 mark inside the powerplay.

It was quite the exhibition. What made it even more noteworthy was the lone enforcer nature of it. While Delhi were pushed to 194 by Shafali Verma, Alice Capsey, Kapp, and Jonassen sharing the load, the RCB chase largely hinged upon their captain's strokeplay in the middle. At the other end from Mandhana veteran Sophie Devine struggled to time the ball for the majority of her innings. That RCB were still toe-to-toe at the halfway stage was credit to her.

Gone are the days when she can only be judged for her cover drive, which is glorious. The bat follows across as she holds her shape with nimble footwork and dissects even the most cramped off-side fields. On Thursday though, Mandhana almost resisted playing in front of square on the off-side. Even the shot a length delivery outside the off stump was picked and placed down the leg. "I have been working on increasing my shot range," she'd admit later.

A couple of shots stood out. First, her first boundary off Kapp in the first over. A gentle whip over mid-wicket played by turning her blade at the last second to loft the ball over the infield. A six hit later in her innings off the South African all-rounder was even better. Kapp was right on the money with her length – fuller – and angled it to the left-hander. Mandhana would shuffle across to get in line and generate enough power to a flick shot that sailed over the mid-wicket fence.

Such was Mandhana's application on the night that even on the rare occasion she misjudged a delivery, the RCB captain made up for it with quick adjustments. Like advancing down the track off a possible stumping trap, not anticipating the extra turn down the leg side, before quickly flicking the ball down square leg for a single.

On a night when she looked near perfect, it was perhaps cruel that an attempted drive on the offside was what led to her end. Backing away for a slower one heading for the off-stump, she missed the ball and Kapp had the last laugh. As did Delhi, with the remaining RCB batting failed to finish the job.

"Not to depend on certain players and all the XI are good enough to win a game on their own," had been the word in the pre-season camp, as Mandhana shared at the start of the game. But on Thursday, it was a one-woman show. One that RCB and WPL had waited for a long time.

Brief scores: Delhi Capitals 194/5 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 50, Alice Capsey 46; Sophie Devine 2/23) beat Royal Challengers Bangalore 169/9 in 20 overs (Smriti 74; Marizanne Kapp 2/35) by 25 runs

The WPL has provided a safety net as well as made the sport a viable career option, something which wasn't the case till recently

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

THE WOMEN'S Premier League's (WPL) impact can be gauged in many ways. But nothing captures it better than the emergence of Sajana Sajeevan.

Until she was picked by Mumbai Indians, the 29-year-old from Wayanad was just another allrounder in the domestic scene. At the first opportunity, Sajana showed she's much more than that. In her first season, off her first ball – and the game's final – she hit a six to hand Mumbai Indians an incredible win against the Delhi Capitals in last season's opener.

Just like that, a star was born. Safe to say, Sajana's six-hitting talent would not have been unearthed if not for the WPL.

"Girls take cricket seriously now," Sneh Rana, Indian off-spinner and Gujarat Giants' vice-captain, tells *The Indian Express*. "Those who might not have considered taking up cricket as a serious profession, those parents who were scared ki cricket mein kya hogा (what will happen in cricket)... that is changing. More players are coming forward, more parents are sending kids to coaching, WPL is a fine platform for that. People used to talk during our time too, there wasn't this much exposure for women's cricket. But we kept at it."

Players from Sneh's generation – and the stalwarts from before then – had to maintain that level of stubbornness to ignore all the jibes, and keep pushing on despite the lack of avenues. But for those growing up now that will not be the case.

Dropout rate

Ananya Upendran remembers a time when she, and female cricketers, weren't taken seriously. The former Hyderabad and India A cricketer has been around Indian domestic scene in various capacities for more than a decade now, but when she was still an active cricketer, she saw around her stories of teammates who gave up the sport. "I remember being told by a 14-year-old boy when I was 22-23, when I said I play state cricket, he was like, 'Oh, so what's the big deal,'" she recalls.

From my batch of around 20-24 Under-19 cricketers in Hyderabad, only four of us graduated into senior cricket and played more than two years. That was simply because at some point parents came in and said, 'Hey, you need to make a decision. You can't just constantly be off training, doing something that is not going to be your career. So either you study full time or you find a job.'

Trickle-down effect

Shikha Pandey has been around for a while and the Indian pacer is pleased by the change she has seen at the domestic level in the past year.

"When I went back to the domestic season after WPL, I found my love back for the sport. I was amazed actually by the younger cricketers who have come into the scene, it's amazing how one year of WPL has brought about a lot of changes in terms of scoring rates going higher, teams trying to be more aggressive," the Indian pacer, who had a stellar first season for DC, says.

Throughout Shikha's career with India, when she went back to the domestic side after playing for India, she would often have youngsters approaching her with questions

Railways employee, which made them the domestic stalwarts. The security of a job, and being hired to just play cricket, was not the norm.

"But now when another player from the domestic circuit goes to the WPL, rubs shoulders with the stars, then goes back to the domestic circuit, the state cricketers will take that feedback more. They will understand what their peers are capable of. That's a huge change from last year. The numbers behind WPL in one year have been amazing, and I'm sure when more seasons happen, when teams go up from 5 to 8, more cricketers get an opportunity, and things will only get better."

Sajana's slam-bang arrival on the opening night of WPL 2024 is one such instance, as she follows the footsteps of Kerala's Minnu Mani, who was on the other side in Bengaluru playing for Delhi Capitals.

There is also Gouher Sultan who kept at it in the domestic circuit despite not playing for India since 2014, and finally, at 35, has a contract with the UP Wariorz. From a situation where players had to drop out frequently once they reached a certain age because there was no real future, things are slowly starting to change.

And at the other end of the spectrum, we have seen a youngster like Shreyanka Patil, making a mark early in their careers, delivering results beyond being just starstruck.

"I think the biggest thing in women's

about what it was like to play alongside stars like Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Mithali Raj, and Jhulan Goswami.

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UNCAPPED BUT PROMISING

A look at those who have made an instant impact during the early phase of the WPL

Sajana Sajeevan, MI

Brought in for Rs 15 lakh at the auction, Kerala's Sajana is an allrounder with a reputation for big-hitting down the order. Coming in to face her first ball in WPL, with MI needing 5 runs off 1, Sajana danced down the track and smashed a six over long on to mark a slam-bang opening for the defending champions. At 29, Sajana follows the footsteps of Minnu Mani from Wayanad to feature in the WPL.

Asha Sobhana, RCB

The leg-spinner from Kerala, 32, is in her second season in the WPL. She played 5 matches in the first season, but even as RCB struggled, she caught the eye of former India spinner L

Sivaramakrishnan. Asha began WPL 2024 on fire. She picked up a sensational 5-for, the first by an Indian bowler in WPL, to help RCB clinch victory from the jaws of defeat in match 2.

Tanuja Kanwer, GG

Tanuja was a bright spot in an otherwise forgettable opening game for GG. Batting No 9 against MI, Tanuja played a handy cameo – 28 off 21 balls – to push Gujarat to a decent total. With the ball, she was comfortably the best bowler from GG (2/21), picking up wickets of Hayley Matthews and Pooja Vastrakar.

Shweta Sehrawat, UPW

The WPL proved one step higher for the U-19 World Cup winner. She went back to the domestic circuit, found some form. Moving to the middle order for UP, the youngster hit a six off Ellise Perry – one of the shots of the tournament.

NEW ROLE

Dhoni fan powered by javelin skills: Navgire arrives as an opener

RAHUL PANDEY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

KIRAN NAVGIRE loves finishing games. Her personal coach Gulzar Shaikh shares an aspiration the swashbuckling batter has had for a long time: "To finish matches for India by hitting a six like her idol MS Dhoni." From her WhatsApp status that reads, 'cricket god MSD' to playing with a bat that has the former Indian captain's initials scribbled on it, Navgire has been aboard the Dhoni hype train since she first saw him hit that World Cup-winning six.

So it was only poetic that a promotion up the batting order - à la Dhoni 2005 - brought her out of a slump.

Having played all nine games for UPW last season, she'd only scored 155 runs. The streak of low scores continued in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy last year, and in the first two games in this year's WPL.

With her place in the playing XI at stake, Navgire would waltz into head coach Jon Lewis on the eve of the game against Mumbai.

"I want to open," she'd tell him, as shared by captain Alyssa Healy after their win on Wednesday. It's this confidence that's got her so far in her journey.

Coach Shaikh shares having been at the receiving end of it after a T20 Challenger Trophy game in Pune.

"She was playing in such a big tournament for the first time and told me before going out to bat, 'I'll open my mark with my favorite shot.' And she did so, a sweep shot off the first ball for six. When she returned I told her, 'That's a risky thing to do.' Her gentle reply was, 'I can do it, sir.' She isn't overconfident, it's the belief that drives her," he tells *The Indian Express*.

It may have gotten her out plenty of times during her slump but on Wednesday, the sweep shot was out again as Navgire blitzed to 57 off just 31 deliveries.

But when he first saw her smashing sixes for fun back in 2017, Shaikh admits Navgire wasn't even aware that she could make a profession out of it.

Playing in the Abeda Inamdar National Invitational tournament in Pune, she was riling up the bowlers when the Azam Sports

