



मोदी की गारंटी
विष्णु का सुशासन



हमने बनाया है
हम ही संवारेंगे

Shri Ramlala DARSHAN YOJNA



Chhattisgarh is the first state
which Provides Opportunity to its Pilgrims
to take a absolute free Spiritual Journey
to Ayodhya Dham



श्री नरेंद्र मोदी
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री

सबका साथ-सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास और सबका प्रयास

श्री विष्णु देव साय
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

THE WORLD

TOP OF THE
WORLD



Yulia Navalnaya

RUSSIA

Wife takes up Navalny's call for poll day protest

London: The wife of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said on Wednesday the scale of public support for him since his death was proof that his cause lived on, and called for a massive election day protest against President Vladimir Putin. In a YouTube video, Yulia Navalnaya said she had drawn hope from the huge crowds that turned out last week for the funeral of her husband, who died in an Arctic penal colony on Feb. 16. Since his burial, supporters have submerged his grave in a sea of flowers. "Looking at you, I am convinced that everything is not in vain, and the thought gives me strength," she said. **REUTERS**

VENEZUELA
Polls on July 28,
Opp candidate
remains barred

Caracas: Venezuela's highly anticipated presidential election will take place July 28 – the birthday of the country's late fiery leader Hugo Chávez – officials announced Tuesday. President Nicolás Maduro is widely expected to run for reelection. In January, the country's top court ratified an administrative decision banning Maduro's strongest adversary this year, María Corina Machado, from running for office. **AP**

AUSTRALIA
Resolve SCS
issue through
talks: Asean

Melbourne: Australia's prime minister expressed concerns Wednesday over "unsafe and destabilising behavior" in the South China Sea, citing the collision between Chinese and Philippine ships the previous day. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's remarks came as his country wrapped up a three-day summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that failed to explicitly call China out over a series of incidents in the disputed waters. Instead, ASEAN leaders urged for disputes to be resolved through dialogue rather than threats. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA
President wants
action on junior
doctors' walkout

Seoul: South Korea's president vowed Wednesday not to tolerate the prolonged walkouts by thousands of junior doctors, calling them "an illegal collective action" that threatens public health. President Yoon Suk Yeol's government was in the process of suspending the licenses of about 9,000 medical interns and residents over their joint walkouts that have impacted hospitals' capacity to provide care. The doctors-in-training have been on strike for more than two weeks to protest a government push to admit thousands more new students to medical schools in coming years. **AP**

URGES FORMER PRESIDENT TO EARN SUPPORT OF PARTY & BEYOND

Haley ends White House bid pushing Trump, Biden closer to Nov rematch

Nikki leaves race creating history as first woman to win Republican primaries

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, MARCH 6

Former President Donald Trump greets supporters at a Super Tuesday election night party in Florida. **AP**

NIKKI HALEY suspended her presidential campaign on Wednesday after being soundly defeated across the country on Super Tuesday, leaving Donald Trump as the last remaining major candidate for the 2024 Republican nomination.

Haley didn't endorse the former president in a speech in Charleston. Instead, she encouraged him to earn the support of the coalition of moderate Republicans and independent voters who supported her.

"It is now up to Donald Trump to earn the votes of those in our party and beyond it who did not support him. And I hope he does that," she said. "At its best, politics is about bringing people into your cause, not turning them away. And our conservative cause badly needs more people."

RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Haley, a former South Carolina governor and former UN ambassador, was Trump's first significant rival when she jumped into the race in February 2023. She spent the final phase of her campaign warning the GOP against embracing

E. Biden's bid to be on guard

WHILE CAMPAIGNING, Haley drew support from suburbanites and college-educated voters, highlighting Trump's weaknesses with those groups. Biden's call welcoming Haley supporters to his camp opens a way to balance the displeasure he faces over migration and economic issues.

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Meanwhile on Wednesday, Biden welcomed any voters who had backed Haley, acknowledging Trump's previous rejection of her supporters. "...I want to be clear: There is a place for them in my campaign," Biden said in a statement. "I know there is a lot we won't agree on. But on the fundamental issues... I... believe we can find common ground."

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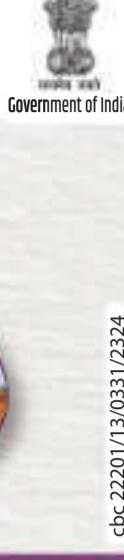
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Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Hamara Sankalp
Viksit Bharat**Means Guarantee of food at every household****Free ration to 80 crore beneficiaries**

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MORE TIE-UPS FOR RULING ALLIANCE AFTER JD(U)'S RETURN

15 yrs after snapping ties, BJD set to return to NDA fold ahead of elections

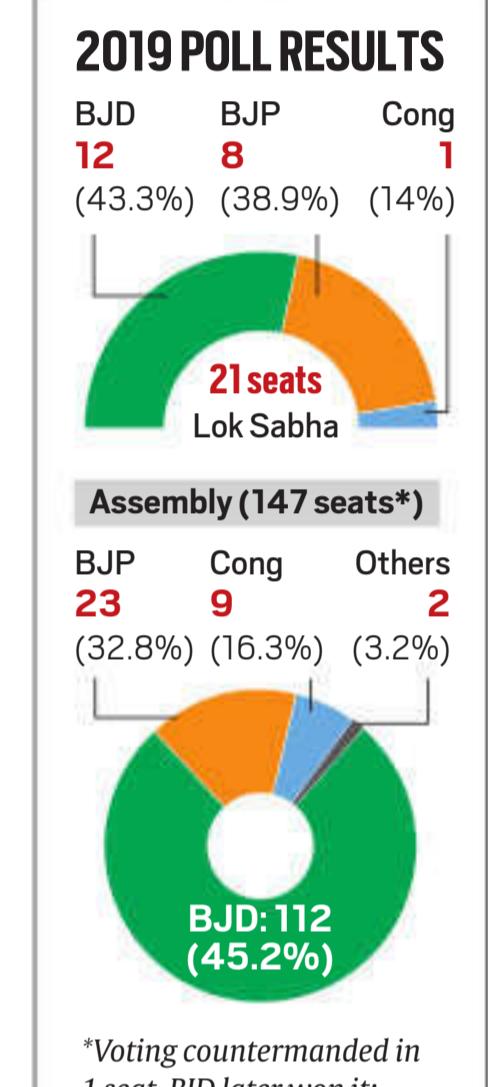
Party's seat-sharing talks with BJP final, announcement likely soon

SUJIT BISOYI & LIZ MATHEW
BHUBANESWAR, NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

FIFTEEN YEARS after it broke a decade-long alliance with the BJP, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) headed by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is set to return to the NDA fold and fight the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in alliance with the party that had emerged as its principal opponent in recent years.

Sources said the alliance talks were in an advanced stage and both sides have "more or less" reached a seat-sharing agreement for the polls. A formal announcement is expected soon, they said. There is a possibility of the announcement on Thursday, which will mark exactly 15 years from the day Chief Minister Patnaik severed ties with the BJP ahead of the 2009 polls.

This comes little over a



When in alliance, BJP-BJD saw nearly 50% vote share

SUJIT BISOYI
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 6

THE RETURN of the BJD to the BJP's side has been some time in the making, with the state party careful to sustain cordial ties with the ruling party at the Centre, despite the two being prime opponents in Odisha for some time now. What has helped are the



warm ties BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik enjoys with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who gave another sample of it during his visit to Odisha on Tuesday. While Modi hailed Patnaik as a "Lokpriya (popular)" CM and indicated that Odisha will play a significant role in the BJP-led NDA's target of 400-plus seats in the Lok Sabha polls, the CM said

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Days after Tripura pact, Tipra set to join BJP GovtDEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, MARCH 6

FOUR DAYS after the BJP-led Centre signed a tripartite agreement with the party-led Tripura government and the state's principal Opposition Tipra Motha to address the latter's demands regarding a "constitutional solution" to the tribals' problems, the stage is set for the Tipra to join the state government headed by Chief Minister Manik Saha.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Tipra Motha founder and royal scion-turned-politician Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma said, "We have decided to join the state government and send two of our legislators to the Cabinet. They will join tomorrow."

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WANTED FOR ATTACK ON ED SEARCH TEAM

Bengal hands Shahjahan to CBI after fresh HC direction

CID transfers custody after HC sets a deadline

ATRI MITRA
KOLKATA, MARCH 6

TMC'S SANDESHKHALI strongman Shahjahan Sheikh, at the centre of a row between the ruling party and the BJP in West Bengal, was turned over to the CBI by the state CID Wednesday evening after high drama over who should get his custody.

Accused of sexual abuse, extortion, land-grabbing in Sandeshkhali and wanted for the January 5 attack on Enforcement Directorate officers who had gone to search his house as part of their probe into the ration distribution case, Sheikh was transferred to CBI custody at 6.45 pm after the Calcutta High Court gave a fresh directive to the state administration in the morning and set a 4.15 pm deadline.

He was arrested on February 29 after being on the run for 55 days following the attack on the ED team at his house.

Before handing over Sheikh, the CID sent him to the SSKM Hospital for a medical check-up and he was brought back to Bhabani Bhawan, the police headquarters, after an hour. Thereafter, the CBI, which had been waiting there since

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of India's first underwater Metro in Kolkata on Wednesday. PTI

Bengal women will end TMC mafia raj, says PM

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
BARASAT (WB), MARCH 6

STEPPING UP his attack on the ruling TMC for unleashing "a reign of terror" on women in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Wednesday that the ripples of what happened in Sandeshkhali will be felt across the state and "the

women of Bengal will put an end to TMC's mafia raj".

Addressing the 'Nari Shakti Vandana Concluding Karyakram' rally at Barasat in North 24 Parganas district where he later met a group of women from Sandeshkhali who narrated their ordeal to him, Modi said, "In Bengal, women have faced atrocities under TMC rule." CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

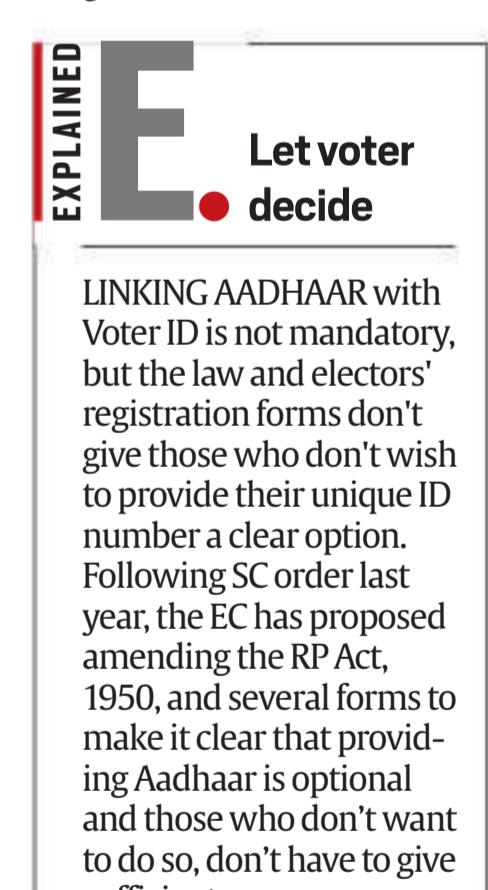
Aadhaar seeding with voter ID: EC wants law amended to clarify it's voluntary

Law Ministry says law needs no change, clarification by EC will do

DAMINI NATH & RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

THE ELECTION Commission of India has approached the Union government proposing amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and voter enrolment forms, to delete the provision that compels a voter to provide reasons for her decision not to seed her Aadhaar number with the voter ID card.

The proposal, however, is learned to have been turned down by the Union Law Ministry on the ground that the Supreme Court gave no specific directions to amend the RP Act, 1950. It has, instead, suggested that the poll panel issue clarificatory guidelines reiterating its position that providing Aadhaar details is voluntary and that no name of any voter be deleted from or denied inclusion in the voters' list for want of Aadhaar number.



The exchange between the EC and the Law Ministry comes amidst complaints and a recent writ petition in the Supreme

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Bengaluru cafe blast: CCTV trail gives leads on suspect's identity, stopovers

JOHNSONTA
BENGALURU, MARCH 6

THE CCTV trail of a suspect in the March 1 bomb blast at The Rameshwaram Cafe in the Whitefield area of Bengaluru has revealed some aspects of the identity of the suspect.

Nine persons were injured in the incident and the NIA has started taking over the case from the Bengaluru police. On Wednesday, the NIA announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh for infor-



A CCTV grab of the suspect posted by NIA

mation about the suspect and also posted his CCTV grab.

The suspect's arrival in a public bus at a bus stop located about 100 metres from the cafe at around 10.45 am, his entry into the cafe at 11.34 am, exit at 11.43 am, and subsequent walk to a bus stop over a kilometre away for his escape using public buses has been captured on CCTV cameras.

Sources said the CCTV trail of the suspect — from his arrival to his escape, an hour before the 12.56 pm blast at the cafe — has

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PM MODI TO GO TO SRINAGAR TODAY

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Telangana man, who was 'duped' into joining Russia war, is killed

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, MARCH 6

A 30-YEAR-OLD from Telangana who had been duped into joining Russia's war with Ukraine has been killed on the frontlines.

Earlier this week, the family of Hyderabad resident Mohammed Imran (30) had spoken to *The Indian Express* about how he was tricked into believing he was applying for a job as a helper in the Russian government offices, but was forced to

Mohammed Imran with a photo of his brother Afsan

head to the frontlines, putting his life in danger.

According to a PTI report, Afsan's brother, Mohammed Imran, said the Indian Embassy in Moscow had informed the family about the death. "We just got to know through the call (informing about the death). We don't have any other information. His body has to be brought back. We request the central government to get back his body," he told PTI.

The Indian Embassy in Russia

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Money, muscle, murky deals — how Shahjahan Sheikh built an empire

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA
SANDESHKHALI, MARCH 6

FROM

A market named after him to hundreds of bighas of fisheries to brick kilns and guesthouses — suspended Trinamool Congress strongman Shahjahan Sheikh's empire touched almost every corner of West Bengal's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



Sandeshkhali, even as his influence extended beyond the island.

With the Enforcement Directorate (ED) now conducting

raids at his properties — six have been searched so far — a key challenge for investigators is finding links between him and the land allegedly grabbed at his best.

Known locally as Bhai, such was Sheikh's clout that TMC candidates who contested from Sandeshkhali assembly constituency would often win unopposed or with margins as high

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

World recognising India as robust, economically sound, no doubt, says SC

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

HEARING A suit filed by the Kerala government which has accused the Centre of not letting it borrow more money to meet its needs, the Supreme Court Wednesday said the world is "recognising India as a robust economically sound country".

It adds that this is not based on just perception.

Justice Surya Kant, presiding over a two-judge bench also comprising Justice K V Viswanathan, said, "The entire world is recognising India as a robust economically sound country. There is no doubt about it. Even when we go out of the country on judicial platforms, we find this kind of feeling there. And it's not a feeling based on perception. It's based on correct facts and figures and the strong

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ANCHOR

Valley to Bastar, films meet elections in the great countdown

VIDHATI RAO
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

DURING A visit to Jammu on February 20, and ahead of his trip to Kashmir, which would mark his first to the Valley since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked: "I do not know what the film is all about, but yesterday I heard on TV that a film is coming on Article 370. Good, it will be useful for people to get the correct information."

The PM was referring to Article 370, the Yami Gautam-starrer, which was released just days after

Modi returned from Jammu. In 2019, also an election year, Modi had made a reference to another Bollywood film, about another incident involving Kashmir, while addressing the inaugural event of the National Museum of Indian Cinema in Mumbai. "How's the josh?" he asked the crowd, including many Bollywood personalities, borrowing a dialogue from the blockbuster *Uri*, which was based on the "surgical strikes" by the Indian Army on Pakistan soil following an attack on an Army base in Uri.

Gautam stars in both the

*Article 370* was released on February 23 and *Swatantrya Veer Savarkar* is slated for release on March 22

It adds that the killings had been "celebrated" by students at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Actress Adah Sharma, who plays an IPS officer, says in the trailer: "In Bastar (Chhattisgarh), Naxals want to break the country and those supporting them are pseudo-intellectual, Left liberals from big cities... I will gather these vaampanthis (Leftists) on the street and shoot them in public view."

The teaser saw protests in JNU, with some students demanding "immediate action" against the team of the film.

A week after *Bastar: A Naxal*Story, *Swatantrya Veer Savarkar*, a biopic on RSS ideologue Veer Savarkar, is scheduled for release. It is directed by Randeep Hooda, and stars him. Hooda says in the teaser that he "does not hate Gandhiji but hates non-violence".Last year saw *Gandhi Godse - Ek Yudh*, a film that imagines a fictional scenario in which Gandhi meets his killer Nathuram Godse.2024 also saw *The Vaccine War*, directed by Vivek Agnihotri of *The Kashmir Files* fame, which told the story of the Modi government's efforts to come out with an indigenous vaccine at the height of the Covid pandemic. 2024 kicked off with *Main*Atal Hoon, based on former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee; while *Accident or Conspiracy: Godhra* is in the works. Mid-year will see *Emergency* on the events from 1975 under Indira Gandhi. It stars Kangana Ranaut as the former PM. *Bastar: The Naxal Story* has been made by the same team that was behind 2023's *The Kerala Story* which, as per its makers, was based on "the true story of 32,000 young women" from Kerala held captive at ISIS camps after being converted to Islam. Kerala Chief Minister Pinayari Vijayan was among

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FROM PAGE ONE ■ FULL REPORTS ON
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Valley to Bastar, films meet elections in the great countdown

those who slammed the film for "taking up the Sangh Parivar propaganda of projecting the state as a centre of religious extremism".

Vipul Amrit Shah, the producer of both the films, says *Bastar: A Naxal Story* is "based on evidence" of events that happened between 2007-2013. "There have been recent reports that the Naxal threat is now bigger and that the threat has spread into the cities," he told *The Indian Express*.

Asked about the protests in JNU over the film, Shah said: "You cannot deny that there is a strong lobby in JNU that is active."

He added: "This (the film) is not pro-government, but this is pro-India. There is a right agenda. Our film talks about what is good for India. Now, if the BJP speaks similarly, it is their political stand."

Dhar earlier told *The Indian Express* that *Article 370*, with two women in lead roles, champions "women's empowerment" and is based on "a pure story".

Meanwhile, in Andhra Pradesh

Headed for simultaneous Assembly and Lok Sabha polls, the state is also seeing a political war play out on the big screen.

First came *Yatra 2* on February 8, a follow-up to 2019's *Yatra*, which had highlighted the late Congress leader and former Andhra CM Y S Rajashekhar Reddy's 1,500-km padayatra that was seen to have catapulted the Congress to victory in the state in 2004.

The latest iteration highlights the rise of his son and current CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy following the events after his father's death. It focuses on the "odarpu (condolence)" yatra that Jagan undertook in April 2010 to meet families of those who are said to have either committed suicide or died

of shock after hearing the news of YSR's death in a chopper crash.

The film also has actors playing the roles of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu, both of whom allegedly try to stop Jagan's yatra.

Mahi V Raghav, the director of *Yatra 2*, says it made sense to time the release with the elections, adding: "For me, the story has drama. It does not matter if it is about a sitting CM. What matters is if the story has universal drama. The father-son bond is at the core of my film on Jagan's journey."

Then there was *Rajdhani Files* on February 15, which was based on Jagan's three-capital proposal, stuck in court and facing other controversies. The CM had proposed the setting-up of three capitals, with Amaravati as the legislative capital, Kurnool as the judicial capital and Visakhapatnam as the administrative capital, as a way of "decentralising development".

After its release, the film was dragged to court, with YSRCP general secretary Lella Appi Reddy filing a petition in the High Court for a stay. The court granted an interim stay, but only for a day.

The film did not perform well at the box office.

On March 1, director Ram Gopal Varma's take on Andhra politics – he calls it his "political commentary" – titled *Vyooham* was released. As per the teasers, the film depicts all the major figures of current Andhra politics, including Jagan, Naidu, his son Nara Lokesh, and actor-turned politician Pawan Kalyan.

The trailer shows Naidu and Kalyan, who have stitched up an alliance, don't get along, and hints at Kalyan's CM aspirations.

A follow-up called *Sapatham* is planned.

• Aadhaar seeding with voter ID: EC wants law amended

Court, where the petitioner argued that Form 6 (for new voter enrolment), Form 6B (for collecting Aadhaar number of enrolled voters), and other related forms lacked options for electors to abstain from providing Aadhaar, offering only two choices: either provide the Aadhaar number or declare, "I am not able to furnish my Aadhaar because I don't have Aadhaar number."

Opting for the latter potentially meant that electors who did not want to give their Aadhaar details would have to make a false declaration of not having an Aadhaar card, which is an offence punishable under the RP Act, 1950. Although the EC had told the Supreme Court last year that it is not mandatory to provide Aadhaar numbers for linking with the electoral roll, the top court had asked the Commission to issue clarificatory changes in voter enrolment forms to reflect this.

The amendments sought by EC to the RP Act 1950 and voter enrolment forms are a consequence of that. Just last month, the top court declined to consider a contempt plea for not changing the enrolment forms in view of EC's assertion that it was addressing the issue.

Over two months ago, EC had written to the Law Ministry proposing tweaks to Section 23(6) and Section 28(2)(hhb) of the RP Act 1950. These sections state that no elector can be denied registration or deleted from the rolls for not providing Aadhaar, but they add that individuals should have "sufficient cause" for doing so. The EC is learned to have sought the deletion of the "sufficient cause" requirement.

Similarly, in Form 6 meant for the enrolment of new voters, the EC has asked the Law Ministry to amend the section pertaining to Aadhaar details so that prospective voters aren't obliged to declare that they are not providing their Aadhaar number because they don't have one.

The EC had first initiated the exercise of linking Aadhaar with EPIC in February 2015, when HS Brahma was Chief Election Commissioner. But the exercise was suspended in August of that year, after the Supreme Court restricted the use of Aadhaar to the Public Distribution System (PDS), and the distribution of LPG and kerosene. The EC had already linked 38 crore voter cards to Aadhaar by then.

In its final order passed in September 2018, the apex court held that although privacy is a fundamental right, it can be curtailed if there is either a specific law authorising collection of Aadhaar or if the interest of the state is involved or the test of proportionality is satisfied.

Following the Supreme Court's order of September 2018, the EC had written to the government again to empower it to collect and use Aadhaar data for "cleaning" voters' lists as a "back-end exercise". The Parliament had passed a Bill to amend the RP Act, 1950 to this effect in December 2021.

The EC started collecting Aadhaar numbers from electors through a new form, Form-6B, in 2022 on a voluntary basis. While the amended Act says no elector can be denied registration or deleted off the rolls for not providing Aadhaar, it adds that they should have "sufficient cause" for doing so. It had collected 66.23 crore till September last year, when the Supreme Court was hearing the petition. This is about 68% of the total electors in the country, 96.99 crore as of February this year.

The Aadhaar details have not yet been linked to Voter IDs and used to check for duplicates, as per EC. Initially, the deadline for linking Aadhaar with Voter IDs was April 1, 2023, however, March last year, the government extended it to March 31, 2024.

• Telangana man, who was 'duped' into joining war, killed

posted on X: "We have learnt about the tragic death of an Indian national Shri Mohammed Asfan. We are in touch with the family and Russian authorities. Mission will make efforts to send his mortal remains to India."

Earlier, Imran had told *The Indian Express* that his brother had landed in Moscow in November. "They were duped. The agent who recruited them said they would work in Moscow only; instead, they were given 15-day training and dropped in Ukraine, where they are being forced to stay alongside Russian troops fighting the war," he had said.

Asfan was working as a salesman at a clothes showroom when he chanced on the job opportunity in Moscow. "He, like the other youths, was promised a salary of Rs 45,000 per month for the initial three months, which would gradually increase to Rs 1.5 lakh. After working for a year, he could apply for Russian passport and citizenship. It was a lucrative offer and unfortunately they fell for it. Asfan left for Moscow on November 9," Imran had said.

Asfan's last video call from the Russia-Ukraine border was on December 31. "After that, there has been no contact with him; we recently discovered he has injured his leg. We request the Centre to intervene and arrange for their evacuation," he had said.

On February 21, Gujarat resident Hemil Mangukiya, 23, had also died on the frontlines. Like the other youths, his journey to the war zone started via a YouTube video on a channel called Baba Vlogs. According to his family, he was "put on duty from December 24".

"Their work was to dig mud and build bunkers for a couple of hours in a day and later supply arms and ammunition to the Russian soldiers on the frontlines. They were also trained in using machine guns and other arms. Hemil was made to undergo one-month training in a camp," a relative had said.

• Bengal women will end TMC

What happened in Sandeshkhali is nothing less than ghor paap (grave sin). But the TMC government has no sympathy for the mothers and sisters of Bengal. Instead, it has made all efforts to protect the offenders. Now the state government has received a setback (over the issue), first at Calcutta High Court and then at the Supreme Court."

"TMC leaders unleashed a reign of terror on women in Bengal. The TMC has faith in its leaders but not in the mothers and sisters of Bengal. Women in the country are pained and angry after seeing what happened in Sandeshkhali. The ripples of the Sandeshkhali issue will be felt across the state," he said.

"The TMC government, which believes in the politics of appeasement and culture of extortion, cannot provide security to women. Only the BJP is working day and night to ensure their safety," he said.

TMC strongman Shahjahan Sheikh, accused of sexual abuse and land-grabbing in Sandeshkhali along with his aides, was arrested on February 29. He had been on the run for 55 days after his supporters attacked Enforcement Directorate officers who had gone to search his house in Sandeshkhali on January 5 as part of their probe into the ration distribution case.

Modi also slammed the INDIA bloc leaders for raising questions about his family. "INDIA Alliance leaders have lost their balance and started badmouthing Modi... They are saying Modi has no family and that is why he talks about dynastic politics. These dynasts should come and see the number of people who have come here. This is Modi's parivar. This is Modi's family. Etai toh amar parivar (This is my family). Every sister and mother of Bengal are from my family. They stand by me like Goddess Durga when people raise questions about my family," he said.

Later, the BJP, in a statement, said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi met women victims from Sandeshkhali. They put forward their ordeal and the PM heard them patiently like a father figure. The victims were very emotional by the fact that the PM understood their pain."



निःशुल्क हुई सिंचाई खुशहाली घर आई

कृषकों को सिंचाई के लिए मुफ्त बिजली उपलब्ध कराए जाने के उपलब्ध में 'संकल्प की सिद्धि' कार्यक्रम



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मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

केशव प्रसाद मौर्य

ब्रजेश पाठक

भूपेन्द्र सिंह चौधरी

उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

सदस्य, विधान परिषद

सुरेश कुमार खन्ना

मंत्री, वित्त एवं संसदीय कार्य

उत्तर प्रदेश

सूर्य प्रताप शाही

मंत्री, कृषि, कृषि शिक्षा एवं कृषि अनुसंधान

उत्तर प्रदेश

ए.के. शर्मा

मंत्री, नगर विकास, शहरी समग्र विकास, नगरीय दोजगार एवं

गरीबी उन्नताल, झज्जा एवं अतिविकास कर्जा सोत, उत्तर प्रदेश

बलदेव सिंह औलख

दायर लंबी, कृषि, कृषि शिक्षा एवं

कृषि अनुसंधान, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. सोमेन्द्र तोमर

दायर लंबी, झज्जा एवं

वैकल्पिक कर्जा, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 7 मार्च, 2024 | समय : अपराह्न 4:00 बजे | स्थान : इंदिरा गांधी प्रतिष्ठान, गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ

विशेषताएं

समस्त किसान शीघ्र पंजीकरण कराएं

- निजी नलकूप संचालक किसानों के बिजली बिल में 100% छूट दिए जाने का प्रावधान
- दिनांक 1 अप्रैल, 2023 के बाद से कोई बिल नहीं देय होगा, पहले के बकाया बिलों पर ब्याज रहित भुगतान की योजना
- टैरिफ़ कैटेगरी-एल.एम.वी.-5 (निजी नलकूप) के उपभोक्ताओं को ही योजना का लाभ मिलेगा

लाइव प्रसारण

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सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

झज्जा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



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Sh. Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

INVITED AS GUEST SPEAKER AT LSE

Delhi Police denies Ashneer Grover, wife nod to travel to UK

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

THE DELHI Police has rejected a representation from Ashneer Grover, the former managing director of BharatPe, and his wife, Madhuri Jain Grover, requesting permission to travel to the UK later this month as guest speakers at the London School of Economics (LSE).

Sources said Ashneer and Madhuri had submitted a representation to the investigation officer of the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) in the last week of February, seeking travel permission for the UK from March 9 to March 15 as guest speakers at the LSE and the University of Warwick, among others. "After reviewing their representation, the investigation officer denied the permission," a source said.

When contacted, Grover told *The Indian Express*: "Correspondence between me and EOW is confidential and as per court's directives... I will continue to cooperate with police in this open-and-shut case."



Grover is the former MD of BharatPe.

and keep winning in Court. I've not got any correspondence regarding the travel permission (which is a confidential correspondence) as yet from EOW."

On November 16, 2023, Ashneer and Madhuri, scheduled to travel to the US, were stopped at the Indira Gandhi International Airport - Terminal 3 and informed that a Look-out Circular (LOC) had been issued against them, effective November 6.

The couple then approached the Delhi High Court, seeking to quash the LOC. On February 1, Justice Subramonium Prasad, before whom the matter came up for hearing, listed it for May

8, stating that the investigation in the case registered by the EOW is at a nascent stage.

"It is too hot in the day for this court to intervene now. Come after some time. The investigation is at a nascent stage and they will take some time to investigate," the high court said.

Justice Prasad, however, said that the petitioners' application to travel abroad for two days may be considered by the authorities concerned based on the facts of the case.

The EOW had registered an FIR in May last year against the Grovers and other family members for alleged misappropriation of funds and causing losses worth Rs 81 crore to Resilient Innovations Private Limited, which runs the UPI platform BharatPe.

The EOW FIR was registered under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating), 471 (using as genuine a forged document), and 120-B (criminal conspiracy).

Walked 1,600 kms, told you about woes, says L-G as Delhi govt alleges 'dirty politics'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

THE WAR of words between the Delhi government and Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena over poor conditions in unauthorised colonies and slums continued the second day in a row, after the latter posted photos of his visit to Qalandar Colony in Shahdara, asking the CM to take action.

On Tuesday, when the L-G visited Sangam Vihar, posting photos from his visit and accusing the AAP government of not improving the living conditions in these areas despite being in power for nine years, Kejriwal had said that Saxena was playing the role of the opposition despite holding a constitutional position. Kejriwal also directed the Chief Secretary to take action in the matter immediately and sought a daily report.

On Wednesday, after his Shahdara visit, Saxena tagged Kejriwal in a post on X (formerly Twitter), and said it was his constitutional responsibility to highlight the issues of the people before the Chief Minister. "From the first day of taking charge till today, I walked more than 1,600 kms in different areas of Delhi in 650 days and... always kept you informed about the problems... Local people said that 35-40 thousand people live a pitiable life in about



L-G Saxena, CM Kejriwal

4,000 houses here. It is the responsibility of DUSIB to provide basic facilities in this slum, of which you yourself are the Chairman, and cleanliness is under the MCD... Hope you will show positivity on this issue," he wrote.

The Delhi government, in response, accused Saxena of "playing dirty politics".

"Yesterday, when he raised certain issues...the CM, in good faith directed the CS to solve the problems within a week. CM also urged L-G to take strictest action against delinquent officers because their vigilance and disciplinary matters are within the jurisdiction of L-G. It has been more than 24 hours. L-G has not taken any action...Why? It means L-G is himself encouraging and forcing officers not to do their work so that he can then create drama by visiting these areas and blaming Kejriwal... In any case, the CM has directed CS to address all the new issues raised by L-G today," the government's official statement said.

Excise policy case: ED moves court again after Kejriwal skips 8th summon

New Delhi: Enforcement Directorate (ED) has, for the second time, moved Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court filing a complaint against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly not complying with the summonses issued by the agency in the liquor

Malhotra's court.

Earlier, on February 3, after Kejriwal skipped its summons for the fifth time, the ED had filed a complaint in the court. The court had then told the CM to appear before it on February 17.

Kejriwal appeared before the court on the said date via video-conferencing, saying that he could not appear physically due to the confidence motion and Budget

session in the Assembly.

Earlier, the ED, in an application, had blamed the CM for being "non-cooperative" in the investigation. The AAP said, "Several court rulings have repeatedly held that ED must inform in what capacity a person is being summoned. Unfortunately, the Central govt refuses to follow court orders and considers itself above the law." ENS

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For information contact : Maitreyee : 9580221969

SPIC MACAY, 41/42, Lucknow Road, Delhi - 110 054 www.spicmacay.org

Bhairon Marg underpass opens partially

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

AFTER a delay of more than a year, the Delhi PWD on Tuesday partially opened one section of the Bhairon Marg underpass for traffic, on a trial basis.

Only one lane of the underpass is complete and commuters coming from ITO and Sarai Kale Khan have to enter and exit from the same lane.

"The underpass was bifurcated into two – one for traffic coming from ITO towards Bhairon Marg and the other from Bhairon Marg to Sarai Kale Khan.



The underpass has been opened on a trial basis. Gajendra Yadav

Constructed using the box-pushing technique, the project faced several difficulties as it is below a railway line... However, we com-

pleted one part from ITO to Bhairon Marg... the second one was delayed (following the July floods)," said a PWD official.

Dry ice as mouth freshener: Cafe gets show-cause notice

Gurgaon: The Gurgaon restaurant where patrons were allegedly served dry ice as mouth freshener has been served a show-cause notice by the food safety officer.

According to the notice, addressed to m/s Yana Foods, the food safety officer asked the eatery to provide a list of food articles served on the day of the incident. The notice asked the restaurant to clarify within 15 days why its licence should not be cancelled. ENS

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IDENTIFYING WARDS FOR LIQUOR VENDS

'AAP govt presented twisted facts, L-G office maligned': Plea in HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

THE OFFICE of Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has moved a plea before the Delhi High Court, seeking to intervene in a matter concerning conforming and non-conforming wards for liquor vending in the national capital. It said the AAP-led government in Delhi has presented "twisted and distorted facts" in the matter, and "maligned" the L-G office.

In its application for intervention, the L-G office submitted that the committee report constituted by Saxena in April 2022, to carry out a detailed survey in identifying such wards, finally reached him on January 16 this year.

The plea submits that while the report was not pending consideration before the L-G office, all along, it "appears that a false statement was caused to be made to the effect that the Lt Governor was not taking any action on the report, and that he was delaying the matter", pointing to different orders in the matter.

It further states that even now, the correct picture has not been presented, adding that after the report was placed on January 16, the L-G – conscious of the next hearing – had given his approval on the report on February 3 and forwarded it to the CM with an "explicit noting" that it be filed before the next hearing. Instead of complying with the L-G's directions, the plea submits that

Delhi government filed an application seeking time extension to place the report on record.

"The facts above reflect a distressing plight, where the GNCT of Delhi refuses to take responsibility of its own lapses and omissions. What is even more concerning is the manner in which the responsibility is falsely attributed to a constitutional authority with no regard for accountability of one's actions. It is respectfully stated that this is not only an affront to a constitutional post and the person, who is an ex nominee of the President of India, but also unduly erodes the credibility of the person holding such a post, and his body of work. The manner in which the twisted and distorted facts were presented before the Hon'ble Court in this matter is a deliberate attempt to mislead the Hon'ble Court and maligning the constitutional office of the Lt. Governor..." the plea submits.

The plea further submits that as per the L-G's understanding, the report of the committee was submitted on August 18, 2022, and moved by the Excise department the same day for seeking the L-G's approval. "However, thereafter the applicant understands that the committee's report... was being kept pending approval before various departments of the GNCT of Delhi, and finally reached the Applicant only on 16.01.2024, after about 16 months," the plea states.

The matter is next listed on March 20.

Date : 07.03.2024
VASANTA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
(Admitted to the Privileges of Banaras Hindu University)
Krishnamurti Foundation India Rajghat Fort, Varanasi

The post Assistant Professor (Home Science) advertised vide advertisement no. Employment Notice: VC/WAdmin/Recruitment/ 2023/01 dated 18.03.2023 at serial no. 6 for which selection could not be held, has now been treated as cancelled/withdrawn. Applicants, who have paid application fees against the above advertised position, may claim for refund of their application fee. A request letter may be sent to the Manager, Vasanta College for Women, Rajghat Fort, Varanasi on email vasantakfi@rediffmail.com indicating their post, demand draft no. with their bank account details.

Manager

HAREHA
GURUGRAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of allottees of Project Phase I & IA and Phase II of residential project Ashiana Amarah being developed by the promoter M/s. Ashiana Housing Ltd. in Sector 93, Gurugram. The Whole Project Ashiana Amarah is being developed in phases and promoter got registered Phase I & IA of the whole project of Ashiana Amarah vide Registration No 65 of 2022 dated 18.07.2022 and got Phase II registered vide Registration No 29 of 2023 dated 02.02.2023 with the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram ("Authority"). It is further informed that the Director, Town and Country Planning Department has approved the revised building plan vide Memo No. ZP-716-/PA(DK)/2024/5030 dated 09.02.2024 after inviting objections from all concerned allottees through newspaper as well as by sending letters through registered post and obtaining written consent from the 2/3 allottees of Phase I & IA and Phase II of the Whole Project and after consideration thereof has approved the revised building plans and phasing plan. Subsequently the promoter approached the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram for registration of phase III & IIIA.

As Per the provision of Sect. 14(2)(B) of the Real Estate Development and Regulation Act, 2016 any alteration or addition in the sanctioned plan/phasing plan of the project requires written consent of at least two thirds of the allottees. As per the promoter, out of the total 584 units in Phase I & IA and Phase II of the project the promoter has sold 448 units. The promoter has submitted written consent for revision of building plan and phasing plan with the Authority of 384 allottees out of total 448 units sold in Phase I & IA and Phase II of the whole project Ashiana Amarah which is 2/3rd of the total number of allottee.

The relevant plans, sanctions, consent and documents of application are available in the office of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram, which can be seen by any concerned allottee on any working day during office hours i.e. 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. up to 13.03.2024 for objections, if any.

Given under the approval of the Authority and its seal.

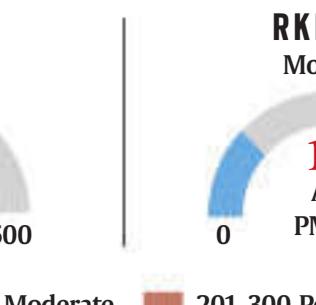
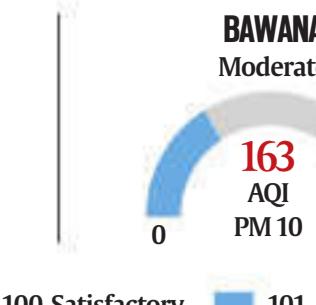
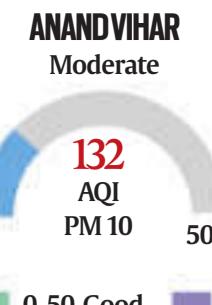
Dated:- 07.03.2024

HARYANA REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

LIC/P/2023/24/21



S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: March 7
Partly cloudy sky.

MAX: 25 24.0°C Below normal | **MIN: 9** 4.4°C Below normal

DU: Register on NaMo app to attend Women's Day event

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

AHEAD OF the International Women's Day, Delhi University has made it mandatory for its female students and faculty members to register themselves on the NaMo application in order to attend the Viksit Bharat Ambassador – Nari Shakti Conclave scheduled to take place in the University's Multipurpose Hall on Thursday.

While the university said the registration numbers will help them get an idea of the scale of arrangements to make, a section of the varsity has expressed its concerns. In an email to all colleges on Tuesday, the Deputy Registrar (Colleges) wrote: "The Principals/Directors of the Colleges/Institutions must mandatorily register all the female faculty of their College/ Institution on the... NaMo App..."

Several colleges including Kirori Mal College, Kalindi College and Bhagini Nivedita have even linked shares to the NaMo app on their websites, encouraging students to register for the event.

Rajni Abbi, proctor of DU, told *The Indian Express*: "We have asked students to register themselves on the NaMo app as we will be distributing T-shirts and wristbands here. Another purpose... is for us to get an idea of the number of students who will be attending the event so that we can be prepared with the arrangements."

Principal of Kalindi College, Meena Charanda said, "This registration is only so that the university can make arrangements for the event. It is not compulsory for students to attend the event."

A professor said: "This has never happened before, where students and faculty were mandated to register themselves or were pushed to attend such pro-government events constantly."

NEARLY A MONTH AFTER ASSEMBLY ROW

Can rejoin House: HC to 7 suspended BJP MLAs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6



(Left to right) BJP MLAs Mohan Singh Bisht, Vijender Gupta and Ajay Mahawar in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

Committee of Privileges takes a decision cannot be sustained."

Justice Prasad, thereafter, said that the upshot is that the suspension was in "violation of the procedure prescribed" under Fifth Schedule titled 'Code of Conduct', and Chapter XI titled 'questions involving breach of privilege and contempt' under the 'Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi'.

"Since the petitioners have already undergone the suspension of 14 sittings, this court is of the opinion that the petitioners should be permitted to rejoin the House forthwith," said the High Court, while disposing of the pleas.

The High Court perused through the Fifth Schedule provisions titled 'Code of Conduct' and said that Clause 44(e) gives power to the Presiding Officer or the House to suspend a member "only for a definite period and

not indefinitely", adding that petitioners could have been given "only one of the punishments".

Observing that the petitioner MLAs were suspended without following the procedure established by law, the High Court further said that as per the Rules' provisions, only the Speaker, and not the House, can refer the matter to the privileges committee.

The court further perused through Rule 70, and observed that the provision casts an "obligation on the Speaker" to decide whether the matter should be referred to the privileges committee, and the Speaker has to inform the House accordingly.

"Rule 70 of Chapter XI has not been followed in this case. The Speaker, who is an impartial arbitrator and conducts the House, has not taken any decision independently, and has not held that the matter is one that requires to be referred to the Committee of Privileges," observed Justice Prasad.

In cases of such "irregular payments", the SIT found that an agreement was reached with farmers that their pending appeals seeking higher compensation in court would be withdrawn, but legal examination did not assess whether they were pending.

Of these 20 cases, 12 are from Gajija Tilapabad village, seven from Bhuda village, and one case from Nagla Charandas village related to land acquisitions in the 1980s. There was no court order to pay compensation at the increased rate in favour of farmers in these cases, the report stated.

The Noida Authority filed an FIR in 12 cases while recovery certificates were issued for over Rs 86 crore from ineligible ben-

Being falsely implicated: Farmers named in SIT report on Rs 118-cr compensation fraud in last 15 years

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, MARCH 6



The SIT examined 1,198 land acquisition records from April 1, 2009, till 2023 and found compensation had been paid at hiked rates in 20 cases by the Noida Authority. Archive

eficiaries in 10 cases.

'Wanted a fair rate'

In 1982, Omdev said around 650 bighas in his village, Gajija Tilapabad, were acquired by the Noida Authority from around 150 farmers (amounting to 28 land acquisition cases).

His father Daleep Singh, ex-pradhan of the village, also gave 91 bighas of land. "But the administration had announced compensation of Rs 10.12 per square yard. We were dissatisfied and challenged it in the Ghaziabad court. In 1993, the court increased compensation to Rs 16.61 per square yard. We did not agree and filed an appeal in the Allahabad High Court. In its decision in 2010, the High Court increased the compensation to Rs 28.12 per square yard. Before this judgment, my father, who was the original landowner, died in 2009," said Omdev.

Omdev added that farmers are being harassed for asking the right price for their land.

"We already spent the money, bought farms... How will we return it now?... My recovery notice was stayed by the High

Court," he said.

'Stain of fraud'

Another farmer from the same village, Raamvati, was also named in the report and FIR. The Authority had acquired 40 bighas from his father, Phundan, in 1982. Raamvati's grandson Amit Nagar, who is now pursuing the case in court, said farmers are being targeted to settle the score between officials.

"I believe the then CEO had the foresight to take the initiative to provide equal compensation to all... But after so many years, we are now being told it was given against the rules... They are saying crores of rupees were given to farmers, but did anyone see how this money was divided among how many families, after which each person gets a share of only a few lakhs? Farmers gave their land and are now facing the stain of fraud," according to Nagar, an MBA graduate and a resident of Milak Lachi in Dadri.

"It is a complete lie that we hid the information that no case was pending in the High Court and we agreed on a settlement based on fabricated information. We had given details in our letter to (the Noida Authority) to withdraw the case. It was the Authority's responsibility to check. In my case, we moved the High Court 22 years later and it was rejected as defective due to the delay. However, we had filed the petition to revive the case. Isn't our case pending then?" he claimed.

"Ye Shivir laga kar paisa bant rahe, the, kisan se khud settlement kra rhe the (They were distributing money by setting up camps and reaching settlements with the farmers)... If this is really a scam, how can it happen without the consent of top officials?" asked Nagar.

Organ donation, 12-hr surgery: How man got his hands back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6



In October 2020, Raj Kumar, now 45, was crossing a railway track in Nangloi on his bicycle, when he lost control and was run over by a train, losing both his hands. Express

hand transplant.

"Once we selected the patient, and did the blood match we got to know he was the fit candidate for the patient. We took the hands and we fixed the bones first with plates and screws. Then, we fixed the muscles and later, the artery and the nerve," said Dr Gambhir.

He said precision and expertise were key to ensuring seamless integration of transplanted hands into Kumar's body.

Raj Kumar recovered in six weeks after the surgery; Dr Gambhir said the patient is doing fine now and will be discharged on Thursday.

Notably, while one of Mehta's kidneys was sent to Fortis Gurgaon, her liver and corneas apart from her hands came to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, opening up new possibilities for the recipients.

In February 2023, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital had become the first hospital in North India to receive permission to perform hand transplant surgeries.

Dr Gambhir said the chances of survival in such cases are good, adding a patient can survive 10 to 15 years depending on how well they take the immunosuppressants and do proper follow-ups.

Scanning CCTV footage, noting statement: Police on Ambience Mall roof collapse

New Delhi: Days after a portion of roof of the Ambience Mall in Vasant Kunj collapsed, senior Delhi Police officers said on Wednesday that they have been scanning more CCTV footage to ascertain the reason behind the incident, and whether safety precautions were in place.

"We are analysing CCTV footage from different angles, in order to check how the false ceiling collapsed and got damaged..

The mall authority has communicated that the same occurred under a controlled environment, but a probe is underway," said a senior police officer, adding that statements of shopkeepers and workers present at the site at the time of the incident are being recorded.

"We are taking legal opinion on lodging a case against the mall authorities," said the officer.

Meanwhile, the mall authority defended the incident, claiming it was part of renovation work of a false ceiling of the mall.

A mall spokesperson had earlier told *The Indian Express*, "The incident took place around 1 am and the mall was going to be shut for the day amid ongoing work..

The roof damage is part of a regular renovation..."

ENS

'MOB LIKELY PART OF MAJORITY COMMUNITY'

Court discharges 11 men in Northeast Delhi riots case

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6



53 people were killed and over 700 injured in the riots. Archive

dition made to the statement of Mumtaz by the prosecution, alleging that the mob was opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) was "artificially crafted".

It was alleged by the investigating officer (IO), who was also a witness in this case, that two mobs raised slogans against each other, pelted each other with stones, and set ablaze a number of vehicles.

The prosecution relied on the statements of two eyewitnesses who identified nine accused, and videos, which identified two accused carrying lathis.

Md Mumtaz, one of the complainants whose rented shop 'Sanjar Chicken Corner' was attacked, had alleged that the mob was chanting slogans of "Jai Shri Ram". The court noted that an ad-

ditional "omission on the part of the IO".

It was also observed that the video relied upon by the prosecution to charge sheet two of the accused did not connect them with the alleged incidents.

"...a general piece of evidence to show presence in the mob at some point of time and at some different place cannot be sufficient evidence to prosecute and charge an accused for a particular incident," said ASJ Pramachala.

The accused were represented by advocates Tara Narula, Sowjanaya Shankaran, Abdul Gaffar, Badre Alam, RH Zaidi, and Ritesh Dhar Dubey.

HC seeks Centre's stand in petition against closure of Maulana Azad Foundation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

THE DELHI High Court on Wednesday sought the Centre's stand in a plea challenging a February 7 order of the Ministry of Minority Affairs purportedly approving a proposal by the Central Waqf Council to dissolve the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF).

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora asked the Centre's counsel to seek instructions in the matter, listing it for hearing on Thursday.

The plea filed by petitioners Syeda Sayyidain Harneem, John Dayal and Daya Singh submitted that the class of persons affected by the February order are "educationally backward minorities", especially female children who have been benefitting, or stand to benefit, from the foundation's schemes. The plea submitted that the February order has also directed the MAEF to carry out the closure process at the earliest and submit a copy of the closure certificate issued by the Registrar of Societies of the Delhi government on completion of the exercise.

The plea stated that the decision is "arbitrary", is opposed to lawful procedure for dissolution of a society as per the Society Registration Act, and is also a "colourable exercise" of purported authority wherein the Central Waqf Council (CWC) which has purportedly proposed the dissolution, has not been reconstituted for over a year.

It stated that the MAEF is a "voluntary, non-political foundation" and so, it was unclear why should the Ministry want to close it given that it had "slashed its funding" and was "maintaining that the corpus available with the MAEF was sufficient for its requirement".

The plea stated: "...the office order dated February 7, 2024 not only dictates that the MAEF should dissolve itself but also predetermines that the remainder funds of the MAEF would be transferred to the Consolidated Fund of India and its fixed assets shall go to the CWC."

1962 — TOLL-FREE HELPLINE NUMBER

Paw-some: Mobile vet clinic to be set up in every district of Capital

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

SOON, PET lovers and farmers owning livestock animals would not be forced to go from pillar to post to get treatment and medicines for their pets as the AAP-led government in Delhi plans to launch a "mobile veterinary clinic" in every district, and a call centre for monitoring and addressing complaints immediately.

According to a senior official, the Delhi Development Department is implementing a central scheme — Livestock Health and Disease Control programme — under which the mo-

bile veterinary units (MVUs) are envisaged with an objective to provide veterinary services to the beneficiaries at the doorstep. Stray animals such as cats, dogs, birds and cattle will also be provided with the facilities under the scheme.

There is no mobile clinic facility in Delhi at present. Under this scheme, the plan is to deploy ambulance-based mobile veterinary clinics to provide veterinary aid to the residents, especially to farmers having no such facilities or hospitals nearby... Assistance and veterinary aid would be just a call away for people owning pets," said the official.

These mobile units will have a veterinary doc-

tor, driver, medical equipment, and essential drugs and medicines for free... Apart from this, a mobile clinic will also be on the rounds throughout the day, to provide treatment to unwell stray animals, the official added.

Officials in the know said a call centre with a toll free helpline number 1962 for monitoring complaints received by hospitals and mobile clinics is also on the cards. This will be linked to all the MVUs, all government veterinary hospitals, and dispensaries.

The proposed mobile veterinary clinics will be equipped with GPS and tablets /computers /laptops, and data will be shared with respective call cen-

tres. The key aim of these clinics

would be to examine health conditions and treat the livestock — provide "on spot"

services (breeding, curative).

Besides, these units will also educate people, conduct disease surveillance to monitor livestock and poultry diseases, control and contain outbreak of diseases, and popularise departmental schemes among others. These units will be stationed at strategic locations (government office premises) in a bid to minimise travel time and provide services within the deadline. Normal operating time of the MVU would be from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, for a minimum of 26 days.

"Tenders have been floated... for proposals for setting up a call centre

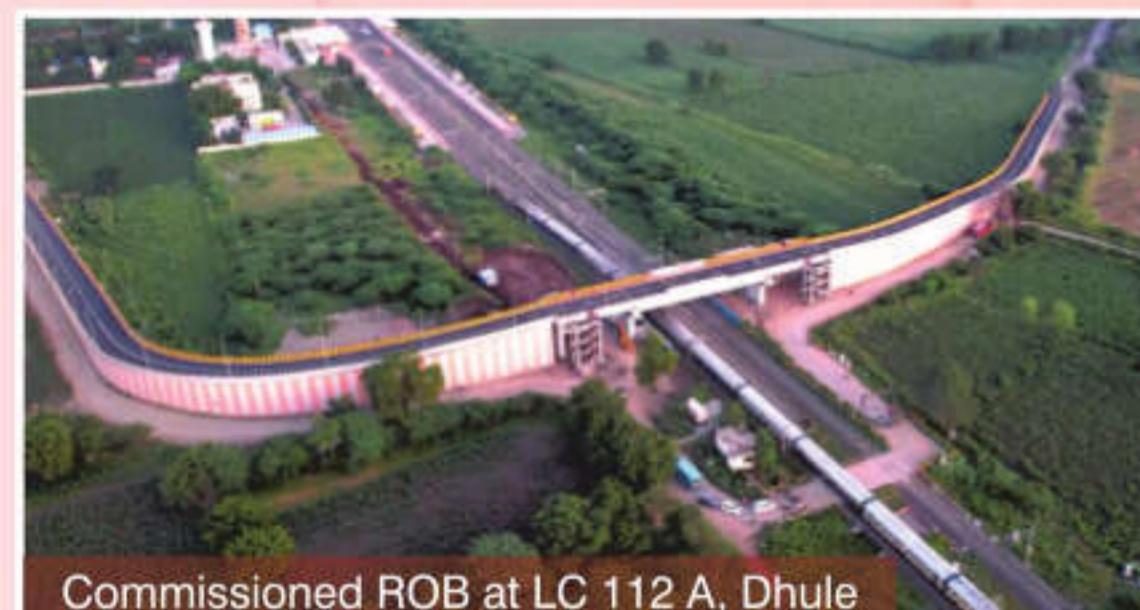


Bridging Transport Infrastructural Gaps

MRIDC popularly known as 'MahaRail' is formed with a vision to meet the growing demands for new projects and to expedite ongoing infra projects in the state of Maharashtra. Accordingly, it is aimed to identify, develop and implement Rail Line projects and Road Over Bridges (ROBs) across the state.

24 ROBs Commissioned in Maharashtra in the year 2023

MahaRail has set a developmental benchmark in the infrastructure sector of Maharashtra by completing and commissioning 24 ROBs in a single year i.e. 2023 at Nagpur, Nashik, Chandrapur, Dhule, Satara, Kolhapur, Sangli, Hingoli, Mumbai, Thane and Jalgaon district of the state. MahaRail's dedication and commitment towards excellence are clearly visible as the Corporation has successfully executed these infrastructure projects ensuring no hindrance to traffic and safety of the commuters.



Commissioned ROB at LC 144 B, Hingoli

Commissioned ROB at LC 112 A, Dhule

Under construction Cable Stayed ROB at Ajni, Nagpur

★ 200 ROBs under implementation ★

Envisioning to make Maharashtra 'Railway Fatak Free State', MahaRail is implementing approximately 200 ROBs/RUBs across Maharashtra. These ROBs are being constructed in association with Public Works Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC), Urban Development Department and other Government organizations/agencies.

★ Construction of Cable Stayed Road Over Bridges ★

MahaRail has been entrusted with the most difficult task of reconstructing dilapidated 100-year-old British-era bridges in the most congested city of Mumbai. MahaRail is replacing Dadar Tilak Bridge, Reay Road Bridge, Byculla Bridge and Ghatkopar Bridge with Cable Stayed Bridges without any disruption to traffic. In addition to Mumbai, a Twin Cable Stayed Road Over Bridge is currently being constructed at Ajni close to Nagpur Railway Station without any hindrance to existing traffic.

Expertise

- » Construction of New Railway Lines, High Speed Rail Lines etc.
- » Conversion/Expansion of existing Railway Lines.
- » Widening/Construction of ROBs, RUB & Cable Stayed Bridges etc.
- » Construction of Station building, Platforms, Terminal stations.
- » Signaling and Telecommunications network.
- » Railway Electrification.



★ Innovative Achievement ★

MahaRail has received a patent for its invention called "A CONCRETE CRASH BARRIER WITH INTEGRATED UTILITY DUCT". A separate cable duct for utilities have been developed that ensures all the cables remain within the duct without being exposed outside.

MAHARASHTRA RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

A Joint Venture of Govt. of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways

Chhattisgarh forms special agency to tackle Naxalism, terrorism

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, MARCH 6

THE CHHATTISGARH cabinet Wednesday decided to constitute a State Investigation Agency (SIA) for "quick and effective" investigation and prosecution in special cases of terrorism, Naxalism, Left-Wing Extremism in the state.

The SIA will act as the state nodal agency for coordination with the National Investigation Agency (NIA). A total of 74 new

posts, including a Superintendent of Police, have been created for the SIA. In January, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had chaired a review meeting in Raipur on Left-Wing Extremism with stakeholders where he had said that the Maoist menace should end in the next three years.

Security forces have stepped up anti-Naxal operations and a large number of additional forces has been deployed in the Naxalite Bastar region comprising seven districts.

The cabinet also decided to form another department for "Good Governance and Convergence". The department will ensure effective implementation of public welfare policies, facilitate best possible use of available resources, and ensure quick resolution of public problems.

The department will aim to improve administration, provide easy public access to public welfare schemes, and enhance the overall impact of government initiatives.

Maoists kill another BJP worker in Chhattisgarh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, MARCH 6

A 40-YEAR-OLD BJP worker, Kailash Nag, who was also a contractor, was shot dead and his JCB machine was torched by Naxals in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Wednesday evening.

This is the ninth BJP worker killed by Maoists since last year and the second murder this year in the state. Nag is the fourth BJP worker from Bijapur district murdered by Maoists. The incident occurred in Bhuripani, 35 km from Bijapur headquarters. At the time of the incident, the forest department was using the JCB machine to dig a pond in the forest. Between 4.30 pm and 5 pm, Maoists kidnapped Nag from the spot, shot him dead, and torched the JCB machine.

ASKS STATE TO ACCEPT RS 13,000 CRORE FROM CENTRE

Sort out differences on financial issues, SC tells Kerala and Centre

all such a suit can be maintained. Justice Surya Kant said the Centre is free to impose every other condition that it may feel appropriate to give sanction to borrow an additional Rs 13,608 crore "except the condition to withdraw the suit ...".

Responding to objections by the Centre to the suit, he said, "the point whether all these fiscal management, the allocation, approvals...can at all be raised inside the courtroom is a very sound preliminary objection from your side. But that preliminary objection is something only the court can answer...before we proceed to decide the suit on merits, we can first determine this preliminary objection...".

The judge said, "Incidentally, this is the first suit raising all these issues. When

you look to the literal or plain language of Article 293(3), there is an element of discretion vested in you...". The court said it will try to settle the question before it rises again.

"You see you can't say withdraw a suit. It's a constitutional right under Article 131," said Justice KVishwanathan.

Attorney General R Venkataramani said "therefore the threshold question to be answered is whether the state has a right under Article 131 to file the suit". Additional Solicitor General (ASG) N Venkataraman said if the court starts allowing suit after suit by each state on the topic, "it will become judicially unmanageable".

Appearing for the state government senior advocate Kapil Sibal countered saying the Centre had borrowed over Rs 8 lakh crores in the current financial year. The ASG said to compare the two will be like comparing apples and oranges. "Fiscal deficit of the Union is 5.8 per cent of which 2.5 per cent is on state allocation and centrally sponsored schemes...Balance is railways, defence and foreign affairs", he said, adding "their breakdown is 82.5 per cent salaries, pensions and services. Not comparable at all".

The ASG then said the Centre was willing to give the consent for the Rs 13,608 crore, while the suit remains pending. The bench agreed with this and said, "Fully correct. That is the right approach". The court said the meeting can be held Wednesday or Thursday and gave the parties liberty to come back to it.

Life insurance plan unveiled for UAE's Indian blue-collar workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, MARCH 6

INDIA'S CONSULATE in Dubai has unveiled a new insurance package for blue-collar Indian workers to provide financial benefits to the kin of the deceased in case of natural and accidental deaths. The Consulate General of India in Dubai facilitated meetings between major companies recruiting Indian blue-collar workers and insurance service providers to arrive at a package which could cover natural and accidental deaths of the workers in the UAE, a press release said.

The press release said that the move came after it was noticed that most companies are insuring their employees under Health Insurance and Workers' Compensation [work-related injuries & deaths]. However, there is no mandatory insurance coverage for the natural death of employees, and hence the legal heirs/de-

pends of the deceased do not receive any compensation in cases of natural death," it said. Insurance providers Gargash Insurance Services LLC and Orient Insurance PJSC agreed to issue a Life Protection Plan (LPP) for blue-collar workers and other employees covering death due to any cause — natural or accidental. The LPP is effective from March 1.

Consul General Satish Sivan said, "Welfare of the Indian community remains our utmost priority". "Keeping in view the large number of natural death cases of workers in a year and to provide some financial benefits to the family of the deceased in the event of natural death, Consulate General of India, Dubai, encourages all Companies to consider subscription to the Life Protection Plan [LPP] that is available at a minimal premium of AED 37 per annum," he said.

Around 3.5 million Indians reside in the UAE, of which about 65 per cent are blue-collar workers.

Goa HRC: Male officers can't visit women jail wards alone

the visits, in the jail report book.

In June last year, some women inmates at the central jail in Covlaje had filed a complaint, alleging that male officers, who are prohibited from visiting the women's block, often visit their wards unaccompanied by the jail matron and cause embarrassment and harassment to them.

It said no male is permitted to enter the female ward of any prison at any time, unless he has a legitimate duty to attend therein.

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, MARCH 6**

THE GOA Human Rights Commission on Wednesday urged the state's central jail authorities to ensure that male officers are always accompanied by female wardens during visits to the wards of women prisoners. The Commission said the officers must also record details of such visits, along with the reasons for

the visits, in the jail report book.

In June last year, some women inmates at the central jail in Covlaje had filed a complaint,

alleging that male officers, who are prohibited from visiting the women's block, often visit their wards unaccompanied by the jail matron and cause embarrassment and harassment to them.

It said no male is permitted to enter the female ward of any prison at any time, unless he has a legitimate duty to attend therein.

UP: Days after 2 teen rape victims' suicide, father of one found hanging

Lucknow: Days after two teenaged rape victims were found hanging from a tree with their dupattas in a village in Kanpur district, the police Wednesday found the body of one of girl's 50-year-old father hanging from a tree near his residence in Hamirpur district. No suicide note has been found yet, police said. The victims, along with their families, had gone to Kanpur seeking work.

SP, Hamirpur, Deeksha Sharma said on Wednesday, "On reaching the village, a police team came to know that the man's daughter's body was found in Kanpur recently," said Sharma. The body has been sent for post-mortem.

ENS

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE**

Open E-tender is invited by DRMs (S&T), Jodhpur for and on behalf of the President of India for S&T work. Details as below. E-Tender No. S.N.T.-J.U-24-2023-24.

Name of work: Expansion and Strengthening of RailNet at important stations over Jodhpur Division. **Estimated cost of the work:** Rs. 1,24,44,245/- **Address of the NIT Issuing office:** Sr.DSTE/JU NWR, DRMs Office Harish Joshi Marg Jodhpur.

Earnest money to be deposited: Rs. 2,12,000/- **Last Date & time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender:** 28/03/2024 Upto 11:00 Hrs through E-tendering online submission on IREPS. Tender will be opened at 11:00 Hrs. Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen and participated: www.ireps.gov.in

Note: This is an E-Tender, so tenderer can participate through e-tendering process only on mentioned website. 301-AK/24

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JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT AUTHORITY (M&EE DEPARTMENT)

ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 45001:2018, ISO 27001:2013 CERTIFIED

TENDER NOTICE

On line E-tenders are invited by JNPA for the "Procurement of Short Term Power Through Tariff Based Competitive Bidding Process for its SEZ under Tender No. JNP/M&EE/US/SEZ-POWER SUPPLY/2024/E-340. The tender notice & Tender (RIP) Documents are available on the JNPA's Website <http://www.jnp.gov.in> and DEEP Portal Website : <https://www.mstecommerce.com/auctionhome/ppa/index.jsp>

INDIA'S OWN SUPER PORT

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (M&EE)

Mumbai Port Authority

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Request for Proposal (RFP) is invited for the following projects: **Sr. No.1. Tender No.: E.92/2023 - Selection of Operator for Operation & Maintenance of Ferry Wharf Passenger Terminal at Bhaucha Dhakka, Mumbai, and Sr. No.2. Tender No.: E.27/2024 - Allotment of Land at Pirpau for setting up of liquid bulk tankages on Tender Cum Auction process on lease for a period of 30 years, Mumbai.** Details of the tenders are available on MbPA's Website <http://www.mumbaiport.gov.in> AND <http://www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

Chief Engineer

Mumbai Port Authority

MbPA-23-2024

Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board

Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation

Government of Himachal Pradesh

P57133-001-Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development

Project in Himachal Pradesh

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date:-
OCB invitation for Bids No.:-
Contract Package No.:-
Deadline for Submission of Bid:-

07.03.2024.
SITDP-HP_W03/2023-24/
SITDP-HP_W03
08.04.2024 at 17:00 Hrs

1. The Government of India as the "Borrower" has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB. The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board (HPTDB), under Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Himachal Pradesh ("the Employer"), invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the "Conservation and Restoration of Naggar Castle, District Kullu, Himachal Pradesh".

2. The details of Contract Package are as follow:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Bid Security	Period of completion
1.	Conservation and Restoration of Naggar Castle, District Kullu, Himachal Pradesh (SH:- Civil, WS & SI, EI, Fire Fighting, Fire Alarm system and Surveillance System etc.)	1.07 million	18 Months

To be qualified under this package, the Bidder should meet the following requirements

Qualifying Criteria	Minimum Value (INR)
1. Minimum Average Annual Construction Turnover (AACT) for the last Five (5) Financial Years (FYs, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23)	Equal to or more than INR 142.40 million
2. Must demonstrate availability of Financial Resources (less its financial obligations for current contract commitments), meets or exceeds the total requirement for the subject contract, as detailed below:	
Sole Bidder	INR 17.80 million
i) For JV: One Partner must meet or exceed its required share of 40%	INR 7.12million
ii) For JV: Each Partner must meet or exceed its required share of 25%	INR 4.45 million
iii) The combined financial resources of the Joint Venture must	INR 17.80 million
3. Contracts of Similar Size and Nature:	
1. Participation as a contractor, Joint Venture partner, or Subcontractor, in at least one contract that has been satisfactorily and substantially completed* within the last 7 years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds INR 85.44 million.	
2. Participation as a contractor, Joint Venture partner, or Subcontractor, in at least two contracts that has been satisfactorily and substantially completed* within the last 7 years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds INR 53.40 million.	

Further details are indicated in the Section 3 – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria of the Bidding Document.

3. Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's "Single-Stage, Two-Envelope" bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries of ADB.

4. To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, bidders should contact:

The Project Director
Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh
Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board (HPTDB)
Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation
First Floor, U.S. Club
Shimla – 171 001, HP, India

Tel: +91-177-2659962, 2659926, Fax: +91-177-2659925

Email: projectdirector.adbh@gnp.gov.in, Website: www.himachaltourism.gov.in

For bid submission:

● Participating bidders should be registered in e-procurement portal www.hptenders.gov.in.

● Cost of Bid document in form of Demand Draft (DD) in favor of Project Director, Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh, payable at Shimla

● Interested and eligible bidders may submit their complete proposal as prescribed in the Bid Document along with the receipt of requisite Security Amount and non-refundable Bid Document Cost.

● Bids received without the payment of Bid Document Cost and/or Bid Security Amount shall be summarily rejected.

● The Employer will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or submission of Bids.

● Bids must be submitted online through e-procurement portal or before the date and time specified in the Bidding Document. Late bids will not be admitted by the e-procurement system. The Employer will not be responsible for any delay in submission of bid due to any reason.

S. No. Event Date/ Time

1. Online Publication 07.03.2024 at 18:00 Hrs

2. Start Date of downloading of Bid document 07.03.2024 at 18:00 Hrs

3. Pre-bid Meeting 14.03.2024 at 15:00 Hrs

4. Date & time for start of online submission of Bids 03.04.2024 at 18:00 Hrs

5. Deadline for online submission of Bids 08.04.2024 at 17:00 Hrs

6. Deadline for Physical submission of the following original documents 08.04.2024 at 17:00 Hrs

States of Hope

GUJARAT

INFRASTRUCTURE: THE PROMISE OF TRANSFORMATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The catalyst in India's growth

The recently concluded Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 attracted investment proposals of Rs 26.33 lakh crore in diverse sectors

Gujarat has positioned itself to become the growth thruster for India's economy as, at the recently held Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024, national and international investors committed investments of Rs 26.33 lakh crore in the state. Gujarat aims to further strengthen its economic footprint by increasing its share in the national GDP to 10 per cent by 2026-27 and become a \$1 trillion economy.

At the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, the Adani Group announced investment of Rs 2 lakh crore in green energy and renewable energy sectors over five years. Torrent Group proposed investments of more than Rs 47,000 crore. Maruti Suzuki announced an investment of Rs 38,000 crore to expand its current plant and establish a second facility in Gujarat. A few months back, Micron began work on its \$2.75 billion semiconductor assembly and test facility in Gujarat.

INVESTMENT MAGNET
A robust economy, stable political climate, policy-driven governance and a business-friendly envi-

rment are some of the key factors that have contributed to making Gujarat the destination of choice for businesses. The state, often referred as the Growth Engine of India, has emerged as a symbol of development, contributing to the nation's growth with its robust industrialisation and sustainable economic growth.

DIVERSE INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

Gujarat's industrial landscape is characterised by its diverse sectors, including pharmaceuticals, chemicals, petrochemicals, textiles, diamond processing, automobile manufacturing, tile manufacturing, ship-breaking, and more. Gujarat is a clear leader in many of these sectors. The state is home to 106 product clusters and 60 Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

LION'S SHARE IN SEA TRADE

With a coastline of 1,600 km, the longest in the country, and its strategic location on the western coast, Gujarat had a central place in sea trade for centuries. The state accounts for more than 40 per cent of the country's maritime cargo and is



In the last 20 years, foreign direct investment of over \$55 billion has come to Gujarat. Because of available human resources, good law and order, business friendly policy and stable government, Gujarat has become a favourable state for trade and business

BHUPENDRA PATEL
Chief Minister, Gujarat

a leading contributor to the maritime sector. Ports play a pivotal role in facilitating trade, with both inbound and outbound cargo volumes witnessing a significant upsurge over the years.

ROBUST AND CONSISTENT GROWTH
Gujarat's economy has achieved an annualised growth rate of 12.25 per cent from 2011-12 to 2023-24. The GSDP has quadrupled from Rs 6.15

lakh crore in 2011-12 to Rs 24.64 lakh crore in 2023-24 and is projected to touch Rs 35.86 lakh crore in 2026-27, playing a pivotal role in helping the nation become a \$5 trillion economy. Despite accounting for just over 5 per cent of India's total population, the inherent entrepreneurial ability of the people of Gujarat, enables the state to contribute close to 8.5 per cent to the national GDP.

Continued on Page 4

/AdaniOnline

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At Adani, we embrace the spirit
of never giving up, forging ahead
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to expand across industries, we are
committed to contributing
to India's progress. We overcome
the odds to shape a brighter future.
Because whatever we dream,
we make it happen.



States of Hope

An initiative by



GUJARAT



Leader in automobile manufacturing

Tata Motors and Maruti Suzuki and two-wheeler makers Honda and Hero are expanding operations in the state

For several decades, Gujarat has been a leader in manufacturing and other sectors, but recent years have also seen the state emerge as an important automobile hub with leading passenger car manufacturers like Tata Motors and Maruti Suzuki as well as leading two-wheeler makers like Honda and Hero setting up their manufacturing plants in the state. While the first car manufacturing plant in the state was established in the mid-90s, Gujarat's journey as an automobile hub began in true earnest only in 2010 when Tata Motors established its Nano plant in Sanand near Ahmedabad. Gujarat has seen significant investments in automobile manufacturing and allied industries since then, with Maruti Suzuki among the key investors.

A GIANT LEAP
Since beginning manufacturing operations at Hansalpur in Ahmedabad district in 2017, Maruti Suzuki, the country's largest car manufacturer by volume, has increased the plant's capacity to 7.50 lakh units a year to emerge as the largest car manufacturer in the state. The company is adding a fourth line with an investment of Rs. 3,200 crore to increase its capacity to 10 lakh units, Suzuki Motor Corporation President Toshihiro Suzuki announced during the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in January 2024. The new capacity is expected to begin operations from the financial year 2026-27. Maruti Suzuki also announced a new automobile plant in Gujarat with an investment of Rs. 35,000 crore, which will double the company's total manufacturing capacity in the state to 20 lakh cars per annum.

INVESTMENTS SURGE
Tata Motors has also significantly enhanced its investments in Gujarat by acquiring the Sanand plant of Ford, following the American carmaker's decision to exit the Indian market. The plant, where Tata Motors began production in January 2024, has a capacity of 3 lakh units per annum, which is scalable to 4.2 lakh units. MG Motor India, a subsidiary of SAIC Motor, a Fortune 500 company, is another leading car



THE GOVERNMENT DEPLOYED 500 ELECTRIC PUBLIC BUSES AND THE STATE IS ALSO WORKING TO ATTRACT EV MANUFACTURERS BY ENCOURAGING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

manufacturer in the state, having taken over GM's plant at Halol a few years ago.

A KEY 2-WHEELER HUB
Both Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) and Hero MotoCorp have manufacturing operations in the state. HMSI recently inaugurated a third assembly line at its plant at Vithalapur to enhance its capacity by 6.5 lakh units per annum to 19.7 lakh units. The facility is Honda's largest scooter-only plant in the world and caters to the domestic as well as the export markets. Hero MotoCorp's two-wheeler manufacturing unit in Gujarat is located at Halol.

TRANSITION TO EV MANUFACTURING
Gujarat is also taking rapid strides towards becoming an electric vehicle manufacturing hub. Vehicle manufacturers are making significant investments to enhance their EV capabilities. MG Motor recently began manufacturing its EV at the Halol plant. The company also recently announced a strategy joint venture with JSW Group to accelerate growth with a focus on green mobility and

develop the EV ecosystem. Maruti Suzuki has also announced that its soon-to-be-launched electric vehicle - eVX - will roll out from the Hansalpur plant in Gujarat. In addition to catering to the domestic market, the company also plans to export the EV, giving a fillip to Make in India. Tata Motors is also set to begin production of the Nexon EV from its new plant in Sanand soon. This will be the first EV to be built at the plant.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES
Gujarat government launched its EV Policy in 2021 to transition the transportation sector towards electric mobility, to make Gujarat a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles and ancillary equipment, and to encourage startups and investments in the field of electric mobility and associated support sectors such as data analytics and information technology. The policy targeted to support the purchase of 2 lakh EVs with attractive subsidies. Moreover, the policy also provided incentives for promoting the charging infrastructure as well as manufacturing of EVs and components.

EV SALES SURGE
EV sales in Gujarat surged multifold as a result of the policy. From just around 9,700 in 2021, EV sales rose to around 69,000 in 2022, and to 88,600 in 2023, according to government data. The policy has also helped Gujarat develop an extensive EV ecosystem, including more than 600 charging stations. The state has made significant investments in the charging infrastructure to complement the investments made by private sector players.

ENHANCING EV ECOSYSTEM
According to Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, the government has provided a seamless platform, aimed at simplifying application and approval processes, for setting up manufacturing units in special investment regions such as Mandal-Becharaji and Dholera. The state is proactively working to attract EV manufacturers by encouraging research and development. The government has already deployed 500 electric buses for public transportation, giving a boost to the adoption of EVs.

A pharma powerhouse

Gujarat for 35 per cent of India's pharma output

Gujarat stands as the pharma manufacturing hub in the country. The state owes this achievement to its strategic location, conducive business environment, robust infrastructure, and proactive government policies, which have contributed to making it a thriving pharma hub.

HOME TO THE BEST AND BIGGEST
Gujarat hosts the manufacturing facilities of nearly all major Indian pharmaceutical companies, including Sun Pharma, Intas Pharma, Zydus Life Science, Torrent Pharma, Lupin, and others. With over 4,000 licensed drug manufacturers, Gujarat boasts the highest number of such establishments in India. Additionally, more than 1,000 out of the state's 1,800 pharma manufacturing units adhere to the WHO's Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

COMMITMENT TO QUALITY
Further, over 150 drug manufacturing facilities in the state are approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration

(USFDA), reflecting their adherence to stringent international quality standards. A robust regulatory framework ensures that pharmaceutical products manufactured in Gujarat meet the highest standards of safety, efficacy, and quality, reinforcing its reputation as a trusted pharmaceutical destination.

The failure rate of randomly tested drugs made by pharma companies in Gujarat is just around 1 per cent, significantly lower than that of other states and the national average.

LION'S SHARE OF PHARMA MARKET
According to official data, Gujarat's pharma industry market was Rs. 1.42 lakh in the financial year 2022-23, slightly over 35 per cent of the country's Rs. 4 lakh crore market. The state also commands an impressive 28 per cent share of India's pharma exports, valued at Rs. 2.05 lakh crore, highlighting its vital contribution in catering to international pharmaceutical requirements. According to Invest India, the national investment promotion and facilitation agency, the

Indian pharma industry is projected to touch Rs. 10 lakh crore by 2030, offering an immense growth opportunity.

MEDICAL DEVICES PROWESS
One of the most notable features of Gujarat's pharmaceutical industry is its unparalleled contribution to specialised medical equipment. A staggering 78 per cent of India's cardiac stents are manufactured in the state, showcasing its advanced capabilities in producing critical medical devices. Moreover, Gujarat is home to 40 per cent of India's Contract Research Organisations (CROs), reinforcing its stature as a preferred destination for pharmaceutical R&D activities. The state also accounts for 40 per cent of the country's pharmaceutical machinery manufacturing, while 53 per cent of India's total registered medical device manufacturers are in Gujarat.

Plans to generate 1 lakh IT jobs in 5 years

New policy envisions 2 lakh jobs in the semiconductor sector

Gujarat has put in place a robust fibre network, developed multiple data centres, and established software technology parks as part of its efforts to boost the IT sector in recent years. Today, Gujarat is home to more than 5,000 thriving small, medium and large high-performing ICT industries and is also rapidly moving towards becoming an important hub of technology startups. According to official data, the state now stands second with an impressive 16 per cent share in terms of total outstanding investments attracted by the IT/ITeS sector countrywide. There are IT clusters in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vadodara and Surat.

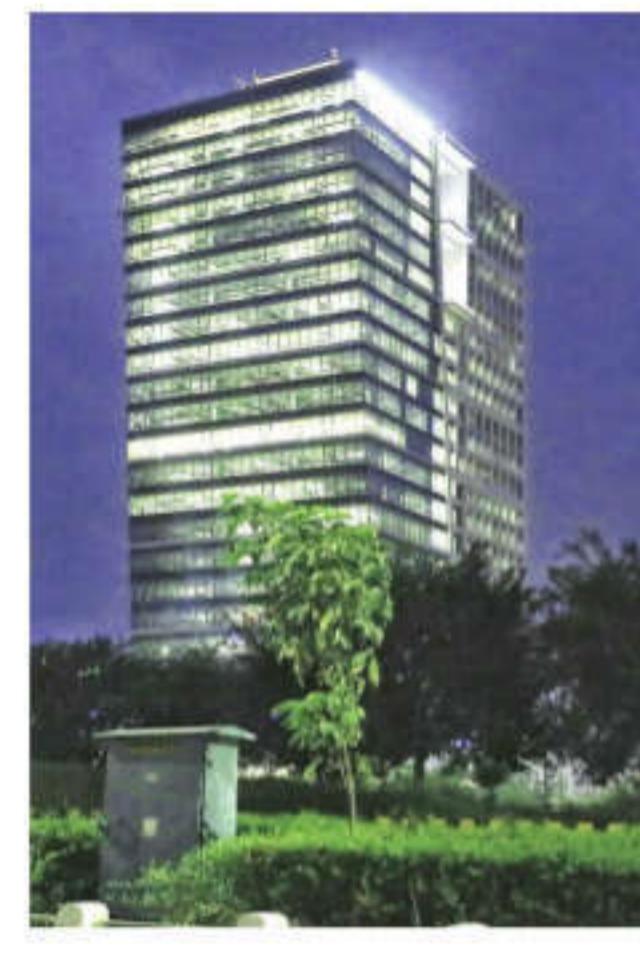
GROWTH CATALYST

The Gujarat government has introduced the IT/ITeS Policy as a part of its commitment to promote faster growth in the IT/ITeS sector. The policy aims to act as a catalyst in the growth of the IT/ITeS ecosystem, enable the creation of high-skilled IT human resources in the state, and facilitate large-scale investments in the IT/ITeS sector. The government also aims to establish the state as a hub for innovation in emerging and advanced technologies.

Gujarat envisions becoming one of the top five states in the IT sector and generating more than one lakh jobs in the sector. The policy targets an eight-fold increase in the state's annual IT exports, from Rs. 3,000 crore to Rs. 25,000 crore, over the next five years. According to government estimates, IT exports from Gujarat are less than one per cent of the state's total exports, signifying a huge potential for increased IT exports.

R&D IN CUTTING-EDGE TECH

The policy offers employment generation incentives, interest subsidy, and assistance for co-working spaces, among other financial benefits. Realising the importance of skilled manpower in the IT industry, the policy also focuses on skill development/enhancement,



as well as on research and development in cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, machine learning, quantum computing, blockchain, and more.

ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING

Electronics, one of the world's largest and fastest-growing sectors, is another focus area for Gujarat. In sync with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of developing robust domestic electronics manufacturing capabilities, Gujarat is taking giant strides towards becoming a preferred destination for the electronics sector. The Gujarat Electronics Policy focuses on attracting investments through incentives, process optimisation and facilitating the adoption of latest technologies in electronics manufacturing.

\$30 BILLION IN ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING

The policy aims to position Gujarat as a national leader in the electronics sector by

encouraging and driving growth through strategic policy interventions and state-of-the-art infrastructure. It envisions creating \$30 billion of electronics manufacturing and export, contributing to import substitution and export promotion, and offering various fiscal and non-fiscal support for the electronics sector. Gujarat is also looking to establish electronics manufacturing clusters at strategic locations.

GUJARAT SEMICONDUCTOR POLICY

Gujarat aims to become a pioneer in semiconductor manufacturing and was the first state in the country to announce a dedicated policy to support the semiconductor and display manufacturing sector.

2 LAKH JOBS IN FIVE YEARS

The Gujarat Semiconductor Policy envisions facilitating investments under the central government's four schemes for developing semiconductor and display fab ecosystem in the state by facilitating land allotment, expediting approval processes, and ensuring ready access to water, gas, electricity and other world-class industrial infrastructure. The policy aims to create two lakh jobs in five years.

MICRON'S ASSEMBLY, TEST FACILITY

In just a few months, the policy has already facilitated significant investments in the semiconductor space. Micron Technology, one of the world's largest semiconductor companies, has started building an assembly and test facility in Gujarat's Sanand. Construction of the \$2.75 billion facility has begun and it is targeted to become operational in late 2024. Micron's investment is a crucial building block and is expected to fundamentally transform the country's semiconductor landscape. According to Gujarat government officials, the state is in talks with semiconductor companies in Japan, South Korea and the US for investment in the state.



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister



Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Gujarat



Shri Balvantsinh Rajput
Hon'ble Cabinet Minister,
Civil Aviation, Gujarat



Shri Jagdish Vishwakarma
Hon'ble State Minister,
Civil Aviation, Gujarat

DEVELOPING A ROBUST ECOSYSTEM FOR GUJARAT'S AVIATION SECTOR

GUJSAIL
Gateway to Aviation in Gujarat

Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Limited

States of Hope

An initiative by



GUJARAT



Dynamic industrial landscape

The state contributes close to 8.5 per cent to the national GDP

Gujarat has achieved the distinction of being one of the most industrially developed states in India and has built a stellar reputation of being an investor-friendly state. Gujarat is home to more than 100 Fortune 500 companies, including Google, Suzuki, Shell, Rosneft, ArcelorMittal, ABB, and Total, in addition to home-grown corporate houses including Reliance Industries, Adani Group, Tata Group, Aditya Birla Group, and many more.

Gujarat is the national leader in several sectors including pharmaceuticals, chemicals and petrochemicals, textiles, ceramics, gems & jewellery, dairy and dairy products, and ports and maritime. Boasting just 6 per cent of the country's geographical area and 5 per cent of its population, Gujarat contributes close to 8.5 per cent to the national GDP. The state is home to 11 per cent of the factories in the country and has an 18 per cent share in the overall industrial output, underscoring its status as a manufacturing powerhouse.

DIVERSE INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE
Gujarat's industrial landscape is marked by diversity and dynamism. The investment-

friendly approach of Gujarat has not only facilitated the growth of global and national companies but also ensured the growth of smaller enterprises. The state is home to more than 35 lakh Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which form the backbone of the state's economy and play an important role in creating employment opportunities.

PILLARS OF SUCCESS

Gujarat is committed to ensuring a conducive business environment. At the heart of its industrial success lies a robust investor-friendly ecosystem characterised by proactive policymaking, minimal bureaucratic hurdles, and world-class industrial and logistics infrastructure. The state's digital governance ensures seamless processes, exemplified by the Investor Facilitation Portal, which offers over 200 online approvals across 18 departments.

ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Gujarat provides an enabling infrastructure, including abundant and reliable power supply, world-class educational institutes, comprehensive healthcare services, and a

THE STATE IS HOME TO 11 PER CENT OF THE FACTORIES IN THE COUNTRY AND HAS AN 18 PER CENT SHARE IN INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT, UNDERSCORING ITS STATUS AS A MANUFACTURING POWERHOUSE

state-wide water and gas network. The state boasts excellent road, rail and air connectivity. More than four dozen ports dot the state's coastline, ensuring ease to industries in the import and export of goods and further enhancing its appeal as an investment destination.

POLICIES AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Gujarat is a policy-driven state with several investor-friendly sectoral policies and strategies targeting key industries such as pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles, energy, manufacturing, gems & jewellery and many

more. Gujarat also offers abundant growth opportunities in emerging sectors like electric vehicles and components, aircraft manufacturing and ancillary industries, technology (Fintech, cybersecurity, AI/ML, Industry 4.0), green hydrogen and derivatives, semiconductor and electronics system design & manufacturing, and renewable energy.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS INITIATIVES

Gujarat has consistently ranked among the top Indian states in the ease of doing business rankings over the years, underscoring its commitment to facilitating investment and encouraging entrepreneurship. This has been made possible through initiatives like the single-window clearance system, expediting the issuance of licenses and approvals. MSMEs starting operations enjoy a three-year exemption from obtaining approvals, prompting swift business setup. Moreover, the state's digitised land bank provides real-time information, facilitating informed investment decisions. Gujarat continues to set the standards for industrial excellence and propelling India's growth story.

Dholera ready for diverse industries

Dholera Special Investment Region is a Greenfield industrial smart city located approximately 100 km from Ahmedabad. It is envisioned as India's most attractive location for manufacturing and industrial development and is one of the most ambitious projects in Gujarat.

LARGEST LAND PARCELS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

India's first platinum-rated industrial smart city, and spanning nearly 920 sq km, Dholera offers the largest land parcels in Southeast Asia. With its world-class infrastructure, matched by few places in the world, Dholera is ready to welcome industries from various sectors. The government has identified defence, aviation, electronics, high-tech emerging technologies, biotechnology, heavy engineering, auto and auto ancillary, general manufacturing, and metals and metallurgical products as high-potential sectors for Dholera. A 5,000 MW solar power park is coming up in Dholera.

FIRST SEMICONDUCTOR FAB UNIT

Dholera is also making waves in the semiconductor industry. The government

of Gujarat has positioned Dholera as "Semicon City" and is developing an ecosystem to supplement the semiconductor and display industry through Industry 4.0-enabled common infrastructure facilities such as IoT-enabled warehousing, common semiconductor marking and packaging facilities, advanced testing labs, etc. The efforts have resulted in Dholera attracting India's first semiconductor fab unit. The project will be established by a joint venture of Tata Electronics and Taiwan's PSMC with an investment of Rs 91,000 crore.

NEW HIGHWAY, AIRPORT

Considering its high potential, Gujarat has undertaken several projects to enhance Dholera's connectivity. A dedicated 6-lane access-controlled express way will connect Dholera and Ahmedabad. A Mass Rapid Transit System (Metro rail) will also provide seamless connectivity between the two cities. Further, the Dholera international airport, which has already received environmental and site clearances, will spur connectivity and accessibility to this burgeoning industrial powerhouse.



EMPOWERING GUJARAT FOR THE NEXT TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

Shri Bhupendra Patel
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Gujarat IT/ITeS Policy 2022-27

Salient Features :

- CAPEX support up to INR 50 Cr for IT/ITeS units and up to INR 200 Cr for Mega Project
- OPEX support up to INR 20 Cr per year for IT/ITeS units and up to INR 40 Cr per year for Mega Project
- Employment Generation Incentive (EGI) upto INR 60,000 per employee
- Atmanirbhar Gujarat Rojgar Sahay - up to 100% reimbursement of employer's contribution of EPF
- Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) up to INR 50,000 for every youth towards IT Skills Enhancement
- Fiscal and Non-Fiscal incentives for development of IT Cities / Townships up to INR 100 Cr
- Rental subsidy up to INR 10,000 per month under Government facilitated infrastructure & empanelment model
- Interest Assistance on term loan up to 7% of the principal loan amount
- 100% reimbursement of Electricity Duty
- R&D Center / Institutes: CAPEX support upto INR 5 Cr
- Data Centers: CAPEX support up to INR 150 Cr and power tariff subsidy
- Cable Landing Station (CLS): CAPEX support up to INR 20 Cr and power tariff subsidy along with other Non Fiscal Incentives
- Facilitation for land allotment
- Online Investor Facilitation platform

First of its kind - Bundled incentive scheme : CAPEX - OPEX model

Early mover advantage to first three IT/ITeS companies under Mega Project

Facilitating futuristic IT cities to promote Walk-to-Work culture

Gujarat AI school at GIFT City - Placing Gujarat at the frontier of technological innovation

Fostering Cloud : Bringing Cable Landing Station (CLS) to Gujarat Special focus on Data Centre

Nurturing grassroots - Digital literacy & technology awareness programs

Enabling creation of state-of-the-art Co-working IT office spaces

The IT/ITeS Policy will place Gujarat amongst the top performers employment opportunities for over 1 Lakh youth in the State.

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GUJARAT MARITIME BOARD
The Maritime Brand of India

Strengthening Gujarat's global footprint

It's not just about trade, it's about being a Global Business Gateway.

Over centuries, Gujarat has been a trading hub of the world. Today its 1600 km coastline acts as the world's gateway to opportunities in India, with connections to all the major global port-based trade routes. The State, with its robust state-of-the-art port infrastructure, is inviting the world to do business and invest in its vibrant economy- while propelling India's journey to become a superpower.

GUJARAT
Transforming the Nation

For more information, visit: www.gmbports.org
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GUJARAT

Air connectivity to spur economic growth

With a robust infrastructure comprising 19 airports, excellent air connectivity will further boost development

Gujarat, known for its vibrant industrial landscape and burgeoning tourism, is rapidly emerging as a leader in the aviation sector. With a robust infrastructure comprising 19 airports, including major international hubs in Ahmedabad and Surat, Gujarat boasts one of the most extensive airport networks in the country. The existing airports in Rajkot and Vadodara, and the upcoming airports in Ankleshwar, Morbi, Rajpipla, Palitana, Dwarka, and Ambaji, etc. will also ensure seamless air connectivity to most parts of the state, catalysing economic growth.

EXPANDING AIRPORT INFRA

One of the most significant developments strengthening the state's aviation prowess is the ongoing expansion of its airport infrastructure. The recent inauguration of the international airport in Rajkot and the upcoming international airport in Dholera are clear indicators of the state's proactive approach to meet the growing demand for air travel. These initiatives will not only enhance air connectivity within and outside Gujarat but also alleviate congestion at existing airports, ensuring smoother operations and improved passenger experiences. The construction of an Aviation Park has also commenced in Rajkot. Moreover, the government has also allowed aircraft leasing and financing services at GIFT City in Gandhinagar, offering competitive tax regimes and regulations for leasing companies.

EYEING MRO OPPORTUNITIES

While augmenting the airport infrastructure, the state has also set its eyes on strategically positioning itself as a hub for Aircraft Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) services. Driven by the expansion of fleets and rising goods, and passenger movements, the MRO industry is poised for exponential growth in India and Gujarat. The state has



The highway to the future

With a keen focus on enhancing transportation infrastructure, the state has undertaken several ambitious projects to ensure efficient mobility across the state. One notable project is the development of a comprehensive coastal highway, designed to enhance connectivity, alleviate congestion on existing highways, and facilitate quicker movement of people and goods.

Significant sums have been allocated to develop high-speed corridors on various highways with heavy traffic to ensure seamless movement. Moreover, dozens of road projects connecting tourist places and industrial areas are underway, alongside the expansion of many existing highways linking large cities,

ports and industrial hubs to cater to growing needs. Similarly, construction of over-bridges has been undertaken to mitigate traffic congestion at railway crossings, particularly in cities.

PRIORITY TO RURAL ROADS

Demonstrating a holistic approach to infrastructure development, the government has also prioritised the construction of high-quality roads in rural areas. The development and strengthening of the rural road infrastructure has contributed a great deal to socio-economic development in the state's villages. The state's latest budget allocated a sum of Rs. 5,000 crore under the Mukhya Mantri Gram

Sadak Yojana to improve rural road connectivity.

Augmenting public transport infrastructure

To complement the road infrastructure enhancements, the state is also focusing on augmenting public transport. The state will add 2,000 more buses to the public transport system, and the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation another 2,500 buses. Projects have also been implemented to modernise bus stations. Underscoring efforts to promote environment-friendly transport, the state will provide more than Rs. 200 crore as subsidy for e-vehicles.

introduced favourable policies and incentives to attract MRO investments and establish world-class facilities.

Easy availability of land, a large network of airports and airfields, and robust infrastructure, coupled with the state's proximity to Mumbai, one of the busiest airports in the country, makes Gujarat a compelling proposition for companies aiming to capitalise on India's burgeoning MRO market. Gujarat government entity Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Limited (GUJSAIL) is also showcasing Dholera as an aircraft MRO centre. Gujarat's focus on nurturing the MRO ecosystem will also contribute to positioning the state as a key player in the global aerospace and defence areas.

AVIATION POLICY IN THE OFFING

Gujarat is working on a comprehensive aviation policy aimed at developing aviation and related infrastructure in the state. GUJSAIL has been holding stakeholder consultations as a part of the same. The policy aims to enhance airport infrastructure, increase air cargo operations, and promote innovation in aerospace technology. By prioritising themes such as regional connectivity, R&D, training, and aircraft financing and leasing, the state is laying the groundwork for sustainable growth and competitiveness in the aviation sector.

TRAINING INSTITUTES FOR PILOTS, AIRCRAFT ENGINEERS

The presence of several airports and aviation infrastructure in Gujarat provides a conducive environment for specialised training institutes for pilots and aircraft engineers. With a focus on providing comprehensive education and practical experience, the institutes aim to meet the increasing demand for well-trained pilots and aircraft engineers in India and globally. The initiative will play a key role in positioning Gujarat as a preferred destination for aviation training and education.

The catalyst in India's growth

From Page 1

FOCUS ON INFRASTRUCTURE

The government has made significant investments in building world-class infrastructure and has also ensured robust private participation in infrastructure development. Gujarat has also taken the lead in implementing the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, launched to ensure inter-departmental coordination and planning and prioritisation of infrastructure, improve ease of doing business and reduce the overall logistics cost.

TRANSPARENT POLICIES

Transparent industrial policies have been vital in Gujarat's economic success. Gujarat is the only state with dedicated policies for sectors, such as industry, power, ports, roads, agriculture and minerals. These policies have been instrumental in attracting both national and international companies to the state.

FDI INFLOWS ON THE RISE

As per central government statistics, the state attracted Rs 18,884 crore FDI in the first half of the financial year 2023-24, accounting for 16 per cent of the country's overall and the third highest FDI inflows, further fuelling its economic growth trajectory. The state has attracted FDI worth Rs 2.57 lakh crore between October 2019 and September 2023.

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

The state ranked fourth in the Export Preparedness Index 2022. Moreover, its progress in reducing multidimensional poverty, as reflected in the National Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023, showcases its commitment to inclusive development. The logistics sector has also been a strong suit for Gujarat, earning it the status of an "achiever" in the Logistic Performance Index 2023. Further, Gujarat received a perfect score in the Startup Ranking of States-2022.

INTERVIEW

'Gujarat's contribution to India's GDP could rise to 12 per cent'



IF INDUSTRIES WANT TO ESTABLISH PLANTS IN OUR STATE, THEY CAN TELL US THE SKILL SETS THEY REQUIRE AND WE WILL ENSURE THEY FIND SKILLED EMPLOYEES

state signed Rs 45 lakh crore worth MoUs. Of these, over 40 per cent were for green projects. Tata Group has announced to invest Rs 40,000 crore in the state. Nearly 11 per cent of the automobile production in the country happens in Gujarat. We have built the Dholera Special Investment Region and Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT City). With all the initiatives that Gujarat is taking, I feel the state will witness strong growth in the years to come. I cannot state the exact figure, but Gujarat's contribution to India's GDP could rise to 12 per cent.

How has been the response to Gujarat's semiconductor policy?

We have received a good response to our semiconductor policy. Gujarat will become a semiconductor hub of India.

Recently, the Centre approved proposals for two semiconductor units in Gujarat. How will it change the state's industrial and employment scenario?

Gujarat has started focussing on skill development just like many countries including Japan, America and Europe. We are

in the process of establishing a skill university in the state, and it will soon be operational. If any industry wants to establish plants in our state, they can tell us the required skill sets, and we will ensure that they will get skilled employees at the local level. If they want 2,000 engineers, we will provide them immediately. Micron signed an MoU with us, and we are providing funding worth Rs 38 crore to set up a facility from where local youths can be trained. Not only funding, we will also train youths from the state to provide skilled manpower to the company.

Gujarat wants to become a \$500 billion economy by 2026-27. What is your roadmap for it?

Many factories are going to set up their plants in Gujarat over the next few years. We have been taking steps to promote industries. The state has adopted industry-friendly policies and also makes fast policy decisions. There is single-window clearance which makes it easier for companies to get approval for any kind of proposals. We also keep interacting with various industries regularly to take their feedback and to understand the difficulties faced by them.

Which sectors will help the state to become a \$500 billion economy?

Gujarat is an auto hub in the country today. Soon the state will become a hub for semiconductors. We have GIFT City. Many companies are coming to us to establish their units in Dholera (Special Investment Region). Soon, a bulk park will come up in Bharuch. PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel) Park will also be created in the state. We are also making a hub for the health department in Rajkot. We are coming up with smart GIDCs. The parks that are being created in the state would have common facilities, which will further reduce the production cost for companies.

Which new sectors Gujarat would like to focus on going forward?

In the times to come, we will enhance our (green) power generation capacity by 30 gigawatts. India has the goal of reaching net zero by 2070, and we also have the same target. The state also has a focus on the defence sector. Many components required for India's Chandrayaan mission were manufactured in Baroda.

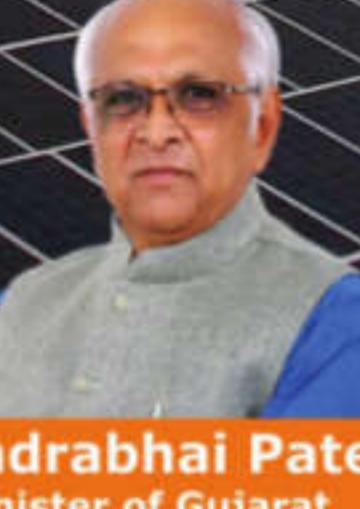


Climate Change Department
Government of Gujarat

Gujarat: Engineered & Customized The Sun



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India



Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat

Solar Power Projects (Ground Mount)	
6668.76 MW	
Solar Roof Top Projects	
2281.16 MW	
Solar Water Heating Systems	
2,36,395 Sq.M	
Wind Solar Hybrid Projects	
238.94 MW	
Wind Energy Projects	
9764.255 MW	
Biomass Power Generation Projects	
81.55 MW	
Waste - to - Energy Projects	
19,269 MW	
Biogas Plants	
31690 m ³ per/day	
Improved Crematoria	
6029 Nos	
Energy Audits Water Pump/WTEA	
4,450 Nos.	
Energy Efficient LED Tube Lights	
1,32,219 Nos	
5 Star Rated Fans	
79,564 Nos	
Battery Operated Two Wheeler	
43238 Nos	
Bal Urja Rakshak Dal (BURD) Programme	
720 Schools, 35,000 Urja Rakshaks	

Data as on 31st January, 2023









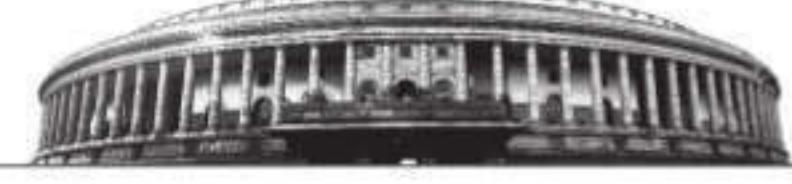






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DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



FAMILIES FIRST

THE BJP seems to be in an aggressive mode in Kerala ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. After naming Anil Antony, son of Congress leader A K Antony, as its candidate from Pathanamthitta constituency, the party is trying to win over another "Congress family member". Sources said Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of veteran Congress leader K Karunakaran, is all set to be inducted into the party. Although Padmaja, an office-bearer of the Kerala Congress unit, doesn't have a remarkable electoral record, her joining the BJP would certainly be a big boost for the party in the state, said BJP leaders. Padmaja, who lost elections thrice – LS polls in 2004 and Assembly elections in 2016, 2021 – could be fielded in this Lok Sabha elections, sources said.

DEVELOPMENT MODEL

AFTER PM Narendra Modi on February 23 inaugurated Banas Kashi Sankul, a milk processing unit of Banaskantha District Cooperative Milk Producers Union Ltd built at UPSIDA Agro Park in Varanasi, the local BJP organisation has started a drive to take party workers, supporters and other residents of Varanasi on a tour of the complex that is located around 42 kms from the city. Around 1,000 people are visiting the complex every day and the exercise will continue till all the interested people across the constituency have seen the plant, said sources. BJP leaders are making arrangements for conveyance and lunch for the visitors, who are also being given certificates for touring the plant. As Modi is the BJP's candidate from Varanasi, the party leaders are showcasing the project as a model of development done by PM.

BACK TO CAMPUS

IT WAS a nostalgic moment for India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant when he visited his alma mater, Jawaharlal Nehru University, on Wednesday. He received the "Distinguished Alumni" certificate from JNU Vice Chancellor Professor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit. Kant is from the 1978 batch of the university. After receiving the certificate, Kant said, "My time at the institution has played a significant role in shaping my life and career and my contribution towards nation building."

Boost for Odisha Cong as ex-minister Srikant Jena returns



Srikant Jena (left) with Congress Odisha in-charge Ajoy Kumar in New Delhi, Wednesday. *Praveen Khanna*

SUJIT BISOYI

BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 6

FIVE YEARS after he was expelled from the Congress, former Union minister Srikant Jena Wednesday returned to the grand old party at a programme in New Delhi.

Jena, a four-time Lok Sabha member, was expelled from the Congress in January 2019 for "anti-party" activities. "His (Jena's) return will definitely strengthen the Congress in Odisha. It's time to fight towards the slogan 'For the Odias, By the Odias, Of the Odias.'

It's time to fight against the BJP-BJD secret alliance in Odisha. Odisha for Odias," wrote Odisha Congress in-charge Ajoy Kumar on X.

The party may field Jena in LS polls from a coastal constituency as he had in the past won twice from Cuttack – 1989 to 1991 and 1991 to 1996 – and once from Kendrapada (1996 to 1998) and Balasore (2009 to 2014). He unsuccessfully contested the 2014 Lok Sabha polls from Balasore.

"There were some misunderstandings which have been clarified. I met the Congress president and things were sorted out. I am glad that I am back in Congress. The people of Odisha are unhappy with the unholy nexus between

Jena began his career in Janata party and became a legislator to the Odisha Assembly in 1977 from Baruipur district. He continued to represent the seat till 1989. He served as a minister in Odisha. Later, he switched to the Congress and became a key face of the party in Odisha. He is a critic of CM Naveen Patnaik. Following his exit from Congress, Jena launched a non-political platform – Samajika Nyay Abhiyan – that advocated for a social justice movement.

Meanwhile, in the Firozabad seat, dominated by the Yadav and Muslim communities, Akshay Yadav, another cousin of Akhilesh, has been fielded.

To give a shot in the arm to his prospects, Akhilesh has reintroduced an influential local leader into the SP fold. On February 23, Akhilesh visited the residence of former SP MLA Azeem Bhai who had finished runner-up in the Firozabad Assembly seat in the 2007, 2012 and 2017 polls on the party's ticket.

Azim had rebelled and quit the SP to join the BSP after the party did not give him a ticket in the 2022 polls.

These seats – Azamgarh, Badaun, Firozabad, Kannauj, and Mainpuri – have either been contested by members of the SP first family or by its trusted party leaders over the decades.

The SP managed to induct former BSP MLA Shah Alam alias Guddu Jamali, a popular Muslim face in Azamgarh, into the party last week.

Guddu Jamali will bring new energy to the party. This is a signal not just to Azamgarh but to all of eastern UP. A strong leader is joining the party," Akhilesh said while welcoming Jamali. Jamali's entry, Akhilesh said, would boost the SP's PDA (Pichhda, Dalit, Alpaskanhyak) plank.

The SP is hoping that Jamali's induction will boost its chances in Azamgarh. Akhilesh had won the seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, but resigned after he got elected in the 2022 UP elections. In the bypoll later, his cousin Dharmendra Yadav lost the seat with a slim margin of 8,679 votes.

Jamali was the BSP candidate at the time and had garnered 2.66 lakh votes on his own, effectively damaging the SP's chances.

His wife Sazia Hasan had then contested the seat on a BSP ticket and polled 37,643 votes, cutting

Only one family prospered in Bihar during 'jungle raj': Modi

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, MARCH 6

REITERATING THAT "every Indian was his family", PM Narendra Modi Wednesday hit out at the INDIA bloc, particularly RJD president Lalu Prasad, for "promoting dynastic politics and having retrogressive thinking".

"They are still moving in lantern (RJD's election symbol) light," the PM said at a rally in Bettiah, the headquarters of West Champaran district of Bihar.

The PM was responding to Lalu Prasad's recent jibe that "Modi's dislike for dynastic politics" stemmed from him having "no family" of his own. Modi accused Prasad and his family of bringing "jungle raj" during their decade-and-a-half-long rule in the state. "Jab tak Bihar me latern ka raj raha, tab tak ehi parivar ki garibi miti. Ehi parivaar samiddh hua" (Till the time there was lantern rule in Bihar, poverty of only one family was alleviated and only one family prospered).

The PM played up his job opportunities promise by unveiling projects worth Rs 12,800 crore in West Champaran district and said



PM Narendra Modi with Bihar Deputy CMs Vijay Kumar Sinha and Samrat Chaudhary at Bettiah in Bihar's West Champaran district on Wednesday. *PTI*

the biggest beneficiaries of the projects would be the youths who are looking for employment. Without naming Lalu or other Opposition leaders, Modi said, "These dynastic people had been responsible for keeping Ram Lalla in tents for decades and also made every attempt to thwart temple construction," he said. Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, who is scheduled to travel abroad from Thursday, could not share the dais with Modi Wednesday. While attacking the Opposition leaders over the "no family" statement, the PM

said they would have targeted even Mahatma Gandhi, BR Ambedkar, Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia and Karpoori Thakur as "none of them promoted their own families".

Modi began his speech in Bettiah by attacking "jungle raj" in Bihar. "Since Independence, migration to other places in search of livelihood has been a major challenge before Bihar. The problem peaked when 'jungle raj' came," said Modi, alluding to the rise to power of Lalu Prasad in the 1990s. "An entire generation was de-

prived of future prospects during the jungle raj. Only one family progresses. One saw how land plots were taken in lieu of giving jobs. Will you forgive such people?" he asked, referring to the alleged scam in which Lalu Prasad's wife Rabri Devi, son Tejaswi Yadav and daughter Misa Bharti have been named as accused.

Launching an attack on INDIA bloc, Modi said: "On one hand, new India is coming up, and on the other, RJD, Congress and INDIA alliance have been living in a different world. I want solar lights on every roof but they are still moving in light of lantern..." Talking about his life, he said, "The person standing in front of you had left his home at a very early age. If a person from Bihar goes to work anywhere, he returns during Chhath and Diwali. But Modi had no place to return. For me, entire India is home, every Indian is my family."

Meanwhile, Modi inaugurated Duhai-Modinagar (North) section of Delhi-Meerut RRTS Corridor, Pune Metro's Ruby Hall Clinic-Ramwadi stretch, Kochi Metro's SN Junction to Tripunithura section and Agra Metro's Taj East Gate-Mankameshwar section. *WITH PTI INPUTS*

PM in Kashmir today, to announce slew of projects, address rally

NAVEED IQBAL

SRINAGAR, MARCH 6

SEVERAL CHECKPOINTS have come up across Srinagar as part of heightened security measures, a day ahead of PM Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to the city Thursday, his first since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

The PM, who was in Jammu last week, will address a public rally at Bakshi Stadium and announce a slew of projects related to agriculture and tourism. The last time Modi visited Kashmir was in February 2019, ahead of the LS polls then, as part of his tour to all three regions of the former state.

The PM's visit comes at a time when parties in the Valley are pressing the government to hold simultaneous Assembly polls with the ensuing LS polls. J&K has not had an elected government since 2018.

"Whenever the situation deteriorated in J&K in the past, we had leaders like HD Deve Gowda, IK Gujral, Manmohan Singh and



Outside Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar on Wednesday. *Shuaib Masoodi*

Atal Bihari Vajpayee who tried to restore democracy, but for the first time we have a government at the Centre which doesn't want to hold elections here," former CM Omar Abdullah had said in December last year.

Since Article 370 was abrogated, there has only been one meeting between the Centre and leaders of Kashmir. That meeting was held in June 2021. At the time, Modi had emphasised he wanted to reduce "dilli ki doori" as well as "dil ki doori" while assuring the leaders that his government was committed to reviving the democratic process.

However, J&K has remained without an elected Assembly.

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"Whenever the situation deteriorated in J&K in the past, we had leaders like HD Deve Gowda, IK Gujral, Manmohan Singh and

DIVYAA A

NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will launch a campaign to involve overseas Indians in promoting tourism in the country after inaugurating a slew of tourism-related projects during his Srinagar visit Thursday.

The Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign will be simultaneously launched in all Indian embassies and high commissions abroad.

The campaign is being launched based on the call of the Prime Minister, wherein he requested the Indian diaspora members to encourage at least five non-Indian friends to travel to India.

Officials with Tourism Ministry told *The Indian Express* that the campaign is a formalisation of the PM's call on several occasions to pitch for NRIs and overseas Indians to bring in their friends and associates to visit India and contribute to building brand India as a tourism destination.

A portal will be launched for

the NRIs to register, along with the contact details, and details of the people they are nominating, who can be reached out directly by the Tourism Ministry with specific publicity material.

At the event at Bakshi Stadium, Modi will also launch multiple projects related to the tourism sector worth over Rs 1,400 crore under Swadesh Darshan and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive schemes, including the project for Integrated Development of Hazratbal Shrine in the city. He will also launch the Dekho Apna Desh People's Choice Tourist Destination Poll and announce tourist destinations selected under Challenge-Based Destination Development (CBDD) scheme.

The PM will announce 42 tourist destinations under the CBDD scheme, announced during the Union Budget 2023-24. The 42 destinations have been identified in four categories – 16 in culture and heritage destination; 11 in spiritual destination; 10 in eco-tourism and Arunachal Pradesh; and five in vibrant village.

The bargaining for more seats by the two partners had led to talk of trouble in the alliance, forcing Shah to step in. Sources said that the BJP presented ground reports, including on the winnability of candidates, to make its point. A senior BJP functionary said:

"While reassuring alliance partners about the party's willingness to accommodate them, Shah told Shinde and Ajit Pawar to reconcile to the ground reality. He cautioned the alliance partners against unreasonable aggression."

The thrust was that they should all work as a team, keep-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Mumbai, Wednesday. *PTI*

EXPLAINED **E** Big brother role for BJP

FOR YEARS a junior partner in its alliance with the undivided Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, the BJP has been steadily gaining ground. In 2019 Assembly elections, it had won 105 of the 288 seats. The seat-sharing formula would establish the party as the big brother of the ruling alliance, with its partners Shinde Sena and NCP (Ajit Pawar) both truncated versions of their parties.

ing in sight the larger objective of winning 45-plus seats in Maharashtra.

A highly placed source said only "some loose ends" are still to be tied up. "The outcome of the meeting was positive," the leader said. After the talks held by Shah, Maharashtra BJP leaders, including Fadnavis, state party president Chandrashekhar Bawankar, Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar and state Legislative Council leader Praveen Darekar, headed to Delhi for a core committee meeting for further discussions.

Sources said there may be 8 to 10 new faces in BJP list and that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will definitely contest from Nagpur again. Among the others, state ministers Sudhir Mungantiwar and Girish Mahajan are reportedly being considered for Chandrapur and Jalgaon LS seats respectively. In Beed, the sulking Pankaja Munde is likely to replace her younger sister and sitting MP Pritam Munde. In Akola and Sangli, sitting MPs Sanjay Dhotre and Sanjay Kaka Patil, respectively, might be dropped.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge in MP's Badnawar, Wednesday. *PTI*

EC to Rahul: Be more careful in public speeches

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

THE ELECTION Commission issued an advisory to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to be more careful in his public utterances, sources said Wednesday.

The EC had issued a notice to Gandhi for his "panauti" (bad omen) and "jebkatara" (pick-pocket) jibes at PM Narendra Modi during Rajasthan Assembly polls campaign in November last year. Hearing a PIL, Delhi HC had asked the EC in December to decide the matter "expeditiously", after the petitioner sought action against Gandhi. EC issued notices to Gandhi on November 23, giving him 2 days to respond. The HC said since deadline for his reply had passed and no reply was received, the EC should "decide the matter as expeditiously as possible, preferably within 8 weeks". According to sources, EC has now issued an advisory to Gandhi.

Inductions to pacifying rebels: Akhilesh goes all out to safeguard family bastions

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

IN THE run-up to Lok Sabha polls, the Samajwadi Party (SP) is pulling out all the stops to strengthen its base in seats that are considered bastions of party chief Akhilesh Yadav's clan in Uttar Pradesh.

These seats – Azamgarh, Badaun, Firozabad, Kannauj, and Mainpuri – have either been contested by members of the SP first family or by its trusted party leaders over the decades.

The SP managed to induct former BSP MLA Shah Alam alias Guddu Jamali, a popular Muslim face in Azamgarh, into the party last week.

Guddu Jamali will bring new energy to the party. This is a signal not just to Azamgarh but to all of eastern UP. A strong leader is joining the party," Akhilesh said while welcoming Jamali. Jamali's entry, Akhilesh said, would boost the SP's PDA (Pichhda, Dalit, Alpaskanhyak) plank.

The SP is hoping that Jamali's induction will boost its chances in Azamgarh. Akhilesh had won the seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, but resigned after he got elected in the 2022 UP elections. In the bypoll later, his cousin Dharmendra Yadav lost the seat with a slim margin of 8,679 votes.

Jamali was the BSP candidate at the time and had garnered 2.66 lakh votes on his own, effectively damaging the SP's chances.

His wife Sazia Hasan had then contested the seat on a BSP ticket and polled 37,643 votes, cutting



SP chief Akhilesh Yadav in Noida on Wednesday. *PTI*

into SP nominee Saifur Rahman's votes. The BJP's Chandra Sen Jadaon won the seat by 32,955

votes. There are over three lakh Dalit votes in Firozabad. The SP believes its recent move to nominate senior Dalit leader and four-time Firozabad MP Ramji Lal Suman to the Rajya Sabha will help the party consolidate the community's votes in its favour in the Lok Sabha polls.

Akshay, the son of SP secretary general and Rajya Sabha MP Ramgopal Yadav, had made his electoral debut by winning the Firozabad seat in 2014. He, however, lost from the constituency in 2019 by 28,781 votes,



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

DO NOT DELAY

SBI needs to find a way to furnish poll bond details before elections. Only that will respect letter and spirit of SC verdict

IN FEBRUARY, A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court struck down the electoral bonds scheme, and declared the changes brought to the law to implement it as unconstitutional. The Court directed the State Bank of India to stop issuing bonds and provide all information on those purchased since April 12, 2019 — name of the purchaser, denomination of the bond purchased, details of the political parties that received the bonds — to the Election Commission of India within three weeks of the judgment, that is, by March 6. It asked the EC to publish this information within one week of its receipt, by March 13. This timeline was of crucial importance. Because with elections around the corner, this information could help expand and deepen the voter's right to know before she exercises her franchise. Postponing the release of the donor list — as the SBI has proposed — will not only be against the interests of the voter before a crucial poll, but it also contradicts the letter and spirit of the Court's order. "Information about funding of political parties is essential for the effective exercise of the choice of voting," CJI Chandrachud said. The SBI, therefore, needs to be told to do whatever it takes to deliver on what the court has stipulated.

The issue of campaign finance lies at the heart of the electoral process. It is directly linked to allegations of cronyism and quid pro quo, and of decisions being made to suit the interests of particular individuals and business houses. As the judgment noted, "there is also a legitimate possibility that financial contribution to a political party would lead to quid pro quo arrangements because of the close nexus between money and politics." The argument that anonymity shields donors from the possibility of retribution down the line, must, in a vibrant democracy, be weighed against the benefits of openness and transparency and the high costs of continuing secrecy of political funding. The Court did the right thing by striking down the electoral bonds scheme. It should now ensure that the information is publicly available when it is most useful — before the elections.

There are always likely to be attempts to find loopholes in the laws that govern campaign finance. But instead of plugging those gaps to bring greater transparency, the electoral bonds scheme had introduced another layer of opacity. It is high time that this issue enters the electoral arena, is up for discussion and debate. And the next government must make it a priority to take further steps towards a thorough clean-up.

AN IMPROPER MOVE

Justice Gangopadhyay's resignation from Calcutta HC to join BJP casts a shadow on his decisions, is a backward step for judiciary

ON JANUARY 24, Abhijit Gangopadhyay — then a justice of the Calcutta High Court — accused a brother judge of "working for a political party". That moment marked a low for the judiciary, and for the relationship between the government and the Court in West Bengal. Over the last week, though, it may have been surpassed — on Tuesday, less than a week after he resigned from the bench, Gangopadhyay announced he was joining the BJP. The judge's decision to join politics — and the manner and context in which it was taken — raises questions of judicial propriety, and impartiality.

To be fair, Gangopadhyay is not the first judge of a constitutional court to resign and join politics. In 1967, former Chief Justice of India Koka Subba Rao resigned three months before he was to retire to contest the presidential election as the Opposition candidate. Supreme Court Justice Barahul Islam resigned six weeks before retirement in 1983 to contest the Lok Sabha polls. Post retirement, judges have become governors and Rajya Sabha members. Gangopadhyay's case, however, stands out for at least two reasons: For one, his record in the court has been full of controversy. Second, for the better part of two years, these controversies showcased an unseemly spectacle of a sitting judge at loggerheads with an elected government, in a manner that invited questions of partisanship. Take the jobs scam case from September 2022. While hearing the matter, Justice Gangopadhyay all but accused TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee of "amassing wealth" in an interview to a TV channel — this lack of "judicial propriety" led the Supreme Court to order the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court to assign the case to a different bench. In January, he overruled a larger bench in a case regarding admissions to state medical colleges, and made an irresponsible remark against a colleague (mentioned above).

Judge Gangopadhyay's foray into politics now casts a shadow over the decisions he made on the bench. His justification for his political turn — the insults and barbs of TMC spokespersons and leaders, he says, led him to the BJP — holds little water. Politicians play politics, and the TMC has often accused Gangopadhyay of being a "political worker" in Court. A justice of a constitutional court, however, should not rise to the bait. By doing so, and by his decision now, he has given the accusations against him an air of retrospective credibility.

AN OPEN PLAN

Pritzker Prize 2024 laureate Riken Yamamoto's architecture is an ode to an older, more social, way of life

FEW DESIGN MANIFESTOS are as eloquent as a certain summer cottage, built in 1975 by architect Riken Yamamoto, in the woods near Nagano in Japan. A long living space which is also a terrace, thanks to the lack of walls, with discrete rooms for sleeping and cooking, and a single roof covering them all, Yamakawa Villa is a building in constant communication with its environment. In the winter, when the family it was built for is back in the city, animals from the surrounding woods walk in. A structure that, through its physical openness, encourages communication and community, the cottage represents the central idea of Yamamoto's career, one which has fetched him the Pritzker Prize this year. He is the ninth Japanese architect to win architecture's most prestigious honour.

Modest to look at, Yamamoto's structures may seem like a surprise addition in a roster that features "starchitects" such as Frank Gehry, Rem Koolhaas and IM Pei, designers of spectacular, almost bombastically ambitious buildings. Yet, the 2024 laureate's vision of a world where people live as a community and not as individuals boxed off in their own little spaces, is ambitious in a quiet and unassuming way. If the general trend of architecture since the 20th century has been towards atomised living, Yamamoto's buildings, with their transparent — even absent — walls and communal spaces, hark back to an older, more social way of life.

From the chaals of Mumbai, in which "kholis" share a corridor, to the sidewalk cafes and bookshops of Europe, spaces come to life when the line dividing the "outside" from the "inside" is blurred. This has been recognised by other architects, too, including champions of human-scale structures like BV Doshi and Charles Correa. For many critics of the sealed-off style of architecture that is so dominant today, which strips cities of individuality and makes spaces less conducive to conviviality, the solution lies in their vision. One building at a time, they help bring people together.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

THE COMMUNITY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
EVERY FAMILY HAS A RELATION TO COMMUNITY.

—RIKEN YAMAMOTO

An antidote called empathy



SHRAYANA BHATTACHARYA

Our institutions must be rescued from the brute language of power, move towards a paradigm of care

IT IS THAT time of the year again — when every company, college canteen, CSR initiative, social media influencer, judge, and politician will offer empty platitudes for the category of "woman". All of us in the Indian elite will enthusiastically participate in this charade. We will display our well-meaning outrage at news stories about violence against women, enjoy our Women's Day discounts while opining on Twitter Pradesh or at conferences. We will all pretend to celebrate femininity and women's bodies while being fearful of them and for them. In public, we will encourage our communities to respect all women. In private, what we will actually mean is that you must respect women who are "respectable" — dutiful-beautiful caregivers, worthy pliant wives of rich respectable men or women who have achieved accolades by self-presenting like rich respectable men. Technocrats will offer useful advice to a policy-making elite who doesn't like independent uncontrolled femininity all that much. My snark here is as horribly clichéd as the celebration of Women's Day. Perhaps, it is time to shed some cynicism, become earnest and ask — what would it take to credibly feministise the institutions of our society? Can we feministise India? Let us draw on feminist first principles and try to pave a path.

First, "feminising" India is not about bean counting the number of women in roles of power or valorising women who have achieved glory. It implies rescuing our institutions from the brute language of glory or power and moving them towards a paradigm of care and deliberative empathy. This is an uphill task, given how men and women in key institutions seem to have capitulated to a masculine culture of competitive self-maximising and muscle-flexing. Machismo and aggressive assertiveness are often seen as important skills in corporate workspaces and public administration. The urge to dominate is so innate that even lauded liberals write books where they attack other lauded liberals and claim superiority. Wealth, status, virtue, humility — all are up for competitive display in our culture.

It is not enough to celebrate more women in decision-making roles. One only needs to observe insensitive comments by the female leadership of the National Commission for Women (NCW) to know this, or the sustained gender-based wage gap in companies led by women, or how poorly some self-proclaimed feminist achievers treat their assistants and rivals, or read recent judgments written by women judges about single women. The focus should be on representing a diversity of lived experiences, hiring and promoting those

with enough emotional literacy, and offering decision-makers training and tools to check their own privilege, while holding positions of authority. A feminised society would wholeheartedly and rigorously recognise diversity, not casually catalogue bodies to tick boxes in an annual report.

The work of sociologists such as Michele Lamont is most helpful here. She defines recognition as an affirmative act, whereby we acknowledge the positive qualities of people and communities. Stigmatisation is the opposite of recognition, actions that perpetuate negative connotations about certain social groups. In her new book, *Seeing Others: How to Redefine Worth in a Divided World*, Lamont pushes us to think through what she describes as "recognition gaps," defined as "disparities in worth and cultural membership between groups in a society." She argues our contemporary times are exaggerating these recognition gaps by centring competitive hustling, socioeconomic status, and complete self-reliance as criteria of self-worth, thereby stigmatising those who struggle to access a level playing field. Her work highlights how institutions can serve as "buffers or scaffolding to provide recognition to stigmatised groups". In India, stigma rules — from the way women are cast in court judgments to the way we treat minorities and the marginalised. This would imply that in calls for affirmative action, women from historically marginalised and stigmatised communities should be recognised as foremost claimants.

A long-run route to feministise our institutions lies in how we teach children and youth to tackle difference and recognise each other, especially amongst our elite. For the past two years, I have been interviewing middle-aged men in positions of authority in businesses and bureaucracies. Most live in a world of abundance, and yet have been taught the mindset of scarcity and the will to dominate in all-boys schools. They are from families where their mothers or sisters have never forged a career. Their admiration for those beyond their own communities is limited to sportsmen, or men trained in the same schools and colleges as them. They enjoy the company of men and women just like them, and their circle of belonging has remained small and contained. When I asked them about their favourite writers or thinkers, none mentioned reading any Indian women or non-Brahmins. The progressives confessed that they struggled to believe women faced challenges in the economy till their daughters started working outside the home. Feminists highlight how women learn to

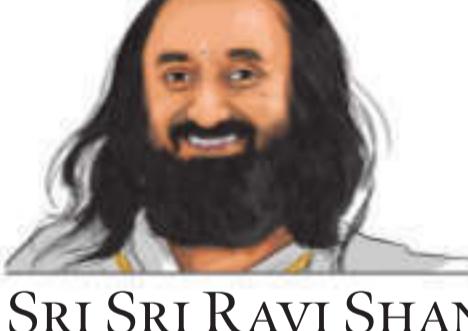
"read" or "speak" men. A feminised society would inculcate similar empathetic capacities in young men.

Second, a country can only be feminised if its economy truly values the labour of care. A masculine culture of unhealthy competition and comparison yields an unhealthy obsession with the self. Scholar of morality, Nel Noddings, reminds us that caring is characterised by a "move away from self". A feminised society would recognise and confer social value upon this gesture. Indian women spend twice as much time as men do on unpaid caregiving activities. Forty-eight per cent of urban women reported household duties and childcare as a bottleneck to their economic participation. Frontline care workers (ASHAs, Anganwadi workers) remain overburdened, underpaid and unprotected. Most domestic workers face abuse and low pay. Moreover, the modern economy forces women to face harsh trade-offs between care and career. Men — across castes and faiths — rarely face this binary. Policy must ease this trade-off — spend more on the care economy, pay care workers adequately, value social workers as much as we value engineers, offer women longer tenures in their careers to compensate for the time lost during maternity, or scale up income transfers to women for the invisible care they provide.

Finally, a feminised society would assure safety and safety nets for everyone. It would not tolerate neglect, cruelty or bullying. Bean counting can help here — only 11.75 per cent of our police force is female, 56.5 per cent of women earning a "regular wage or salary" outside agriculture are not eligible for any social security. Yet, our elite continues to fret about "freebies". A universal system of economic assurance and risk insurance for those facing hard times is a vital act of care that the state apparatus can and ought to perform.

All this will sound wishy-washy to those who have spent too much time in the cynical corridors of boys' clubs. It is far easier to hand out trophies, patronage and praise to female champions. However, as our state and institutions struggle to be gentle or caring, we must recognise that the envy, vanity and aggression driving our culture need a feminist antidote. The crisis of Indian masculinity — in our men and women — is failing all our pillars of society. Feminism helps us address the hollowness of "empowerment" without empathy. A feminised India would liberate the conversation on equality from the language of tokenism, zero-sum games and power.

Bhattacharya is an economist and author. Views are personal.



SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE that Shiva was a person or yogi who walked on this planet thousands of years ago. That is not correct. Shiva shouldn't be limited to time. He is called *Maha Kaal*, the time of times, and the cause of all causes. Kailasa is again not some mountain where he lived. Kailasa means where there is only celebration, where there is only joy. And, when Shiva *tattva* dawns on you, life becomes only a celebration. Where there is celebration, that is where Shiva resides or has blossomed.

Albert Einstein proved that energy can neither be created nor destroyed; it can only change from one form to another. That energy, which changes from one form to another, is Shiva. That which is always (*nitya*) and which is (*shashwat*), that is Shiva *tattva*.

Shiva is that blissful and innocent consciousness which permeates every atom of the universe. Celebrating the Shiva *tattva* in oneself is what Shivaratri is all about. "Ratri" is night, the time for rest and comfort. When all activities are on hold and it becomes quiet and peaceful, the body goes to sleep.

SURRENDER TO THE DIVINE

Feeling the presence of Shiva is the essence of Shivaratri

IN GOOD FAITH

Shivaratri is that deep rest not only for the body, but also for the mind, intellect and ego.

The way Shiva is described is very interesting. *Shivam, Shantam, Advaitam*: *Shivam* means your purest self; *Shantam* is quiet, peaceful, and innocent; and *Advaita* is nondual, where there is only One. Shiva has these five modes: *Srishti* or creation, *sthiti* or maintenance, *samhar* or dissolution, *anugraha* that is blessing or grace and *tirobhav* that means staying behind a veil, or staying hidden.

The manifestation of this consciousness is the entire creation, the dance of Shiva. In other words, you can never separate the dancer from the dance. The dancer is the consciousness or the *purusha* and dance is the *prakrti*.

Shivaratri is a night of transcendental, divine peace which brings solace to all layers of existence. There are certain days and timeframes in a year that enhance one's mental and spiritual faculties. In such times, whatever one wishes, materialises. Shivaratri is one such precious day.

Feeling the presence of Shiva is the



MARCH 7, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

US BASES IN PAKISTAN

THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT expressed the hope that reports regarding the establishment of US military bases in Pakistan and Bangladesh had no basis. A US report suggested the Pakistani government had promised to allow US planes to use the country's airfields. Other reports suggested that the US had sought naval facilities in Bangladesh. US officials have denied the reports.

NEW JANATA PRESIDENT

CHANDRA SHEKHAR WAS elected president of the Janata Party with a majority of 91 per

cent of polled votes. His rival, Subramanian Swamy asserted that the victory lacked "moral sanction" until a tribunal probed alleged malpractices.

CHAOS IN MP

EVENTS HAVE TAKEN a dramatic turn in Madhya Pradesh, which is on the verge of a political crisis following Governor Bhagwat Dayal Sharma's remarks against the policy of reservation. The students of G S Institute of Technology and Science, Indore, are agitating against the reservation policy, leading to a lathi-charge, violence and an indefinite closure of the college. Forty students and the

principal were injured and 45 persons were arrested. The controversy caused a pandemonium in the state assembly.

SNOOPING ON POLICE

POLICE'S WIRELESS MESSAGES in Punjab are being intercepted by extremists. This is being done with the help of a wireless set which the extremists snatched from the Punjab Armed Police wireless operator during the violence at Golden Temple on February 14. This set was used by the extremists on February 17 when the Central Reserve Police Force exchanged fire with persons from within the Golden Temple complex.

The thin-fat Indian

Double burden of obesity and diabetes can only be tackled by investing in health of adolescent girls and young women



CHITTARANJAN S YAJNIK

WE READ ABOUT the Global Burden of Disease study in *The Lancet* which focuses on the simultaneous double burden of undernutrition and obesity worldwide. Most reports are cross-sectional but Indian data provides a unique insight into the evolution of diabetes and obesity in individuals born small and undernourished. India has double trouble: Of early life undernutrition and diabetes and obesity. There is a long legacy of undernutrition — whereas Europeans gained 15 cm in height in the last two centuries (1830–1980), Indians gained nothing. However, the current generation of children are 5 cm taller than their parents. Long deprivation followed by rapid development is a recipe for malnutrition. Is there a solution? Yes, learn from nature's wisdom.

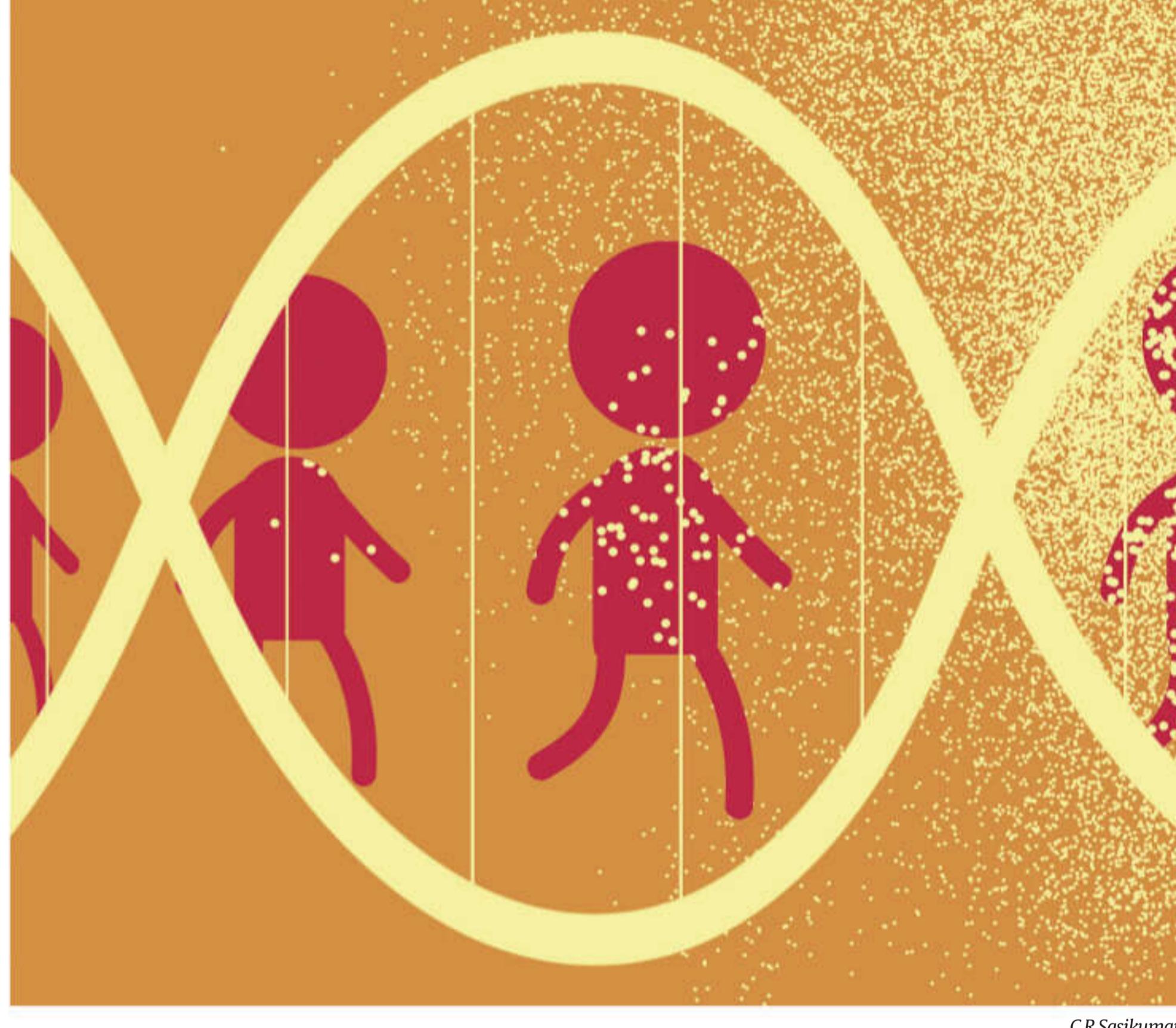
It is lost on us that "obesity day" and "women's day" are juxtaposed. We have failed to understand that early life undernutrition, diabetes and obesity are the price we pay for neglecting the nutrition and health of our young mothers for centuries. Research suggests that improving the nutrition and health of young women and their babies when they are in the womb can curtail these epidemics. Trying to douse the fire later in life is like closing the door after the horse has bolted.

As a doctor at the BJ Medical College and Sassoon Hospital, Pune, in the 1970s, I was struck by the large number of patients in the diabetes clinic. They were from the poorer sections of society and few of them matched the "old and obese" description of patients with diabetes given in Western textbooks. I wondered why Indians get diabetes at a younger age and much lower obesity than Westerners.

Training in Oxford in the early 1980s, I was 55 kg and unequivocally thin (measured as Body Mass Index BMI— kg/m²). Volunteering in research, I was struck by the finding that my glucose-insulin metabolism was worse than my 80 kg English colleague — I was thin but had the metabolism of a fat person. I was <5 lbs at birth, and was bearing the double burden of malnutrition in my late 20s, even though the term didn't exist then. Around the same time, a survey in Southall, London, showed that diabetes was many times more common in Indian migrants than in the British. It was then that I discovered that Indians have higher fat than the British at any given BMI. The concept of a "thin-fat" Indian was born.

Our studies soon discovered that Indians deposit most fat in and around the abdomen (central obesity, simply measured as waist size). The highest glucose levels were in those who had the lowest BMI but the highest waist measurement. An Indian pancreas secretes less insulin, and the secreted insulin cannot act efficiently because of fat deposition in and around different organs. Everyone suggested that this must be genetic. To some extent it is but something more dramatic was to be learned.

Busy trying to sell my idea of a diabetes-



C R Sasikumar

prone "thin-fat" Indian, one Monday morning in 1991, I got a call that an English scientist wanted to meet me: He had novel ideas about diabetes. I met professor David Barker and his student Caroline Fall at the KEM Hospital and learned of their remarkable discovery in the UK that babies born with lower birth weight had a higher risk of diabetes later in life (didn't I know?). They had come to India in the hope of finding support for their idea because Indian babies are reputedly the smallest in the world. Barker suggested that the malnutrition of babies while still in the womb alters the structure and function of the developing organs, reducing their capacity to cope with stress (overnutrition, inactivity, psycho-social stress, migration, etc.). He called this idea "intrauterine programming".

We soon made a remarkable discovery that the small Indian baby that weighs 800 gm less than an English baby (2.7 kg vs 3.5 kg) has more fat. Remarkably, the blood chemistry of an Indian newborn spells out the future risk of diabetes — a horoscope is inscribed. These characteristics result from a lack of adequate and balanced nutrition from the mother, reducing the deposit of protein-rich tissues while continuing to deposit extra fat. Surprisingly, many of these mothers also suffer from "gestational diabetes" which adds to the baby's fat. The overarching message is that exposure to a challenging environment in the womb (undernutrition, maternal diabetes, infections, stress and others) increases the risk of future diabetes, obesity, and heart disease.

In addition to genetic factors (which explain less than 10 per cent of the risk of obesity and diabetes), adverse intrauterine experiences increase the risk of future disease. This type of inheritance is called 'epigenetic' and acts by influencing the expression of genes rather than changing the sequence of DNA. Unlike classic genetics, it is modifiable by influencing the mother's health. This offers hope for the future. Indian mothers have suffered adversities of various kinds for generations and given birth to small babies that are not able to cope with the challenges of rapid socioeconomic development. If we improve maternal health, nutrition, and metabolism, the babies born will be more resilient and will enjoy a healthy life. Many national policies have targeted the health of adolescent girls and women of reproductive age which will improve the prospect for future generations. This science is called "Developmental Origins of Health and Disease" and India is a major contributor to this research.

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Let's resolve to invest in the health of young women rather than fall prey to the promises of the sickness industry to cure obesity and diabetes. We have a double duty to perform.

The writer is director, diabetes unit, KEM Hospital and Research Centre, Pune

This was first observed in the Dutch who had faced the severe "Dutch winter hunger" in their mother's womb during World War II.

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An assessment paradigm shift

New credit system will enhance student mobility across institutions and programmes



MAMIDALA JAGADEESH KUMAR

IN THE ACADEMIC journey, a credit is a fundamental unit that captures learning effort and resultant academic achievement.

Credits are linked to various curricular activities inside and outside the classroom, and the acquisition of skills. The concept of credits helps both students and educational institutions to systematically monitor and assess academic advancement so that learning outcomes can be quantified within a qualification framework. Students often use credits as a guiding metric to monitor their progress and realise their educational objectives.

Earning and monitoring credits permit students to make informed decisions. Students can decide their educational pathways if they transfer the credits earned across diverse institutions or programmes. Such flexibility will encourage students to experience a more diversified and enriched learning environment. Allowing students to seamlessly transfer accrued credits, provides them with a dynamic and comprehensive educational experience.

However, credit incompatibilities pose an impediment to the seamless mobility of students within and among educational institutions and programmes in India. Historically, the University Grants Commission (UGC) attempted to address this during the pre-National Education Policy (NEP) era by implementing the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and semesterisation. Such measures did not fully enhance

the options available to students and fell short of providing adequate autonomy to participate in diverse academic pursuits.

The perceived inflexibility in the CBCS attracted criticism that it did not let students explore a wide range of learning objectives. This perception underscored the need for a more flexible and adaptable credit-earning approach. Therefore, developing a credit system that aligns with the contemporary necessities of fostering interdisciplinary learning became imperative.

To overcome the historical limitations of credit incompatibility and the deficiencies of earlier credit systems, reforms in the design and implementation of credit frameworks became a pressing requirement. This new credit system must enhance mobility and provide possibilities to pursue a well-rounded education.

The National Credit Framework (NCF) announced by UGC in April 2023 underlines that education is not a one-dimensional path but a multifaceted journey that institutions must tailor to students' individual needs and aspirations. It integrates school education, higher education, skill and vocational education from grades I to VIII. NCF defines the learning outcomes and the credits a student should earn for a seamless transition from one level to another. This framework advocates flexible pathways, allowing students to enter and exit the educational system at various stages based on their achievements and as-

pirations. NCF has been discussed with all stakeholders, including the IIT Council.

Educational institutes across India have welcomed the NCF since it provides an opportunity to design a more flexible and inclusive system. An indication of this openness of educational institutions is reflected on the "Academic Bank of Credits" (ABC) platform which has witnessed an overwhelming response with more than six crore students. The number will soon reach 10 crore and more, indicating widespread acceptance and participation.

To simplify the process of credit accumulation, storage and retrieval, it became crucial to establish a suitable digital platform referred to as the ABC. This platform functions as a centralised storehouse for incorporating all elements of credit management within the academic landscape.

ABC is a solution for the intersection of technology and academic governance for simplifying methodical aggregation, providing secure storage and efficient retrieval of credits. This interoperable digital platform provides enhanced accessibility, clarity and usefulness in credit-related processes, transcending traditional hindrances. In addition, ABC contributes to democratising educational data. Moreover, ABC optimises academic planning and promotes data-driven practice in educational decision-making.

Analogous to a financial institution, ABC allows students to deposit credits earned from myriad learning experiences, includ-

ing conventional university courses and online courses, skill courses, internships, vocational training, and other similar educational pursuits.

Historically, higher education institutes (HEIs) have mainly acknowledged and granted credits for standard learning experiences. The NCF and its integration with ABC heralds a fresh approach. It moves past traditional classrooms and credits in mixed-learning contexts are recognised and credited.

What importance does this paradigm shift have for students and educators? From the students' viewpoint, integrating NCF and ABC creates a more expansive spectrum of learning experiences, promoting a deeper insight into their subjects. This enriches their academic proficiency and cultivates skills and competencies indispensable for real-world applications.

For educators, the integration of NCF and ABC allows them to design courses that blend experiential learning components that can be incorporated into curricula, offering students a more holistic and practical knowledge of their desired fields.

More importantly, the integration of NCF and ABC serves as the foundational pillar for the multiple entry and exit system and multi-disciplinary education as envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020.

The writer is chairman, UGC, and former VC of JNU. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The longer Israel's offensive continues, the more security deteriorates and desperation grows. The killing of more than 100 people at an aid distribution point last week, when frantic crowds gathered around trucks and Israeli troops opened fire, demands a full and independent investigation." — THE GUARDIAN

Advantage Donald Trump

In trying to make a bogeyman out of the former US president, his opponents have alienated a sizeable number of Americans



VAMSEE JULURI

But then the abuse of reality, the disdain for a human being's ability to hold his dignity and still say "two plus two is four" in the manner of Winston Smith's struggle in 1984, is precisely what the Democratic establishment succumbed to in these past few years.

They got away with smearing Trump and his supporters as racists and extremists in 2016 (and news media are still going on about "Nazis" at CPAC) but failed to come up with a critique that did not take weapons-grade persuasion and psyops to stick.

Like an elephant in "musth," they wielded their power over the new technologies of communication; cancelling, blocking, erasing from public view, the slightest voices of dissent and independence. But the public reaction to this megalomania was lurking even in 2019, as Tulsi Gabbard's town halls attracted in equal measures not only old-school anti-war Democrats but also Independents and Republicans, perhaps because of her personal record of service and her talk of honesty, courage and honour.

The presence of former Democratic Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) ought to remind Democrats, the self-styled champions of diversity, about all they have lost in recent years.

The Democratic National Convention's (DNC) treatment, back in 2019, of Tulsi Gabbard, a war veteran whose progressive, anti-war ideals made her a worthy running-mate to the icon of college campus idealists, Bernie Sanders, will not be easily forgotten.

It is clear that today it is the Republicans, or to be precise, Donald Trump, who embodies the new "rainbow coalition" in America; if one may stretch the metaphor, it is less about the colour, more about the light. It is about hope. Hope is, of course, a fickle thing in politics, a pact between millions of individual lives and a temporary spectacle or image. What does it actually mean?

After all, I, and perhaps many others like me, felt giddy with hope in 2008 when Barack Obama became the President. It seemed like the right thing to feel then. With all the lies about weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), and the thousands of lives lost, Iraqi and American, the sight of a seemingly erudite, elegant Obama gave us hope. It is another matter that it was to the Obama presidency that Trump set himself in opposition. In retrospect, the audacity was not Obama's, but Trump's all along.

In their desperation, the Democratic reality police have time and again trivialised human suffering and life. They claimed that the riot of January 6 was worse than the massacre of 9/11. The massacres of October 7 in Israel have, of course, been treated even more inappropriately in some circles, with hundreds of Tik-Tok intoxicated youth welcoming the violence as "decolonisation."

Trump mentioned Hamas and Antifa as threats to America in his recent address.

The Democrats cannot afford to hide behind their mystery over discourse as a substitute for accepting that they have alienated a sizeable portion of middle Americans, of all backgrounds and persuasions, in their intellectually impoverished and politically desperate attempt to win elections by making a bogeyman of Donald Trump.

Trump's mandate in the end is what his opponents have made for him. It is not about individuals or policies as much as a vote for how reality will be decided in America; by an intrusive nexus of state-corporate-media-education agencies pushing fantastic myths and dogmas about eternally evil oppressor groups who can do no wrong and their victims who can do no right, or by something like a shared sense of common-sense human morality which condemns murder as murder and theft as theft when it happens.

Instead, in some incredible twist of times no movie writer could have even imagined, in 2024, Trump has turned the choice facing American voters into a referendum on the debacle that was once the Obama-Democrat message of peace, truth, and of course, hope.

In 2024, Trump is to many the great hope; some would say the great "white" hope, but then who cares? The day that his opponents turned the death of George Floyd into a reversal of reality by exhorting pandemic-fearful, lockdown-bound citizens to rush out into mass protests, the issue facing America became far bigger than race.

This year's election is one in which the US is fighting not just for a vision of nationhood, but for a definition of reality that holds to its heart some principles of morality. Trump is not talking about abstractions but the urgent warning that for America to save itself, something must be done about the massive slump in basic things like law and order, meritocracy, free speech and thought.

Like the dramatic Jahr Null scene in the sci-fi series *The Man in the High Castle*, 2024 is going to be about something as symbolic of America as the Statue of Liberty. One can see Trump, Ramaswamy, Gabbard, and millions still standing respectfully under it. Their opponents, on the other hand, seem set to wish it goodbye as they did to so many monuments in 2020, or at the very least, insist she cover up with a suitably multicoloured scarf to be deemed acceptable.

The writer is professor of Media Studies, University of San Francisco

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUTIN VS THE US

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The middle ground in Moscow' (IE, March 6). The West's underestimation of Russian expansionism needs attention. Vladimir Putin's success in mobilising public opinion in his favour was facilitated by years of US intervention in the region post the Soviet Union's disintegration. Seeking a middle ground in such a situation is wishful thinking. During the Trump administration, major public media figures' tendency to stifle any voices promoting US-Russia cooperation further strained the relationship. A predictable departure from the current stalemate will significantly rely on which side of the aisle commands US foreign policy towards Russia for the next 4 years.

Indranil Das, Delhi

MINERAL POLITICS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Why minerals are critical' (IE, March 5). The dispute between global powers over access to critical minerals is going to shape the geopolitical dynamics in coming decades. The supply chain vulnerabilities in the manufacturing of green tech-

nologies and high-end electronic hardware is going to have strategic implications for all. The Mineral Security Partnership mustn't restrict itself to securing supply chains of critical minerals, rather pivot into supporting their allies in exploring newer sources.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

FOLLOW DUE PROCESS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A death on campus' (IE, March 6). President Droupadi Murmu's nod to the Kerala Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Bill has come as a shot in the arm for the LDF government as well as CM Pinarayi Vijayan, who was seen as taking a strident position against the governor on the issue. But suicide of a student allegedly after he was tortured on campus for two days put the government on the backfoot. The SFI has a stranglehold on campuses and hostels. The suspension of the V-C and judicial probe ordered by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan into the "gruesome and fatal" incident seems to be justified. The government must take strict action irrespective of the organisation the accused belong to.

SS Paul, Nadia

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

When in alliance, BJP-BJD saw nearly 50% vote share

Modi had set course for India to become "an economic powerhouse".

At the Centre, the BJD has always voted with the government on issues crucial to the BJP's agenda, including the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, GST, the ordinance on powers vesting with the Delhi government vis-a-vis the Centre, the surgical strike, demonetisation and the proposal for one nation, one election, as well as the polls for the President's post, both in 2017 and 2022.

But the speculation that an alliance was finally coming gained fresh momentum after the BJD again helped the BJP get Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw elected to the Rajya Sabha in the recent elections.

"The alliance will be a win-win for both parties as the BJP is more concerned about returning to power at the Centre with a record margin. With the BJP seeking a sixth straight term in Odisha, a tie-up with the BJD, the main opposition party, will also ensure it a smooth victory," a senior BJD leader said.

How did BJD-BJP tie-up fare: LS polls

Following the death of the towering Janata Dal leader and former Odisha CM Biju Patnaik, Biju loyalists formed a regional party, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), to take forward his legacy on December 26, 1997.

At this time, the BJD was strug-

gling to establish its base in Odisha, with the Congress being the other dominating force in the state. The BJD leadership, including Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani, hence sought out and forged ties with the BJD.

The two parties fought their first Lok Sabha polls together in 1998. The BJD fought 12 seats and won 9, while the BJP contested 9 seats and won 7. Their vote share together was 48.7% - the BJD's being 27.5% and the BJP's 21.2%.

The Janata Dal, which fought 16 seats, could not open its account, with its vote share nosediving to 4.9%.

A BJP government led by Vajpayee came to power at the Centre, but had a brief stint.

In the 1999 Lok Sabha polls, the BJD and BJP repeated the same seat-sharing formula, and swept Odisha, winning 19 of total 21 seats, with a vote share of 57.6%. While the BJD won 10 seats, with 33% of the votes, the BJP won 9 with 24.6%.

The BJD-BJP success story continued in the 2004 Lok Sabha elections, though the UPA came to power at the Centre. The combine won 18 of Odisha's 21 seats, with a combined vote share of 49.3%. This time, the BJD won 11 seats, with 30% of the votes, and the BJP 7, with 19.3% vote share.

How did BJD-BJP tie-up fare: Assembly polls

2000 was the first time the two parties fought an Assembly

election together, with Naveen Patnaik making his debut as CM. The BJD fought in 84 seats and won 68 (29.4% vote share), and the BJP fought 63 and won 38 (18.2% votes). The combined vote share of the BJD and BJP, at 47.6%, far outnumbered the Congress's tally at 33.8% votes and 26 seats.

A greenhorn to politics, Patnaik appreciated the guiding hand of the national party.

In the 2004 Assembly polls, held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections, the BJD and BJP repeated the same seat-sharing formula - and won 61 and 32 seats, respectively, with 27.4% and 17.1% of the vote share. The combined vote share of the two parties was 44.5%, 10% more than the Congress's, which won 38 seats.

Why they fell apart

August 2008 saw the murder of VHP leader Laxmanananda Saraswati, who claimed to be spearheading a campaign against alleged conversions to Christianity, in Kandhamal district. The communal riots that followed left 38 dead.

Following this, the BJD pulled the plug on the alliance just ahead of the 2009 polls. While the riots gave it an excuse, Patnaik was seen as seeking to exert his authority and grow out of the shadow of his national ally, with his own popularity untouched in Odisha.

What was the impact of the split

It was the BJP that faced the brunt of the BJD's move. In the 2009 Assembly polls, the BJP fought almost all the seats (145 out of 147) and won just 6, with 15.5% of the votes. In the Lok Sabha elections, which returned the UPA to power at the Centre, the BJP could not open its account, despite securing 16.9% of the votes.

The BJD, on the other hand, increased its seats as well as vote share - winning 103 of the 129 seats it contested, with a vote share of 38.9%, in the 2009 Assembly polls; and 14 of the 18 seats in the Lok Sabha elections, with a vote share of 37.2%. At the time, it had forged ties with smaller parties like the NCP, CPI(M) and CPI.

While the 2014 Lok Sabha polls were a Modi wave election, its impact was hardly felt in Odisha, where the BJD again held sway. The BJD, in fact, swept the Lok Sabha elections, winning 20 of the 21 seats, with 44.8% vote share. The BJP got the 1 remaining seat, with 21.9% vote share.

In the 2014 Assembly polls, the BJD won 117 seats with 43.9% votes, and the BJP got just 10, though with a slight increase in its vote share, to 18.2%.

Odisha again bucked the trend in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, when Modi returned to power with even more number of seats.

While the BJP improved its

tally both in the Lok Sabha and Assembly, it stayed behind the BJD. It won 8 Lok Sabha seats, securing 38.9% vote share, and emerged as the main Opposition party with 23 seats in the Assembly (32.8% vote share). The BJD won 12 seats in the Lok Sabha and 113 in the Assembly.

How BJP, BJD have grown closer

Since 2019, with Patnaik ageing and without a second rung in the BJD, the BJP has been trying to get closer to the party. The regional party has also found it prudent to retain friendly ties with the Centre to maintain its hold in the state, voting with it or supporting it on crucial decisions.

In June 2019, the BJD helped the BJP get its IAS-turned-leader Ashwini Vaishnaw elected to the Rajya Sabha, despite the latter not having the required numbers.

In February 2022, Modi lauded the Odisha government on the floor of Parliament for "pushing reforms in the mining sector", saying it had helped Odisha gain substantially.

Last year, during a visit to Odisha, Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailed Patnaik as a "popular CM" and lauded his steps in disaster management and against the "Maoist menace". A month later, Patnaik gave PM Modi a ranking of "8/10" for his foreign policies and steps taken to fight corruption.

The PM often addresses

Patnaik as "my friend".

Did the split between BJD, BJP help Congress

In 1998, when the two parties first joined hands, the Congress bagged only 5 Lok Sabha seats, despite getting 41% of the vote share. In 1999, its tally fell further to 2 seats, with 36.9% votes.

In 2004, the Congress did not better its 1999 performance in terms of seats or votes, despite the party coming to power at the Centre.

In the Assembly too, the Congress has not recovered since the BJD-BJP first fought polls together in 2000 and wrested power from it. In 2000, it won 26 seats, with a vote share of 33.8%. In 2004, when it fought 128 seats in alliance with the Left, it won 38 seats, with 34.4% vote share.

After the BJD and BJP first snapped ties in 2009, the Congress won 27 seats in the Assembly, with 29% vote share. In the Lok Sabha, its tally climbed to 6 with 32.7% vote share, in an election where it was voted back to power at the Centre.

But, after the Modi wave began in 2014, the Congress went into decline - drawing a blank in the Lok Sabha polls in Odisha that year, despite getting 26.4% votes, and winning 16 seats in the Assembly, with 25.7% of the votes.

In 2019, it was further pushed to the brink, with only 1 Lok Sabha seat and 9 seats in the Assembly, finishing behind the BJP.

vote share of 49.6%. The Congress was the runner-up in both seats with a vote share of 25.6%, followed by the CPI(M) at 17.5%.

The BJP's performance in the 2023 Assembly polls was similarly dominant. It had contested 55 of the state's 60 seats in an alliance with the IPFT. Besides clearing the majority mark, the BJP garnered 38.97% of the votes polled as against the Tipra's 19.69% votes. The CPI(M) and the Congress, which contested the polls as allies, won 11 and 3 seats, respectively. The CPI(M)'s vote share was 24.62% while the Congress secured 8.56% votes. The tripartite pact seeks to work out and implement an "honourable solution" to the grievances of the tribal population of Tripura.

The pact notes that a series of meetings had been held with The Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (Tipra), popularly known as Tipra Motha, and other stakeholders, based on which the Centre, the Tripura government and the Tipra have agreed to "amicably resolve" all issues of the indigenous people of Tripura relating to their history, land rights, political rights, economic development, identity, culture, language etc. "It was agreed to constitute a Joint Working Group / Committee to work out and implement the mutually agreed points on all the above mentioned issues in a time-bound manner to the letter," he said.

State BJP president Rajib Bhattacharya also told reporters that the Tipra is going to join the party-led government ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

In the 60-member state Assembly, the Tipra has 13 MLAs

as compared to the BJP's 32 legislators and its ally Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT)'s lone MLA, who is also a minister.

Currently, the BJP Cabinet has nine ministers including the CM. The state can have a maximum of 12 ministers, as per the rule.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP had won both the Tripura's parliamentary seats with a total

Bengaluru blast: CCTV trail gives leads on suspect

provided some key leads including his facial features.

Sources indicated that the suspect travelled in multiple public buses - both to plant the IED he was carrying and to flee the scene - and made multiple stopovers, including at a Muslim religious centre a few kilometres from the site of the incident during the getaway process. A baseball cap that the suspect was wearing during his presence at the cafe has been found at one of the locations where a stopover was made during the getaway, sources said.

The suspect changed his attire during a stopover where the cap was discarded, sources said.

World recognising India as economically sound: SC

pillar on which the economy is thriving and surviving."

He made these remarks while intervening in an exchange of words between Attorney General R Venkataramani and Venkataraman, adding to the Attorney General's comments, said, "Which (surgical operation) we did. From 9.4 fiscal deficit in 2020 during Covid, we have come down to 5.8 and we are heading towards 5.1... Our fiscal deficit is in deep decline".

Sibal pointed out that the Centre had borrowed Rs 8 lakh crore.

Venkataraman said, "OECD and one more expert body have certified that in contrast to the

agents switched on by a digital timer linked to a printed circuit.

The triggering system in the IED bears a close similarity to devices found in two Islamic State-linked terror incidents from 2022 in Karnataka now under investigation by the NIA, sources said.

Investigators are of the view that the suspect may have faked usage of a mobile phone during his nine-minute halt at the cafe.

While police investigations are looking at the cell tower dump data for the time period when the suspect was in the restaurant, there are doubts on whether the suspect was actually using a cell phone.

G7, we are better in terms of economic status... Every expert is confirming, we are far superior and better than G7 nations."

Objection Sibal said, "We are speaking about our own nation, not G7" and asked, "What have you done for your nation?"

Following this, Justice Surya Kant commented about the strength of the Indian economy.

Last year, the Kerala government had approached the Supreme Court against the Centre imposing a ceiling on the amount it can borrow. It said the ceiling had "brought the operation of its budget to a grave crisis" and was violative of the principles of fiscal federalism.

Money, muscle, murky deals — how Shahjahan Sheikh built an empire

as 95%. The constituency comprises two blocks - Sandeshkhali 1 and Sandeshkhali 2 - in North 24 Parganas district.

Simultaneously, he expanded his empire, with men who worked for him grabbing agricultural land and converting it to fisheries - either through false promises or by coercion.

According to those close to Sheikh, the 43-year-old paid around 200 youths anything between Rs 6,000 and Rs 15,000 a month to roam around Sandeshkhali on bikes. In fact, Sheikh also ran a parallel court of justice, where people would look to him, and not the police, to resolve conflicts. Police were ineffective and would either dismiss complaints or ask for money to act. Sheikh would just issue a diktat," said a resident. While he ruled through fear, Sheikh was also known to hand out cash whenever someone in need approached him - be it for a marriage or medical treatment.

According to residents, Sheikh started his career helping trekkers in Sandeshkhali. Gradually, he started making appearances in rallies held by the Left Front, and grew close to a pradhan from the CPI(M).

His loyalty, though, would prove fickle - when the Trinamool Congress came to power, ending 34 years of Left rule, he was quick to join the party.

"He was ambitious and had already mastered the intersection of politics and muscle. After joining the TMC, he and his men slowly took control of the area. He became the upa pradhan of the Sarberia-Agarhati gram panchayat in 2013. There was no stopping him then," said a local CPI(M) leader.

His first course of action was to elbow out other TMC leaders, becoming the area's undisputed 'don'.

In the 2019 post-poll violence, when local BJP leader Pradip Mondal was murdered, the initial police complaint had Sheikh's name. But when the chargesheet

was filed in court, his name had been dropped.

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A business man from Dhamakhal, Bazar Sheikh Ajijul, said, "Bhai always had plenty of money in his pocket that he would hand out whenever someone asked for help."

While Sheikh is now behind bars, his imprint on the area is inescapable. If one travels along the Basanti Highway, it's hard to miss the sprawling 'Sheikh Shahjahan market'. Parked at the market, which also houses his fish wholesale business and a three-storey building he allegedly owns, is an open jeep which he used to travel in. On the walls of the market are posters hailing him and targeting the media for spreading canards.

Covering his tracks

In the wake of protests against him, the administration had opened an office to collect complaints and grievances from residents. The block development officer of Sandeshkhali-II, Arun Kumar Samanta, said, "So far, we have

gathered momentum after the BJD supported Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in the recent Rajya Sabha elections as the BJD lacked the numbers to push his candidature.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi triggered a buzz during his visit to Odisha, when he lauded Patnaik with the title "Lokpriya (popular)" Chief Minister and indicated that Odisha will have a significant role in achieving the NDA's target of 400 seats in the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. At the function, Patnaik lauded Modi for "setting a new direction for India" and for taking India on an accelerated drive to make the country an economic powerhouse.

The BJD and BJP were in alliance for around 11 years from 1998 to 2009. The two fought Assembly polls together for the first time in 2000. However, the BJD pulled the plug on the alliance just ahead of the 2009 polls as their ties soured after the August 2008 communal riots in Kandhamal district. Still, the BJD has not been as strident a critic of the Modi government at the Centre as other non-Congress Opposition parties with Patnaik usually calibrating his criticism depending on the issue.

Celebrations light up Gulberg Society decades after tragedy

SOHINI GHOSH
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 6

EVERYTHING SPELLED celebration: the pink and white arch at the main gate, the red and blue jute carpet at the entrance, the freshly trimmed wild shrubs, new paint on walls facing the front road, bright bunting strings in the air and large aluminium vessels stacked high near the designated cooking area.

Days after Gulberg Society's surviving residents came together to remember the family members they had lost on February 28, 2002, in the aftermath of the riots, a 19-year-old's pre-wedding festivities brought a wave of happiness to the 61-year-old Gulberg Co-operative Housing Society in Ahmedabad's Chamanpura locality.

"Tum jab aise sharmati ho, dulhe ka dhakdha hai seena..." a wedding song from the 2002 Bollywood film *Hum Tumhare Hain Sanam* plays on a bluetooth device. Young girls sang along,

Misbah with her father Rafiq Mansuri in Barwani, Madhya Pradesh, on Wednesday.

Photo by special arrangement

teasing Misbah, 19, who was

Uttar Pradesh's Spectacular Growth Story



The Industrial development and creation of employment opportunities being witnessed in the state are the result of better law and order, good governance, and election of good public representatives, emphasizing that, when intentions are good, results are also good.

- Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

UP has undergone a meteoric rise in the past seven years, achieving palpable progress across various sectors like law and order, infrastructure, education, and healthcare. Under the Yogi government, the state has become India's second-largest economy, fueled by transparent governance and swift execution of strategic plans. Its business-friendly environment, bolstered by robust security, ample land, and a burgeoning consumer base, has attracted substantial domestic and foreign investments. The February 2023 Global Investors Summit yielded memorandums of understanding exceeding Rs 40 lakh crore, with projects worth Rs 10 lakh crore already breaking ground at GBC@4.0. Throughout the process, policymaking and implementation have prioritized the well-being of women, youth, marginalized communities, and farmers, with rigorous monitoring ensuring impeccable quality across all initiatives.



In the last seven years, crime has reduced in UP and business culture has expanded. An environment of trade, development, and trust has developed in UP in the last seven years.

- Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Women Empowerment

- Gas connections were provided to 1.75 crore families under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. Free gas cylinder on Deepawali & Holi.
- 54.44 lakh women benefited under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.
- 7,276 criminals were punished under the Crime Against Women and POCSO Act.
 - 99.55% of complaints were resolved on women's helpline 1090.
 - More than 2 lack women received loans through the Pradhan Mantri Svanidhi Yojana.
 - The pension of destitute women increased from ₹ 500 to ₹ 1,000 per month, more than 31 lakh women benefited.
 - Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana benefited 17.53 lakh daughters.
 - Over 1.5 lakh women were appointed to government positions.
- Employment of 1 crore women through 10 lakh self-help groups.
- 58,000 women were selected as BC Sakhi.



Farmers Welfare

- The State leads in milk, sugarcane, sugar, ethanol, potato, mango, and amla production.
- Completion of 20 projects, among which Ban Sagar, Arjun Sahayak, and Saryu Canal are prominent, has resulted in the creation of more than 23 lakh hectares of additional irrigation potential, thereby benefiting over 44 lakh farmers.
- From 2017 to January 29, 2024, around 48 lakh sugarcane farmers were paid more than Rs 2,36,793 crore.
- 'Sugarcane Clinic' and 'Agriculture Investment Center' are established and operational at the headquarters of sugarcane committees.
- Loans totaling Rs 36,000 crore were waived off for 86 lakh farmers.
- Distribution of 37 lakh Kisan Credit Cards
- The ban on providing new private tube well connections in the dark zone has been lifted, resulting in advantages for close to one lakh farmers.
- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana has facilitated the transfer of around Rs 68,139 crore to the accounts of 2.68 crore farmers via the DBT system.



- 2,51,607 farmers registered under PM Kisan Mandhan Yojna
- More than 11 lakh cows have been protected through the establishment of 6,484 cow shelters.
- Installation of 51,744 solar pumps under PM KUSUM Yojana.
- Financial assistance to farmers for installation of submersible pumps in all 75 districts
- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Kisan Samriddhi Yojana implemented with Rs 602 crore

Unwavering Commitment to Law and Order

- 71,476 Criminals were Nabbed Under the Gangster Act, while 897 were Under the NSA.
- Compared to 2016, dacoity cases in 2023 dropped by 87%, robbery by 76%, murder by 43%, rioting by 65%, and kidnapping for ransom by 73%.
- The anti-land mafia portal in the state received 3,72,039 complaints regarding illegal occupation, out of which 3,70,748 were successfully resolved. As a result, 66,872 hectares of land have been reclaimed from encroachment.
- A total of 8,54,634 CCTV cameras were installed as part of Operation Trinetra's surveillance network.
- Cybercrime units have been established in every police station.
- Agra, Ghaziabad, Prayagraj, Lucknow, Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida), Varanasi, and Kanpur have transitioned to the Commissionerate system.
- The formation of women PAC battalions in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, and Badaun has been completed, while preparations are in progress for the establishment of five more battalions.

Mission Rozgar

- More than 6 lakh youth got government jobs under a fair and transparent recruitment process.
- Employment opportunities were provided to more than 2 Cr. people in the MSME/private sector.
- More than 1.65 Lakh individuals were recruited by the Police Department.



- Appointments were made for more than 1.65 lakh teaching positions.
- Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission trained 1.215 million youth, while 4.13 lakh found employment in esteemed companies.
- The Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana and the One District One Product Skill Upgradation and Toolkit Scheme contributed to the creation of approximately 4.08 lakh jobs.
- October 2023 in the financial year 2023-2024, 7,418 people were employed, and capital investment

loans of Rs 1,854.88 lakh were allocated to 408 beneficiaries.

- Employment on a contract basis to more than 3.75 lakh youth.
- Through UP Investors Summit-2018, work on investment projects worth more than Rs. 4.28 lakh crore has started so far, employment to more than 15.52 lakh people.
- Projects worth Rs 10 lakh crore launched through Ground Breaking Ceremony 4.0: 34 lakh people will get employment.

Education on top priority



- Under the School Chalo Abhiyan, 1.92 Cr. children were enrolled.
- Rs 1200 per student is distributed every year to cover expenses related to bags, dresses, sweaters, shoes, socks, and stationery for school children.
- 75 Government Polytechnics are currently in the process of being established or under construction.
- 'Operation Kayakalp' has strengthened and modernized over 1.40 lakh primary and upper primary schools.



- Arrangement of free coaching under Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana for preparation of competitive examinations.
- A total of 20 lakh tablets/ smartphones have been distributed to talented students.
- More than 2 lakh tablets were distributed to teachers of council schools.
- Over 2 lakh aspirants from disadvantaged segments and weaker sections have benefited so far from free coaching provided by the

Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana to prepare for competitive exams.

- Around 40 lakh girls studying in 44,000 upper primary schools and 746 Kasturba Gandhi Girls Schools have been trained in self-defence as part of the Rani Lakshmi Bai scheme.
- The Diksha App provides high-quality study materials for all subjects, catering to students from class 1 to 12.





Govt. of Haryana

“ केंद्र और राज्य में डबल इंजन सरकार की ताकत हरियाणा को तेज़ी से आगे बढ़ा रही है। कोई भी सेक्टर हो, जैसे ही उसमें सामूहिक शक्ति जुटती है, सबका प्रयास नजर आने लगता है, तो परिवर्तन की गति भी बढ़ जाती है। ”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी



**679 projects worth over
₹3600 crore dedicated to the citizens of Haryana**
by
Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana
(through video conferencing)

**679
New Projects
worth over
₹3600
crore**

Inauguration

Cost
₹938
crore
Projects
392

Laying of
Foundation Stone

Cost
₹2688
crore
Projects
287

Scan QR code
to join
the programme



March 7, 2024 | 11:00 am
Indradhanush Auditorium, Sector 5, Panchkula

सुशासन ही आधार, डबल इंजन हरियाणा सरकार

PLAYING TODAY

INDIA VS ENGLAND, 5th Test (Day 1), 9.30am

Live on: Sports 18 Network, Jio Cinema app

The view is so nice from the ground. If there's pressure, we'll try to just turn around and look towards the mountain and we'll cool down.

— ROHIT SHARMA INDIA CAPTAIN

No clear picture at picturesque venue

Jury still out on true nature of 22 yards and conditions on the eve of India's fifth and final Test against England in Dharamsala

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
DHARAMSALA, MARCH 6

CAN THE chill in the air, snow-peaked mountain range, quaint rural setting, a modest stadium complex with Victorian touch make Dharamsala seem like England? Those dealing with confusion over geography, and there are many, would have missed the all-important 22 yards on the centre of the lush green field of the stadium where India, having taken a winning 3-1 lead, play England for the fifth and final Test.

Under the cloudy sky, men with woollens worked on the whitish-brown pitch that was devoid of any grass. On the face of it, England might be feeling at home until they got a first-hand feel of the track which Rohit Sharma called "typically Indian". England captain Ben Stokes has already discarded thoughts of playing three seamers and taken the less-adventurous mid-path of playing 2 spinners, 2 pacers.

Pacer Ollie Robinson makes way for the much speedier Mark Wood from the last Test. But despite the team announcement, the playing XI isn't etched in stone. Change could be expected on match day since England's most impressive player on the tour Shoib Bashir missed training because of an upset stomach.

At the venue where the weather changes every 15 minutes, there were enough misleading signals to confuse the mind.

After trooping to the stadium wearing several layers, the workforce, busy giving final touches to the ground, would discard their jackets, mufflers and beanies by noon time. The popular narrative that England were home away from home took a beating all day.

Towards the end of the press conference where he had to face endless questions about the Dharamsala being pseudo-England, Rohit had enough. He would shake his head to convey that they were not in some alien land, they all have been here before several times. He would first start by spelling out the exact behaviour of a Dharamsala track but, in tune with the mood of the day, would go on to add a rider.

"Obviously, when you have weather like that, you have to expect there will be some movement and in the evening it goes on to spin," he said. So will the ball turn on the pitch? "Maybe, maybe not."

Like dry-skin in winter

The locals, meanwhile, have an interesting take on the pitch. Like the dry skin that cracks in winter, the surface too gets wrinkly. Since the temperature had dipped and rains had lashed the venue last week, the pitch had been covered.

If training area pitches can be taken as samples - they too have the same soil quality and been covered - the bounce has not been true. Several batsmen were seen complaining of lesion-like cracks that had made batting difficult.

So is this going to be an archetypal Indian Test under English conditions? Rohit wouldn't allow even that thought to rest peacefully in the mind. England might have gone with two pacers - James Anderson and Wood - with Ben Stokes not committing if he would bowl but India didn't rule out the possibility of playing three specialist new ball bowlers.

What made the call on the Indian bowling line-up difficult was not the conditions but the quality. With Jasprit Bumrah returning, he would lead the pack with Mohammad Siraj as his deputy. The dilemma could be over the inclusion of Akash Deep, the bowler who impressed with pace and movement on the first morning of his debut Test in Ranchi. On Tuesday, he did enough at the nets on match



An artist paints while the England team goes about their nets session at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala. PTI

eve to figure in the team selection discussion later in the day.

Bowling full tilt, he would trouble all the batsmen at the nets. Middle-order batsman Rajat Patidar, whose place in the side is under intense scrutiny, struggled to negotiate Akash Deep's spell. He would edge, lose his stumps and get beaten outside off the stump. Coach Rahul Dravid would pat Akash Deep's back and with a smile, send him back on the top of his run. And as Patidar stamped the dislodged stumps back its position with his bat, Devdutt Padikkal, all padded up, stood waiting for his turn at the nets. That one frame captured their selection dilemma for the team management.

Though the word from the dressing room says that Patidar will get the game but his iffy morning session with the bat might give the team management second thoughts.

The one takeaway from the England training session was Anderson's short and smart bowling stint on the practice pitch on the central square.

Sitting behind his arm gave an idea about his longevity, skill and the degree of difficulty of batsmen who face him. With uncanny regularity, he would pitch his sharply angled ball at a spot just beyond the stride of a batsman in the crease and make it race towards the slip. It was a ball that is nightmarish for any right-hander in the world early in the innings.

With rain expected on Day One, regardless of the pitch condition, if England get to bowl first, India's top order will have the Anderson high hurdle to clear at the start of the innings. If there is a cloud cover, he wouldn't need help from the surface to make the ball talk. Dharamsala would surely give him the feel of a gloomy and rainy Manchester, his home where he is unplayable. But he wouldn't have much time. Within minutes, Dharamsala can turn to Ranchi and Rajkot.

Rohit shared a Zen thought that would come handy to those having a bad day at this charmingly unpredictable picturesque venue with a stunning backdrop.

"The view is so nice from the ground. If there's pressure, we'll try to just turn around and look towards the mountain and we'll cool down."

Stokes sees silver lining, sticks to his guns

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
DHARAMSALA, MARCH 6

SKIPPER BEN Stokes had an interesting exchange with an Indian reporter on eve of the final Test of the series that England have already lost. Stokes was first praised for his leadership and this was followed by a question about rival Indian captain Rohit Sharma outsmarting his team.

The man credited with changing the course of England cricket remained non-committal, later he even went on to say that he wasn't really disappointed about the result of the series. England would have lost but like always the Bazballer-in-Chief was blindingly staring at the positives. But first the back and forth involving Stokes.

Q: Rohit outsmarted your entire team?
A: I will let you decide.
Q: But it could be 4-0...
A: I will let you write what you write, that's fine.

Q: Everyone is talking about your leadership...
A: I don't ask people to talk about me.

Just before this snappy rapid fire round, Stokes was asked if he was disappointed that England had failed to keep the momentum after the first Test win at Hyderabad. This despite India missing several of their top stars like Virat Kohli and Mohammad Shami. "I think saying that because Virat is not here, some of the best players are not here, is it disappointing? No. I look at how much a lot of individuals have progressed on this tour, and for me as a captain it's good," he would say.

Individual and collective progress of his team is something Stokes has lent on most days when he gets asked about the disappointment that defeat brings. Last year after losing the first Ashes Test, he had said something similar. Stokes has been consistent in his stand. After the narrow loss at Edgbaston he had said:

"We were written off completely before we had even played a game in this series. ... I'm looking at the progression of the team but also individuals, I am very, very happy as a captain."



Ben Stokes, regardless of results, doesn't sound like a defeated captain. PTI

"It was obviously very disappointing to lose but if you look at the way we played over the last five days, compared to the way the last few Ashes have gone, then [we showed] we can stand up to Australia."

At Dharamsala too he said England had played better than they did when they last visited India. "Yeah there is obviously disappointment because we've lost some games which mean we've lost the series. We progressed so much on this tour..." he said.

He also listed the names of Tom Hartley, Shoib Bashir and Ollie Pope, those whose performance graph had gone north this time. He would start the answer with a disclaimer: "In a results based business that can sometimes sound stupid and deluded". And then came the answer.

"We were written off completely before we had even played a game in this series. ... I'm looking at the progression of the team but also individuals, I am very, very happy as a captain."

Patient captain

Stokes also came across as a patient captain who wasn't in a hurry to give up on his players. On this tour, pacer Ollie Robinson hadn't been able to shine through and had looked out of place.

Questions were being asked if the team would rely on the pacer who had a history of breaking down. Stokes was sensitive to the out-of-form pacer's situation and appreciated his efforts.

"I'm in the position where I get to see all the hard work that goes into players giving themselves the best chance of being on the field. Ollie did everything in his power to put in a match-winning performance last week and unfortunately not everything works out the way we want it to. When you see someone putting in the hard work and showing that desire to not only be physically and mentally fit and something happens to them that is uncontrollable, you can't really moan about it," he said.

There was more, he said that his proximity to his players helped him judge them fairly. "It's not the first time but if someone's not doing the right things away from what you see on the TV or the field then you can question that. When you see people working as hard as everyone does, it's very hard to go against that person," he said.

All through the press conference he didn't sound like a captain who had thrown in the towel and was waiting to head home. "At 3-1 you think it's not been a success but I look at it from a completely different angle... it's not worked out that way in terms of results but we've got one last push here which is great at the end of a long tour. It's a great ground to do it at and a lot of Barmy Army are coming in to support us this week. So very excited for this week," he said.

Stokes the captain, regardless of the results, doesn't sound like a defeated captain. Not even the one who was outsmarted by the rival captain.

THE CHEF & SLIP CATCHING

It's the last week for the England team in India and they wanted everyone in the touring party to get a feel of cricket at the picturesque Dharamsala Stadium. Post their warm-up and slip-fielding session, it was time to give the non-playing staff a feel of the action. Skipper Ben Stokes took charge with the support staff, including chef David Pyle, stationed behind him for a slip-catching session of their own. Stokes threw down balls as Team doctor Glen Rae, media manager Danny Reuben, massage therapist Mark Saxby as well as Pyle, tried their best to grab the ball. The last one to hold on to a catch during the session was Pyle generating the loudest cheer from the entire team.

STOKES' LONG SPELL

Ben Stokes was once again seen bowling for more than 20 minutes at the Dharamsala stadium. It was speculated that Stokes might return to bowling in competitive cricket during the fourth Test in Ranchi, but that didn't happen. Stokes hasn't bowled since last June and had also had a knee surgery. He has been bowling on the sidelines of all Test matches but it's not clear when he will do so in a match. Stokes seems to be in no rush and is taking one step at a time. At Dharamsala, he bowled on the side pitches off his full run-up. He took his time but was getting a nice shape on his outswingers. With England trailing 3-1 in the series, it will be interesting to see if Stokes decides to add to the team's bowling options over the next five days.

— DEVENDRA PANDEY

POTSHOTS BEFORE FINALE

'Probably Duckett hasn't seen Pant bat': Rohit slays Bazball loose talk

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
DHARAMSALA, MARCH 6

IT'S BEEN close to three weeks but the Indian dressing room can't forget what England opener Ben Duckett said about India's latest batting sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal at the end of the third Test at Rajkot.

His comment, which later received wide-spread criticism from around the world, was about England's Bazballers inspiring India's 22-year-old find of the series to bat aggressively.

On the eve of the final Test, Indian captain Rohit Sharma was asked about Bazball and Duckett's remark. He gave his trademark shrug, said he couldn't understand if Bazball was about defending or attacking, but acknowledged that England had played better cricket than the last series.

He later added what was sure to get him headlines. "There was this guy called Rishabh Pant, probably Duckett hasn't seen him bat," he said.

In the final forensic of the series that India have already pocketed, the Duckett loose talk would be Exhibit A which points to how

England maybe got carried away with their Bazball and their mind games backfire. In contrast, this contest will be remembered for Rohit's young team – without Virat Kohli and other seniors – not just outplaying England but also out-thinking them.

For starters, they didn't roll out the rank turners that Ben Stokes and his men had anticipated. And to Rohit's credit, he managed the downfall of England batsmen on true pitches with meticulous planning.

Since the start of the series, the constant chatter by the touring party about their brand of cricket had got on the nerves of Indians.

Like the rest of the world, read Australians and others, India was united in bursting the Bazball bubble. The tipping point came when they started taking credit for the success of a natural stroke-maker like Jaiswal.

For captain Rohit, Duckett's comment had come at the right time. In case he feared that his bunch of exuberant, inexperienced youngsters would take their foot off the pedal after the record-breaking win at Rajkot and taking the 2-1 lead in the series he didn't have to worry. Duckett had ensured that complacency stayed away



England batsman Ben Duckett claimed that India's latest batting sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal's aggression was inspired by England's Bazballers. Reuters

from Rohit's young team that had to dig deep to stay ahead in this series of fine margins.

India wasn't a team that had already

This series will be remembered for Rohit's young team – without Virat Kohli and other seniors – not just outplaying England but also out-thinking them. To Rohit's credit, he managed the downfall of England batsmen on true pitches with meticulous planning.

switched off and started visualising themselves in franchise jerseys for the IPL, Rohit's boys were looking for a 4-1 finish to the series.

With rain and sunshine expected to take turns visiting the venue, the captain will have to again think on his feet. He will have to pick the right playing XI and be on the ball as conditions might keep changing. Those who have followed this series ball-by-ball vouch for Rohit's unrelenting focus and his constant coaching and coaxing of his bowlers and fielders.

They say this could easily be the most mentally draining series for the captain. Be it at the net session or on the field, he has been in constant conversation with his troops. Things were difficult for the captain. He had to talk. The team management were of the view that a turning track would be counter-productive. The daredevil batting approach that Stokes and his boys trained for in UAE would work when the ball turned appreciably. But on slow and low pitches, they struggled. But that also meant, Indian spinners too had a tough time getting wickets. And that was the reason for Rohit's constant chatting with bowlers, expressing frustration when they went for runs.

A couple of days before the Test, Rohit had gone for the inauguration of a Khel Mahotsav programme – mega sports festival for the region's youth – at nearby Bilaspur, where he was asked about his constant chat on the field.

Besides providing exciting cricket action, the series has thrown up viral content of Rohit's candid comments recorded by the stump microphone.

"I stand in the slips as it is easier for me to control the game and talk to my players.

Since I am close to the stumps, my comments are caught by the mic," he said.

The anchor pushing his luck, asked about his favourite stray comment that didn't get relayed. Rohit thought for a while and said with a sly smile, "I will repeat that during the Dharamsala game." The crowd of children and their parents let out a roar.

Considering the limited international exposure of many players, Rohit can't afford not to talk to his players.

These are early days in their careers, this is the time habits are formed. The lessons learnt now will help them for a long time. But to some extent, the captain's job has been made easier by the likes of Duckett and their Bazball utterances. Nothing fires a young team like the "Us vs Them" narrative.

Maybe, there are lessons for Ben Stokes too. A little bit of humility and toning down of swagger can help the team.

They give the impression that they are on a higher plane providing entertainment to fans while others are in some rat race chasing the old and boring goals of winning. Entertainment can never be the tyranny for his team, nor the monopoly of just one cricketing nation.

— DEVENDRA PANDEY

— DEVENDRA PANDEY

Mooney and Wolvaardt blitz seals deal

NAMIT KUMAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

IN AN appraisal of a disastrous first half of this season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) for the Gujarat Giants, captain Beth Mooney was blunt. "Scoring a few more runs will be pretty helpful (in the future), probably from the skipper and then flowing through the rest of the team," she said after a fourth successive defeat.

As the league moved to New Delhi and her side's chances of going past the group stage hung in the balance, Mooney, alongside opening partner Laura Wolvaardt, battled as if they had taken that self-criticism to heart.

The duo toyed with the Royal Challengers Bangalore bowling attack and put on a 140-run partnership, as the Giants rammed their way to a 19-run win to open their account this year on Wednesday.

Mooney and Wolvaardt are so complementary in their strengths as a pair that it comes as a surprise that they have struggled to get things going this year. Giant have a lopsided, batting-heavy squad reliant on a top order that has neither strung together partnerships nor shown moments of individual brilliance (Ash Gardner's 40 was the highest score in four prior matches).

On a belter at the Kotla on a chilly evening, the best of the pair was on full view.

Wolvaardt played a free-flowing 45-ball 76. It was strokeplay not necessarily reliant on aggression (13 fours, no sixes), the South African instead carving gaps in the field with the conviction in her shot selection that had evaded her in the first four games. Mooney's speed between the wickets kept the scoreboard ticking as she let Wolvaardt take over the quicks, and later picked up the pace in scoring against the spinners, as is her forte. The Australian, a consistent scorer across formats, paced her innings finely as she turned a 21-ball 32 into a 51-ball 82.

With just 44 runs in the last five overs, the Giants may have felt they left a few runs on the board, especially as Mooney's brain fades led to a string of run outs. But RCB would do them a few favours by duplicating their sloppiness in the field and with the ball, with the bat as well.

With 14 wides, plenty of misfields, and no bowler with an economy lower than 8, Smriti Mandhana's side had an off day to say the least. None of their batters converted starts and allowed the Giants to take control with consistent wickets. A late blitz from Georgia Wareham (48 from 22) would be in vain, cushioning a thorough defeat.

For the Giants and Mooney, hopes will be pinned on this first win in dominant fashion, to kickstart a late charge.

BRIEF SCORES: Gujarat Giants Women 199/5; 20 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 76, Beth Mooney 85 not out) beat Royal Challengers Bangalore Women 180/8; 20 overs (Georgia Wareham 48; Ashleigh Gardner 2/23) by 19 runs.



Gujarat Giants' Laura Wolvaardt and Beth Mooney (R). Sportzpics

Initially clocked at 138.3 kph, changed to 132.1: Ismail's speed record

The record-setting delivery was bowled immediately after a TV poll asked whether she would breach the 130 kmph mark

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

SHABNIM ISMAIL is rapid, she has been for a long time. The South African speedster, now retired from international cricket, has long been considered the fastest in the women's game. On Tuesday, she was credited by the Women's Premier League broadcasters as breaching the 130kph barrier, which would be the fastest recorded delivery in women's cricket since the time data is available.

The sequence of events around the particular delivery, though, was a little eyebrow-raising. On her return from a brief injury break, it did feel like Ismail was pumping the pace up in her opening spell for Mumbai Indians against Delhi Capitals. After she ran in to bowl the first ball of the third over, with Meg Lanning on strike, the broadcast feed had a pop-up poll question, "Will Shabnim Ismail break the 130kph barrier?" Following that, they also showed Ismail's fastest speeds recorded in the WPL so far, with 127.2kph being the highest.

As it turned out, the very next ball – a cross-seam fullish delivery that thudded into Lanning's pads – would throw up an incredible number at the bottom of the screen: 138.3 kph. At that moment, it barely registered, mainly because all the players, Ismail included, were busy conferring on whether to review the not out decision on the LBW appeal.

As the speed disappeared from the screen, the players too dispersed and there was no remark from the broadcasters at that point of time, presumably because they didn't notice it.

It was in the 16th over, when Ismail came back to finish her spell, that the broadcasters brought it up. "A little earlier, we asked the question if Shabnim will break that barrier," said the commentator on air. "And here's the answer, the fastest delivery of the night was 132.1 kph. That is slippery."

Ismail was then asked about the moment during the innings break and she underplayed it, also indicating she wasn't happy with the

way she bowled on the night. "I'm not sure, I don't actually look at the big screen when I am bowling," she said.

The discrepancy between the two numbers could be put down to the fact that instantaneous speed guns can often be errant. Independent verification of speeds is also not a possibility in the WPL. "There's the speed gun reading, which is what is shown as the ball is bowled and can be very variable, and then there's ball tracking which is more accurate, though can still produce anomalies," John Leather, a cricket statistician who has covered the women's game extensively, says.

"It's possible the 132 number quoted later is from ball-tracking data. Ismail is about the only current bowler who is, or has been, capable of reaching that speed in my opinion, though it would still be a significant personal best for her. But we don't know, because the usual companies that have access to tracking data – Opta, CricViz – don't have it for WPL."



Threatening a record

There is no doubt that Ismail has been on the verge of breaking the barrier. Playing for UP Wariorz last season, she said in an interview about her desire to break the record: "Yeah, 100% It is on my list, that is why I go to the gym all the time, to get stronger. Not really looking the part yet (laughs), but hopefully, I can get there soon. Looking forward to it, I am doing all the hard yards behind the scenes."

Leather, who has been closely tracking ball speeds in the women's game in the last few years corroborating them with ball-tracking numbers, also noted how there was one instance in the WPL last year when Ellyse Perry supposedly clocked 130.5 kph for RCB, which was then shared as the official record by their social media handle. But anyone who has followed the game closely enough knew it was a numerical anomaly as Perry has never really threatened 130 kph in her storied career.

The speeds during the WPL are not frequently displayed, and even when they are, they appear on the screen only briefly. During

Ismail's spell against DC, when the speeds were shown, hovered mostly in the early 110s, with just two deliveries crossing 120. Having said that, if anyone was going to get past the 130kph mark, it had to be Ismail. And 132.1 is much more within her range than 138.

Born and raised in Crayenby, Cape Town in the Western Cape, Ismail played 241 international ODI, T20I and Test matches for South Africa, taking 317 wickets. Ismail was always fascinated by speed – she talks almost as quickly as she bowls – and even at 35, she is keeping the numbers high. In the semifinal of the last T20 World Cup against England, as per Leather, Ismail bowled what was perhaps the fastest ever seen in women's cricket with speeds of 119, 122, 126, 120, 125 and 128.

There is no official gatekeeping for speeds in the game, so for all intents and purposes, it's a piece of trivia, and not a ratified record. The available data is not extensive enough for that.

That said, as Leather puts it: "Regardless of whether this specific reading is accurate, the title of fastest bowler in women's cricket already belongs to Shabnim Ismail."

Ranji Trophy: Vidarbha win and set up final against Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR, MARCH 6

THE PACE bowling pair of Aditya Thakare and Yash Thakur battered the Madhya Pradesh tail as Vidarbha defeated their rivals by 62 runs to set up a Ranji Trophy title clash with Mumbai, here on Wednesday.

Madhya Pradesh, who were in a precarious position at stumps on day four at 228/6 requiring 93 more runs to

win, withered in the face of hostile bowling from the duo who shared the spoils in the first session of the final day to earn Vidarbha a memorable semifinal win. Madhya Pradesh were finally bundled out for 258 in 81.3 overs as their hopes of entering the final for the third time in the premier domestic tournament were dashed.

This was Vidarbha's third entry into the Ranji final, and on both the occasions they have won the title, defeating Delhi (2017-18) and Saurashtra (2018-19) respectively.

Chasing a target of 321 for victory, Madhya Pradesh, the 2021-22 Ranji champion, were still in the match despite losing six wickets, but Thakare and Thakur were on song on the final day, with the early morning freshness of the wicket helping them extract a fair bit of bounce and movement.

Overnight batter Kumar Kartikeya, who had just taken guard when the stumps were called on Tuesday, fell for a duck, cleaned up by Thakare after facing just four balls.

Anubhav Agarwal was the next to depart, bowled for a duck by Thakare, leaving MP tottering at 234 for 8 and virtually extinguishing their chances of making it to the Ranji final. Saransh Jain tried to keep the innings alive but could add just nine runs to his overnight score of 16 before Yash Thakur sent his stumps flying. Kulwant Khejroliya too went cheaply to signal celebrations in the Akshay Wadkar-led side.

Vidarbha will take on 41-time champions Mumbai in the final from March 10.

BRIEF SCORES: Vidarbha 170 & 402 in 101.3 overs (Yash Rathod 141; Anubhav Agarwal 5/92) beat Madhya Pradesh 252 and 258 in 81.3 overs (Yash Dubey 94; Yash Thakur 3/60, Akshay Wakhare 3/342) by 62 runs.

Despite instances of losing from winning spots, former World No 1 shows new facet in win over Chou

SHIVANI NAIK
MARCH 6

KIDAMBI SRIKANTH logged in his usual nightmare shift. But it's how he woke up from the bad dream – at the 19-point mark when he invariably implodes despite leading – that proved to be a glitch in the doom-script predicted for him.

The banshees were screaming that another 'loss' was loading when he frittered away a match point in Game 2. But Srikanth woke up from that routine stutter at the 19-point mark, as if all he had to do was brush his teeth, grin at the mirror, and tuck into the gritty Chou Tien Chen's high-fibre game. His court-side folk will insist: "It's only the first round, it's nothing. He needs to play at a good level tomorrow." But Srikanth's 21-15, 20-22, 21-8 win over Chou Tien Chen at the French Open will remain a happy story until the next time he grabs loss from the jaws of victory.

About a month ago, Srikanth lost a team medal tie to Japan, after being 19-12 up in the decider in the Badminton Asia Championship. Top of the head, similar implosions can be recalled from Hong Kong, Birmingham and Hangzhou. His fans have slumped wretchedly to empathy, and even his staunchest critics bite back on twisting the knife after he fell to Kento Momota after a 10-point meltdown, two points away from victory.

So, when playing his opening round against the Taiwanese Chou in Paris, Srikanth arrived at the familiar 19-18 juncture in the second game having won the first, many sensed a familiar tripping.

He had actually been playing rather brilliantly in hard-fought rallies going 21-15 up and took the 19-18 lead after a 32-shot exchange of excellent shuttle-control and composed defence.

But at that crucial juncture, the pumpkin chariot trotted to the doorstep to ferry him back to misery. He floated the next shot ridiculously wide. A gentle, silken net tumble gave him match-point at 20-19. But in typical Srikanth style, the 31-year-old sent the next even wider, and after a net error, sent Chou's clever flick-serve ballooning out of bounds to go down 20-22. Dissections of his frail mentality began buffering. Except, a different Srikanth had turned up on this Wednesday.

A startling statistic was his low number of errors from smashes smacked wide; just 4. His



Kidambi Srikanth beat Chou Tien Chen 21-15, 20-22, 21-8 on Wednesday. BAI

net unforced errors – 5. Errant clears – 5. Only 14 off 45 is a surprisingly low count for someone whose frustrating error counts drive his followers up the wall, and give his opponents hope even if he's sitting on a 19-12 lead.

Pleasant surprise

Against Chou, Srikanth didn't come out in

the decider raging to prove a point. He just backed himself to strike solidity with a sprinkling of shot-making splendour.

Through the first game, he was determined to hit smashes deep and straight so that he wasn't trying his luck at the lines. In the decider, as he broke away at 6-4, he strode to the net with assured steps, dashing to the front and slicing at the shuttle with what is probably the world's best backhand net kill. The point at 12-5 was the

most gorgeous of them all, and though he was traipsing around, there was no trampoline underneath.

Chou was forced into a medical break at 6-4 when he grazed his knee, and instead of grabbing a breather on the seat, Srikanth went to coach Parupalli Kashyap who loaded his brain with strategy and some spirited stimuli. Srikanth began gliding around the court now, bouncing with confidence and dispatching Chou left, then right with a full array of pointy shots from his quiver. Srikanth dumped two into the net at 16-7 and 16-8. And because one might find a couple of exhibits of him losing even from that big a cushion, another nightmare couldn't be ruled out. Instead, he smashed across – four straight times – within confines, to race to a 21-8 last-game win.

SPORTS BAR



Kylian Mbappe during the CL match against Real Sociedad on Tuesday. Reuters

Spain fines football federation and Barca

The Spanish football federation and Barcelona have been fined an undisclosed sum by Spain's labour ministry for not meeting workplace regulations regarding gender equality. The ministry said that the federation, along with Barcelona and two second-division clubs, failed to meet regulations to have "equality plans" in place. The ministry said that it ordered an inspection of clubs and the federation after the president caused an uproar when he kissed forward Jenni Hermoso at last year's Women's World Cup. The inspection found that the federation had also failed to have a working protocol to handle cases of sexual harassment, as required by law, at the time of incident. AP

Khelo medallists now eligible for govt jobs

Medal winners in all Khelo India competitions will now be eligible for government jobs as per a revised criteria, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said on Wednesday. Thakur said the move is in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "vision of a robust sports ecosystem, nurturing talent at grassroots level and turning sports into a lucrative and viable career option." He said the department of personnel and training has made "progressive revisions to the eligibility criteria for sportspersons seeking government jobs." PTI

Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka by 8 wickets

Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto led from the front with an unbeaten half century as Bangladesh leveled the three-match T20 international series with an eight-wicket win against Sri Lanka on Wednesday. Shanto hit a six off pacer Dasun Shanaka over deep backward square to bring up the victory as well as his fourth fifty as Bangladesh chased down Sri Lanka's 165-5 with 170-2. He finished with a 38-ball 53, hitting four fours and two sixes. Towhid Hridoy was on 32 off 25 balls, including two fours and one six. AP

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 165 for 5 (Mendis 37, Mendis 36, Soumya 1/5) lost to Bangladesh 170 for 2 (Shanto 53*, Litton 36, Pathirana 2/28)

Jaiswal climbs to 10th in ICC Test rankings

Yashasvi Jaiswal on Wednesday broke into the top-10 of the ICC rankings for Test batters for the first time in his career on the back of his tremendous form in the ongoing home series against England. Jaiswal, who made his Test debut in 2023, jumped two places to be at 10th spot with 727 rating points to his kitty. In red-hot form with the bat against England, Jaiswal has already created history by joining an exclusive club of Indian batters to have scored 600 and more runs in a Test series. He is the lone left-handed batter to have achieved the feat. PTI



Gukesh escapes with a draw against Pragg

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa failed to register a win from an advantageous position against compatriot D Gukesh as their seventh round match ended in a draw in the Prague Masters Chess tournament here on Wednesday. Praggnanandhaa came very close to beating Gukesh who played black but in the end they split points. It was an Italian opening yet again and Praggnanandhaa showed his ability in pushing for more from a level middle game that arose. Gukesh fell under pressure on the queen side and lost a couple of pawns in the ensuing queen and rook endgame. Not losing heart, Gukesh fought on relentlessly and Praggnanandhaa faltered as he missed a winning manoeuvre on the 37th move. Gukesh still had a herculean task on hand but he managed to split the points after 91 moves. PTI

Nishant starts with win at Olympic Qualifier

World Championships bronze medallist Nishant Dev gave India its first win at the 1st World Olympic Boxing Qualifier, defeating Britain's Lewis Richardson by a 3-1 split decision in the men's 71kg category here. Nishant was aggressive right from the word go against the 2022 Commonwealth Games bronze medallist, and won the first round of his bout 4-1 on Tuesday. The 23-year-old Indian became even more dominant in the second round using his long reach and delivered some effective right hooks to comfortably win 5-0. He put forward a controlled performance in the third round as well and avoided multiple attacks from his opponent while trying to protect his lead and ultimately won the round of 64 bout by a split decision. PTI



Ministry of Tourism
Government of India

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH TOURISM, **Modi Sarkar Ki Guarantee**



**Gift of tourism projects worth
over ₹1,400 crore**

Inauguration of **9** Tourism Development Projects in
6 States and Union Territories

Launch of **43** Tourism Development Projects in
21 States and Union Territories

❖ Benefits of the Projects ❖

Enhance spiritual tourism
experience for pilgrims

Strengthen safety and security
of pilgrims and tourists

Generate employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for tourist
guides, souvenir shop owners, handicraft artisans, taxi drivers and
other local businesses

Enhancing the ease of living of the local community at the destinations

Skill development
of local youth

Preserve local cultural
and natural resources

**Launch of "Chalo India" Global
Diaspora Campaign** to enable
Indian diaspora to become
Incredible India Ambassadors

**Launch of "Dekho Apna Desh People's
Choice 2024"** - a tourist destination poll
to identify most preferred tourist
attractions in India.

Unveiling of 42 destinations
selected under Challenge
Based Destination
Development Scheme

by
Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Srinagar | 07th March 2024, 12 Noon



Illumination at Hazratbal Shrine, Srinagar



Cafeteria, Mawkhohnoh, Meghalaya



Pilgrim Facilitation Centre, Jogulamba Devi, Telangana



Gandhi Theme Park, Chandrahia, Bihar



Ghat Redevelopment, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh



Pilgrim Rest Area, Mehandipur, Balaji, Rajasthan



Wayside Amenities, Jalebia, Banka, Bihar

SENSEX: 74,085.99 ▲ 408.86 (0.55%) NIFTY: 22,474.05 ▲ 117.75 (0.53%) NIKKEI: 40,090.78 ▲ 6.85 HANG SENG: 16,438.09 ▲ 275.45 FTSE: 7,679.31 ▲ 33.15 DAX: 17,716.71 ▲ 18.31



GOLD

₹65,150



USD RATE

₹82.83



OIL

\$82.69



SILVER

₹74,500

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of March 5

International market data till 1900 IST

Sensex crosses 74,000-mark, Nifty closes at record high

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 6

DOMESTIC EQUITY markets gained over 0.5 per cent, with Sensex crossing the 74,000 mark for the first time and Nifty ending at a fresh record high.

The BSE's 30-share Sensex jumped 408.86 points or 0.55 per cent to close at a life time high of 74,085.99. The broader Nifty surged 0.53 per cent, or 117.75 points to a record high of 22,474.05.

The rise in the indices was led by strong domestic macroeconomic fundamentals. Crisis Ratings in a report said the country's real GDP is likely to grow at 6.8 per cent in FY2025, compared to 7.6 per cent growth in FY2024. It said between fiscals 2025 and 2031, the size of the Indian economy will inch closer to the \$7 trillion mark, which will make it the third-largest economy in the world.

"The domestic market exhibited a smart recovery in the second half, reversing initial losses as buying picked up in large-cap stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Global markets witnessed mixed signals ahead of the US Fed chair's testimony to Congress. While it's widely expected that the Fed chair may downplay the urgency for rate hikes, the possibility of hints regarding a potential rate cut trajectory cannot be dismissed. Investors are banking on recent FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) minutes, suggesting the policy rate may have peaked and higher rates could hinder growth, Nair said.

According to Sriram BKR, Senior Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, the latest 5,000-point milestone of Sensex, from the 69,000-mark, took place in about 65 sessions or 3.1 months.

MINES MINISTRY ASKED TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF JORC MODEL IN PLACE OF UNFC

Mining exploration: Industry pushes for a more investor-friendly model

AGGAM WALIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6



India's current resource classification rules have made the prospect of mineral exploration unattractive. File

In a bid to spur private investment in India's mining sector, representatives of Vedanta Group pushed the Mines Ministry to shift to an investor friendly resource classification code during a meeting on October 18, 2023. The representatives asked the ministry to consider the adoption of Joint Ore Reserve Committee (JORC) classification, developed by mining experts in Australia, as opposed to the currently used United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC), which does not mandate disclosures pertaining to the economic viability of mining exploration projects.

According to experts, India's current resource classification rules based on the UNFC have made the prospect of mineral exploration unattractive to private companies as it fails to provide any degree of economic certainty, which in turn has hindered the flow of private investment in the sector. Between FY19 and FY23, the mining industry recorded foreign direct investment (FDI) in

equity valuing \$1.1 billion, just .4 per cent of gross equity inflows worth \$259 billion.

A resource classification code is necessary to assess resources and reserves in a mineral block, to prepare geological reports to facilitate its auction for both exploration and mining, and for a mining company to evaluate its assets. In the meeting, the mines ministry secretary proposed a joint working group involving Geological Survey of India (GSI)

and Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) to study the issue, as per the meeting minutes obtained by The Indian Express through the RTI. Experts point out that India's mining industry has already developed and recommended the Indian Mineral Industry Code (IMIC) in 2019, which is based on the same template as the JORC classification, however the ministry is yet to formulate rules in line with the IMIC despite formal assurances.

While the UNFC framework allows for the reporting of resources in general, which include undiscovered and uneconomic resources, the IMIC and the JORC classification, both aligned with the Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO) template, also require the reporting of reserves, which are economically viable deposits with high geologic

confidence confirmed through studies at least to a pre-feasibility level. In other words, reserves indicate the likelihood of profitably mining a mineral block at the time of reporting.

"Unlike other sectors, the mining sector deals with natural processes, the knowledge of which remains incomplete prior to the commencement of mineral extraction. It is critical for the Indian mineral sector to communicate effectively and transparently with the investment community using internationally accepted terminology and definitions, which are essential to earn their trust. This internationally accepted terminology is incorporated in the IMIC," said Peter Stoker, deputy chairman of Australia's JORC and principal geologist at the Brisbane office of AMC Consultants.

While the UNFC framework allows for the reporting of resources in general, which include undiscovered and uneconomic resources, the IMIC and the JORC classification, both aligned with the Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO) template, also require the reporting of reserves, which are economically viable deposits with high geologic

confidence confirmed through studies at least to a pre-feasibility level. In other words, reserves indicate the likelihood of profitably mining a mineral block at the time of reporting.

"You cannot report resources in the CRIRSCO system unless you establish that there is a reasonable prospect for eventual economic extraction," explained Dr P V Rao, co-chair of the National Committee for Reporting Mineral Resources and Reserves in India (NACRI), which developed and maintains the IMIC code. CRIRSCO template considers ten modifying factors including legal, infrastructural, processing, metallurgical, marketing, environmental, and governmental factors.

Globally, CRIRSCO consists of 15 members including the USA, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, South Africa, and the European Union. Membership to CRIRSCO requires countries to produce reporting codes that comply with the CRIRSCO template. India was admitted to CRIRSCO in 2019 following the recognition of the IMIC as a CRIRSCO-compliant code.

FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

India to become upper middle-income country by 2031: Crisil

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 6

AFTER EXPANDING by 7.6 per cent in the current fiscal, India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth is likely to decelerate to 6.8 per cent in the fiscal 2025 (FY25) as higher interest rates and lower fiscal impulse will temper domestic demand, Crisil Ratings said in a report on Wednesday. Despite this, com-

menting on country's growth, Crisil added that between FY25 and FY31, the size of the economy will inch closer to the \$7 trillion mark and the rise in per capita income would place India in the upper middle-income category.

"At that point, India will become the third-largest economy in the world," it said.

The economic growth in FY25 will moderate due to normalisation of the net tax impact

on GDP seen in FY24 and as uneven growth in key trade partners will restrict healthy export recovery. But, India will retain its position as the fastest-growing large economy, the rating agency said.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected the real GDP growth for 2024-25 at 7 per cent. The recent data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that the country's economy is expected to grow at 7.6

per cent in 2023-24.

Crisil said the transmission of the rate hikes effected by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI between May 2022 and February 2023 still continues and is likely to weigh on demand next fiscal. The RBI raised the repo rate – the key policy rate – by 250 basis points (bps) between May 2022 and February 2023. One basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point.

On the other hand, regulatory actions to tame unsecured lending will have a bearing on credit growth.

In November last year, the RBI increased the risk weights on the exposure of banks towards consumer credit, credit card receivables and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) by 25 per cent up to 150 per cent.

FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

Fairfax India to invest \$200 mn of liquidity support in IIFL Finance

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 6

FAIRFAX INDIA Holdings Corporation has proposed to invest up to \$200 million (around Rs 1,660 crore) of liquidity support in IIFL Finance Ltd following the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) ban on the company's gold loan disbursements. After the 20 per cent plunge on Tuesday, shares of the company crashed by another 20 per cent to Rs 382.80 on the stock exchanges on Wednesday.

On Monday, the RBI barred IIFL Finance from sanctioning or disbursing gold loans or assigning, securitising or selling any of its

lenders. Fairfax liquidity support will be on terms to be mutually agreed and subject to applicable laws, including regulatory approvals. "We have been long-term investors in the IIFL group of companies and have full trust and confidence in the company's strong management team led by Nirmal Jain and R Venkataraman. We are confident that Nirmal and Venkat will take corrective actions to meet and exceed RBI's compliance standards," said Prem Watsa, Chairman of Fairfax India.

On Monday, the RBI barred IIFL Finance from sanctioning or disbursing gold loans or assigning, securitising or selling any of its

gold loans in the wake of several regulatory violations by the company.

In its December quarter investor presentation, the company said it is among top two NBFCs in the country in the gold loans segment, having grown at a five-year CAGR of 39 per cent over FY2019-23. According to the company, its gold loan business amounted to Rs 24,692 crore, which is 32 per cent of the overall asset under management of Rs 77,444 crore as of December 2023. IIFL Finance has over 2,721 dedicated gold loan branches spread across 25 states and Union territories, manned by 15,000 employees.

9.6% avg salary increase for India Inc in 2024: EY

The top three sectors in terms of projected salary increase are e-commerce, professional services and financial services, as per Future of Pay 2024 report by EY



HIGHEST SALARY GROWTH ACROSS SECTORS IN 2024:

E-commerce	10.9%
Financial services	10.1%
Professional services	10%
Real estate and infrastructure	10%

ATTRITION ACROSS SECTORS:

Financial services	24.8%
Professional services	24.2%
Information technology	23.3%

TOTAL REWARDS: Top three areas of focus for employers

Benefits cost planning	43%
Employee wellness	29%
Aligning industry standards	20%

Source: EY

India's air traffic to see robust growth in FY25; airlines' financials seen improving, says ICRA

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

INDIA'S AVIATION sector looks set to have a robust 2024-25 (FY25) with healthy passenger traffic growth and improving financials amid Indian airline's growing pricing power and a stable cost environment, rating agency ICRA said Wednesday. However, increased aircraft groundings due to engine woes and supply chain challenges are likely to remain "near term headwinds" for the sector.

As per ICRA's forecast, domestic air traffic for the current financial year ending March 31 (FY24) is estimated to grow 8-13 percent year-on-year (YoY) to 15-15.5 crore, and similar rate of growth is expected in FY24, taking it to 16.5-17 crore in the coming fiscal.

On the growth, Das said the kind of momentum of economic activity which has been witnessed and the high-frequency indicators that the RBI is getting on a continuous basis, there is every possibility of the 7.6 percent growth for FY2024 being exceeded.

The recent data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that the country's economy is expected to grow at 7.6 percent in FY2024.

The Governor said the RBI has data for the first three quarters of the current fiscal, and the implicit growth for the fourth (January-March) quarter is 5.9 percent. However, the high-frequency indicators suggest that the growth in Q4 FY2024 will exceed 5.9 percent, which means that the full-year growth will be more than 7.6 percent.

"I think there is a good chance of the GDP growth number for the current year (FY2024) being very close to 8 percent," Das said.

The Governor said the RBI has data for the first three quarters of the current fiscal, and the implicit growth for the fourth (January-March) quarter is 5.9 percent. However, the high-frequency indicators suggest that the growth in Q4 FY2024 will exceed 5.9 percent, which means that the full-year growth will be more than 7.6 percent.

Speaking on the financial health of the sector, ICRA's Vice President and Sector Head-Corporate Ratings Suprio Banerjee said: "The industry has witnessed improved pricing power, as reflected in increase in yields and thus the spread between revenue per available seat

RBI directs banks to allow customers to choose cards from networks

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 6

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday directed card issuers to provide an option to their eligible customers to choose from multiple card networks at the time of issue.

The RBI has advised the Paytm Payment Bank (PPBL) to shift the remaining Paytm wallet users, whose app is linked only to the payment bank account, to other banks.

On January 31, the RBI barred PPBL from accepting deposits or top-ups in any customer account, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags and NCNC card after March 15, 2024, in the wake of persistent non-compliance and material.

Card issuers should not enter into any arrangement or agreement with card networks that restrain them from availing the services of other card networks, the RBI said in a circular.

Authorised card networks include American Express Banking Corp, Diners Club International, MasterCard Asia/Pacific Pte Ltd, National Payments Corporation of India-Rupay and Visa Worldwide Pte Ltd, the RBI said.

Explaining the reasons for the decision, the central bank said, "on a review, it is observed that some arrangements existing between card networks and card issuers are not conducive to the availability of choice for customers." Currently card issuers decide the card network they prefer and force it on the customers.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. File

EXPLAINED: Barring PPBL deposits

THE RBI barred PPBL from accepting top-ups in any customer account, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags and NCNC card after March 15, 2024, in the wake of persistent non-compliance and material.

He said the challenge is with regard to the remaining 15 or 20 per cent of Paytm wallet users who have linkage only with a bank account in PPBL.

"...we have advised the Paytm Payment Bank to shift these customers to other banks. Other banks are also proactively onboarding customers," Das said.

Ladakh, Article 371, and the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM

NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

In a meeting with representatives from Ladakh, which has been witnessing protests recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah offered to extend Article 371-like protections to the region. Shah is learnt to have told the Leh Apex Body (ABL) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) that their concerns related to jobs, land, and culture would be taken care of, but the government would not go as far as to include Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

EXPLAINED POLITICS

Ever since the separation, organisations like the ABL and the KDA have demanded that Ladakh be included under the Sixth Schedule. This Schedule contains provisions regarding the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Inclusion under this Schedule would allow Ladakh to create Autonomous District and Regional Councils (ADCs and ARCs) – elected bodies with the power to administrate tribal areas. This would include the power to make laws on subjects such as forest management, agriculture, administration of villages and towns, inheritance, marriage, divorce and social customs. A majority of the population in Ladakh belongs to Scheduled Tribes.

The ADCs and ARCs may also constitute village councils or courts to decide disputes between parties from Scheduled Tribes, and appoint officers to oversee the administration of the laws they enact.

In cases where the offences are punishable with death or more than five years of imprisonment, the Governor of the state can



Ladakh residents protest at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, last year. Prem Nath Pandey

confer upon the ADCs and ARCs the power to try them under the country's criminal and civil laws.

The Schedule also gives ARCs and ADCs the power to collect land revenue, impose

taxes, regulate money lending and trading, collect royalties from licences or leases for the extraction of minerals in their areas, and establish public facilities such as schools, markets, and roads.

What protections are offered under Article 371?

Articles 371 and 371-A through J provide "special provisions" for specific states, often to give representation to certain religious and social groups and to allow these groups to exercise autonomy over their affairs without interference from the state and central governments.

Special provisions under Article 371 would allow protections to be extended to the population of Ladakh, while stopping short of the widespread autonomy provided to ADCs and ARCs under the Sixth Schedule.

When the Constitution first came into force, Article 371 stood alone, requiring the creation of "development boards" in Maharashtra and Gujarat for certain regions in order to assess their overall development and the need for government expenditure. As new states were created, more special provisions were introduced.

Under Article 371-A, which contains provisions related to Nagaland, Parliament cannot enact laws that affect the social, religious, or customary legal practices of Nagas, or the transfer and ownership of land without con-

current from the state Assembly. Similar protections have also been extended to Mizos from Mizoram under Article 371-G.

Articles 371-B and C allow the creation of special committees in the Legislative Assemblies of Assam and Manipur. These committees comprise MLAs elected from tribal areas and Hill areas respectively.

Special provisions have also been introduced to provide reservations in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly (Article 371-F), in order to protect "the rights and interests of the different sections of the population".

Notably, the special provisions for Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh (371-H), and Goa (371-J) were introduced shortly after each of these states was officially created. If special provisions are introduced for Ladakh, it would be the first time they are introduced for a Union Territory as opposed to a state.

Shah reportedly assured the Ladakh delegation that the government would ensure representation and participation of locals through hill councils and was willing to provide up to 80 per cent reservation in public employment.

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

WHY INDIA IS BUILDING A SECOND ROCKET LAUNCHPORT, IN TAMIL NADU

ANJALI MARAR

BENGALURU, MARCH 6

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the second rocket launchport of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at Kulasekharapatnam in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, on February 28. Once operational, the launchport will be used for commercial, on-demand, and small satellite launches.

Why does India need a new launchport?

With the Centre's recent policy announcing the opening of the space sector to private players, a sharp rise in the number of commercial launches is certain. To ensure that ISRO's first launchport, the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, is not overburdened with a high number of launches, the space agency has decided to build another facility.

While SHAR will be only used for launching bigger and heavy-lift-off missions, the Kulasekharapatnam launchport will be used for launching smaller payloads, using Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs). SHAR will also be available for India's big ticket missions to the Moon, Venus, and the human-flight mission, Gaganyaan.

Private players may develop space-qualified sub-systems, build satellites, and even launch vehicles at the new launchport. It will also facilitate a dedicated launch infrastructure for all the on-demand commercial launches.

Why is it located in Tamil Nadu?

Like SHAR, the new launchport is also situated in Southern India, near the equator. It is because "for a launch site close to

the equator, the magnitude of the velocity imparted due to Earth's rotation is about 450 m/s, which can lead to substantial increase in the payload for a given launch vehicle. Geostationary satellites must necessarily be in the equatorial plane. So, for such satellites, the closer the launch site is to the equator, the better it is," according to *From Fishing Hamlet to Red Planet: India's Space Journey*, a book edited by former ISRO scientists.

The location of Kulasekharapatnam launchport has more advantages than SHAR for launching smaller launch vehicles. It will allow a direct southward and smaller launch trajectory for the light weight SSLVs carrying less fuel, which will boost ISRO's attempts to enhance payload capacities.

Currently, the trajectory followed by launches from SHAR is longer. The path requires the vehicle to skirt eastwards around Sri Lanka before taking the actual southward flight. This consumes additional fuel. Launches from Kulasekharapatnam, however, will not burn additional fuel as the launchport is geographically located several kilometres to the west of Colombo, Sri Lanka. The location will allow a straight southward flight and help save the limited fuel on SSLVs.

What is the status of the new launchport?

The Tamil Nadu government has completed the acquisition of over 2,000 acres of land in Kulasekharapatnam. The acquired land has now been handed over to ISRO.

Last week, ISRO Chairman S Somannath said it might take up to two years for the completion of the construction at the site. The new facility could permit anywhere between 20 to 30 SSLV launches annually.

GEORGE MATHEW

MUMBAI, MARCH 6

BYJU RAVEENDRAN, founder and CEO of Byju's, wrote to employees over the weekend, blaming the non-payment of their salaries on investors on whose plea the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has blocked access to \$200 million that the company raised through a rights issue of shares in January.

Meanwhile, proceedings are ongoing in the US on the whereabouts of \$533 million that Byju's had parked with a Florida-based wealth manager, amid allegations that the money has been siphoned off. The company has denied the allegation.

A couple of years ago, Raveendran was the shining poster boy of Indian startup entrepreneurs. Byju's was valued at \$22 billion, or around Rs 182,000 crore.

Today, Think & Learn Pvt Ltd, Byju's parent, is in urgent need of funds, and faces huge financial losses, a barrage of legal suits, and massive investor backlash. Its valuation has fallen below \$1 billion (Rs 8,300 crore), and investors are pushing to oust Raveendran and members of his family from the company.

A dizzying climb...

Raveendran, who has a BTech degree from a government engineering college in Kannur, Kerala, worked for a shipping company before starting a coaching business in 2007, and four years later, Byju's. In 2015, Byju's launched its flagship learning app, and went on an expensive marketing blitz, signing up Shah Rukh Khan as brand ambassador in 2017. Between 2016 and 2020, the company got funding from global investors such as General Atlantic, Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative, BlackRock, and Sequoia Capital.

In 2022, the company said it planned to double the number of Byju's Tuition Centres (BTCs) from more than 250 to 500 by the end of the financial year. It claimed to be "the world's leading edtech company...with over 150 million registered learners globally".

Byju's was the jersey sponsor of the Indian cricket team from 2019 to 2023, and an official sponsor of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar in 2022. Ahead of the World Cup, the company signed superstar Lionel Messi as the global

BYJU'S COSTLY ACQUISITIONS

COMPANY	ACQUIRED ON	PRICE TAG
TutorVista and Edurite	July 2017	NA
Osmo	January 2019	\$120 million
WhiteHat Jr	July 2020	\$300 million
Aakash Educational Services Ltd	April 2021	around \$940 million
Great Learning Pvt Ltd	July 2021	\$600 million
Epic!	July 2021	\$500 million

brand ambassador of its social impact arm.

...And precipitous decline

Byju's financial results for FY2022, which were announced after a delay of 18 months, were dismal. The company is yet to declare its results for the year ended March 2023.

Despite laying off around 5,000 employees and making massive expenditure cuts over the past year, Byju's valuation has been in free fall, and the company has defaulted on loans taken from US lenders. In June 2023, Byju's auditor Deloitte Haskins & Sells resigned, citing the inability to finalise reports for the financial years ended March 2021 and March 2022.

Lenders have moved the NCLT and court in the US over the repayment of \$1.2 billion taken by the company's US subsidiary Byju's Alpha, leading to valuation loss. NCLT has directed Byju's to keep the proceeds from its rights issue in escrow until it disposes of the "oppression and mismanagement" plea filed by investors.

At an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) last month, a group of investors passed resolutions for the removal of Raveendran, his wife Divya Goloknath, and brother Riju Raveendran from the company's leadership. The validity of the resolutions is now before the Karnataka High Court.

Poor financial decisions

Between 2017 and 2021, the company made six acquisitions that did not generate the anticipated cash. Byju's raised more than \$5 billion in equity and debt from various global investors, and used about half in acquisitions in 2021 and 2022. Its \$940 million acquisition of Aakash Educational Services

Ltd in 2021 ran into trouble on the issue of stake transfer.

While the company progressed rapidly during the Covid years of 2020-21, growth was hit as offline classes resumed. Problems began to compound rapidly from 2022 as the full lifting of pandemic-time restrictions, along with geopolitical tensions and rate increases, battered the edtech sector.

Aggressive marketing campaigns, expensive acquisitions, and financial mismanagement impacted Byju's bottom line. The company's losses more than doubled to Rs 8,245 crore for the fiscal ended March 2022 from Rs 4,564 crore a year ago.

Questionable funds use

In their EGM notice, investors questioned "the management's...failure to exercise the company's legal rights in order to recover approximately Rs 1,400 crore of billings from and also paying out Rs 300 crore of commission to More Ideas General Trading LLC (the company's affiliated reseller in Dubai), especially given the startup's need for funding over the last 12 months".

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entity a commission", but did not disclose the name of the entity.

The ad hoc group of lenders of the \$1.2 billion Term Loan B (TLB) to the company's US subsidiary Byju's Alpha recently announced the initiation of corporate insolvency resolution proceedings. It questioned the transfer by Byju's Alpha of \$533 million in loan proceeds to an obscure, nascent hedge fund, and then allegedly transferring the ownership of the money to an undisclosed entity.

The group of TLB lenders has said that "the myriad issues facing Byju's are entirely self-inflicted", and that the company's management has no intention or ability to honour its obligations.

Byju's denied the allegations on Tuesday, saying the proceeds from the TLB (taken in November 2021) are lying with its non-US-based wholly-owned subsidiary.

In November 2023, the Indian cricket board moved against Byju's under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code for default of around Rs 150 crore in sponsorship dues.

Way forward for Byju's

Byju's says the success of the \$200 million rights issue will ensure that it has sufficient operational capital to fund short-term needs from March onward. "All we need to do is fight with our leader. We have written to all the shareholders in Byju's to express our steadfast commitment," the company said in a note.

To ensure transparency on the use of funds raised through the rights issue, the company will appoint a third-party monitoring agency that will report to shareholders on a quarterly basis, within 45 days from the end of the quarter, Raveendran said in a letter to shareholders.

Raveendran's fate as the head of the company will depend on the Karnataka High Court's decision on whether the EGM convened by the shareholders was legal. If the court finds the EGM's decisions to be valid, Raveendran and family will have to exit the company he founded.

The insolvency case in the NCLT will also be crucial. Even if Byju's gets a favourable verdict in the HC, the NCLT proceedings will decide the fate of both the company and Raveendran. The survival of Byju's will depend on the rights issue.

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English Medium | Offline & Online | 11 March | Special Fee for 1st Batch

8010 208 000

707, Mukherjee Nagar (Opp. Batra Cinema)

ARUN JANARDHANAN

CHENNAI, MARCH 6

TAMIL NADU Governor R N Ravi's remarks about the 19th-century social reformer Ayya Vaikundar – that he was Lord Vishnu incarnated to prevent the destruction of Sanatan Dharma – have evoked sharp reactions both from politicians and Vaikundar's followers.

The social reformer

Ayya Vaikundar, born in 1809, is revered, primarily in southern Tamil Nadu, as a social reformer and founder of the Ayyavazhi sect. His teachings focused on equality, fraternity, the eradication of caste-based discrimination, and on challenging established religious and social hierarchies. This is why the Governor's portrayal of him as a protector of Sanatan Dharma – which is often associated with orthodox Hinduism in de-

bates on caste politics – has been opposed. Vaikundar's challenge to social divisions came at a time when caste rigidities and atrocities were the norm. He organised *samapanthi bhojana* or community eataries for people from all backgrounds, and sent his disciples to the homes of lower castes to eat with them.

When lower castes were not allowed to fetch water from wells used by upper caste Hindus, Vaikundar initiated the digging of common wells, called *muthirikinarus*.

At a time when priests threw vibhuti and sandal paste from a distance to avoid touching them (this practice still exists) and lower castes were not allowed to enter temples, Vaikundar introduced *Thottu Namam*, inspiring priests to apply the sacred paste on devotees' foreheads, irrespective of their caste. The paste would be applied in the form of a lamp, indicating the soul and God, with the form of God inside every life.

Vaikundar also encouraged all devotees to wear turbans and *dhotis*, promoting equality. He initiated the *Thuvayal Panthy*

programme, teaching vegetarianism and discipline to followers, who spread these teachings across Tamil Nadu. He established *Nizhal Thangals* as community worship spaces, which did not have any idol or deity, and only Tamil was used for worship. These community worship centres also had community kitchens and basic schools. He pioneered education for the lower castes and opposed discriminatory taxes.

One of his significant interventions was the introduction of simplified, inclusive marriage customs without a Brahmin priest or Sanskrit mantras. The remarks and reactions

On March 3, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had paid tributes to Ayya Vaikundar on his birth anniversary. "On his birth anniversary, I bow to Sri Ayya Vaikunda</

MP university
'forgets' to
conduct exam,
students protest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
Bhopal, March 6

EXAM OFFICIALS at the Jabalpur Rani Durgavati University in Madhya Pradesh are facing allegations that they forgot to conduct the first-semester examination for the MSc computer science batch, prompting students to protest with blindfolds and accuse university officials of negligence.

The university had released time tables of 3 exams last month, meant to be held from February 21 to March 13.

According to the time table, the exam for Computer Organisation and Assembly Language subject of MSc first semester was scheduled to be held on March 5, and students had already received admit cards.

Candidates reached the university at 8 am Tuesday but were informed there was no exam and the university had not prepared the question paper, members of NSUI alleged.

University registrar Deepesh Mishra told *The Indian Express*, "It is wrong to suggest there was major negligence on our part. There were 12 exams that day, including the MBA exam attended by 1,600 students. In the MSc computer science paper, there were only 9 students from first semester. There was some negligence."

NSUI (Jabalpur) leader Sachin Rajak said, "This is a serious case of negligence by university administration. How can they forget the datesheet and other necessary arrangements for the exam?"

V-C Dr Rajesh Verma and Mishra immediately released a new exam schedule and officials concerned have been given 3 days to explain what went wrong. "We issued notice and formed a team to investigate the matter. So far, it appears that the examination was not conducted because the question paper never reached the examination centre because of a miscommunication with the strong room. Officials have been tasked to ensure the examination is conducted, and their leaves have been cancelled till this is done," Mishra said.

Mishra emphasised the importance of the performing arts in India's history, adding that art "makes people better, and has societal value too". "Art can make us empathetic when we go down a path away from dharma. I hope the Akademi always provides artists with such opportunities," she said.

Reddy complimented the diversity of winners and highlighted the Akademi's role in furthering

amples of constitutionalism but also amounted to spreading gross disinformation by equating Sanatana Dharma with diseases like HIV, AIDS, dengue, and malaria," the judge said, adding "criticism should be constructive rather than destructive".

"While there may be ideological differences between persons holding power, the differences are expected to be based on a thorough understanding of the system being critiqued..." the judge said.

It was argued that only Udhayanidhi and Raja had spoken against Sanatana Dharma in different events while Sekarababu had only attended one of them. However, the judge said: "The factum of participation itself shows the endorsement of the purpose of the theme of the conference..."

The HC took up the petitions

filed by Hindu Munnani office-bearers T Manohar, J Kishore Kumar, and V P Jayakumar in their individual capacities, alleging that the legislators and the MP could not continue in their roles due to their alleged actions. Udhayanidhi's call for the "annihilation of Sanatana Dharma" during a conference organised by the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers Association in Chennai was the central point of contention.

Petitioners accused the ministers and MP of contravening the core principles laid out under Article 51-A (c) (e) of the Constitution.

The specific clause enjoins every citizen to safeguard the country's sovereignty, unity, and integrity and to foster a spirit of brotherhood among all. Their ar-

gument was these duties demand even greater adherence from those in ministerial or parliamentary positions, given their heightened responsibility towards upholding Constitutional values.

The petitioners also contended that the actions of calling for the elimination of a religion directly infringe upon the freedoms guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution.

The ministers and the MP challenged the maintainability of the writ petitions, arguing that no quo warranto questioning their authority could be issued based on the reasons stated by the petitioners. After extensive arguments, Justice Sumanth had reserved the order last December and on Wednesday, refused to issue the writs of quo warranto.

Sanatana Dharma remarks by TN ministers, MP 'perverse, divisive', says Madras HC

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, MARCH 6

ALTHOUGH THE Madras High Court Wednesday decided against removing Tamil Nadu Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister P K Sekarababu, and Nilgiris MP A Raja from their offices and positions over remarks on Sanatana Dharma, it called the comments "perverse and divisive" and "against the constitutional mandate".

Justice Anita Sumanth, presiding over the matter, emphasised that the petitions were premature as multiple FIRs are being investigated with no convictions until date. Such "remarks were not only contrary to the principle

of constitutionalism but also amounted to spreading gross disinformation by equating Sanatana Dharma with diseases like HIV, AIDS, dengue, and malaria," the judge said, adding "criticism should be constructive rather than destructive".

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SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI AWARDS

Art can make us empathetic when we go away from dharma, says President

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

MORE THAN 90 artistes from the fields of Indian classical music, dance, theatre, folk art and scholarship were felicitated at the Sangeet Natak Akademi awards on Wednesday.

The ceremony took place at Vigyan Bhavan, for the 2022 and 2023 editions, in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu, Culture Minister Kishan Reddy, Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, Sangeet Natak Akademi Chairman Sandhya Purecha, and Culture Ministry Secretary Govind Mohan.

Murmu emphasised the importance of the performing arts in India's history, adding that art "makes people better, and has societal value too". "Art can make us empathetic when we go down a path away from dharma. I hope the Akademi always provides artists with such opportunities," she said.

Reddy complimented the diversity of winners and highlighted the Akademi's role in furthering



President Droupadi Murmu presents a fellowship to an artiste in New Delhi on Wednesday. Union minister G Kishan Reddy and MoS Arjun Ram Meghwal are also seen. Anil Sharma

the arts. "Our ancient art forms should be preserved and we can also use technology to serve them. The Akademi is preparing an online database of critics and scholars for that purpose," he said.

Meghwal said, "We are awarding the practitioners of the most important organs of India's art and culture. These artistes have worked very hard to advance their

disciplines. Artists help us access our culture. This is the right time for them to flourish."

Purecha said, "This is a day of pride. The artistes being felicitated today have upheld the dignity of their artforms. I pay my obeisance to them and their teachers... Through your practice, you keep our culture and heritage alive, because tangible

concerns can be tended to easily, whereas intangible ones (like art) are difficult."

Among the artistes felicitated were Hindustani vocalist Kalpani Komkali, playwright Asif Ali Haider Khan, martial artist Gurpreet Singh Khalsa, and dancer Manjula Ramaswamy. A fellowship was also awarded to five artistes.

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Haryana transfers Rathee murder probe to CBI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 6

THE HARYANA government on Wednesday transferred the murder case of INLD state chief Nafe Singh Rathee and his associate Jai Kishan to the CBI, officials said.

Following procedure, the two accused — Saurav, alias Sachin, and Ashish — would also be handed over to the CBI, they said.

Home Minister Anil Vij said, "Although our state police force arrested two accused, we transferred the case to the central agency since I had assured the House to transfer the case to the CBI." Asked if the deceased's family had raised any such demand, Vij said, "There was no such demand."

During the Haryana Budget Session, Opposition MLAs collectively termed it a "political murder" and sought a CBI probe.

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E-TENDERS

Date: 04.03.2024

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence S.No., Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. S.No.: 1. 10231045B (09/04/2024), Developmental Tender for Lock Spring Seal Part No. 16241629, 1280 Nos 2, 10231041D (03/04/2024) Developmental Tender for Kit Hardware - Fork Rod Part No. 16210542, 640 Nos 3. 10231048B (10/04/2024) Developmental Tender for Exhaust Valve Bridge Assembly Par No. 16040132, 960 Nos 4. 10221196C (01/04/2024) Developmental Tender for Piston Ring Set to PL No. 16030618, 480 Sets 5. 10231902B (10/04/2024) Developmental Tender for Bowl By Pass Sight Glass to PL No. 16241381, 60 Nos 6. 10231962A (10/04/2024) Developmental Tender for Retainer - Bearing PL No. 16150107, 1119 Nos 7. 10231864A (12/04/2024), Link Adjusting, PL. No. 16130080, 124 Nos. 8. 10231338/B (02/04/2024), Bolt-Main Bearing, PL. No. 16141593, 163 Nos 9. 10231887/B, (12/04/2024), Crab Injector, PL. No. 16130339, 238 Nos. 10. 10231353A (22/03/2024), Housing Water Pump, PL. No. 16120930, 554 Nos. 11. 06231221, (02/04/2024), Dynamic Braking Alt, Fan Tap & Non Fan Tap Consisting of 52 Items as per DRG. No. 18011378 Alt Nil to PL No. 18011378, Qty. 01 Set. 12. 06231082A (18/04/2024), Carrier Assembly Movable Contact as per DRG. No. 8276115 specn: Drawing No. 8276115 to PL No. 18140166, Qty. 34 Nos. 13. 06221282E, (01/04/2024), Housing Assembly Two Contact Stationary as per DRG. No. 8373523 specn: drawing No. 8373523 to PL. No. 18140245, Qty. 14 Nos. 14. 06231234, (11/04/2024), resistor ASM as per DRG. No. 8429166 ALT b to PL No. 18030352, Qty. 53 Nos. 15. 06231086A, (28/03/2024), Post Assembly Contact as per DRG. No. 8435874 specn: Drawing No. 8435874 to PL. No. 18140178, Qty. 42 Nos. 16. 06231084B, (18/04/2024), Carrier Assembly Post Plate as per DRG. No. 8326499 specn: drawing No. 8326499 to PL. No. 18140180, Qty. 54 Nos. 17. 07231055, 21.03.2024, PL. No. 80011524, Edible Coconut Oil, Qty. 3500 Ltr. 18. 07221177C, 15.03.2024, PL. No. 18540009, Silicon rubber Compound, Qty. 204.95 kg 19. 07241006, 22.03.2024, PL. No. 17270595, Sealant Silicon Rubber, Qty. 33000 Ltr. CORRIGENDUM-20. Developmental Tender No. 09231319A Bid No.: E-90/2023-24, Rev. No. 02, Existing Due Date 29/02/2024, Revised Due Date 25/03/2024 21. Developmental Tender No. 09231318C Bid No.: E-103/2023-24, Rev. No. 01, Existing Due Date 29/02/2024, Revised Due Date 27/03/2024 22. Developmental Tender No. 09231325A Bid No.: E-90/2023-24, Rev. No. 02, Existing Due Date 29/02/2024, Revised Due Date 27/03/2024 23. Developmental Tender No. 09231324C Bid No.: E-103/2023-24, Rev. No. 01, Existing Due Date 29/02/2024, Revised Due Date 28/03/2024 NOTE: All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged for above tenders. The details of above tenders are available on Website: www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in.

PRO/BLW/S-120

SMM/Imp-I

[PR/BLW/S-120](http://banaraslocowork) "Website : <http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in>"

राजस्त्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99



सी.जी.डी.एल.-05032024-252617

CG-DL-E-05032024-252617

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II- खण्ड 4

PART-II-Section 4

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 07] नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, मार्च 5, 2024/फाल्गुन 15, 1945

No-07] NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024/PHALGUNA 15, 1945

रक्षा मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 5 मार्च, 2024

का.नि.मा. 07 (अ) - केंद्रीय संस्कार, छावनी अधिनियम, 2006 (2006 का 41) की धारा 4 की उपधारा (1) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य संस्कार और छावनी परिषद्, मध्यूर से परामर्श करने के पश्चात, नीचे दी गई सारांशों के स्वेच्छा में वर्णित उक्त छावनी के कठिपय क्षेत्रों को पृथक करने और ऐसे क्षेत्रों का राज्य स्थानीय नियन्याएँ विलय करने के अपने आशय की घोषणा करती है:-

सारांश

क्र.सं. पृथक किए जाने वाले क्षेत्रों के विवरण/सर्वे संख्या

(1) (2)

1. 31

2. 35/1

3. 52

4. 60 (भाग) - सी.एफ.लैट्रिन

5. 61

6. 63

7. 64/1

8. 71 (सर्वेक्षण संख्या 71/12 के सिवाय)

9. 74

10. 76 (भाग)-सी.वी.जूनियर हाई स्कूल और चर्च रोड स्थित 01 कर्मचारी आवास।

11. 98 (भाग)-02 कर्मचारी आवास तथा 01 और एच टी

12. 186 (भाग)-भूमिगत जल निकासी पाइप लाइन

13. 192

14. 204

15. 206

16. 216

17. 217

18. 218

19. 220 (भाग)-छावनी निधि संडर कमांग तथा पम्प हाउस

20. 221

2. छावनी के किसी भी निवासी द्वारा उपरोक्त घोषणा पर कोइ भी आपत्ति इस अधिनियम के प्रकाशन की तारीख से आठ सप्ताह के भीतर जनरल अफिसर कमांडिंग-इन-चीफ, दक्षिण परिषद् कमान, यजुपूर 302006, राजस्थान के माध्यम से केंद्रीय संस्कार को प्रस्तुत की जाएगी।

3. पृथक किए जाने वाले क्षेत्रों के व्यौदों का निरीक्षण किसी भी कार्य दिवस में छावनी परिषद् कार्यालय में किया जा सकता है।

[पा. सं. 14 (31)/2023 - डॉ. (ब्यू. एवं सी.)]

राजकोष मित्रता, संयुक्त सचिव

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 5th March, 2024

S.R.O. 07(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Cantonments Act, 2006 (41 of 2006), the Central Government, after consulting the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Cantonment Board, Mathura, hereby declares its intention to exclude certain areas of the said cantonment described in column (2) of the Table given below and the merger of such areas with State local body:-

TABLE

Sl. No. Description / Survey Numbers of areas to be excluded

(1) (2)

1. 31

2. 35/1

3. 52

4. 60(Part)-C.F. Latrines

5. 61

6. 63

7. 64/1

8. 71 (Except 71/12)

9. 74

10. 76 (Part) - C.B. Junior High School and 01 staff quarter at Church Road.

11. 98 (Part) - 02 staff quarters and 1 OHT

12. 186 (Part) - Underground drainage pipe line

13. 192

14. 204

15. 206

16. 216

17. 217

18. 218

19. 220 (Part) - Cantonment fund Roadways and Pump House

20. 221

2. Any objection to the above declaration by any inhabitant of a Cantonment may be submitted to the Central Government through the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Western Command, Jaipur-302005, Rajasthan within eight weeks from the date of publication of this notification.

3. Details of the areas to be excluded can be inspected in the office of Cantonment Board on any working day.

[F. No. 14(31)/2023-D(Q&C)]

RAKESH MITTAL, Jt. Secy



UVVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UVVN", Maharan Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SCG20586 Website: www.uvvn.com

पत्र सं. 337

e-Tender Notice दिनांक: 06/03/2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance), Vyasi Project, Dakpathar invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

e-Tender No. & Name of work: 23/2023-24/EE(C-M) Vyasi Project, Construction of Office Building for Executive Engineer (E&M), Vyasi Dam at Juddu, Dehradun".

Estimated cost-Rs. 5238419.87 (GST extra)

Date of availability of bid document on website- 11.03.2024 From 17:00 Hrs.

Last date for submission of bids on website- 02.04.2024 Upto 17:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal [https://uktenders.gov.in"](https://uktenders.gov.in)

Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

कार्यालय प्रयाण बहुपद्धति

उत्तराञ्जनी औदौर्ध्वक विकास प्राधिकरण

ए-विविदा सूची

एतदावासा सूची जाता है कि विविदा औदौर्ध्वक क्षेत्रों के अन्तर्गत विकास / उत्तराञ्जनी कार्यों हेतु सारकों द्वारा दियागों / सार्वजनिक ताक़ों / निवासीं / प्राकृतिकाण् / पर्यावरणीयों में पर्यावरण करके रखेंगे।

रक्षणात्मक विविदा सूची जाता है कि जाता सकती है, जिन्हें विविदा कार्यालय नियमित विविदा सूची की जाता सकती है।

1. क्रम सं. 1 से 8 पर अंकित विविदा दिनांक 07.03.2024 को पूर्ण-तः 11.00 बजे से दिवाना 28.03.2024 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक अलाइड की जा सकती है, जिन्हें दिनांक 01.04.2024 को पूर्ण-तः 11.00 बजे तक अलाइड की जा सकती है, जिन्हें दिनांक 01.04.2024 को पूर्ण-तः 5.00 बजे तक अलाइड की जा सकती है, जिन्हें दिनांक 01.04.2024 को पूर्ण-तः 11.00 बजे तक अलाइड की जा सकती है, जिन्हें दिनांक 01.04.2024 को पूर्ण-तः 5.00 बजे तक अलाइड की जा सकती है, जिन्हें दिनांक 01.04.2024 को पूर्ण-तः 11.00 बजे तक अलाइड की जा सकती है, जिन्हें दिनांक 01.04.2024 को पूर्ण-तः 5.00 बजे तक अलाइड की जा सकती है, ज

PNIET No.: 52/EE/UDP-DIVN/UDP/2023-24, Dated. 01.03.2024.
The Executive Engineer, Udaipur Division, PWD (R&B), Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura on behalf of the 'Governor of Tripura', invites online percentage rate e-tender in Two bids system from the eligible Central & State public sector undertaking / enterprise and eligible Contractors/Firms/Private Ltd. Firm / Agencies of Appropriate Class registered with PWD/TTAACD/MES/CPWD/ Railway/Govt Organization of other State & Central for the following work:-

1. Name of work: Construction of Commercial building, Municipality office & Auditorium at Udaipur (B+G+3) with foundation provision for (B+G+4) storey building/SH: Building portion including Internal water supply, Sanitary installations, Sewage, Drainage, Internal Electrification, Fire fighting, lift and HVAC works.

DNIET No: CE(Buildings)/PWD/DNIT/ACE/Project Unit/77/2023-24

2. Estimated Cost: Rs. 35,56,13,600.00

3. Bid Fee: Rs. 10,000

4. Earnest Money: Rs. 71,12,272.00

5. Last date & time for online Bidding: 30.03.2024 upto 3:00 PM

6. Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting / Conference : 15.03.2024 at 12.00 PM.

7. Date of Opening of Bid: 01.04.2024 at 11.00 AM if possible.

Note: The bid forms and other details including online activities should be done in the e-procurement portal <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Udaipur Division, PWD(R&B),
Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura

ICA/C/5038/24

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P. C.

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Mohit Tyagi S/o Lt. Sh. Rajbir Tyagi R/o B-8, Pradhan Chowk Vikas Nagar, Delhi** have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence **FIR No. 885/21 U/s 323/341 IPC.**, has been registered at **P.S. Ranholi, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, **Mohit Tyagi** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Mohit Tyagi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, **Mohit Tyagi of FIR No. 885/21 U/s 323/341 IPC., registered at PS. Ranholi, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **06.04.2024**.

By Order

Sh. Ankit Karan Singh, MM-08,
West Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/2713/OD/2024

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU KRISHI VISHWA VIDYALAYA JABALPUR - 482 004 (M.P.)

E-Tender (Second Call)

Tender No.: IPRO/DAC/RKVV/2023-24/29
Dated: 06/03/2024
E-tender are invited for the supply of various equipments required for (1) Strengthening of Insecticide Quality Control Testing Laboratory (2) Establishment of Minor Millet Processing, Product Development Centre, RKVV Projects respectively from manufacturers/authorized dealers/distributors/importers, etc. For details, visit www.jnkvv.org and <https://mptendrs.gov.in/nicgep/app>.

IPOF/ST/2024/29

Dean,
College of Agriculture, Jabalpur

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 100 MT Electronic Pitless Weigh Bridge for Churaibari M.V. Check Post, North Tripura.

The undersigned for and on behalf of the Governor of Tripura invites e-tender from the Weight Bridge Manufacturers/ Authorized Dealers for "Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 100 MT Electronic Pitless Weigh Bridge for Churaibari M.V. Check Post, North Tripura".

Kindly login to www.tripuratenders.gov.in for details. Clarification if required may be sent to jtc.agt-tr@gov.in or dtowesttripura@gmail.com

Sd/-
Transport Commissioner
Transport Department
Government of Tripura

ICA/C/5039/24

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work	30-Elect-65-T-2023-24-E3, Electrical Work in Connection with Renovation of Drive way of Rail Bhawan premises.
Approx cost of the works in Rs.	30.29 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security	Rs. 60600.00
Date & time of submission of tender	02.04.2024, 12.00 Hrs
Opening of tender	02.04.2024, 12.00 Hrs
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



713/24

Government of Maharashtra

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, BEED

e-TENDER NOTICE No. BEED/15 of 2023-2024
e-Tenders for Twenty (20) works in B-1 Form is invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Beed (Phone No. 02442-222474) from the registered contractors in appropriate class of Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra for the Improvement Roads/ Repair of Buildings/ Construction of New Buildings in Tal. Beed, Georai/ Wadwani, Dist. Beed. Right is reserved to reject any or all tenders without any reason thereof. The details can be viewed and downloaded from following website- www.mahapwd.com <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

(Sd/-) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, Public Works Division, BEED

(dgpr/2023-2024/9283)

Advt.No.- Estt/Ay/JJR/2024/345

Dated 06.03.2024

Advertisement

District AYUSH Society- JHAJJAR

District AYUSH Society JHAJJAR invites application from the eligible candidates for filling up of the following post in the AYUSH Department District Jhajjar, Haryana under National AYUSH Mission purely on contract basis initially up to 31-03-2024 with details as mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Date and Time of Written Test & Interview
1	District Programme Manager under NAM	1	See below mentioned website

• The interested candidates are advised to visit website jhajjar.nic.in for details of post and download the application form. Last date for submitting of duly filled application form is 20-03-2024 up to 05:00PM in the office of District Ayurvedic Office, Jhajjar at Shri Radha Krishan Vakil Govt. Ayurvedic Dispensary & Office, Surukhpur Road Jhajjar by Registered/Speed Post only. Application sent through other mode will not be considered. For any query you can contact 7015996556.

District Ayurvedic Officer-cum – Member Secretary , District AYUSH Society, Jhajjar

25650/HRY



Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board

Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation Government of Himachal Pradesh

P57133-001-Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date:-

07.03.2024.

OCB Invitation for Bids No. :-

SITDP-HP_W06/2023-24/

Contract Package No. :-

SITDP-HP_W08

Deadline for Submission of Bid :-

08.04.2024 at 17:00 Hrs

1. The Government of India as the "Borrower" has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB.
2. The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board (HPTDB), under Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Himachal Pradesh ("the Employer"), invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the "Wellness Centre Cum Adventure Sports Centre and Hostel at Nadaun in District Hamirpur (HP) (SH- Civil, WS & SI, El, Fire Fighting, Fire Alarm system and Surveillance System etc.)".
3. The details of Contract Package are as follow:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Bid Security	Period of completion
1	Wellness Centre Cum Adventure Sports Centre and Hostel at Nadaun in District Hamirpur (HP) (SH- Civil, WS & SI, El, Fire Fighting, Fire Alarm system and Surveillance System etc.)	8.81 million	30 Months

To be qualified under this package, the Bidder should meet the following requirements:

Qualifying Criteria	Minimum Value (INR)
1. Minimum Average Annual Construction Turnover (AACT) for the last Five (5) Financial Years (FYs, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23]	Equal to or more than INR 705 Million
2. Must demonstrate availability of Financial Resources (less its financial obligations for current contract commitments), meets or exceeds the total requirement for the subject contract, as detailed below;	
Sole Bidder	INR 88 million
i) For JV: One Partner must meet or exceed its required share of 40%	INR 35 million
ii) For JV: Each Partner must meet or exceed its required share of 25%	INR 22 million
iii) The combined financial resources of the Joint Venture must	INR 88 million
3. Contract of Similar Size and Nature:	
1. Participation as a contractor, Joint Venture partner, or Subcontractor, in at least one contract that has been satisfactorily and substantially completed* within the last 7 years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds INR 705 Million.	
2. Participation as a contractor, Joint Venture partner, or Subcontractor, in at least two contracts that have been satisfactorily and substantially completed* within the last 7 years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds INR 441 Million	

Further details are indicated in the Section 3 – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria of the Bidding Document.

4. Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's "Single-Stage, Two-Envelope" bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries of ADB.
5. To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, bidders should contact:

The Project Director
Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh
Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board (HPTDB)
Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation
First Floor, U.S. Club Shimla – 171 001, HP, India
Tel: +91-177-2659962, 2659926, Fax: +91-177-2659925
Email: projectdirector.adbhp@gmail.com , Website: www.himachaltourism.gov.in

6. For bid submission:

- Participating bidders should be registered in e-procurement portal www.hptenders.gov.in, and will not be published in Newspapers. If any date specified herein is a holiday, then the next working day will be considered for the activity and the time will remain the same.
- Cost of Bid document in form of Demand Draft (DD) in favor of Project Director, Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh, payable at Shimla
- Interested and eligible bidders may submit their complete proposal as prescribed in the Bid Document along with the receipt of Bid Security Amount and non-refundable Bid Document Cost.
- Bids received without the payment of Bid Document Cost and/or Bid Security Amount shall be summarily rejected.
- The Employer will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or submission of Bids.
- Bids must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before the date and time specified in the Bidding Document. Late bids will not be admitted by the e-procurement system. The Employer will not be responsible for any delay in submission of bid due to any reason.

Key Dates

S. No.	Event	Date / Time
1.	Online Publication	07.03.2024 at 18:00 Hrs
2.	Start Date of downloading of Bid document	07.03.2024 at 18:00 Hrs
3.	Pre-bid Meeting	14.03.2024 at 15:00 Hrs
4.	Date & time for start of online submission of Bids	03.04.2024 at 18:00 Hrs
5.	Deadline for online submission of Bids	08.04.2024 at 17:00 Hrs
6.	Deadline for Physical submission of the following original documents Cost of Bid document (in form of Demand Draft)	08.04.2024 at 17:00 Hrs
7.	Date of opening of technical bids	08.04.2024 at 17:00 Hrs
8.	Date of opening of Price bids.	(Will be later intimated to all technically responsive bidders)

7. Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the e-proc web site www.hptenders.gov.in, and will not be published in Newspapers. If any date specified herein is a holiday, then the next working day will be considered for the activity and the time will remain the same.
8. Right to revise or amend this notice and / or the Bid Document, fully or partially, prior to the last date notified for submission of Bids or on any subsequent date is reserved by the Employer.
9. Pre-bid meeting with the Bidders will be held at Office of the Project

Government of Punjab

Tender Reference No. 171/2023-24

The department of Punjab State Transmission Corporation Limited invites online bids for "SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF CENTRALIZED ACQUISITION SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATIC DR & EL DOWNLOADING"

Closing date and time: 03-04-2024 11:00 AM. For details log onto: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Addl. S.E./Protection & OS Division
O/o Engineer In Chief/P&M, PSTCL, Ludhiana

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN – U40108JH2013-SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhrurwa, Ranchi–834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : csp.jseb@rediffmail.com gmsp.jbvn@rediffmail.com

1st Time Extension Notice

Last date of uploading of bid documents, last date of physical submission of tender fee and bid opening date of following tender notice no. is hereby extended as below :-

SL. No.	NITs No.	Extended online bid uploading/ submission end date	Last date of online submission of tender fee and EMD	Technical bid opening date and time
1	444/PB/JBVNL/2023-24 11 KV, XLPE HTAB Cable i) 3Cx15+1x15 sq.mm ii) 3Cx95+1x70 sq.mm iii) 3Cx70+1x50 sq.mm	11.03.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs	11.03.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs	12.03.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs.
2	446/PR/JBVNL/2023-24 LT AB Cable Accessories i) Piercing connector (Type – I) ii) Piercing connector (Type – II) iii) Suspension Clamp assembly-complete with strap & bracket iv) Dead end assembly—complete with strap & bracket	11.03.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs	11.03.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs	12.03.2024 upto 18:00 Hrs.

Further details against the above NIT can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and may be contacted on Mobile No. 09431135523 / 943048596/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Submission of tender fee/EMD will not be accepted by courier/Regd. Post.

PR No. 318654

Sd/-
General Manager (S&P)

PR 321770 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd (23-24)_D



Government of India
Department of Space
National Remote Sensing Centre
Balanagar, Hyderabad – 500 037, Telangana, India
Telephone: +040-23884173 / 74
Fax: +040-23884179

निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह / CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP

इ-निविदा सूचना / e-TENDER NOTICE

समूह प्रधान, एनआरएससी, हैदराबाद द्वारा नियन्त्रित कार्य के लिए ऑन-लाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Online tenders are invited by the Gr. Head CMG, NRSC, Hyderabad for the following works:

एनआरएसी सं. NIT No.	कार्य का नाम / Name of work	अनुमानित प्राक्कलित लागत Approximate Estimated Cost (Rs.)	निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड करने की अवधि Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	बोली अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि Last date for Bid uploading
NRSC/CMG/NIT/ET/ 78/23083/2023-24	आरआरएससी-पश्चिम, जोधपुर में 50 kWP फ्लॉट मार्टेट सीरीज़ संरचना का डिजाइन, इंजीनियरिंग, निर्माण, परिवहन, आपूर्ति, संख्यात्मक, परीक्षण व कमिशनिंग। सीपीया एवं अनुरक्षण सेवा। Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Transportation, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning, Handover and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Service of 50 kWP Roof-Mounted Solar Power Plant at RRSC - West, Jodhpur.	₹ 24.65 लाख / Lakhs	From: 07.03.2024 से To: 16.03.2024 तक	Up to 22.03.2024 के 16:00 बजे / Hrs तक

Detailed NIT and eligibility criteria, EMD bidding document, etc. can be viewed/download from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO portal. All amendments, time extension, clarifications, etc. will be uploaded on website and will not be published in newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

समूह प्रधान / Group Head
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह / Construction & Maint. Group

निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह / CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP

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कार्य का नाम / Name of work

अनुमानित प्राक्कलित लागत
Approximate Estimated Cost (Rs.)

निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड करने की अवधि
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded

बोली अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि
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विस्तृत एनआरएससी एवं प्राक्कलित बोली संख्यात्मक प्रक्रिया आवधि देखें। www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO पोर्टल से देखा/डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। किसी प्रकार के संशोधन, समय विस्तार, समाप्ति आदि विवेदित पर अलाइड किया जाएगा और किसी समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जाएगा। बोलकर्ता अधिकान जानकारी हेतु विवरात्मक मार्ग से वेबसाइट देखें।

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अनुमानित प्राक्कलित लागत
Approximate Estimated Cost (Rs.)

निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड करने की अवधि
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निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह / Construction & Maint. Group

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समूह प्रधान / Group Head
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह / Construction & Maint. Group

निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह / CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP

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अनुमानित प्राक्कलित लागत
Approximate Estimated Cost (Rs.)

निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड करने की अवधि
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded

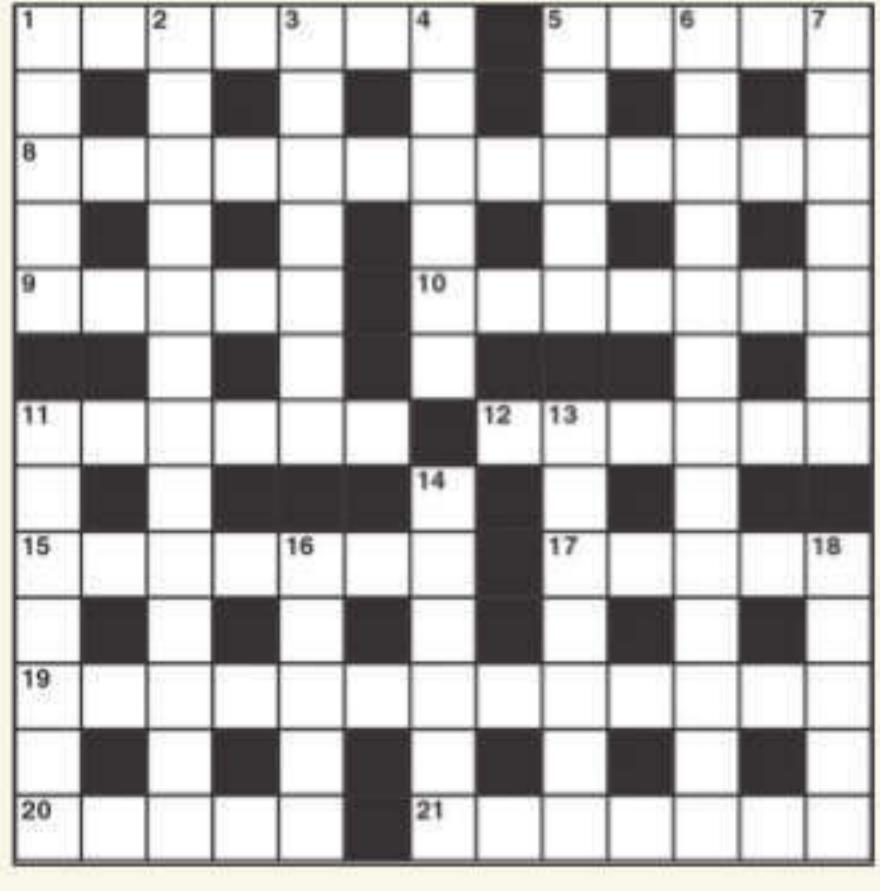
बोली अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि
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CROSSWORD 5306



ACROSS

- 1 Book describing shyness (7)
- 5 He proposes a thousand too many (5)
- 8 Self-important as a direct result (13)
- 9 No blind prophets (5)
- 10 Going to great lengths at either end (7)
- 11 Annoy by no longer working to the finish (6)
- 12 Standing in a rank (6)
- 15 Born not so long ago (7)
- 17 The sailor has to put back a card (5)
- 19 Filmed by night, it's a chancy business (4,2,3,4)
- 20 Measures some of the rigging (5)
- 21 Stops in crooked side streets (7)

DOWN

- 1 Cares about the peoples of the world (5)
- 2 Funny feeling? (5,2,6)
- 3 Catches as one comes drunkenly home (5,2)
- 4 Avoids the Spanish dues perhaps (6)
- 5 Gathered round an artist from France (5)
- 6 One is not openly menaced by them (6,7)
- 7 They take no end of towels (7)
- 11 A long wandering tale (7)
- 13 Ties the rest in knots (7)
- 14 Grilled cheese may be (6)
- 16 Calls round and smiles (5)
- 18 Accepts a new edition of Keats (5)

Solutions Crossword 5306 Across: 1 Blame, 8 Good turn, 9 Avoid, 10 Rehearse, 11 Adits, 12 Pop, 16 Endive, 17 Report, 18 Rio, 23 Argus, 24 Lacrosse, 25 Right, 26 Terriers, 27 Leash Down: 2 Loved one, 3 Maintain, 4 More so, 5 Adder, 6 Utter, 7 Index, 12 Per, 13 Pro, 14 Sportive, 15 Droughts, 19 Insert, 20 Plate, 21 Score, 22 Solid

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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

Happiness doesn't depend on any external conditions, it is governed by our _____ - Dale Carnegie (6,8)

VWAEE

TELNET

TAINT

ERRDMU

Answers: Happiness doesn't depend on any external conditions, it is governed by our **WELL-BEING**. Solutions: WEAVE, TELNET, MURDER, MURKED BY OUR

SUDOKU 5494

Difficulty Level 4s

Instructions

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

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

Difficulty Level

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5493

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Attention is drawn to Expression of Interest (EOI) No. OIL/RF/IND/EOI/13/24 dt. 16.02.2024 for the "Provision of Integrated Facility and Township Management Services That Includes Services of Catering, Facility Management, Housekeeping and Maintenance Services at Oil Executive Residential Complex - Jodhpur". Interested parties are requested to visit website of Oil India Ltd.(www.oil-india.com) for more information.

Government of Maharashtra
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
WORLD BANK PROJECT DIVISION,
CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR
e-TENDER NOTICE No. 11 for 2023-2024
Online tender (e-Tender) in B-1 Form for the 01 work is invited by the Executive Engineer, World Bank Project Division, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Tele.No. 2024-2331342 through online procedure. The blank tender forms shall be issued by Executive Engineer, World Bank, Project Division, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar through e-Tender procedure.
Right to reject any or all tenders are reserved. Details of tender is available on e-Tender site given below-
<https://mahapwd.gov.in>
<https://mahatenders.gov.in>
If any change made in this e-Tender, is informed on above portal.

(Sd/-) **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**
World Bank Project Division,
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
(dgipr/2023-2024/9324)

Madhya Gujarat Vij Co. Ltd.
An ISO 9001 : 2008 Certified Company
C.I.N. : U40102GJ2003GC042907
Regd. Office : 3rd Floor, S.P. Vidhy Bhawan, Race Course, Vadodara-390 007

TENDER NOTICE

1. Tender Notice No. MGVCL/C/Supply PSC POLE/8M/2025-26/08
 2. Tender Notice No. MGVCL/C/HO/PSC POLE CARTING/2025-26/09
- Online tenders for "Supply of 8M/200KG PSC Pole to the various Circles for the year 2025-26 two year duration (Tender ID No. 53159)" and "Carting of 8m/200kg PSC poles from various pole factories under MGVCL for the Year 2025-26 (Tender ID No. 53233)" are invited as per tender conditions. General commercial terms and conditions as well as Technical terms and conditions are available on web site URL www.gseb.com, "Tenders - MGVCL - Corporate Office" and www.mgvcl.com and www.tender.nprocure.com, Price Bid must be submitted online only. Technical Bids with all enclosures must be submitted in online only within scheduled time.

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

Chief Engineer (Project), MGVCL

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
Tel. 06766-258301 (O) email: se_nerwkr@rediffmail.com
eProcurement Notice for Road & Bridge Works under DMF
Identification No. Road & Bridge Online NCB No. 429
No. 1200 / Date. 06.03.24

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in OIC CCE, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar
		From To		Technical Bid Financial Bid
1	2	3 4	5	6 7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	Road & Bridge Online NCB No. 429	Dt. 13.03.24 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt. 28.03.24 Up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 27.03.24 Dt. 30.03.24 at 11.00 A.M. Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website : www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer,
R.W. Circle, Keonjhar
OIPR-25177/11/007/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer
Southern N.H Circle, Berhampur
Email: senhsouthbam@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. 14/CCE NH, South of 2023-24
(e-Procurement)
Bid Identification No. 14/CCE NH, South of 2023-24 No. 838/Dated: 02.03.2024
1) The Chief Construction Engineer, Southern N.H Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible contractors for construction of **Road works** as detailed in the table below.

No.	Description	Rate (%)	Period of Supply
1	Road Construction	100%	01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025
2	Road Construction	100%	01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025
3	Road Construction	100%	01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025
4	Road Construction	100%	01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025

2) Nature of work : Road
3) No. of work : 1 No.
4) Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/-
5) Class of Contractor : "A" Class & "B" Class
6) Availability of Bid document in the Website : From 13.03.2024 11.00 AM to 21.03.2024 5.30 PM
7) Date of Opening of Bid : 22.03.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
8) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website [https://tendersorissa.gov.in](http://tendersorissa.gov.in).

9) Any Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation of will be displayed in the e-tender website only.

Chief Construction Engineer
Southern N.H Circle, Berhampur
OIPR-34148/11/0015/2324

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You may have every right to be pleased with your prowess at work. However, over the next few weeks you will have to face up to a number of hard choices which will affect your personal life and colour the way other people see you. An emotional adventure will be worth it.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Is there some way in which you can rearrange your work to reflect your creative aspirations? Certainly there are many intriguing ideas afoot, all of which could form the basis of an interesting experiment. Yet the results will not be clear for another two months at least.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You can ignore family pressures or domestic irritations no longer. Today's intense lunar angles will compel you to deal with all long-delayed questions coming to the fore. Don't expect instant agreement or approval. But, then, you are growing used to waiting.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Important discussions may be more difficult than you anticipate. The simple reason is that everybody seems to place such unrealistic hopes on the outcome. Stick to your guns for now, and keep a close eye on the reactions of people you live with.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Financial news may not be pleasing, but the net result could be positive if it enables you to reorganise your affairs. There are some commitments which cannot be changed, but you still have some room for movement. And that, at least, has to be the best news.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Today's planetary aspects will offer you a shot in the arm, shaking you out of any complacent corners or ruts you've been hiding in. Don't expect dramatic events just yet, you may have to wait a few more days before the lie of the land is completely clear.

Something may happen to worry or upset you. Perhaps you will feel that other people are blaming you unfairly for things you haven't done. However, such concerns are illusions which will be dispelled when the facts are known. But not till next week.

You'll enjoy social activities all the more if you are ready for anything - and happy to join in without worrying about the consequences. Don't be hung up on excessively conventional standards of behaviour. After all, you don't have to be the same as everyone else.

It is professional rather than private affairs which are the focus of your concern today. The last thing you want to do is get involved in a quite unnecessary public slanging match, so watch your step, and give partners time to catch up with your desires.

The planets are on your case so to speak. The cosmos is expecting you to do your duty by combining self-interest with your higher principles. Quite apart from such lofty questions, you are still experiencing powerful travel stars. Sometimes you just have to pack and get going.

Check out new investment opportunities, and don't be unduly concerned if a previous course of action now appears to be distinctly unpromising or unprofitable. Act fast but keep your options open, for although your planets are concealing their intentions at the moment, the wait is short.

There's a burst of turbulence in the cosmic atmosphere today, so expect stormy weather emotionally. Even if you keep your cool, partners are determined to pick a fight or provoke you somehow. And what you have to do is keep very calm and never rise to the bait.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Anjana Sinha Nee Mathur W/o Sh. Sanjib Kumar Sinha R/o B-21, Plot No. 24, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010 have changed my name to Anjana Sinha for all future purposes. 0040718274-1

I, Anita, R/o- Flat no. 302, Tower W-3, Vatika Lifestyle Homes, Sector-83, Gurgaon, Haryana-122004 have changed my name to Anita Bhargava. 0070892581-1

I Shubhamay Shit S/o Upendra Nath Shit R/o Ward No-1, Sabuj Sangha Club, Saratpally, Kharagpur (m), PO-India, Dist- Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal - 721035, have changed my name to Shubhamay Seth 0070892589-1

I Rajat Singh S/o Ajeet Singh R/o Turkapur (40), Gurgaon, Haryana-122503, have changed my name to Ankush 0070892585-1

I Nishant alias Nishant Mittal S/o Sh. Madan Lal Mittal R/o 233, Upper Ground Floor, Kohat Enclave, Pitampura, North West Delhi, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Nishant Mittal for all purposes. 0040718267-4

I Momina D/o Bunyad Ali and W/o Abdul Tawwab R/o 313/57, Old Plot No-31, First Floor, Anand Nagar, Inderlok, Oknkar Nagar, Delhi-110035, have changed my name to Seema Tawwab 0070892595-1

I Mohd Riyaz S/o MD Akhtar Khan R/o H.No.6172, Gali Baint Wali, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Riyaz Khan for all purposes. 0040718267-2

I Hereby known as Seema W/o. Jane Alam Khan R/o B-158, First Floor, Devli Road, Duggal Colony, Khanpur, New Delhi-110062, have added surname "Khan" on my name and shall hereafter be known as Seema Khan for all future purposes. 0040718274-5

I HITHERTO known as RAHIS AHMED alias RAHIS AHMED SAIFI alias RAHIS SAIFI S/o Abid Hussain R/o Flat No 138, Pkt GH-12, FDDA PSF, Paschim Vihar, Sunder Vihar, Delhi-87. My correct name is Rahis Ahmed and shall hereafter be known as RAHIS AHMED for all purposes. 0040718291-1

I Dhananjay Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Ram Pukar Singh R/o C-9/602, Surender Colony, Jharkota Part-1, Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed the name of my minor son from Ansh to Rudrash Singh for all purposes. 0040718267-5

I Deepthi Chauhan D/o Shri Sukpal Singh R/o A-304, Sector-47, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201303 have changed my name to Aanya Chauhan for all purposes. 0040718267-7

I Darshna Alias Darshna Devi D/o Arjun Singh and W/o Bheem Singh R/o House No.-435, Dobh, Rohtak, Haryana-124001, have changed my name to Botee Devi 0040718267-4

I Chetan Gupta alias Chetan Prakash Gupta alias Chetan Prakash S/o Sh. Tara Chand Gupta R/o A-6/5, First Floor, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063 have changed my name to Chetan Prakash for all purposes, on all occasions, and ubiquitously. 0040718267-6

I Anshul Grover alias Anshul Rohatgi D/o Sh. Rajender Lal Grover W/o Sh. Ashish Rohatgi R/o D-2, Ganpati Apartment, 6, Shammash Marg, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054 have changed my name to Anshul Rohatgi for all purposes. 0040718267-1

I Rekha Kumari W/o Sh. Ram Tirth, R/o 134-L, Model Town, Sonipat, Haryana-131001, have changed my name from Rekha Kumari to Rekha Kumari Ranga, for all future purposes. 0040718380-1

I It is for general information that I, Sumit Solanki, S/o Radhey Shyam Solanki, R/o 155, First-Floor, Admin Flats Nirmi Colony, Phase-4, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Sumit and Radhey Shyam in my 10th-Class Educational-Documents. The actual name of mine and my father are Sumit Solanki and Radhey Shyam Solanki. 0040718381-6

I, hitherto known as Shri Ram alias Shreeram Prajapati, S/o Jagdamra Prasad, R/o Qtr-449, Type-2, R.K Puram Sect-8, South West Delhi, Delhi-110022, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shri Ram. 0040718381-5

I, PRATHAM S/O LALA RAM R/O 20/27, KALYANPUR, DELHI-110091 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHUBH VERMA FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0070892640-1

I,hitherto known as KM MONIKA SINGH alias MONIKA,D/O DEVI SINGH,W/O LATE BALBIR SINGH,R/O House No.-15/G,F, Gurdayal-Vihar,Bakkar-Wala,West Delhi, Delhi-110041,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MONIKA. 0040718274-4

I,hitherto known as Babli Sharma alias Chandra Prabha,D/o Jagroshan,W/o Ram Niwas,R/o.H.No-1305,60-Foot Road,Balram Nagar,Loni Dehat,Ghaziabad,Uttar Pradesh-201102,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Chandra Prabha. 0040718281-7

I,Veena Garg W/o Nutan Parkash R/o.H.No-131, Shivaji-Park, Punjabi Bagh, West Delhi-110026,have changed my name to Veena Gupta. 0040718382-6

I,VIVEK S/O KAMAR SINGH,R/o 2753,G/F,GALI NO-6,CHUNA MANDI,Pahar Ganj,PO: Swami Ram Tirth-Nagar, DIST:Central-Delhi, Delhi-110055,have changed my name to VIVEK KANGRA,for all,future purposes 0040718315-4

I,VINOD CHANDRA,S/O LATE SHRILEKHA DUTT,R/O-G-18,GALI.NO.1A,SOM BAZAR ROAD,RAJA PURI,UTTAM NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110059,have changed my son's name from BHAVIK to BHAVIK CHANDRA BUDHORI,for all,future purposes. 0040718381-3

I,Trilochan Singh Flora,S/o Sh.Parkash Singh,R/o H.No.3414,Gali-No.249,Hansa Puri,Tri-Nagar,Delhi-110035,have change my name to Tarlochan Singh. 0040718315-3

I,TUSHAR,S/O.MANMOHAN GUPTA, ADD-411, KARDOOMA/VIKAS-MARG, OPP KARDOOMA METRO-STATION, EAST,DELHI-110029,changed my name to TUSHAR GUPTA,for all,future purposes. 0040718374-5

I,Shivender Aggarwal,S/O-Shri Sudesh Kumar Aggarwal,R/o-House No.52-53,3rd Floor,Pkt-14,Sector-24,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have Changed my name to Shivinder Aggarwal. 0040718382-1

I,SHAMBHOO NATH DUBEY,S/O INDERBHUSHAN DUBEY,R/O PLOT,N.O.A-1/82, FLAT NO.108,GALI NO.3,RAJA PURI,UTTAM NAGAR,WEST DELHI-110059,changed my name to SHAMBHU NATH DUBEY. 0040718374-1

I,Kriti Arora,W/o Rohit Mehta,House-No.62, H-34,Sector-3,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Kriti Mehta,for all purposes. 0040718374-3

I,Ramajot Singh S/o Gurcharan Singh,R/O-E-78, first-floor,Amar-Colony,Lajpat Nagar-4, New-Delhi-110024,have changed my name to Ramajot Singh Johar,for all Purposes. 0040718374-4

I,Rupshar Khatoon,D/o Israr Ahmad Khan,R/o Tamkuhi Raj,Kushinagar,UP-274407,have changed my name to RUKHSAR KHANAM,for all,future purposes. 0040718380-4

I,Ramanjot Singh S/O,Gurcharan Singh,R/O-E-78, first-floor,Amar-Colony,Lajpat Nagar-4, New-Delhi-110024,have changed my name to Ramajot Singh Johar,for all Purposes. 0040718374-5

I,Raj Kumar,S/O Late Sh.Babu Lal,R/O H.No.409,GH-13,Paschim-Vihar,New Delhi-110087, declare that the above address of mine is current,permanent and correct.My previous one was H.No.596/3,Paschim Puri, New-Delhi-110063. 0040718380-3

I,RAJESH KUMAR S/O SURINDER KUMAR R/O C-7/291-B,KESHAV PURAM,DELHI-110035.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJESH KUMAR JINDAL. 0040718287-7

I,Payal Saxena,D/o Shiv Kumar Gupta,R/o B/1 Triveni Apartment Vasundhara-Enclave Delhi-96,have changed my name to Payal Gupta,for all future purposes. 0040718380-2

I,Parveen Gupta,S/o Surajbhani Gupta,R/o H.No-E-64,Mansarovar-Park,Shahdara North-East-Delhi,Delhi-110032,have changed the name of my minor son Kanisha Gupta aged 13-years and he shall thereafter be known as Krishna Gupta. 0040718288-9

I,Nishi alias Nishi Choudhary D/o Jai Pal Singh R/o.H.No-18-A, Street-No,6,Near Sai-Mandir, Laxmi-Nagar, Delhi-110092,have changed my name to Nishi Choudhary. 0040718382-5

I,NOORSAHAB,W/O,MD ISMUDDIN,ADD-B-30,3RD-FLOOR,SHAHEEN BAGH ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE-II,SOUTH-DELHI 110025,changed my name to NOORSHABA,for all,future purposes. 0040718374-6

I,Munish Sharma S/O.Shiv Sharma,R/o Flat no.115, Sanskriti Appartment, Pocket-B, Dwarka Sector-19,New Delhi-110075,have changed my name to Manish Sharma,for all Purposes. 0040718288-1

I, N NEELIMA,WIFE OF, NUTHANAPAL MANOJ KUMAR,RESIDING AT,DOOR NO.218-3-317-2,SARADA NAGAR,2ND CROSS, ANANTHUP,ANDHRA PRADESH-515001.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM N NEELIMA TO VENKATANNAGARI NEELIMA,VIDE-AFFIDAVIT, DATED-06-MAR-2024. 0040718288-11

I,hitherto known as Shri Ram alias Shreeram Prajapati,S/o Jagdamra Prasad, R/o Qtr-449,Type-2,R.K Puram Sect-8, South West Delhi, Delhi-110022,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shri Ram. 0040718381-5

I, PRATHAM S/O LALA RAM R/O 20/27, KALYANPUR, DELHI-110091 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHUBH VERMA FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0070892640-1

I,hitherto known as KM MONIKA SINGH alias MONIKA,D/O DEVI SINGH,W/O LATE BALBIR SINGH,R/O House No.-15/G,F, Gurdayal-Vihar,Bakkar-Wala,West Delhi, Delhi-110041,have changed my name to Niyaz Malik. 0040718382-4

I,Mohammad Wazid Ali S/o MD Moinuddin R/o,H.No.47,Gali No.1,Baseela-Colony,Old-Faridabad, Faridabad, Haryana-121002,have changed my name to Niyaz Malik. 0040718382-2

I,Modhavi Devi Jalal,W/O.Rajender Singh R/O-E-432 DDA flat, Bindapur, Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059,have changed my name to Modhavi Devi,for all Purposes. 0040718288-4

I,MOHAMMAD TAJJUDIN,S/O Wasiuiddin,R/o-55-B Basti,Hazrat Nizamuddin,PO:Hazrat Nizamuddin,DIST:South Delhi,Delhi-110013,have changed my name to MOHD TAJUDDIN,for all,future purposes 0040718315-1

I,ANURAG KUMAR,S/O OMKAR SINGH, R/O,PLOT-NO-139,FLAT-NO-102,GYAN KHAND-1,INDIRAPURAM,GHAZIABAD,U TTAR PRADESH-201014,changed my name to ANURAG CHAUHAN. 0040718382-2

I,ANU GUPTA,W/O-SANJAY KUMAR GUPTA,R/O-F-25/84,SECTOR-3,ROHINI, DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANURADHA. 0040718315-5

I,VEDANT AGARWAL,S/O SHANIL KUMAR AGARWAL R/O B-198, YOJNA VIHAR, DELHI-92 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM VEDANT AGARWAL TO VEDANT AGARWAL FOR ALL PURPOSES IN FUTURE 0070892642-1

I,Zainab D/o Yakub R/o 2478, Gali Abdul Faasil Road Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Zainab Khan. 0040718381-1

I,SAFED G/S/O Sh.Des Raj, R/o-Flat No-170, Amarpal-Apartment, I.P.Extension, Patparganj,Delhi-110092,have changed my name from Suresh Garg to Suresh Kumar Garg,for all future purposes. 0040718288-2

I,JAHAN ARA,W/o SHEIKH AKRAM,R/o-L84/B-2nd Floor Abul Faazl Enclave-1 Jamia Nagar Okhla New Delhi-110025,have changed my name to ZAHIRA BIBI for all future purposes. 0040718315-2

I,Ishika Sarkar,D/o Rita Sarkar & Pallab Sarkar R/o New Delhi-110045,have changed my name to Naivriti Dityasha Sarkar,for all purposes. 0040718380-5

I,INDER PAL,S/O LATE SHRI BHAGWANT SINGH,R/o-B-9/171/A,S/F,BACK-SIDE,KH. NO.371,GALI NO.9 AND 10,BAHJANPURA, DELHI-110053,have changed my name to Inder Pal Singh,for all,future purposes. 0040718315-1

I,Santosh kumar Gupta S/o Ram Akshaiv Gupta, R/o Flat No. C-3, Third Floor, Plot No. 407, Sultanpur, New Delhi-110030 have severall the relations and debared his son Namshabhu Mansuri from all his movable and immovable properties due to his misconduct and hostile misbehavior. My client shall not be responsible for any acts/deeds in any criminal and civil activity of him in future. 0040718351-1

I,Subhash Gupta (Advocate) Enr No. D-446/2002 125, FIRST FLOOR, ANAND NAGAR, INDERLOK, DELHI-110035

I, Sadqa Firdaus, W/o MOHAMMAD SADIQUE ANJUM, R/O FLAT NO.116, 11TH FLOOR, TOWER 2, PALM OLYMPIA, SECTOR 16C GREATER NOIDA WEST, VTC: NOIDA PO: NOIDA, DISTRICT: GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, STATE: UTTAR PRADESH PIN CODE: 2013011 have changed my name to SADQUA FIRDAUS for future purpose 0040718351-1

I, Jasbir Singh,S/o Harvinder Singh,W-18 Mukherjee Park Tilak-Nagar Delhi,have changed my name to Jasbir Singh Sagg. 0040718288-1

I, Husna Hasan Ahmad D/o Mohammad Islam Hassan,R/o J-4/48,Khirkhi Extension, Malviya Nagar,New Delhi-110017,have changed my name to Husna Begum for all future purposes. 0040718381-4

I, HARSHWARDHAN SHARMA,S/O ALOK SHARMA,R/O FLAT NO.154, G-TOWER,GAUR CITY-2,NOIDA,GAUTAMBUDDHANAGAR,UTTAR PRADESH PIN CODE: 2013011 changed my name to AGAM SHARMA,for all,future purposes. 0040718382-2

I,Gagan Bedi S/O.Harish Bedi R/O-150,second-floor, M-block road,Vikaspuri,New Delhi-110018,have changed my minor daughter's name,from Simran Bedi to Namrit Bedi,for all Purposes. 0040718288-3

I, HARI RAM ALIAS HARI RAM BHARATI S/LATE JHINGURI R/o DDA FLAT NO.196-C, SECOND FLOOR, POCKET-C, MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-2, TRILOK PURI, DELHI-110091 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARI RAM BHARATI FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040718287-1

I, Ravinder Pratap Verma S/o Krishna Bihari Verma R/o G-12, Krishna Vihar Kutti, Bhopura Sahibabad Ghaziabad U.P-110094 have severall his relations with immediate effect his son RAHUL YADAV AND his wife SAPNA YADAV R/o D-41, SWAROOP NAGAR DELHI-110042, inform that I passed my 10th-grade examination through CBSE from Saikin School Manasbal (JAK), (Rm No.124754, Date of Birth 19.09.1997). My name is also marked on my 10th-grade marksheet & passing certificate. I am fully mentioned as RAHUL YADAV, mentioned as RAHUL YADAV & RAHUL YADAV. My correct name is RAHUL YADAV. Any person(s) mentioning will do at their own risk and responsibility and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by them.

I, Parvez Baruwa (Advocate) Seal No-19, Gajanan Block, Tis Hazari Court Delhi-54

I,Devarishi Das Gupta S/o Shyamal Das Gupta R/o F-211, Parsvnath Prestige, Sector-93A, Noida-201304,have changed my name to Devarishi Das Gupta for all Purposes. 0040718281-1

I,Monika Arora W/o Kunal Sobti, R/o B-596, Sudershan Park, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Monika Sobti. 0040718270-1

I, Mohammad Imran, S/o Mehboob Hussain, R/o N-15