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AHMEDABAD
8 JAN

BHOPAL
5 APR

CHANDIGARH
5 APR

HYDERABAD
6 MAR

JAIPUR
21 FEB

JODHPUR
7 MAR

LUCKNOW
12 MAR

PUNE
15 MAR

भोपाल
11 जून

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THE WORLD

TOP OF THE
WORLD



Qin Gang

CHINA

Former foreign minister quits as House member

Beijing: In a surprise move, former Chinese foreign minister Qin Gang, who went missing after he was unceremoniously sacked last year, resigned from China's national legislature ahead of its key annual session next week. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, which concluded its session here on Tuesday, said in a statement that the Tianjin Municipal People's Congress accepted Qin's resignation as a delegate to the upcoming annual parliamentary session Xinhua reported. Qin, 57, regarded as a close confidant of President Xi Jinping, was dismissed in July in a big political surprise just after seven months in office. He was rumoured to have been sacked for an extramarital affair. PTI

RUSSIA

30 months jail for co-chair of rights group

Moscow: A Moscow court on Tuesday sentenced a veteran human rights advocate who spoke out against the war in Ukraine to two years and six months in prison. He was taken directly into custody from the courtroom. Oleg Orlov, 70, was convicted of "repeatedly discrediting" the Russian army in an article he wrote denouncing the invasion of Ukraine. He has rejected the case against him as politically motivated. The verdict concluded a retrial after Orlov was earlier ordered to pay a fine. AP

UNITED STATES

Prosecutors seek gag order on Trump

New York: Prosecutors in Donald Trump's New York hush-money criminal case asked a judge Monday to impose a gag order on the former president ahead of next month's trial, citing what they called his "long history of making public and inflammatory remarks" about people involved in his legal cases. The Manhattan district attorney's office is seeking what it described as a "narrowly tailored" order that would bar Trump from making or directing others to make public statements about potential witnesses and jurors, as well as statements meant to interfere with or harass the court's staff, prosecution team or their families. AP

JAPAN

Newborns at a new low, fewer couples marry

Tokyo: The number of babies born in Japan last year fell for an eighth straight year to a new low, government data showed on Tuesday. The 758,631 babies born in Japan in 2023 were a 5.1 per cent decline from the previous year, according to the Health and Welfare Ministry. It was the lowest number of births since 1899. The number of marriages fell by 5.9% to 489,281 couples. AP



FINANCIER FROM A FAMILY BANKING DYNASTY

JACOB ROTHSCHILD DIES AT 87

Financier and philanthropist Jacob Rothschild, of the renowned Rothschild banking dynasty, has died at 87, his family said Monday. The Rothschild family has an estimated fortune of about 825 million pounds (\$1 billion), according to Sunday Times. AP

U.S. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS PREMATURE, BIG GAPS REMAIN: HAMAS

Hamas, Israel cautious after Biden says 40-day Gaza truce for Ramadan is close

Breakthrough yet to be reached:
Mediator Qatar

REUTERS
DUBAI/WASHINGTON/CAIRO,
FEBRUARY 27



Palestinians at the site of an Israeli strike in Rafah in southern Gaza on Tuesday. Reuters

ISRAEL AND

Hamas as well as Qatari mediators all sounded notes of caution Tuesday about progress towards a truce in Gaza, after US President Joe Biden said he believed a ceasefire could be reached in under a week to halt the war for Ramadan.

Hamas is now weighing a proposal, agreed by Israel at talks with mediators in Paris last week, for a ceasefire that would suspend fighting for 40 days, which would be the first extended truce of the five-month-old war. Both sides have delegations in Qatar this week hammering out details.

According to a source close to the talks, the Paris proposal would see militants free some but not all of the hostages they are holding,

in return for the release of hundreds of Palestinian detainees, a surge in humanitarian aid for Gaza and Israeli troops pulling out of populated areas.

"Ramadan is coming up, and there's been an agreement by the Israelis that they would not engage in activities during Ramadan, as well, in order to give us time to get all the hostages out," Biden said on NBC's "Late Night with Seth Meyers".

But Qatar, which has acted as the main mediator, said a breakthrough had yet to be reached.

Two Hamas officials said Biden's remarks appearing to suggest that a pact had already been reached in principle were premature. There were "still big gaps to be bridged", one of the Hamas officials told Reuters. "The primary and main issues of the ceasefire and the withdrawal of Israeli forces are not clearly stated."

Israel did not comment directly on Biden's remarks, but government spokesperson Tal Heinrich said any deal would still require Hamas to drop "outlandish demands". "We are willing. But the question remains whether Hamas are willing," she said. Israeli news website Ynet quoted unidentified senior Israeli officials as saying they did not understand "what (Biden's) optimism is based on". AP

'British Airways supervisor on the run in India over visa racket'

London: British police are working with their Indian counterparts to trace a British Airways supervisor believed to be on the run in India after his role in an alleged GBP 3 million visa scam from over five years came to light, according to a UK media report on Tuesday.

The Sun newspaper reports that the unnamed 24-year-old suspect worked at Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport and is said to have charged customers GBP 25,000 per trip to abuse a loophole and fly them across the British Airways (BA) network without crucial visa documents.

British police are said to be working with their Indian counterparts to try to trace the man, who reportedly vanished with his partner - a BA ground services staffer - after he was arrested on January 6 and released on bail. He is believed to have flown out to India where he has reportedly bought several properties. PTI



POLISH FARMERS PROTEST

Polish farmers protest against EU green policies that trim their production and grain imports from Ukraine, in Warsaw on Tuesday. Protests across Europe have made the farmers' plight a key theme for June 6-9 polls in 27-nation European Union. AP

Murdered Indian teen's kin accuse UK police of mismanagement

London: The families of British Indian teenager Grace O'Malley Kumar and her friend Barnaby Webber, who were stabbed to death near their university in Nottingham last year, have accused the police of "ongoing mismanagement" in their handling of the case.

The Kumar and Webber families issued a joint statement, reported in the Shropshire Star, to say they won't be silenced to ensure urgent changes are made at Nottinghamshire Police. They also criticised the force for holding an off-the-record press briefing last week, where journalists were told they could not report the information discussed. PTI

REUTERS
BERLIN/MOSCOW, FEB 27

GERMANY, BRITAIN and other European countries said Tuesday they had no plans to send ground troops to Ukraine, after France hinted at the possibility, and the Kremlin warned that any such move would inevitably lead to conflict between Russia and NATO.

French President Emmanuel Macron had said on Monday that Western allies should exclude no options in seeking to avert a Russian victory in Ukraine, though he stressed there was no consensus at this stage.

His comments come amid battlefield gains by Russian forces in eastern Ukraine and growing shortages of ammunition and manpower on the Ukrainian side. However, Germany, Britain, Spain, Poland and the Czech Republic dis-

REUTERS
ZELENSKY IN SAUDI TO PUSH FOR PEACE

Dubai: Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky arrived in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday with plans to visit the kingdom's powerful crown prince to push for a peace plan and the return of prisoners of war from Russia. AP

tanced themselves from any suggestion they might commit ground troops to Ukraine. "...There will be no ground troops, no soldiers on Ukrainian soil sent there by European countries or NATO states," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Tuesday.

German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius was equally adamant. "Boots on the ground is not an option for...Germany," Pistorius told reporters.

Seeking to clarify Macron's remarks, French Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne said the President had in mind sending troops for specific tasks such as helping on mine clearance, production of weapons on site, and cyberdefence.

The Kremlin issued a warning about what was at stake. "The very fact of discussing the possibility of sending certain contingents to Ukraine from NATO countries is a very important new element," spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Peskov said: "In that case, we would need to talk not about the probability, but about the inevitability (of a direct conflict)."

A White House official told Reuters that the US had no plans to send troops to fight in Ukraine, neither were there plans to send NATO troops to fight there.

A senior Ukrainian official welcomed talk of European nations sending troops to Ukraine.

India: Why UNSC is 'completely ineffective' in resolving conflict

United Nations: India has questioned why the UN Security Council has been rendered "completely ineffective" in resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict as New Delhi asserted that outdated structures need reform for multilateralism to be effective.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador, Ruchira Kamboj, raised the question at a UN General Assembly plenary meeting held to mark two years since the beginning of the Ukraine conflict.

"We need to avoid steps which endanger the possibility of dialogue and negotiations," she said. PTI



An voting centre in Detroit, Michigan, on Tuesday. Reuters

Michigan primaries: Gaza war shadow over Biden, Trump looks to beat Haley

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 27

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden's support for Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza is being put to a test on Tuesday in Michigan, home to a large Arab American constituency where Democratic voters have been urged to mark their primary ballots as "uncommitted" in protest.

Biden and Republican former President Donald Trump are expected to easily win their party's primaries on Tuesday. But the vote count for both is being closely watched for signs the candidates face wavering support within their own parties.

Voters trickled into a polling site Tuesday morning at an elementary school in Dearborn, a liberal city that is the epicenter of the pushback against Biden's Israel strategy. Of the seven voters

Reuters interviewed before 11 a.m., six said they were voting "uncommitted" and one said he was voting for Trump.

Many in Michigan's large Arab American community who supported Biden in 2020 are now outraged, along with some progressive Democrats, over what they assert is Biden's unwilling support for Israel's

REBELLION AGAINST Biden EXPLAINED

DEMOCRATS HAVE been broadly divided over Biden's vocal support of Israel in its war in Gaza. Some Jewish Americans, who largely voted for Democrats, have rallied behind Biden, a self-declared Zionist. Many younger Democrats and people of color oppose his approach, disturbed by a rising death toll in Gaza.

Gaza offensive, in which tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed.

Biden beat Trump in Michigan by 2.8 percentage points in the 2020 election.

Engage Action and Listen to Michigan say they're aiming for 10% of Michigan's Democratic primary voters to choose "uncommitted," Trump is expected to easily win the primary and the caucuses. Opinion polls show him holding an average statewide lead of nearly 57 percentage points over Haley, according to FiveThirtyEight.

Pak court indicts Imran, wife in canal land corruption case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, FEB 27

AN ACCOUNTABILITY court in Pakistan on Tuesday indicted jailed former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the 190 million pounds Al Qadir corruption case.

Judge Nasir Javed Rana conducted the hearing at Rawalpindi's high-security Adiala jail where Khan is incarcerated in multiple cases. The judge read the chargesheet in Khan and Bushra's presence in the courtroom.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had initiated an investigation against Khan, his wife, and others regarding the alleged acquisition of hundreds of canals of land under the name of Al Qadir University Trust, resulting in a reported loss of 190 million pounds to the exchequer.

The judge asked Khan if he was guilty or not while framing charges against him. "Why should I read the charge sheet when I know what's written in it?" Khan replied.

Both Khan and his wife then denied the charges.

Can Gabriel Attal win over France and fill Macron's shoes?

ROGER COHEN
PARIS, FEBRUARY 27

GABRIEL ATTAL, 34, is a new kind of French prime minister, at home with social media and revelations about his personal life; a natural communicator who reels off one-liners like "France rhymes with power" to assert his "authority," a favorite word.

Since taking office in early January, the boyish-looking Attal has waded into the countryside, far from his familiar haunts in the chic quarters of Paris; mudied his dress shoes; propped his notes on a choreographed bale

of hay; and calmed protesting farmers through adroit negotiation leavened by multiple concessions.

He has told rail workers threatening a strike that "working is a duty," not an everyday French admonition. He has told the National Assembly that he is the living proof of a changing France as "a prime minister who assumes his homosexuality."

The PM's mission, as conceived by an embattled President Emmanuel Macron, is clear: reverse the ascendancy of the far-right of Marine Le Pen before European Parliament polls in June and a French presidential



Prime Minister Gabriel Attal. Reuters

election just over three years from now.

Macron is term-limited and must leave office in 2027; the specter that haunts him is Le Pen as his successor. In Attal, he hopes to cultivate one of his own.

Neither Macron nor Attal ever saw a taboo he did not want to shatter. Macron was a one-man revolution when he came to power in 2017 at the age of 39.

"The question that looms is how far Macron will let Attal go without growing jealous," said Philippe Labro, an author.

A recent poll for Paris Match magazine showed Attal with a 47% approval rating, which is

high by French standards. Macron sank to 32%, with Le Pen at 43%.

Already the two men have parted company over Le Pen's National Rally. This month, Macron said he considers the party "outside the arc of the republic," broadly meaning anti-democratic, even as Attal declared that the "arc of the republic is the hemicycle" of the National Assembly and that he would work with all parties there, including the far-right party, which holds 89 seats.

Attal wants to become president and will do everything to achieve that," said Touraine, whose daughter was a friend of Attal in school.

At 29, in 2018, he became the youngest minister of a French Fifth Republic government as secretary of state for education, then the youngest education minister in 2023 and youngest prime minister in 2024. The task now before him is daunting. He wants to promote green energy against a wave of protests over the high cost of that. Not least, Attal must nurse his own fierce presidential ambitions while showing fealty to Macron, even as the jostling to succeed the president has already started. NYT



cbc 22201/13/031/23/24

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Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

CAA rules likely to be notified before poll code, to seek proof of India entry, religion

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE RULES for implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), which was enacted by Parliament in December 2019 and spawned protests in parts of the country, are likely to be notified within the next fortnight or so, sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said Tuesday.

"I cannot tell you the date, but they will be notified before the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) comes into force," an official of the MHA said.

The MCC comes into force when the Election Commission announces polls. It is expected that the Lok Sabha poll dates will be announced sometime next month.

Despite its enactment four years ago, the CAA could not be implemented because the rules were not notified.

Sources said the rules will specify the evidence needed for applicants to prove their credentials and eligibility for citizenship under the new law.

The CAA allows non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan to

apply for Indian citizenship through the naturalisation process — the applicants must belong to the Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Parsi, Jain and Buddhist communities. The legislation grants citizenship on the basis of the assumption that these communities faced religious persecution in these three Islamic countries.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

UPPER HOUSE

INSIDE

AAP NAMES 4 PICKS
FOR DELHI LS SEATS,
1 FOR HARYANA

FORMER SC JUDGE
A M KHANWILKAR IS
NEW LOKPAL CHIEF
PAGES 4, 14



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with astronauts-designate (from left) Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. PTI

Astronaut wings for Gaganyaan's IAF pilots, PM calls them 4 Shakti

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

SIX YEARS after he announced the decision to send Indians into space, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday presented to

the nation the four selected astronauts-designate who have been undergoing training under anonymity for the last four years.

The four candidates — Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair (47), Angad Pratap (41), Ajit Krishnan (41) and Wing Commander Shubhanshu

Shukla (38), all officers of the Indian Air Force — will follow in the footsteps of Rakesh Sharma, the first and only Indian to have travelled to space, way back in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

A STATUS CHECK P18

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RS POLLS: BJP 10, CONG 3, SP 2

BJP stuns Cong in Himachal, SP in UP as many MLAs cross-vote

CM Sukhu in trouble after Singhvi loses tie-breaker, party rushing observers

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

SENDING A worrying signal to the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh, party candidate and Congress Working Committee member Abhishek Manu Singhvi was defeated Tuesday in the election for the lone Rajya Sabha seat from the state after nine MLAs — six from Congress and three Independents — voted against him, resulting in the victory of the BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan.

In Uttar Pradesh, Congress's INDIA bloc ally Samajwadi Party too took a hit after at least seven of its MLAs cross-voted in favour of the BJP, resulting in the defeat of

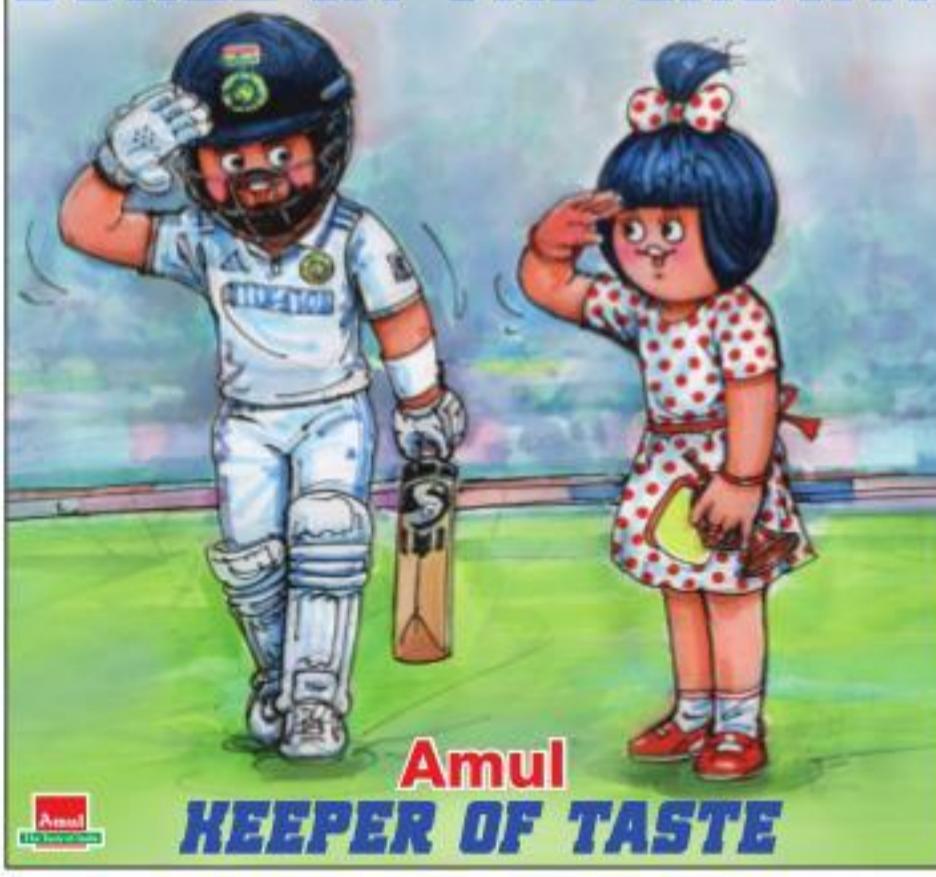
E EXPLAINED Key test before Lok Sabha polls

THE RAJYA Sabha elections for 15 seats in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka were an acid test for the parties in the countdown to the Lok Sabha elections which are likely to be announced next month. This is also the time when alignments are being formed.

one of the SP's three candidates. In all, the BJP won 10 of the 15 Rajya Sabha seats in UP,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

JUREL IN THE CROWN



dmcunha/AB/335

10,000 human genomes sequenced in India: Govt

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

sive genetic map of India, which holds immense potential for clinicians and researchers alike.

"Sequencing 10,000 genomes and creating an Indian repository is a big achievement. The first whole human genome sequence was announced in 2003. It was completed over 13 years at the cost of \$3 billion. The technology has come a long way, allowing us to sequence thousands of genomes in a matter of

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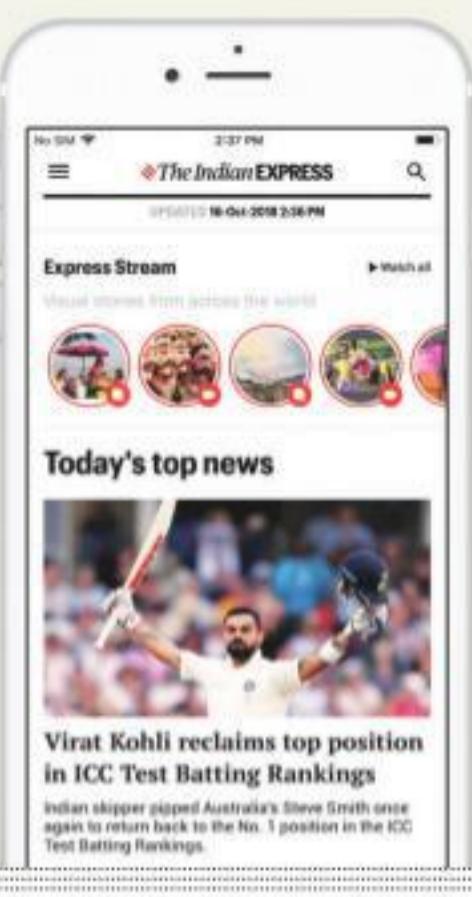
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LIFESTYLE



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EXPRESS AUDIO

Express National and International Sports News Update

England, under Ben Stokes, suffers first Test series defeat against India in Ranchi; Rare 4-0 hockey match has different goal-scorers; Pramod Bhagat stages a comeback at Para World Championships in Thailand; and more.

Cong loses another leader to BJP in Gujarat as former MP, son jump ship

ADITI RAJA
VADODARA, FEBRUARY 27

THE CONGRESS on Tuesday continued to lose leaders in Gujarat as five-time Lok Sabha MP and outgoing Rajya Sabha member Naran Rathwa, his son Sangramsinh, and Ahmedabad Congress leader Dharmendra Patel were among several who joined the BJP at an event in Gandhinagar. In the last two months, the Congress has lost MLA Chirag Patel and Assembly chief whip C J Chavda to the BJP.

One of the Congress's tribal faces in Gujarat, Rathwa is a former Union Minister and was a close aide of the late Ahmed Patel. His absence is expected to further dent the Congress in Chhota Udepur district.

The Rathwa father-son duo said they decided to quit the party because of "demoralisation from lack of decision-making".

Rathwa began his career with Janata Dal and served as vice president of the then Baroda district unit. He was elected to Lok Sabha in 1989 on a Janata Dal ticket. Two years later, he switched to the Congress and won his second term. He won the parliamentary polls in 1996 and 1998 but lost to the BJP's Ramsinh Rathwa in 1999. He returned to Parliament five years later and served as Minister of State for Railways in the UPA 1 government. Five years later, he lost to Ramsinh and moved to organisational work. In 2018, the party sent him to Rajya Sabha.

The BJP, which had earlier struggled to find a face in Chhota Udepur, will now feel it is in a "better position" to pick candidates for the coming elections, party insiders said. This will also further weaken the Congress that had only Rathwa and former Leader of Opposition Sukhram Rathwa to bank on in Chhota Udepur. Sukhram Rathwa too has been keeping a low profile.

Sangramsinh is the veteran leader's successor and there had been speculation that the former MP was in talks with the BJP for a Lok Sabha ticket for his son.

Sangramsinh unsuccessfully contested the 2022 polls from Chhota Udepur, losing to Sukhram Rathwa's son-in-law Rajendrasinh.

Rajendrasinh quit the Congress and moved to the BJP a month before the Assembly polls along with his father and 10-term Congress MLA Mohansinh Rathwa.

After joining the BJP on Tuesday, Naran Rathwa said, "I am not upset with the Congress. I am influenced by the developmental politics of Prime Minister Narendra Modi... I am satisfied with the funds allocated by the Centre to Chhota Udepur district for development; we can work better and stronger together..."

Sangramsinh told *The Indian Express* that the Congress's main problem was that it had been unable to rebuild after the 2022 poll drubbing. "It is because there is no decision-making and effort... Rahul Gandhi is on a Nyay Yatra across the country, but there is no 'nyay (justice)' in the party. The educated youth of the party are not being given any responsibility..."

Responding to the comments, state Congress spokesperson Dr Manish Doshi said, "The Congress has given tickets for Lok Sabha, Assembly as well as Municipality elections to Naran Rathwa, Parsi, Jain or Buddhist while acquiring that document before December 31, 2014.

"For example, if someone enrolled his children in a government school, he would have declared the religion. If someone

with Singhvi and getting elected through a draw of lots.

The BJP claimed the ruling party had lost its majority and demanded the resignation of Sukhu.

Within the Congress, there was a crisis with those voting against Singhvi, the "outsider" candidate fielded by the party high command, also said to be unhappy with Sukhu's style of functioning.

Making matters worse has been the factional feud between camps led by Sukhu and PCC president Pratibha Singh, wife of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh, and son Vikramaditya Singh.

During the day, Singh said several Congress MLAs were unhappy and senior party leader Rajinder Rana, among those who cross-voted, should have been accommodated in the ministry, exposing the deep divisions in the party.

Sources said Sukhu had proposed the name of senior leader

Anand Sharma, who hails from Himachal Pradesh, as the candidate but the high command chose to field Singhvi.

Speaking to reporters after Singhvi's defeat, Sukhu said his government has not lost majority and that majority is tested on the floor of the House. He said the people of the state would never pardon the six Congress MLAs who "sold their man" (faith).

With a glum Sukhu by his side, Singhvi said the nine MLAs taught him "a lot about human nature" and its "fickleness". "They have taught us a lot because they supplied us with us... dinner, drinks and photography until 11 pm last night and two of them had breakfast with us. So we are bad judges of human character. They are obviously better judges of human character," he said.

He also slammed the BJP, accusing it of following the policy of trying to win the election by hook or crook.

Earlier in the day, Sukhu

claimed that a "convoy of CRPF and Haryana Police" had "taken away six of the Congress MLAs".

Leader of the Opposition Jairam Thakur said the Sukhu government had lost its mandate. "I demand that the Chief Minister resign immediately. This government does not have a majority now," he said.

On whether his government was confident of passing the Budget Wednesday, Sukhu said, "Budget ka samay jaise parishiti hogi apko us time pase lagegi ya will get to know the situation at the time of the Budget."

There was high drama in Uttar Pradesh as well. Elections to 10 Rajya Sabha seats in the state saw at least seven SP MLAs cross-voting and the party's chief whip Manoj Pandey quitting while polling was still underway.

The SPMLAs who were said to have cross-voted were Pandey, Rakesh Pratap Singh, Abhay Singh, Rakesh Pandey, Pooja Pal, Vinod Chaturvedi and Ashutosh

Maurya. An upset SP chief Akhilesh Yadav accused the BJP of "luring" its MLAs and of stopping at nothing.

The BJP managed to get its eight candidates elected while the SP's two candidates — actor MP Jaya Bachchan and Dalit leader Ramji Lal Suman — won and the third — retired IAS officer Alok Ranjan — lost.

The BJP winners were former Union minister R P N Singh, former MP Chaudhary Tejveer Singh, general secretary of the party's Uttar Pradesh unit Amarpal Maurya, former state minister Sangeeta Balwant (Bind), party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi, former MLA Sadhna Singh, former Agra mayor Naveen Jain and industrialist Sanjay Seth.

Rakesh Pratap Singh, SP MLA from Gosaiganj Assembly seat, said he would not reveal whom he had voted for before casting his vote, but also added: "Bhagwan Ram hamare aardhya hain, hum to unhi ke kul khanda ke hain (Ram is our Lord, we are from his own family.)"

In Karnataka, the results were on expected lines. The three candidates fielded by the ruling Congress — AICC treasurer Ajay Maken, G C Chandrasekhar and Syed Naseer Hussain — won and so did BJP's Narayana K Bhandage.

Five candidates were in the fray for the four seats in the elections, including JD(S) contestant D Kupendra Reddy. In Karnataka too, the elections were marred by cross-voting. While one of the BJP MLAs, S T Somashekhar, voted for Congress's Maken, the other, A Shivaraj Hebbar, abstained.

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

BJP stuns Cong in Himachal, SP in UP as many MLAs cross-vote

Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh. The Congress managed three and the SP two. The elections were marred by cross-voting, allegations and counter allegations.

Hours after Singhvi's embarrassing defeat, the Congress high command decided to depose senior leaders Bhopinder Singh Hooda and DK Shivakumar as observers to Himachal Pradesh. The immediate priority is to get the Finance Bill passed Wednesday. Sources said a section of the MLAs are demanding the removal of Sukhinder Singh Sukhu as the Chief Minister and the two leaders will speak to all the MLAs to gauge their mind in the days ahead.

In the Himachal House of 68, the Congress had 40 MLAs and the backing of three Independents as opposed to the 25 of the BJP.

Despite the big gap, BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan, a former Congress leader who quit the party and joined the BJP in 2022, secured 34 votes, resulting in a tie.

Sources said Sukhu had proposed the name of senior leader

with Singhvi and getting elected through a draw of lots.

The BJP claimed the ruling party had lost its majority and demanded the resignation of Sukhu.

Within the Congress, there was a crisis with those voting against Singhvi, the "outsider" candidate fielded by the party high command, also said to be unhappy with Sukhu's style of functioning.

Making matters worse has been the factional feud between camps led by Sukhu and PCC president Pratibha Singh, wife of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh, and son Vikramaditya Singh.

During the day, Singh said several Congress MLAs were unhappy and senior party leader Rajinder Rana, among those who cross-voted, should have been accommodated in the ministry, exposing the deep divisions in the party.

Sources said Sukhu had proposed the name of senior leader

Anand Sharma, who hails from Himachal Pradesh, as the candidate but the high command chose to field Singhvi.

Speaking to reporters after Singhvi's defeat, Sukhu said his government has not lost majority and that majority is tested on the floor of the House. He said the people of the state would never pardon the six Congress MLAs who "sold their man" (faith).

With a glum Sukhu by his side, Singhvi said the nine MLAs taught him "a lot about human nature" and its "fickleness". "They have taught us a lot because they supplied us with us... dinner, drinks and photography until 11 pm last night and two of them had breakfast with us. So we are bad judges of human character. They are obviously better judges of human character," he said.

He also slammed the BJP, accusing it of following the policy of trying to win the election by hook or crook.

Earlier in the day, Sukhu

CAA rules likely to be notified before poll code, to seek proof of India entry, religion

Sources said the rules to be notified soon will deal with the issue of documents needed to prove that the applicant came from Pakistan or Afghanistan or Bangladesh before December 31, 2014 and belongs to one of the religions mentioned in the Act.

This, sources said, can be done by producing any government document from India through which the applicant can prove that he or she declared her religion as Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Parsi, Jain or Buddhist while acquiring that document before December 31, 2014.

"For example, if someone enrolled his children in a government school, he would have declared the religion. If someone

acquired Aadhaar before December 31, 2014 and declared his or her religion as one among the six mentioned in the Act, it will be acceptable. Likewise, any form of government document declaring religion will be accepted," the sources said.

The MHA, sources said, may also accept a demand from Assam that an application for citizenship under the CAA is time-bound. Assam had asked the MHA to limit the time period for applying under CAA to three months as it felt keeping it open-ended could accentuate anxieties over the CAA in the state.

The rules are not likely to ask for evidence of religious persecution but will presume that all

those who came to India did so because they either faced persecution or had fear of being persecuted.

In recent months, several Central ministers have declared that the CAA will be implemented before the Lok Sabha polls.

On December 26, 2023, addressing a gathering of BJP workers in West Bengal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said: "Didi (Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee) often misleads our refugee brothers regarding the CAA. Let me make it clear that the CAA is the law of the land, and no one can stop it. Everybody is going to get citizenship. This is our party's commitment."

The Express Adda is a series of informal interactions organised by *The Indian Express* Group and features those at the centre of change. Previous guests at the Adda include External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and motivational strategist Gaur Gopal Das.

with independent charge for Corporate Affairs and Minister of State for Finance before she was elevated to the post of Defence Minister. In the present government, Sitharaman heads the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs ministries.

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Emphasising the significance of this mission, he noted that an Indian was ready to venture into space after four decades. "This time around, the countdown, the timing, and even the rocket would be ours," he declared.

Modi also expressed pride that most of the components for the Gaganyaan mission have been manufactured in India, underscoring the nation's self-reliance in space exploration.

Lauding their dedication and spirit towards training, he said the four pilots are representatives of India's "Amrit generation" that never gives up and shows the strength to challenge all adversities. He also noted the role of yoga as part of the training module.

"In this Amrit Kaal, an Indian astronaut will land on the Moon in an Indian rocket," he said. "All of you are opening new doors of future possibilities," he told the ISRO team.

The entire dataset -- which adds up to 8 petabytes of data -- will be stored at the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) and will be made available as a digital public good or research.

Inaugurated in 2022, the IBDC is the country's only database. Prior to that Indian researchers had to host their biological datasets on American or European servers.

Astronaut wings for Gaganyaan's IAF pilots

1984, in a Russian spacecraft. (Two Indian-Americans — Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams — have also been to space on NASA missions.)

One of the four IAF pilots is likely to fly to the International Space Station later this year as part of a NASA mission, following an agreement between the space agencies of India and the United States last year. The others would be part of the Gaganyaan mission, India's first manned space flight that is currently scheduled for next year. The space capsule for Gaganyaan has the capacity to carry three astronauts, but it has not yet been finalised whether two or three astronauts would be sent on that mission.

Hailing the four officers at a function at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre at Thumba near Thiruvananthapuram, Modi called them "four Shakti" and bestowed the prestigious 'astronaut wings' on them. "They are not just four names or individuals, they are four 'Shakti'.. carrying the aspirations of 140 crore Indians into space," he said, asking the audience to give a standing ovation to the pilots.

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The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had started planning for a human spaceflight mission way back in 2004 but the real possibilities opened up only after the success of Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan missions, and the development

MARRIED TO GP CAPT PRASANTH: ACTOR

IN A social media post on Tuesday, Malayalam actor Lena announced that she married Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, one of the four selected for the Gaganyaan mission, on January 17 this year.

ENS

of the GSLV rocket in the last one decade.

The Gaganyaan mission was originally scheduled for a launch in 2022, to coincide with 75 years of India's independence, but that schedule got derailed because of the Covid pandemic.

Car hits bike, drags it for 500 metres in Gurgaon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 27

A MAN was injured after his bike was hit by a car which later dragged the vehicle — after he had fallen off it — for 500 metres Monday night in Gurgaon.

According to police, around 11 pm, a TATA NEXON hit a motorcycle. The rider was thrown off while the bike got stuck under the car and was dragged for a few hundred metres.

In a purported video of the incident, sparks fly as the car drags the bike along with it. CCTV footage of the incident also shows parts of the bike falling off along the road. The vehicle was totally mangled when police recovered it.

Police said the injured man, Sanjay Kumar (49), who is a Sector 9 resident, was taken to Sector 10 civil hospital and referred to Safdarjung Hospital for treatment.

"An FIR has been registered and the two vehicles have been recovered from the spot. Passersby said the driver was unaware that he had dragged the two-wheeler and when he found out, he left the car at the spot and fled. We are looking into the matter and the victim's statement has been recorded," said the IO, ASI Krishan Kumar.

He added that the FIR has been registered under IPC sections 279, 338, 427.

The victim sustained injuries along with a fracture in his left leg. Sanjay alleged that the car was speeding and hit him when he was crossing the road. "The car hit me and I fell unconscious. Later, I saw people calling my family," he claimed.

Sanjay's brother, Tevinder Kumar, said they were informed around 11.30 pm: "I went to the hospital and on Tuesday, we were told to take him to Safdarjung Hospital as his condition was still serious."

Kumar runs a Puma outlet in Sector 14 and was returning home when he met with the accident.

Girl mauled to death by dogs: NHRC notice to Delhi govt, police

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission has taken suo moto cognisance of media reports detailing the death of a one-and-a-half-year-old girl after she was mauled by a pack of stray dogs in Central Delhi. It directed the Chief Secretary, GNCTD, the NDMC

Commissioner and Delhi Police chief to submit a report in 6 weeks.

Meanwhile, an animal rights outfit raised questions on the case.

In a statement to the press, it asked why police could not manage to find any eyewitness to the incident. It also claimed the family

owned a pet dog, which they alleged could be behind the incident.

In response, DCP (New Delhi) Devesh Mahla said CCTV footage

is being scanned in the matter and appropriate action will be taken based on the facts which surface thereafter. ENS



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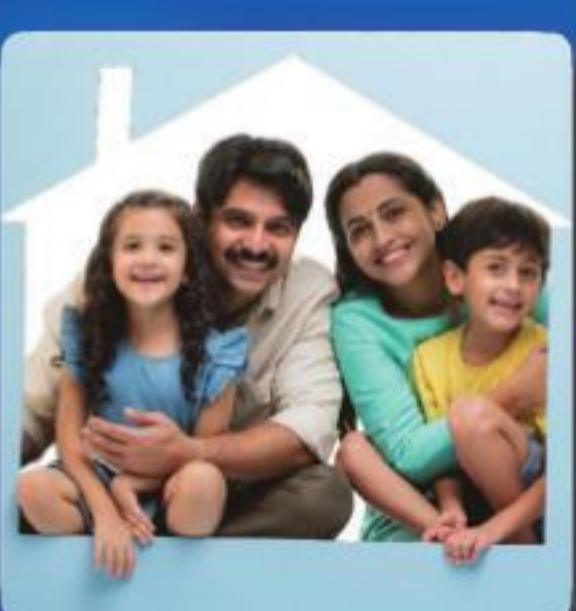
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Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Government of India



Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Government of India

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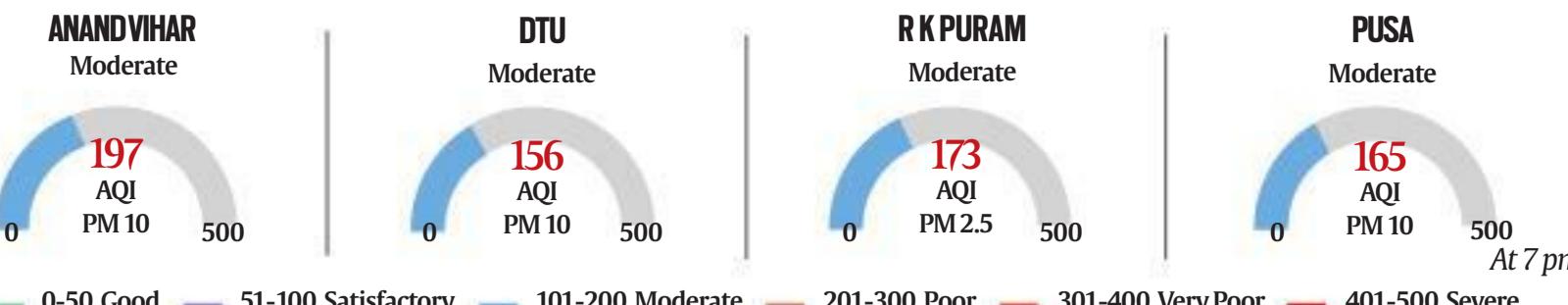
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LOK SABHA POLLS: CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

4 for Delhi, 1 in Haryana: AAP list is out

GAYATHRI MANI & MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

DAYS AFTER finalising its seat-sharing pact with the Congress for five states, including Delhi, the AAP has declared the names of five candidates for Delhi and Haryana for the Lok Sabha polls.

In the mix are Malviya Nagar MLA Somnath Bharti from New Delhi, Tughlakabad MLA Sahi Ram from South Delhi, Kondli MLA Kuldeep Kumar from East Delhi, and former MP and MLA (from Congress) Mahabal Mishra from West. The Congress will contest from Chandni Chowk, Northwest and Northeast Delhi seats but has not declared its candidates yet. BJP, too, has not released names.

AAP has not repeated a single candidate that it fielded in 2019, when no MLAs were given tickets. The party had fielded Raghav Chadha (South), Atishi (East), Brrijesh Goyal (New Delhi), Balbir Singh Jhakar (West), Pankaj Gupta (Chandni Chowk), Guggan Singh (Northwest) and Dilip Pandey (Northeast). AAP National Convenor and CM Arvind Kejriwal released a video on X to congratulate all four candidates. On the decision to field Kumar, who belongs to the Scheduled Caste community, from East Delhi, which is a general seat, Kejriwal said, "No party had ever fielded a candidate from the SC community on a general category seat before. The AAP does not believe in casteism."

Pointing out that this is not the first time AAP has fielded a candidate from a humble background, he added, "Monu (Kuldeep) is the son of a sanitation worker and comes from a poor family. He was a councillor before... We are confident all our candidates will win by a huge margin."

The decision was made at AAP's Political Affairs Committee meeting Tuesday afternoon.

"Candidates have been selected after a survey, studies and calculations... Now, a total of 10 candidates have been declared... We will soon announce candidates for Punjab..." AAP Delhi convener Gopal Rai said.

The party also declared former MP Sushil Gupta as its candidate from Kurukshetra in Haryana.

"All these candidates have a good public image... If you ask about them in their constituency, people will tell you about them," said AAP leader Sandeep Pathak.

Kejriwal, meanwhile, called BJP's claims of winning 370 seats in the elections "nonsense". "It would be a very big thing if they even cross 270 seats, let alone 370," he said during a summit hosted by TV9 Network.

He also said he was not satisfied with the way the seat-sharing agreement had progressed: "Some movement has happened now but I'm not satisfied. I think many activities should have happened much earlier but they did not... The Congress is leading the INDIA bloc, it should have taken the initiative..."

Winning the polls, however, will be an uphill battle for the INDIA bloc. All seven seats in Delhi are held by the BJP at present, with each candidate having won by a margin of over 50% in 2019.

"When names of MLAs were floated as candidates before the 2019 polls, there was opposition. Now the thought process seems to have changed. Based on past performance, AAP is the strongest in South and Northwest Delhi, though the latter will be contested by Congress. The biggest challenge is East Delhi, where the party's performance has been weak, even in MCD polls," a source said.

Delhi BJP chief, Virendra Sachdeva, meanwhile, said AAP's candidate selection showed it was putting up only a "symbolic fight".



AAP PAC member Sandeep Pathak, Cabinet ministers Atishi and Gopal Rai address a press conference to announce names of candidates in Delhi on Tuesday. Praveen Khanna

The contenders: DJB V-C, Sisodia loyalist, ex-Cong veteran, Gujjar face

Here is a look at the AAP's Delhi candidates for the upcoming polls:

SOMNATH BHARTI (49):

Fielded from New Delhi, he has been associated with the AAP since its inception and has been winning from the Malviya Nagar Assembly constituency for the last three consecutive terms. In the 2020 Assembly polls, he defeated the BJP and Congress candidates by a huge margin, garnering 57.97% votes.

Bharti is currently the DJB vice-chairman, and is considered popular in his constituency. A lawyer, Bharti is an IIT graduate. In the first 49-day Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government, he served as a minister handling portfolios of Law, Tourism, Administrative Reforms, Art and Culture.

Bharti had also been embroiled in rows over vigilantism and a domestic violence case filed against him by his wife. In the 2019 polls, AAP had nominated Brrijesh Goyal from the New Delhi seat against BJP's Meenakshi Lekhi.

KULDEEP KUMAR (30):

He is a Dalit leader, who has been on the rise within AAP. He has been given a ticket from East Delhi. He has been closely associated with ex-deputy CM Manish Sisodia. After his arrest, Kuldeep's name made



Somnath Bharti, Kuldeep Kumar, Mahabal Mishra, Sahi Ram Pehalwan

the rounds as a possible ministerial candidate.

A DU graduate, Kuldeep is currently the Kondli MLA. He also has influence in East Delhi as he has served as the councilor from the Kalyanpur ward.

He was vocal against BJP as the Leader of Opposition in the erstwhile East MCD. He is also AAP's Delhi unit vice-president. In the 2019 polls, AAP had fielded Atishi, from East Delhi against BJP's Gautam Gambhir.

MAHABAL MISHRA (70):

A former Congress leader, he is the senior-most among the four AAP nominees. A known face in the rural belt of Delhi, Mishra has been given a ticket from West Delhi.

Before leaving Congress to join AAP in November 2022, Mishra was a former West Delhi MP. He had also been an MLA thrice on the Congress's ticket. His son Vinay is the AAP MLA from Dwarka.

Sources said AAP inducted Mahabal on the promise of giving him a Lok Sabha ticket.

In the previous poll, the AAP had fielded Balbir Singh Jhakar from West Delhi, who was defeated by the BJP's Parvesh Singh Verma.

SAHI RAM PEHALWAN:

AAP's candidate from South Delhi, he is a Gujarati leader and second-term MLA from Tughlakabad. One of the senior-most AAP leaders, he had earlier been with the BSP and a two-time councillor.

He had also been the Deputy Mayor of the erstwhile South MCD. AAP sources said he has been given the ticket with an eye on the Gujjar community, whose population is sizeable in South Delhi constituency. AAP had fielded Raghav Chadha, its Rajya Sabha MP, from this seat in 2019 against BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri.

-GAYATHRI MANI



On Tuesday, Delhi's AQI was at 159, in the 'moderate' category. Praveen Khanna

No more 'poor': Curbs to tackle pollution withdrawn in Capital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

WITH DELHI'S air quality being recorded in the 'moderate' range for the past six days, all measures to control pollution in Delhi-NCR, as per the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), have now been withdrawn.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), a statutory body responsible for formulating air pollution reduction strategies for the region and overseeing the implementation, said its sub-committee has made this decision during a meeting convened to review the air pollution situation. CAQM looked at the overall air quality of Delhi over the past few days, and said that since it has remained below the 200-mark or the "poor" range, the measures can be withdrawn.

The measures had been in place since October 2023, and were upgraded or downgraded based on the air quality index (AQI) of the region.

Delhi's AQI on Tuesday was recorded at 159 in the "moderate" category. The AQI has not touched the 200-mark since February 21; with the improvement due to an increase in temperature and wind speeds. On Tuesday, Delhi also received traces of rainfall, which helped improve the air quality further. The maximum temperature on Tuesday was recorded at 25.4 degrees Celsius, a degree below normal and the minimum at 12.3 degrees Celsius, normal for this time of the year.

Forecasts for meteorological conditions and AQI also indicate

that Delhi's overall AQI will remain in the "moderate" category in the coming days, said CAQM in a statement. Light rainfall is expected over the weekend as well.

CAQM, however, directed all agencies concerned in Delhi-NCR to ensure earnest compliance with its statutory directions, advisories, and orders.

Under GRAP, AQI is categorized into four stages: Stage I - 'Poor' (AQI 201-300); Stage II - 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400); Stage III - 'Severe' (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV - 'Severe Plus' (AQI 450+). Under the first stage of GRAP, most directions are to enforce existing dust mitigation, waste burning, and construction-related measures. It also includes a ban on construction and demolition in plots that are over 500 sqm in area that have not registered with the respective state governments. Other directions under GRAP I are to minimise power supply interruptions in NCR and ensuring that diesel generator sets are not used as regular source of power supply.

BRIEFLY

L-G launches DDA sports complex

New Delhi: Delhi L-G V K Saxena on Tuesday inaugurated a DDA sports complex at Qutubgarh village, which has been adopted by him to develop as a model village, said officials. The foundation stone of the sports complex was laid in October 2023, and the entire project has been completed at a cost of Rs 2.5 crore, read an official statement. The Delhi Development Authority, in a post on X, said, "Hon'ble @LtGovDelhi, Sh V K Saxena inaugurated #DDA Sports Complex in Qutubgarh Model Village, Delhi along with Hon'ble MP Sh @hansrajhansHRH. The complex has extensive amenities like volleyball, badminton, and kabaddi courts for male and female players, an open gym and jogging tracks." Appreciating the DDA's role in transforming Qutubgarh, the L-G said that he aims to build a sports complex in every village in Delhi. PTI

Cyber fraud: 4 arrested for duping people

Gurgaon: Four men, including three bank officials, have been arrested for scamming people and helping the main accused facilitate payments, said police. A resident of Gurgaon has filed a complaint with the Cyber Crime police station in Manesar, alleging that on November 18 last year, he had received a phone call from a person who posed as his friend 'Devendra'. The caller claimed that his son was admitted to a hospital and asked for Rs 10,000. The complainant got a UPI ID from the caller, which he clicked and paid him the money. He later realised that he was duped. Police have arrested all four accused involved in facilitating bank accounts for cyber crooks Mohit Rathi (25), Vishwakarma Maurya (28), Mahesh Kumar (27), and Hayat (22).

Express News Service
GHAZIABAD, FEBRUARY 27

paper.indianexpress.com



CAPITAL ART

Celebrating 75 years of diplomatic ties between Sweden and India, the Embassy of Sweden in New Delhi unveiled a mural art project in Khan Market on Monday. It is a result of efforts by Delhi Street Art and Swedish artist Jonathan Josefsson from Gothenburg, and was inaugurated by the Ambassador of Sweden to India, Jan Thesleff, along with Director General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations Kumar Tuhin and family members of the late founder of Delhi Street Art, Yogesh Saini. Abhinav Saha

Woman jumps to death after husband dies of heart attack



Abhishek and Anjali

With us... she suddenly ran to the balcony, climbed on a chair and jumped... Abhishek died of a heart attack... when he experienced chest pain, he called his friends in Vaishali who took him to GTB hospital, but they referred him to Safdarjung Hospital... doctors said they tried their best but couldn't save him..." he said.

Babita, a relative, said he had tried to stop Anjali: "We had just arrived with her husband's body. She cried for a while before she suddenly ran towards the balcony. I ran after her and tried to hold onto her, but she slipped from my grasp and jumped down."

"Initially, Anjali was sitting

HC to Delhi govt:
Fill vacancies in two child welfare bodies by April 15

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE DELHI High Court recently directed the state government to complete the selection process for Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) by April 15, failing which, the Chief Secretary of Delhi shall appear before it on the next date of hearing to explain why the court's order has not been complied with.

The direction came while the HC was hearing a plea by NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan, seeking a direction to the Delhi government to expeditiously fill vacant positions of chairpersons and members in CWCs in the Capital, within a fixed time period. The plea was filed in a 2018 pending suo motu petition, initiated by the HC in pursuance to a SC judgment relating to deficiencies in the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

The bench was informed that in six out of 11 CWCs, positions of chairpersons and most of members were vacant as of December 31, and are operating with acting chairpersons, with 16 vacant members' posts.

DELAY DUE TO WATER MINISTER ATISHI: CHIEF SECY HITS BACK

Centre, L-G impeding water bill settlement scheme, says Bharadwaj

UPASIKA SINGHAL & MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

DELHI'S URBAN Development Minister Saubhagya Bharadwaj has accused officers and the central government of impeding the one-time settlement policy, proposed by the state government, for those who have received inflated water bills.

Sources, however, said that Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar wrote a letter to Bharadwaj on Tuesday, saying that the delay was due to the current Water Minister, Atishi, not clearing the minutes of the meeting regarding the scheme.

Sources said while the matter pertained to a draft cabinet note received from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) in July 2023, the file was submitted for the approval of Bharadwaj in August last year, and remained pending for four months. "In January, Bharadwaj directed that the file be returned to DJB as it was reworking the settlement scheme. A meeting was held on January 17. The Water Minister wrote in a note a

day later that despite several discussions, no concrete changes were made and put up before the Board. DJB, however, said in a February 23 status note that the minutes of the January 17 meeting were still pending with the minister," said an official.

The Delhi government, in its response, said that officers were working "under the influence of the Lieutenant Governor and the BJP", and were stalling the implementation of the one-time

settlement scheme.

"The people of Delhi are watching how BJP is working against the interests of Delhi, and how officers are making up new excuses everyday... The DJB, after long deliberations, had finalised the one-time settlement scheme. Earlier, it was a view that DJB officers will rework the policy, and hence, the file was sent back to DJB so that changes could be made in the policy. However, even after so much

time, DJB could not arrive at any new scheme," said the Delhi government in a statement.

It also said that the DJB chairman had decided that the policy approved by DJB on June 13, 2023, may be considered to be placed before the Cabinet.

"Despite clear directions, the officers are not placing the policy before the Council of Ministers. The Chief Secretary has been directed multiple times to place a note before the Council of Ministers," said the government in a statement.

According to Bharadwaj, out of around 27 lakh users, complaints of erroneous bills had been received from approximately 10.6 lakh consumers, and the scheme was announced to tackle this, adding that the file regarding the scheme was sent to the finance department a month ago, with all queries answered. "Along with submitting the original file on February 9 to the finance department, we gave directions to submit their comments by February 12 and present it in the Cabinet by February 14. However, it was not (done)," said Bharadwaj.



AAP MLAs also staged a protest during the Delhi Assembly's budget session on the issue. Express

paper.indianexpress.com

“My government on July 1 last year launched the guarantee to provide free power to the people, and since then, 90 per cent of the households in the state are getting free power and have got zero power bill ...”

— Bhagwant Singh Mann, Chief Minister-Punjab.



POWERING PUNJAB



Punjab Makes Bold Move, Acquires Private Plant: Power Play Achieved



Punjab paid back the entire Rs 20,200 cr electricity subsidy for FY 22-23. Bhagwant Mann



THE Chief Minister emphasized that his government has settled the entire electricity

subsidy bill amounting to Rs 20,200 crore for the last financial year, ensuring uninterrupted power supply to the residents. He highlighted that in the fiscal year 2022-23, the Punjab government fulfilled its commitment by paying the entire subsidy bill directly to the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL), leaving no pending dues. Additionally, he mentioned that the government has initiated the payment of the first installment, totaling Rs 1,804 crore, out of the legacy amount of Rs 9,020 crore that had accumulated over previous years. The remaining legacy amount will be disbursed in five installments, as stated by Mann. Breaking down the Rs 20,200 crore subsidy, Mann outlined that it includes Rs 9,063.79 crore allocated for free electricity to the agricultural sector, Rs 8,225 crore for domestic consumers, and Rs 2,910 crore for the industrial sector.

"PSPCL Introduced Helpline Numbers to Facilitate Power Consumers During Peak Season"

IN preparation for the previous paddy season, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) implemented measures to ensure uninterrupted power supply to approximately 14 lakh agricultural tubewell consumers across Punjab. As of that day, PSPCL had bolstered its infrastructure to meet the heightened demand expected during that period.

PSPCL had taken significant steps to enhance its electrical infrastructure statewide, affirming its commitment to provide eight hours of uninterrupted power supply daily to agricultural consumers. Punjab's Chief Minister, Mr. Bhagwant Mann, announced the establishment of Special Control Rooms at zonal levels and the Head Office in Patiala to promptly address consumer complaints and provide updates on power supply statuses.

To further streamline consumer support, helpline numbers were issued for these centers, ensuring convenience and efficient resolution of consumer queries and concerns during the paddy season.

THE Punjab government's procurement of the Goindwal Sahib Thermal Power Plant for Rs 1,080 crore represents a watershed moment, lauded as the most economically viable deal nationwide. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann heralded this momentous accomplishment, accentuating the state's dedication to judicious fiscal stewardship and citizen welfare.

In a seamless blend with preceding developments, Mann highlighted the closure of erstwhile thermal plants during the previous administration, juxtaposing it with the current government's proactive stance. This decision not only mirrors the administration's determination but also underscores its

commitment to furnishing dependable energy infrastructure for Punjab's populace.

Infusing the narrative with cultural reverence, the 540-MW thermal plant will be christened as Guru Amardass Thermal Power Plant, epitomizing a harmonious amalgamation of heritage and progress. Furthermore, the government's prompt settlement of dues to the Punjab State Power

Corporation Limited, despite substantial annual subsidies, underscores its financial prudence and transparency.

Mann reiterated the unparalleled cost-effectiveness of the acquisition, stressing that at Rs 2 crore per megawatt capacity, it stands as a testament to astute resource allocation. Additionally, he highlighted the substantial reduction in power tariffs, envis-

aging annual savings amounting to hundreds of crores, which will be reinvested for the populace's welfare. In essence, the procurement of the thermal plant not only signifies a historic milestone but also heralds a new epoch of efficient governance and sustainable development for Punjab.

PSPCL Shatters Records: Power Surge Meets Unprecedented Demand of 15,293 MW

DURING the paddy season from June to October 2024, the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has achieved an unprecedented milestone in power supply. Meeting an all-time record high demand, PSPCL has provided 15,293 MW of power and 3,427 Lus/day, totaling 37,987 MUs. This surpasses the previous record of 14,311 MW and 3,345 Lus/day, amounting to 36,905 MUs.

PSPCL's commendable performance stems from its strategic approach to enhancing thermal and hydel generation, leveraging its own resources effectively since April 2023 to January 2024. Notable achievements include a 14.5% increase in thermal generation from PSPCL's own plants at Ropar and Lehra, reaching 6,483 MUs compared to 5,661 MUs from the previous year. Additionally, hydro generation from PSPCL's own projects surged by 13.5%, totaling 4,018 MUs compared to 3,541 MUs previously. The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) also witnessed a 5% increase in generation, rising to 3,593 MUs from 3,312 MUs.

Furthermore, due to heightened in-state generation and enhanced banking activities this year, short-term power purchases and exchanges decreased significantly by -12% compared to the previous year, amounting to 4,322 MUs as opposed to 4,909 MUs. Concurrently, PSPCL experienced a remarkable 217% surge in power sales, generating Rs. 995 crore compared to Rs. 313 crore last year, and selling 1,279 MUs compared to 368 MUs previously.

PSPCL's proactive approach is also evident in its successful revival of operations at the Pachhwara Central Coal Mine, closed for seven years. Since December 2022, PSPCL has supplied approximately 3.7 million metric tons of coal to its thermal plants, ensuring a steady fuel supply.

In line with its commitment to sustainable energy, PSPCL has undertaken various renewable energy projects. Notably, several solar agreements have been signed, totaling 2,304 MW capacity, with tariffs ranging from Rs. 2.33 to Rs. 2.75 per unit. Additionally, PSPCL is advancing its efforts to procure 3,000 MW of renewable energy through

SECI, incorporating solar, wind, and battery energy storage systems. Tendering processes for this initiative are underway, with opening dates scheduled for February 15th and 25th, 2024.

Moreover, PSPCL is actively promoting rooftop solar installations on its buildings and residential/commercial structures. Empanelment of vendors through competitive bidding ensures timely disbursement of financial benefits such as subsidies provided by the Government of India.

As of December 2023, PSPCL has commissioned 2,776.89 MW of renewable energy (solar and non-solar) and 3,277.97 MW of hydel energy, contributing to a total installed capacity of 6,054.86 MW. To further augment its solar power share, PSPCL has floated tenders for long-term procurement, offering incentives and encouraging the adoption of clean and green energy sources.

In this pursuit of sustainable energy solutions, PSPCL continues to demonstrate its commitment to providing Punjab's consumers with affordable and reliable power supply while reducing its environmental footprint.

Achievements of PSPCL

1. Peak Power Demand Met:

◆ Punjab Punjab has met its all time highest ever peak demand of 15,293 MW on 23-06-2023 against 14,311 MW on 29-06-2022 which is 7% higher in comparison to the same period of last year.

◆ Overall a record 3427 LUs of energy demand met during a day on 09.09.2023 in comparison to 3345 LUs of energy last year on 29.06.2022.

◆ More than 8 Hrs. supply given to agriculture consumers during paddy season without imposing any power cut on Domestic, Commercial, Industrial & other consumers.

able only for 6 months.

◆ Previously there was no facility of instalments of defaulting amount, now there is provision of 4 instalments.

7. RDSS Scheme:

◆ The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) is an ambitious flagship scheme aimed at improving the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of the DISCOMS through a robust and sustainable distribution network.

◆ The scheme has been sanctioned for Rs. 3,873 Crores to augment/improve the Distribution Infrastructure such as 66kV lines & 66kV Power Transformers, 11kV feeders, 11kV DTRs etc.

◆ Further, the DPR for Modernisation works amounting to around Rs. 6000 Cr. is expected to be approved by Govt. of India by March 2024.

8. Transmission/ Distribution Works :

Following are some of the works completed till date:

◆ 5 no. 66 KV Sub-Stations of 88.50 MVA capacity commissioned.

◆ 18 no. of 66 KV sub-Station of capacity 195.50 MVA have been augmented/added.

◆ 1 No. 315 MVA, 400/220kV Transformer augmented with 500MVA Transformer.

◆ 7 No. 220/66kV Transformer augmented/installed.

◆ 190 Ckt.KM of 220 KV transmission lines added.

◆ 90 Ckt.KM of 66/33 KV transmission lines added/replaced.

◆ 201 no. 11 KV HT capacitors of 273.561 MVAR also added.

◆ 18 no. of 66 KV sub-Station of capacity 195.50 MVA have been augmented/added.

◆ 1 No. 315 MVA, 400/220kV Transformer augmented with 500MVA Transformer.

◆ 7 No. 220/66kV Transformer augmented/installed.

◆ 190 Ckt.KM of 220 KV transmission lines added.

◆ 90 Ckt.KM of 66/33 KV transmission lines added/replaced.

◆ 201 no. 11 KV HT capacitors of 273.561 MVAR also added.

◆ Power Usage Agreement has been signed for the procurement of 904 MW Solar Power at a tariff of Rs. 2.45/kWh to Rs. 2.74/kWh.

◆ 800 MW solar/hybrid power project at 2.63/kWh to Rs. 2.76/kWh was fully commissioned by December, 2022 and power has started flowing in the PSPCL system. Further, additional Solar power of 400 MW is scheduled to be commissioned by March, 2024.

◆ Power Usage Agreement has been signed for the procurement of 904 MW Solar Power at a tariff of Rs. 2.45/kWh to Rs. 2.74/kWh.

◆ PPA has been executed on 21.07.2023 for procurement of 1000 MW Solar Power from Projects located anywhere in India at a tariff of Rs. 2.53/kWh.

◆ PPA has been executed on 21.07.2023 for procurement of 200 MW Solar Power from Projects located anywhere in Punjab at a tariff of Rs. 2.75/kWh.

◆ Installation of rooftop solar plant at PSPCL head office having capacity of 105 KW

◆ MNRE has awarded 4 Lakh Rs on 24.11.2023, against 3MW allocation for installation of Roof Top Solar in FY 2020-21.

Hydel Energy

◆ Shahpurkandi Power Project of 206 MW Capacity is being constructed on Ravi River

◆ Based upon the availability of the Civil Fronts for E&M Works, the Tentative Commissioning Schedule of Generating Units of Shahpurkandi project as submitted by M/s BHEL is Dec 2025.

◆ Project cost is Rs 2715.70 Cr. and till date Cumulative Power Expenditure done including

Punjab Achieves Milestone: 90% Households Now Receive Zero Electricity Bills Under CM Mann's Leadership

Under CM Mann's Leadership

Additionally, the operationalization of the Pachhwara Coal Mine, after years

of legal and logistical hurdles, is ex-

pected to result in annual savings of

around Rs. 500 crore. This move sig-

nifies a significant step towards

achieving energy self-sufficiency in

Punjab.

On December 16, 2022, a freight

train carrying coal from the

Pachhwara Central coal mine in

Jharkhand reached the Ropar

Thermal Plant, marking the first de-

livery in eight years. Chief Minister

Bhagwant Mann hailed this devel-

opment as a significant stride to-

wards making Punjab power sur-

plus.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
 FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT, KANPUR
NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred on it under Section 10(3) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, the Reserve Bank of India, has revoked the Full-Fledged Money Changer (FFMC) licence of the following company due to contravention of extant FEMA provisions and directions issued thereunder.

Sr. No.	Name and Registered Office Address	License Number	Issued On	Revocation Order Date
1	Pipli Tour and Travels Private Limited Shop No 1, SRD/FF-01, Shipra River Tower, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014	FE.KAN.105/FFMC	August 22, 2022	January 17, 2024

Consequent to the revocation, Pipli Tour and Travels Private Limited shall not undertake or transact money changing activities as specified in the Master Direction on Money Changing Activities dated January 01, 2016, updated from time to time, and available on the RBI website (<https://www.rbi.org.in>).

For list of FFMCs / Authorized Dealers authorized by Reserve Bank of India, Kanpur, kindly refer to RBI website: <https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/FEMAMASTER/PDFs/10021.PDF>

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Sameer S/o Sh. Waseem R/o H.No. 1164/2, Gali No.38, Near Madarsa, Babuloom, Jafraab, Delhi 2nd also Qyoom Ka Makan, Gali No.45, Jafraab, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 175/2017 U/s 380/411 IPC at PS: Jafraab, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sameer** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sameer** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sameer** of FIR No. 175/2017 U/s 380/411 IPC at PS: Jafraab, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 09.04.2024.

By order
Aayushi Sexana
Metropolitan Magistrate-05
Room No. 07,
Karkardooma Courts, Shahdara Delhi

Appeal for Identification


General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: Approx. 36 years, Height: 5'5" Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Grey Color Shirt and Black Color pant was found Near Hanuman Mandir Yamuna Bazar, Delhi. Brought Vide MLN No 1169375 to LNJP Hospital where

doctor declared brought dead. In this regard, a DD No. 20A Dt. 26.02.2024 has been lodged at PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

The Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

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

SHO

P.S., Kashmere Gate, Delhi

DP/2422/N/2024 Ph. : 011-23968730, 8750870123

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED


General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Lilifa Mola** D/o Lt. Khosdal Mola R/o: Village Itwala Molarpara, Hero Bhanga, Canning-1, South 24 Pargana, West Bengal, Age: 18 years 6 months (Now 22 years), Height: 162 cms., Complexion: Wheatish, wearing Light Yellow colour Suit & Dark Red colour Salwar and Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Badarpur, Delhi. In this regard a FIR No. 218/2019 U/S 363 IPC, dated 05.07.2019 has been registered at P.S. Badarpur, Delhi.

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

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639

SHO

P.S. Badarpur, Delhi

DP/2245/SE/2024 Ph. No.: 011-29894753, 8750870933

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Deepak @ Stationwasi S/o Sh. Ram Kishore R/o H.No. 2094/4A/8 Gali No 15, Prem Nagar, Delhi Also at Vill Rampura, Near Ashoka Park Metro Station, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 352/23 U/s 302/34 IPC at PS: Anand Parbat, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Deepak @ Stationwasi** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Deepak @ Stationwasi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Deepak @ Stationwasi** of FIR No. 352/23 U/s 302/34 IPC of PS: Anand Parbat, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 06.04.2024.

By order

Sh. Shubham Devaditya
Metropolitan Magistrate-(West)
Room No.336-A, 3rd Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused 1. Ragini, W/o Vinod Sabarwal, 2. Vinod Sabarwal @ Vinod Choudhary, S/o Surender Nath, R/o 7/41, 2nd Floor, South Patel Nagar, New Delhi has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 192/2001, U/s 420/467/120-B IPC, P. S. Karol Bagh, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said 1. Ragini, 2. Vinod Sabarwal @ Vinod Choudhary cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said 1. Ragini, 2. Vinod Sabarwal @ Vinod Choudhary has absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation made that the said 1. Ragini, 2. Vinod Sabarwal @ Vinod Choudhary accused of FIR No. 192/2001, U/s 420/467/120-B IPC, P. S. Karol Bagh, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 04.04.2024.

By Order

Ms. Shipra Dhankar
Metropolitan Magistrate-01
Room No. 180, 1st Floor
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/2339/CD/2024


ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH PATNA
1st Floor, Steel House, Near S K Puri Police Check Post, Boring Road, Patna-800001
Email : arb.patna@unionbankofindia.bank

15 Days SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Appendix IV A)

E-auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and proviso to the rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India Asset Recovery Branch (ARB), the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is"**, **"As is what is"** and **"Whatever there is"** on **14.03.2024** for recovery of **Rs. 6,04,57,981/-** (Rupees Six Crore Four Lacs Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty One Only) as on 10.06.2018 with further interest, costs and charges due to Union Bank of India ARB Branch, the Secured Creditor from **1. The Borrower/s - M/s M M Agro Ventures Pvt. Ltd.**, 6/26, Tilak Marg, North of S K Puri, Patna-80013. Unit Address At - Mauza Kuwhi, Near Sona Bricks, P.S - Barharia, Dist - Siwan-841232, **2.The Guarantor/s - (2)a) Mr. Mitesh Kumar S/o Manju Prasad, House No. 6/26, Tilak Marg, North of S K Puri, Patna-80013. 2(b) Mr. Subesh Kumar S/o Manju Prasad, Flat No 1102, First Floor, Block B, Janpriya Lake View Phase 2", Survey No. - 26/2, Kodichikanhalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560076, 2(c) Mr. Nitesh Kumar S/o Manju Prasad, Flat No 1102, First Floor, Block B, Janpriya Lake View Phase 2" Survey No. 26/2, Kodichikanhalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560076, 4. Mr. Munesh Kumar Deceased Manju Sinha, Vill-Hardiya, Post-Hardiya, P.S-Barharia, Sub Registry and Dist-Siwan, Bihar-841226**

The reserve price will be **Rs. 1,51,20,00/-** (Rupees One Crore Fifty One Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs. 15,12,000/-** (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Twelve Thousand only) with bid increment of Rs. 10,000/-

Description of immovable Property - All that part and parcel of Landed Property measuring 1 Bigha 19 Katha 9 Dhurs under Khata No. 5 - Survey Plot No. - 990 and Khata No. - 5, Survey Plot No. -1002, Mauza - Kuwhi, Tazui No. - 1092, Thana No. - 330, Anchal-Barharia, Dist - Siwan, **Boundary of Survey Plot No 990 - North - Janardan Singh, South - Number Haza, East - Plot No. - 988, West - Bandh, Boundary of Survey Plot No. 1002 - North - Survey No. 1013, South - Number Haza, East - Survey No.1010, West - Bandh**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Union Bank of India's website i.e. <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in> / english / tendelviewallauction.aspx and <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

Date: 23.02.2024 Place: Patna Authorised Officer


ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH PATNA
1st Floor, Steel House, Near S K Puri Police Check Post, Boring Road, Patna-800001
Email : arb.patna@unionbankofindia.bank

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The reserve price will be **Rs. 15,10,000/-** (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Ten Thousand only) with bid increment of Rs. 10,000/-

Brief description of Property :- Unit Property at Mauza Lalganj Sehra, PS Paliganj, Thana No. 282, Tazui No. 4563, Khata No. 296, S. Plot No. 1625, Land admeasuring 1 Acre owned by M/s Aashi Agrotech Pvt. Ltd. **Boundary - North - Chandrankanta Kunwar, South - Road, East - Chandrankanta Kunwar, West - Krishnandan Prasad**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Union Bank of India's website i.e. <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in> / english / tendelviewallauction.aspx and <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

Date: 23.02.2024 Place: Patna Authorised Officer


ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH PATNA
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E-auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and proviso to the rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

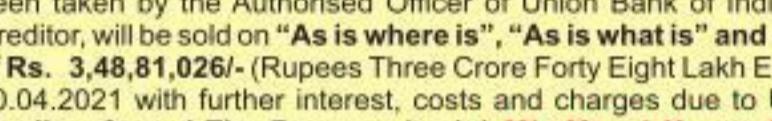
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India Asset Recovery Branch (ARB), the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is"**, **"As is what is"** and **"Whatever there is"** on **14.03.2024** for recovery of **Rs. 3,97,55,305/-** (Rupees Three Crore Ninety Seven Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Three Hundred Five Only) as on 01.08.2017 with further interest, costs and charges due to Union Bank of India ARB Branch, the Secured Creditor from **1. Borrower/s : M/s Maas Vindhayawashini Rice Mills Pvt. Ltd.**, Regd. Office: Village-Birae, P-O-Arai, Dist-Aurangabad, Bihar-824113. 2) **The Guarantor/s: 2a) Mr. Shatrudhan Sharsh Sharma, S/o Late Shri Keshav Sharma, Vill-Birae, Anchal-Daudnagar, PO-Arai, P-S-Daudnagar, Dist- Aurangabad, Bihar-824113, 2b) Mrs. Meena Devi, W/o Shri Shatrudhan Sharsh Sharma, Vill - Birae, Anchal - Daudnagar, P.O-Arai, P-S-Daudnagar, Dist- Aurangabad, Bihar-824113, 2c) Mr. Bulan Singh, S/o Late Shri Keshav Sharma, Vill-Birae, Anchal-Daudnagar, P.O-Arai, P-S-Daudnagar, Dist-Aurangabad, Bihar-824113.**

The reserve price will be **Property No.1 - Rs. 91,00,000/-** (Rs.Ninety One Lacs Only) Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs. 09,10,000/-** (Rs. Nine Lacs Ten Thousand Only) and **Property No.2 - Rs. 20,00,000/-** (Rs. Twenty Lacs Ten Thousand Only) Earnest Money Deposit will be **Rs. 2,01,000/-** (Rs.Two Lacs One Thousand Only) with bid increment of Rs. 10,000/-

Description of immovable Property - Property No.1 - All that piece and parcel of factory land and existing structure admeasuring 60 Decimal in the name of **M/s Maas Vindhayawashini Rice Mills Pvt. Ltd** at Khata No.: 281, 453, 395, Khesra No: 4573, 4574, 4575, 4576, 4577, Thana No.03, Mauza Arai, P.S.: Daudnagar, Dist: Aurangabad, Dist-Patna **Property No. 2** - All that piece and parcel of land and building admeasuring 4 Decimal in the name of **Mr. Shatrudhan Sharsh Sharma** at Khata No. 163, Khesra No. 1219, 1220, Thana No.4, Birai, Dist-Aurangabad, Bihar.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Union Bank of India's website i.e. <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in> / english / tendelviewallauction.aspx and <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

Date: 23.02.2024 Place: Patna Authorised Officer



HC unhappy with PWD for not following its orders on tree plantation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday expressed its displeasure with the Public Works Department for non-compliance of its previous orders in a matter on plantation of trees on roadsides and other avenues, asking its Engineer-in-Chief to appear before it virtually for the next hearing.

Advocate Aditya Narayan Prasad, court commissioner in the matter, informed a bench of Justice Jasmeet Singh that it was becoming "difficult on ground" to implement the HC's May 29, 2023, order due to non-cooperation by different departments. In this order, the court had ordered plantation of 10,000 trees across the Capital, by utilising "over Rs 70 lakh" deposited by defaulting litigants as costs in multiple cases, observing that benefits provided by trees by way of oxygen to the city residents is "immeasurable".

During the Tuesday hearing, Justice Singh orally observed that "latitude shown by the court is not its weakness", and that the court expects departments concerned to follow its orders. Prasad submitted that PWD has not been adhering to court orders.

On December 18 last year, the HC had directed special secretaries of PWD and the forest department to file an affidavit, explaining why the trees were not looked after in spite of assurance given to that effect, after it was then submitted by Prasad then that over 400 trees planted in South Extension had died due lack of supervision, maintenance, and parking of cars.

Prasad Tuesday also submitted that while the forest department had filed an affidavit in response to the December 18 order, PWD did not file theirs. "Orders passed by the High Court are required to be implemented in its true letter and spirit. Let the engineer-in-chief join the proceedings on the next date of hearing through video-conferencing," directed the HC.

ZIPNET CASE: CHARGESHEET FILED, SAY POLICE

'Accused checked portal each day, zeroed in on kin of missing kids to dupe them'

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

EVERY DAY from November last year, Shyamsunder Chauhan (28) used to wake up early and open ZIPNET — a database meant for interstate police coordination — on his desktop and browse through the day's missing children records. He would then pull up the contact details of their families, call them up and pretend to be from the 'Missing Persons' Cell' of Police'. However, in exchange for "information", he demanded a hefty sum to cover his expenses — "filling petrol" or for 'snacks'.

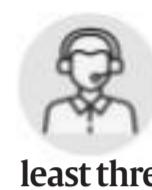
Little over a month later, the BCA graduate had allegedly duped at least 904 families who were desperately searching for their children — all from the comfort of his room at his home in UP's Mau, the Delhi Police are learnt to have said in their 200-page chargesheet filed in the case on February 4. Chauhan was arrested last December; four of his bail pleas have been denied and he is currently in judicial custody, said officers.

According to the police, citing the chargesheet, Chauhan used to call up families of at least three missing kids and the conversations lasted not more than 15 minutes. During this time, he would claim to be from the 'Missing Persons Cell' having information on their child. "Through the portal, he knew the area from which the child had gone missing... he used (this) to lure their families to pay him anywhere between Rs 2,000 to Rs 40,000 by either claiming that he has to fill fuel in his 'police vehicle' or have snacks on the way to search for the child," said police, citing the report.

Police added, referring to the report, "He used the police's

ANATOMY OF A SCAM

 Shyamsunder Chauhan used to browse ZIPNET for details of missing children — only those uploaded by Delhi Police on that given day — and call up their families

 Pretending to be from the 'Missing Persons' Cell' of Police', he would call at least three families each day, based on the success rate of them either picking up the call, and swindle money from them —

between ₹2,000 to ₹40,000 — on the pretext of having information about their child.

■ He used to get the money transferred into his account through online payments

■ He claimed that after pursuing BCA from a college in UP, he did not get a suitable job and, hence, took to cheating families through ZIPNET for easy money

■ He ran the racket from Mau in UP

name to cause disrepute to the force and played with the sentiments of helpless families... he used to get the money transferred into his own bank account; his bank statements show small transactions of Rs 2,000 to Rs 20,000... victims were mostly from the uneducated labour class."

Police said, as per the report, that Chauhan did not target families of victims whose records were uploaded a day before: "He only targeted families of missing children whose information was uploaded on ZIPNET on the same day."

They said Chauhan did not have a job after he finished his BCA from a college in UP and used the duped money to sustain his daily expenses. Chauhan lives alone at his maternal home in Mau while his parents and brother shifted to Vijay Nagar in Indore. His father worked with a coal company in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh.

Created in 2004, the ZIPNET

Blaze at Lok Nayak Hospital's emergency block, 50 evacuated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

A FIRE broke out at the Delhi government-run Lok Nayak Hospital's emergency block Monday night, said officials, adding that no casualties were reported. Hospital staff and fire officials evacuated around 50 people, including attendants of patients.

It was learnt that the fire broke out due to a short circuit in the out-patient department's main casualty ward. According to hospital officials, the fire started from the shaft of the third floor, which later spread to the seventh floor of the building. Flames were noticed in a shaft of cables on the third and fourth floors.

Medical Director Dr Suresh Kumar said patients were not moved from the emergency ward as it was safe, and only attendants were asked to vacate.

According to Delhi Fire



The fire broke out Monday night. No one was injured, said officials. Express

Services Chief Atul Garg, they were informed about the blaze at 10.18 pm, adding that 10 fire engines were immediately sent to the spot. It took almost an

Man wanted for cop's murder held after shootout

New Delhi: The Special Cell of the Delhi Police, along with the Central Intelligence Agency teams of Taura and Nuh, Haryana Police, arrested a man after a brief shootout in Taura.

The accused, Shakir, was wanted for the murder of a Delhi Police head constable in 2012, and had been absconding since then.

Acting on a tip-off, the Special Cell team, along with local police, laid a trap to apprehend him. Upon being signalled to surrender, Shakir opened fire at the team of officers, prompting them to retaliate. During the exchange, Shakir suffered gunshot injuries in both legs, and was subsequently taken into custody.

Police have seized a .32 bore pistol with four live cartridges and a stolen motorcycle from his possession, said officers, adding that an FIR on murder charges has been registered against him.

In 2012, Shakir shot at and killed the then head constable, Yashpal, who had "challenged" the former and his associates during a robbery. ENS

'Appear on March 4': ED sends 8th summons to CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has sent its eighth summons to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case, asking him to appear for questioning on March 4.

Even though Kejriwal has not appeared for questioning for once till date, he responded to the summons in writing. The ED had sought his presence on Monday, which he skipped, saying that since the matter is in court — which has asked him to appear on March 16 — the agency should wait for the court order.

"When ED has gone to court, then the agency and the central government should wait for the court's decision. On one side, ED is going to court, and on the other, summons are being sent. Do the ED and the Centre not

have faith in the court? Their aim is to, somehow, break the alliance with the INDIA bloc," Kejriwal alleged on Monday.

In the past too, Kejriwal called the summons "illegal", saying the agency has not informed him of the capacity in which his presence is required — as an accused or a witness; as the chief minister or as the AAP chief.

The ED moved the court

against Kejriwal, and filed a complaint against him for "intentionally" disobeying the summons.

Kejriwal appeared before the court via video-conferencing on February 17, saying he could not appear physically due to a confidence motion moved in the Delhi Assembly as well as the Budget session. The court had exempted him from personal appearance for the day, and posted the matter for March 16. His counsel assured the court of his physical appearance that day.

गणतीय विज्ञान संस्थान, चेन्ऩई
THE INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES,
CHENNAI
(Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India)

February 26, 2024

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Email: askjac2024@iisrb.ac.in, Website: <https://www.iiseradmission.in>
Phone: 0755-2691798 (2 PM to 5 PM, Monday to Friday)

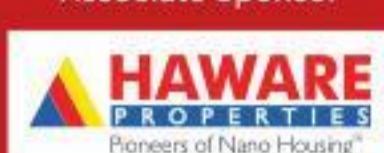


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Congress, CPM fight in Kerala, united in Delhi: Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
FEBRUARY 27

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi said in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday that the BJP would win double-digit seats from Kerala in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Modi was addressing a rally of BJP workers to mark the conclusion of a month-long, state-wide padayatra led by party state president K Surendran.

PM Modi said that in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Kerala gave a two-digit vote share for the BJP. "This time, the party will win two-digit seats from Kerala. The Opposition parties have re-

alised their defeat in the elections of 2024. They have lost mental balance. They do not have a road map for the country's development. Their only agenda is to utter abuse against Modi. I am sure Kerala will stand with BJP this time," he said.

This was PM Modi's third visit to Kerala in less than two months.

PM Modi said the huge crowd that had joined the Surendran-led padayatra has made the BJP's target of 370 seats in the Lok Sabha easier. "Modi is committed to fulfil your expectations, that is Modi's guarantee," he said.

The Prime Minister said the BJP-led Union government has



PM Modi with BJP leaders in Thiruvananthapuram. ANI

never shown any discrimination towards Kerala. In the last 10 years, he said, the BJP government has ensured Kerala's devel-

opment and the wise people of the state know this.

"In the third term of the Modi government, India will become

the third largest force in the world. That is Modi's guarantee. The third Modi government will intensify the fight against corruption. In the last 10 years, more than 25 crore people could be uplifted from poverty," he added.

Referring to various developmental projects and welfare schemes launched during his regime, PM Modi said despite the non-cooperation of the Kerala government, the Centre has given top priority to the state. The government has changed the exam system to enable job seekers to write exams in regional languages, including Malayalam, he said.

Attacking the Congress and the CPI(M), which are part of the

Opposition INDIA alliance, PM Modi said, "What is the track record of Congress and CPI(M)? For decades, Congress had laid down the interest of the country for the sake of a family. In Kerala, CPI(M) is also on the Congress path of family rule. Congress and CPI(M), which fight each other in Kerala, are united in Delhi. I have no doubt that in the coming elections, people will give a fitting reply to this double standard. This election would be an opportunity for the creation of a new Kerala. BJP slogan is 'Sabka Vikas, Sabka Saath and Sabka Vishwas'."

The third BJP government will also function on these themes, he added.

BJP EVENT IN TAMIL NADU

In surprise praise for MGR, Jaya, Modi's appeal to ex-ally vote bank

Opp failed in Delhi but are trying to make things work in TN to loot it: PM

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 27

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Tuesday heaped high praise on AIADMK icons M G Ramachandran (MGR) and J Jayalalithaa, in an ostensible attempt to appeal to the vote bank of the AIADMK, which had exited its alliance with the BJP in September last year.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a valedictory meeting of the BJP state president K Annamalai's 'En Mann En Makkal' padayatra at Madappur near Palladam in Tirupur. Modi's tribute to MGR as an "incomparable leader" and Jayalalithaa's governance as the hallmark of dedicated service to the people of Tamil Nadu underscores a significant move in the BJP's approach towards Tamil Nadu — a state where it has struggled to make inroads due to two powerful Dravidian parties, the ruling DMK and the opposition AIADMK.

Modi's speech, rich in references to Tamil culture and history, also highlighted his personal initiatives to honour Tamil heritage, such as reciting Tamil poems at the United Nations and organising the Kashi Tamil Sangamam.

"I think of MGR when I visit Tamil Nadu. When I visited Sri Lanka, I visited Kandy where he was born. I have come here and am standing on the soil where he served people. Because he served people, a better education system was established here... and MGR is considered the leader of the masses for the social reforms he brought in here. MGR did not come through a family lineage. But DMK rule in Tamil Nadu is actually insulting the great service of MGR. After MGR, Jayalalithaa was the only one who served the Tamil Nadu people. She also spent her entire life for the people. Let me also express my greet-

E Mixed signals in Tamil Nadu

PM NARENDRA Modi's praise for Jayalalithaa comes against the backdrop of the AIADMK's recent distancing from the BJP. It was also ironic as the BJP's state BJP president, Annamalai, had said in his latest interview that Jayalalithaa was corrupt and that he stood by remarks made against her in the past.

ings before her memories while standing in this land of hers. I was very close to her for many years. She was one who lived for the people and she followed MGR's values of working with the sole purpose of people's interest. That is why every house in Tamil Nadu still remembers her," Modi said.

By invoking the legacy of MGR and Jayalalithaa, both revered in Tamil Nadu for their contributions to the state's development and welfare, Modi appeared to be reaching out to their vast and loyal base.

Castigating the DMK and the Congress, Modi accused them of inefficiency and corruption, and contrasted their tenure with the developmental initiatives undertaken by the BJP-led central government. The entire INDIA bloc, he said, was formed to loot states like Tamil Nadu.

Modi said that in Delhi, everyone knows the INDIA bloc has failed. "They are still trying to make it work in Tamil Nadu, hoping that they could loot here. We are going to put an end to their plans here. Tamil people are waiting to put an end to their corrupt politics," Modi said.

Who is Cassandra Mae Spittmann, German songwriter who had audience with Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with German songwriter Cassandra Mae Spittmann at Palladam in Tirupur, Tamil Nadu, on Tuesday. PTI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 27

AMID A high pitched political rally in Tamil Nadu's Tirupur, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took out time to meet German singer-songwriter Cassandra Mae Spittmann and her mother. The meeting, held on Monday, saw Spittmann performing 'Achyutam Keshavam' and a Tamil song before the Prime Minister.

Spittmann's affection for Indian music had caught Modi's attention when he praised her talents during his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio program.

The 21-year-old German national has captivated audiences with her renditions of songs in various Indian languages, including Kannada, Sanskrit, Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Urdu, Assamese and Bengali.

Spittmann, who is visually challenged, most notably gained viral fame last year

with Tamil songs and devotional Indian tracks. Modi's admiration for Spittmann's work was evident as he was seen tapping rhythmically on a glass table as Spittmann sang before him.

Spittmann, known professionally as CassMae, discovered her musical talents early, quickly moving from drumming to mastering the piano under the influence of Chopin.

From her early appearances on radio and television to her participation in the TV show Dein Song and her scholarship at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Spittmann has showcased her musical abilities on various platforms.

Her original song, The Way I Am, won recognition at Berklee.

According to her website, she won the Berliner Festspiele national songwriting contest in 2015 with her song Bullies and also scored a victory at the UK Songwriting Contest 2021.



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Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Ministry of Road
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Government of
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Launch of ambitious projects, unveiling, distribution of benefits and dedication to the nation
by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi

Under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, a total of ₹ 21000 crores have been provided to 9 crore farmer families in the country.

Distribution of ₹ 6900 crores to the beneficiaries of various schemes in Maharashtra.

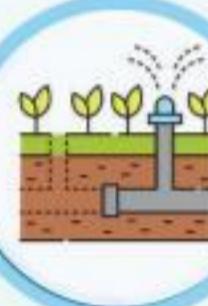
Inauguration of Roads, Railway and Irrigation Projects worth around ₹ 5000 crores in the State.



- Dedication of the quadrupling of 18 km Varora-Vani highway (Rs. 483 crores).
• It will connect various industrial areas like Ghugus, Vani, Tadali, Padoli in Chandrapur district.

Dedication of concretization of 42 km road on Salaikhurd - Tirora highway (Rs. 378 crores).
• Promotion of Tourism of Nagzira Sanctuary.
• Reduction in Gondia and Nagpur travel time by 1 hour.

Dedication of 55.80 km two-lane road up to Sakoli - Bhandara district boundary line (Rs. 291 crores).
• Benefits to industrial area.
• Saving of fuel, time and increase in road safety.



- Dedication of 6 projects in Vidarbha and Marathwada under PM Agriculture Irrigation Scheme (Rs. 1683 crores).
• 2.41 lakh hectare irrigation potential from completed projects.
• Inclusion of total 11 projects in Vidarbha and Marathwada region.

Inauguration of 45 irrigation projects in Vidarbha and Marathwada under Baliraja Jalsanjeevani Yojana (Rs. 1180 crores).
• Irrigation potential of 51 thousand hectares from completed projects.
• This scheme is applicable only in Maharashtra.



- Inauguration of new Ashti - Amalner (32.84 km) phase on Ahmednagar - Beed - Parli railway line (Rs. 645 crore) and extended train service between New Ashti - Amalner railway stations.
• Beneficial to the citizens and workers of Beed district.
• Ashti will be connected to other parts of the country.

Inauguration (Rs. 675 Crore) of Wardha - Kalamb (District Yavatmal) phase (39 km) on Wardha-Yavatmal-Nanded railway line and launch of new passenger train.
• Increasing connectivity in Wardha and Yavatmal districts.
• This is the first broad gauge railway service in Yavatmal district.



- Disbursement of Rs. 825 crores of funds among 5.50 lakh women self-help groups under Chief Minister Mahila Sashaktikaran Abhiyan.
• Special provision of Rs. 913 crores for providing additional working capital to women self-help groups.



- Launch of Modi Awas Yojana for OBC category.
• 10 lakh houses will be built in the next 3 years.
• Online disbursement of first instalment of Rs. 375 crores to 2.5 lakh beneficiaries.



- Distribution of 1 crore Ayushman cards in Maharashtra under Ayushman Bharat scheme.
• Distribution of cards to 3 beneficiaries.
• Free examination and treatment worth Rs 5 lakh per annum along with medicine for the poor.



- Disbursement of 16th instalment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.
• About 88 lakh farmer families benefited to the tune of Rs. 1969 crores.
• Digital transfer of subsidy to Aadhaar linked bank account.
• A total subsidy of Rs. 21000 crores transfer to the farmers families of the country.



- Unveiling of statue of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay at Yavatmal.



- Disbursement of second and third instalments under Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi.
• 3800 crore benefit to about 88 lakh farmer families in the state.
• Digital transfer of subsidy to Aadhaar linked bank account.



Wednesday, February 28, 2024



4:30 P.M.



Dorali, Nagpur Road, Yavatmal, Maharashtra



10

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024



THE EDITORIAL PAGE

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

COSTS OF A BARRIER

High tariff walls allow inefficient players to survive, hurt consumers. Government must review industrial, trade policy

SINCE THE EARLY 1990s, India had been steadily moving towards a low tariff structure. The average tariff declined from 125 per cent in 1990-91 to 13 per cent in 2014-15, according to a study. However, since 2014 there have been around 3,200 tariff increases, with the largest increases occurring in 2018, according to a paper by economist Shoumitro Chatterjee and the former chief economic adviser to the government of India, Arvind Subramanian. These large tariff increases, which can be traced to the government's call for *atmanirbharta* or self-reliance, have meant that the average tariff rate has risen to around 18 per cent, affecting a sizeable segment of the country's trade basket. India's tariffs are amongst the highest in the world. In fact, they are not only higher than those of China (7.5 per cent), but also countries like Vietnam (9.6 per cent) and Bangladesh (14.1 per cent) — India's competitors in the China plus one strategy. High tariffs place manufacturers at a disadvantage, affect export competitiveness and hurt consumers. Alongside this growing protectionism, the targeting of Chinese imports post the Galwan clash is also now being seen as impacting domestic output or loss of competitive advantage in sectors such as electronics and pharmaceuticals — China accounts for a sizeable share of India's imports, especially inputs in key sectors and capital goods. According to a report in this paper, sections within the government have begun raising these issues, favouring a more nuanced approach. This should spur conversations in the government on its approach towards promoting manufacturing and facilitating exports.

Reportedly, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had also earlier this year pressed for reducing duties on parts including circuit boards, chargers and fully assembled phones. Groups representing cell phone manufacturers had said that the country's high tariff structure is a disincentive to de-risking supply chains beyond China. Seeking to be attractive alternatives for mobile manufacturers, countries like Vietnam, Thailand and Mexico are lowering tariffs on phone components. There are some indications of a rethink on the issue — a day before Union Budget 2024-25, the government announced a reduction in the import duty for components used in the manufacturing of mobile phones from 15 per cent to 10 per cent. This is the right approach. Erecting high tariff walls allows inefficient domestic players to survive, and hurts consumers.

Alongside, the government must press ahead with signing trade agreements. After initially showing some hesitation, it has signed a comprehensive economic partnership agreement with the UAE and an economic cooperation and trade agreement with Australia. It is currently negotiating agreements with other countries such as the UK. It must pursue similar pacts, including with the European Union.

THE YOUNG ONES

Newcomers combined with seniors to complete a memorable cricket series triumph against England

WHY DOES A home Test series win against England feel so special? For the first three days, in fact, England had collapsed, India had a runaway 190-run lead, and the five-match series felt a bit too long already. It was then that Bazball, England's attacking philosophy with which they beat Pakistan in Pakistan and pushed teams to introspect around the world, reared its head. Ollie Pope stunned India with a brilliant hundred, replete with innovative momentum-snatching sweeps, before their novice spinners rolled over India in the chase on a turner. For the first time in years, it felt that an overseas team had the ability, skill and mental strength to thwart India in their own game.

The anxiety in fans had increased once injuries ruled out KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja in addition to the news that Virat Kohli won't be available for the entire series. Indian batting looked brittle and even young guns like Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer were in a difficult situation. For the first time, R Ashwin, Jadeja, and Axar Patel looked a touch "rattled", in former England batsman Kevin Pietersen's words. And visuals of Rahul Dravid visiting the pitch and talking with curators became viral. The undercurrent was that India will need to change their pitches. They did, preparing more batting-friendly tracks to counter England's inexperienced spinners and their one speedster Mark Wood. India banked on pacer Jasprit Bumrah to sprinkle his magic but the batting was down to the youngsters.

One by one, they stood up. Yashasvi Jaiswal showed that his story isn't just a romantic tale of a boy who sold panipuri making it to the big league. Gill, who as this newspaper reported, was told by the team management to be ready to step down to domestic cricket if his form doesn't improve, responded with a hundred. Not everyone flourished: Shreyas Iyer fell, Axar Patel fell, KS Bharat fell. But India did enough to win. In the third Test at Rajkot, more young guns stared down the English snipers. Sarfaraz Khan impressed on debut, wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel showed spark. In the next game at Ranchi, without Bumrah, Akash Deep laid the groundwork before Ashwin ensured all is well with his world and Kuldeep Yadav again showed why he should be considered ahead of Axar in future elevens. Jurel exploded with two game-turning knocks and Gill played his character-defining innings in the chase as the newcomers combined with the seniors to complete a memorable series triumph.

YESTERDAY ONCE MORE

Paul McCartney's admission of a filial connection to a Beatles classic affirms the curious afterlives of songs

IT BEGAN ITS life with the working title "Scrambled Eggs", a sort of joke between band members about a melody that Paul McCartney claimed to have arrived at in his dream while he was living with his then-girlfriend at her Wimpole Street apartment. The boys from Liverpool might have had a hard time writing words to it, but, as classics go, there is very little to fault in how 'Yesterday', the 1965 Beatles song, turned out. Now it appears that part of the anguish of the breakup anthem might just have been a Freudian slip. In his podcast, *A Life in Lyrics*, McCartney, 81, has revealed that the lyrics, "Why she had to go, I don't know, she wouldn't say / I said something wrong, now I long for yesterday", might have been a posthumous apology to his mother, Mary — who he lost to cancer when he was 14 — for a teenage episode of misdemeanour.

It is hard to not be touched by the admission, given the fact that McCartney has, on several occasions, spoken of how his mother's death had affected him. It lay at the core of his special bond with John Lennon, who, too, had lost his mother to an accident. The lyrics of 'Yesterday' are credited to them, even though in interviews the two spoke of how McCartney was the one responsible for finally whittling it down to its essence.

It might have taken McCartney years to unspool the tangled threads of unconscious inspiration, but, like all works of art, the afterlife of a song is a curious thing. It cares little for the original thought, building new associations. The Beatles were no stranger to it: When their psych-rock number 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds' came out in 1967, based on a drawing by Lennon's nursery-going son, speculation was rife that it was a veiled endorsement of the hallucinogenic drug, LSD. The song survived. The legacy of 'Yesterday' is only likely to be enhanced by McCartney's admission.

Religious internationalism

RAJA MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

Christian nationalist promise to 'make America pray again' will ripple in global arenas

AS HE RACES to clinch the Republican Party's presidential nomination, Donald Trump is intensifying the outreach to America's Christian nationalists. At a speech last week to the Christian Broadcasters Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, Trump promised to protect and defend Christian values against the onslaught of the liberal left that wants "to tear down crosses". Quoting repeatedly from the Bible and invoking God, Trump promised to use the full power of the White House to end the "persecution" of Christians and put Christian values at the centre of American political life. "With your help and God's grace, the great revival of America begins on November 5th," he said.

Christian conservatives and radicals of different kinds have long been part of US electoral politics. This election season, they are melding into a powerful political stream that seeks to make America a Christian nation. Although there is no single platform and agreed agenda, several demands stand out. Christian nationalists would like to end the separation of Church and state, push back against LGBTQ rights, abolish abortion rights, counter what they see as ultra-liberal hegemony over educational institutions, and reverse the rising tide of immigration into the US.

The rise of "Christian nationalism" in the US and its growing resonance across the Western world is likely to open some interesting intersections with the BJP and the Indian government in the widely expected third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Traditionally, India has had little engagement with the Christian political formations in the US and the West. That has begun to change in the last few years, as many of these conservative forces reach out to the BJP.

But first, to four paradoxes of Christian nationalism in the US.

One is the unlikely warmth between Trump and the Christian nationalists. Trump certainly does not come across as a "man of piety". In 2016, Trump was not the preferred candidate among Republicans. It is a relationship that has grown big since then. Trump has rightly claimed credit for his administration's record in appointing conservative judges to the US Supreme Court and challenging liberals on a range of issues. Today, many Christian

nationalists fervently believe that Trump is the "chosen one" on a "divine mission" to deliver America back to Christ. Christian nationalists hope to "make America pray again", which works well with Trump's promise to "make America great again".

Second is the tensions between the formal secularism of the US constitution and the traditional centrality of religion in the fabric of American polity. The US constitution does not establish a state religion but Christianity has remained an important factor throughout its history. Going back to the early 17th century, John Winthrop, the founder of the Massachusetts colony, invoked the Bible to describe it as a "city on a hill" in "covenant with God". The first settlers were eventually described as "pilgrim fathers". In the mid-1950s, the US added "under god" to the loyalty oath and made "In God, we trust" the country's official motto. In the 2000s, George W Bush promoted "faith-based initiatives" to complement social welfare programmes. The last few years have seen a steady spread of Christian nationalist ideology among the lower courts, state legislatures, and local governments.

Third, liberal critics tend to dismiss Christian nationalism as part of the hopeless agenda to "make America white again". To be sure, the Caucasian fears of marginalisation lend an ethnic and exclusivist dimension to Christian nationalism. However, sections of Christian nationalists are inclusivist and reach out to African-American and Hispanic Christian communities that are socially conservative and reject the liberal secularising agenda.

Fourth, America's Christian "nationalism" is going "international". In Europe, variants of Christian nationalism are on the rise and are boosting far-right political parties. The European agenda is similar to the American one — opposition to immigration, especially Muslims, the protection of traditional European culture, rejection of gender rights, and promotion of family values under threat from the liberal hegemony over social life. Connections are being forged between the Christian nationalists across the Atlantic. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and other European leaders who support traditional values have been lionised by Christian

nationalists in the US. A surprising figure on that list is Russia's Vladimir Putin, who has put religion and ethno-nationalism at the top of his political agenda. The Christian nationalist enthusiasm for Putin is one factor behind the current deep American divisions on Ukraine.

The rise of religious nationalism in Christendom, in parallel with the consolidation of the BJP as the dominant force in the Indian polity, could mark a major break in the evolution of India's internationalism. Over the last century, India's global political connections were shaped by India's communist, socialist and Congress parties that built ties with the left and centre-left forces in Europe.

The decline of the communist parties in the West has been matched by the marginalisation of the Indian communists. Although the social democratic parties in Europe remain a force to be reckoned with, the Indian socialists have fragmented into family-dominated fiefdoms with little interest in global affairs and no capability to engage with their historical counterparts in the West. The Congress has long ceased engaging its centre-left counterparts in the West.

Unlike Congress and the Left, the RSS and the BJP have less of an internationalist history. This is unsurprising given their nativist roots. This could change as the nativists around the world go global. Over the last few decades, the BJP has begun to connect, if tentatively, with political parties in other countries.

As it expanded at home in the last decade, the BJP has enhanced its outreach to the diplomatic missions in Delhi as well as foreign political parties under the "Get to know the BJP" initiative. Christian Democrats and other conservative parties in Europe, too, have been knocking at the BJP's door.

It is not clear if Christian nationalists can overturn liberal hegemony in the US and Europe, but they are bound to make some difference to Western polities, domestically and internationally. This could open up new international possibilities for both the BJP and the Modi government, which have often locked horns with the Western liberal establishments in recent years.

The writer is a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express



KESAVA MENON

WILL THE DASHAVATHARA now become the Sashtavathara? According to a litigant in the Calcutta High Court, the associating of Hindu gods with animals is blasphemy. If this argument is accepted, Matsya, Kurma, Varaha and Narasimha are illicit? From where does the concept of blasphemy come into Hinduism?

Those who petitioned the Court to direct the West Bengal government to change a captive lioness's name from Sita to something else might argue that their objection is to the appellation of Janaki's name to an animal. Don't they know that this very name — as also Lakshmi and Nandini — have been given to cows since time immemorial? These appellations were always bestowed with the utmost reverence on the creatures that were the most beloved in the farmsteads.

If the High Court upholds the petitioner's argument, the precedent will play havoc with ceremonial practices throughout India. In Kerala, for instance, most elephants that participate in festive processions bear the names of Hindu gods. A number of them have huge fan followings and some continue to be legends years after their demise. What are the two Padmanabhas and the Kesavan of the Guruvayur Devaswom to be known as from now on — Temple Tuskers P1, P2 and K1?

Or is the objection to Sita's name being appended to a carnivore? For the moment, let us

AN ENCOMPASSING FAITH

Petition to change name of lioness shows lack of understanding of Hinduism

IN GOOD FAITH

When a basic tenet of Hinduism postulates the equality of all creation, how can anyone claim it

sanctions the extension of the caste system to the natural world, that some names aren't for lesser beings? As the reverence for elephants, tigers, bulls, cobras, even Ganesha's rats indicates, the animal kingdom is for Hindus a reflection of the celestial realm. As are peepals, banyans, lotuses and tulasis.

leave aside the fact that she was a Kshatriya and hence no one commits any wrong in ascribing to her such culinary habits. Did the petitioners forget that they are living in Bengal where the lion/lioness is so integral a part of the Durga puja iconography? Most tableaux installed in the pandals depict Durga impaling Mahishasura while her lion/lioness mauls the buffalo part of the demon's torso. Lady and beast are one in the fight against evil. A mere glance at Nandi's idol in Mysuru's Chamundi Hill is enough to make anyone comprehend why Shiva chose this powerful animal as his comrade-in-arms.

When a basic tenet of Hinduism postulates the equality of all creation, how can anyone claim it sanctions the extension of the caste system to the natural world — that some names aren't for lesser beings? As the reverence for elephants, tigers, bulls, cobras, even Ganesha's rats indicates, the animal kingdom is for Hindus a reflection of the celestial realm. As are peepals, banyans, lotuses and tulasis.

Our religion doesn't consist solely of Vedantic profundities, or high *yagnas* or *bali* or the bawdier phases of harvest festivals. It encompasses all these and more. For over five millennia, almost every shade of the human experience has been observed, analysed, weighed morally and woven into a bewilderingly rich symphony of aphorisms that offer

guidance but do not necessarily prescribe. There are always shades and nuances. In our common understanding, Duryodhana is the villain of the Mahabharata. However, there are places where he is worshipped as Suyodhana. On first hearing, one wonders how that can be until one remembers his last speech delivered as he lay with a shattered groin. Then you cannot but admire his indomitable nature, his generosity towards friends and his refusal to let others judge him.

Or Jayadratha for that matter. In the popular imagination he sticks out for two actions, both reprehensible — the attempt to abduct Panchali and shutting down Abhimanyu's support lines. However, I have come across Sindhi nationalists in Karachi who honour him as an epitome of their race's virility.

Seldom do we come across one right or wrong. Our perspectives and judgements must be shaped by weighing multiple factors, just as life itself is. We can revere Ganesha's *vahana* but we will still trap and kill any rat that enters our kitchens. In this moral/spiritual universe, we need to see reality as clearly as we can and use our capacity to discriminate constantly. For that we need open minds, not an uncontrolled instinct to shut down whatever we think we cannot bear to hear.

The writer is former editor of *Mathrubhumi*



FEBRUARY 28, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

AKALI LEADERS' ARREST

NINE AKALI DAL leaders were arrested on charges of insulting national honour. Parkash Singh Badal and four others were arrested in Delhi after they burnt copies of a section of Article 25 of the Constitution. In Chandigarh, SGPC president Gurcharan Singh Tohra and others were arrested after they tore copies of Article 25 and deleted the word "Sikh" from a clause clubbing Sikhs and Hindus.

ECONOMIC SURVEY

THE PRE-BUDGET ECONOMIC survey speaks

of mixed trends in 1983-84 with a relatively high overall rate of growth of six to seven per cent in the gross national product (GNP), improved balance of payments, continued inflationary pressure, particularly on consumer prices, showing an annual rate of inflation of 1.25 per cent sluggishness in government revenues due to lower than expected tax receipts.

BANDH SUCCESSFUL

THE GENERAL STRIKE in Delhi to protest against the killings in Punjab and Haryana and the inability of the government to deal with extremist violence was a success as most markets, business establishments and industrial units remained closed for the entire day.

Essential services, including transport, water and electricity, remained unaffected as they were exempt by the BJP's strike call.

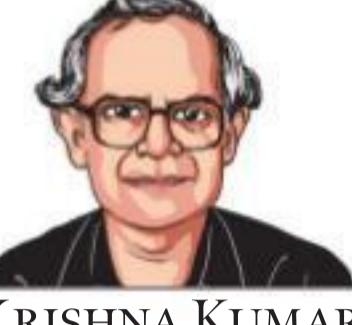
ZIA'S SURPRISE MOVE

PAKISTAN'S MILITARY GOVERNMENT, in a surprise move, freed six opposition leaders from detention. One of those released was Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mazari, chief of the banned National Democratic Party and convener of the 10-party opposition coalition, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD). Mazari said: "I don't know the cause of release. The authorities informed me about the withdrawal of the detention order today."

THE IDEAS PAGE

Our burdened children

The pressure that the Yash Pal committee had spoken of in the 1990s has been compounded by new factors and forces



KRISHNA KUMAR

SPORADIC EXPERIMENTATION IS familiar to students of the history of education in our country. The latest to be tried out is the open-book examination. This, too, is not new, but this time it is expected to reduce the pressure that children are under. The ingredients of this pressure were the object of an inquiry by a committee that gave its report some three decades ago.

Committees come and go, but the problem persists, and some problems acquire greater virulence. A small committee chaired by the late Professor Yash Pal studied the problem of stress on school children in the early 1990s. He was a space scientist who answered — on TV or in newspapers — hundreds of questions posed to him by children. His slim report 'Learning Without Burden' was the focus of a recent workshop held at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TIISS), Mumbai. The participants debated how the term "burden" should be defined in the present-day context. Has it diminished, increased, or has it mutated?

The Yash Pal committee was set up in response to a moving speech given by the novelist RK Narayan in the Rajya Sabha. He was a nominated member and this was his maiden speech. Its emotional appeal brought tears to the eyes of the then Deputy Speaker, Najma Heptulla. Other members were also moved by Narayan's description of children's daily ordeal.

Their heavy school bags and the long hours they spend doing homework and receiving extra tuition have ruined their childhood, Narayan said, labeling the problem as a national madness. The Yash Pal committee attributed this madness to a false conception of knowledge and poor curriculum design. It reflected a "catch up" syndrome based on the popular belief that an explosion of knowledge had occurred in the West, and India had to catch up. Poorly designed syllabus and textbooks, and unimaginative pedagogy exacerbate the "catch up" syndrome.

On top of these systemic factors, children face the stress of a competitive social ethos. Instead of mitigating it, schools contribute to it by promoting an all-round competitive mentality. Principals are under the pressure of management committees and bureaucrats to show better results. To survive in the system, teachers push children to aim at higher levels of performance. With weekly and monthly tests, a breathless routine destroys the child's search for meaning in what is taught. They take recourse to cramming — and the exam system also promotes it.

Speakers at the TIISS workshop drew upon a recently published volume that examines the question: "Where are we a quarter century after the Yash Pal committee report?" It has been edited by Mythili Ramchand, Ritesh Khunyakari and Arindam Bose. The contributors have looked at the different domains of the school curriculum and the state of teacher education. A few gains made under the auspices of reforms initiated in the school curriculum and in teacher education are noted. However, the Covid years nullified some of these gains, and now the system is facing a whole new set of difficulties. Deletions from textbooks have made them shorter, but harder to comprehend. And the shortage of teachers



CR Sasikumar

has become chronic across the country as a recent report published by TIISS ('The Right Teacher for Every Child') demonstrates on the basis of an extensive survey.

The workshop had a session on technology. Its impact on children and on teachers is largely uncharted territory. It has also witnessed a sharp polarisation among promoters and critics. Three teachers spoke at the workshop about their frustrating experience with the enforced use of technological resources. A counter view was also presented.

Undoubtedly, the burden that the Yash Pal report had discussed is now mutating into a broader subject — of pervasive anxiety among parents, teachers and children. It has to do with the new economic and work environment. With career opportunities dwindling, the pressure to compete for the two old, high-status professions — medicine and engineering — has greatly increased. Commercial coaching takes full advantage of this pressure, and it has raised it to levels hitherto unknown.

The popularity of technology and coaching has increased side by side, feeding the new testing style. It follows a "multiple choice" template. It presents roundabout ways of approaching the same topic, challenging the student, literally, to crack the code to give the right answer. Coaching institutes have cracked this system so satisfactorily that they now proudly invite students to suffer through the prolonged ordeal of dealing with MCQ-based tests shot off like a machine gun. What little

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scope there was for school teachers to focus on understanding and the pleasure it brings has receded.

Though he died only seven years ago, Yash Pal could hardly have imagined the transformative changes that children's lives would go through in this period. It started as a strategy to deal with the Covid crisis. Those who thought of using the online alternative to real classrooms developed a sense of smug pride by the time the pandemic passed.

Teachers knew that the online plan had not worked, but they didn't have much say when it was pushed in the post-pandemic new normal. Indeed, one can't think of any period when teachers had a say in our system. When they are pushed, they push children, and parents join in. So, the burden that the Yash Pal committee had spoken of has been compounded — by new factors and forces that we don't recognise anymore. We need another RK Narayan to say that some strange madness has gripped us. We all want to give a purpose to our children. By the time they pass out, they forget what it means to be interested in something — anything.

It is anybody's guess whether an open book exam will resolve this deeper problem that the Yash Pal report had pointed out. For him, the goal of good teaching was to create intrinsic motivation. Our failure to create it needs a broader remedy.

The writer is former director, National Council of Educational Research and Training

Loss, longing and a letter

There was an emotional authenticity and accessibility to the songs of Pankaj Udhas

IN THE LATE 1990s, my mother, a classically trained sitar player, reluctantly attended a Pankaj Udhas concert, cajoled by her closest friend. Reluctantly, because she always thought that Udhas's voice was ordinary and lacked the *vuzan* (gravitas) and *golai* (wholeness) that her heavyweight favourites — Mehdi Hassan, Ghulam Ali and, to some extent, Jagit Singh — had.

She gave in to her friend because there was one potent weapon in Udhas's arsenal. "We'll listen to 'Chitti aayi hai' and come back," she told the 13-year-old me, as we walked to the open-air concert space. I had heard and watched the song on television many times and didn't mind the outing.

An hour into the concert came the song we were there for. The audience, which had been demanding his songs about *sharaab* and *shabaab*, fell silent, as Udhas began the famed refrain which described the emotions of a father through a letter. And there they were, the lines that turned the atmosphere wistful: "Saat samandar paar gaya tu, humko zinda maar gaya tu/ Tere bin jab aayi Diwali, deep nahi dil jale hai khadai" from Mahesh Bhatt's film *Naam* (1986).

The audience wept, including my mother

and her friend — the former, imagining the pain of her parents because she lived far from them, and the latter, as she told us later, for her son, a young Army captain posted in Siachen after the Kargil war. Everyone found their own story reflected in Anand Bakshi's lyrics and Laxmikant-Pyarelal's tune. Listeners welled up hearing it in Udhas's uncomplicated voice, including those who didn't think much of his voice — its timbre, texture or range. Such was the effect that this song by Udhas could have on people.

There were stories back then of the song making such an impression on non-resident Indians that many considered moving back. One didn't often see such power in a *nazm*. It was surprising how 'Chitti aayi hai' could evoke such an acute sense of loss. The song will remain synonymous with Udhas, who passed away in Mumbai at 72 after a months-long struggle with pancreatic cancer.

Born and raised in Gujarat, Udhas trained in classical music in Mumbai under Navrang Nagpurkar of the Bhendi Bazaar gharana besides lessons in Urdu pronunciation. He had moved to the city with his family after his brother Manhar began singing in Hindi films — Udhas thought it would give him a foothold

in the industry. But despite the success of the Usha Khanna composition 'Tum kabhi saamne aa jao', which he sang for the film *Kaamma* (1972), Udhas couldn't find work. This was a time when films were heavily dependent on playback singers like Mohammed Rafi, Lata Mangeshkar, Manna Dey and Kishore Kumar, for box-office returns. Not many wanted to bet on a newcomer, unless of course, they couldn't afford the big names.

Around that time, Udhas, who had been fascinated by Begum Akhtar's voice, decided to turn to ghazals and brought out his first album *Ahat* in 1980, followed by *Mukarrar* in 1981. This was poetry that eschewed difficult phrases and metaphors in favour of clear, plain language, presented like a *ghazal-numa* film song.

The ghazal, in its traditional form, glorified love and longing, pain and separation, and often the *maikhaana* (tavern). It was considered a sort of cultured opposition to religious orthodoxy, presenting a modern, secular point of view. Much of that context was lost in the music of the 1980s and 1990s, as the form adapted to survive and developed into the soft, nostalgic genre of today. As the vibrancy of Urdu, the language it was pre-

dominantly sung in, declined, the ghazal, too, lost much of its essence.

In the 1980s, even though very few ghazals were brilliant, the genre became a mainstay of film music. Udhas, along with ghazal singers such as Penaz Masani, Chandan Das, Rajender and Nina Mehta, the Hussain brothers, and Bhupinder and Mitali Singh, was part of a wave, with Jagit Singh at its crest.

Udhas performed ghazals like light music, in a voice that didn't have the refinement and virtuosity of Mehdi Hassan and Ghulam Ali and lacked the soulfulness that Jagit Singh brought to the genre. Still, he remained popular, especially among those who didn't know Urdu well, for the simplicity of his music, which, at times, felt inventive. He also entered the Indian pop space in the late 1990s and found success with soft-pop ghazals such as 'Ahista' and 'Chandi jaisa rang'.

What worked for Udhas was the accessibility of his songs. This may be why many still find an emotional authenticity in his music. For this, Udhas should be celebrated — and for the moving letter from a father that he once sang about.

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"What we really need right now are decisive actions, and the political will to take them. We hope that the new leadership in the environment ministry will treat air pollution with the urgency that it deserves, otherwise it risks repeating the history of failure."

— THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

Culture as development

It is recognised as a standalone goal under India's G20 presidency. This will have important consequences



GOVIND MOHAN AND LILY PANDEYA

on society. This standalone goal would galvanise global action, nurture creativity and intercultural dialogue, empower marginalised communities, and safeguard vulnerable heritage. By weaving cultural considerations into the core fabric of development, we unlock its transformative potential, ensuring a more equitable, just, and sustainable world for generations to come.

As the international community begins to reflect on the challenges and terms of reference for a post-2030 Agenda, it is timely to consider how culture could take its proper place in future commitments, goals, and targets. Establishing culture as a standalone goal in the post-2030 Agenda would address the current gap and ensure a holistic approach to sustainable development.

India's support for culture on the global stage is grounded in its rich heritage and demonstrated commitment to holistic sustainability. Our nation's ancient wisdom and cultural practices are not relics of the past but living resources that offer innovative solutions to contemporary challenges. Sustainability, in its broadest sense, has always been a core tenet of Indian society, enabling us to navigate and prosper amidst centuries of socio-economic complexities. The cultural ethos of India is characterised by mutual co-existence, peace, and interdependence, providing us with a comprehensive approach to addressing modern challenges.

India has been able to leverage this heritage to develop innovative solutions by adapting traditional wisdom to modern needs. We are known to make sustainable choices, which makes India one of the least wasteful economies. Old worn-out clothes in Indian households are first handed down and then often used as a duster rather than being disposed of. Similarly, old newspapers, books and other waste materials have been recycled for generations through scrap vendors. We have a culture of attributing value to all resources and frugality has been a way of life. The concept of a circular economy, therefore, has been embedded in our lifestyle.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) during the COP26 Summit in Glasgow in 2021 is a testament to India's commitment to global sustainability. LiFE emphasises the importance of adopting an eco-conscious lifestyle and invites the international community to join in a collective effort to move towards mindful and responsible resource utilisation.

The unanimous endorsement of culture as a standalone goal by the G20 under India's leadership holds profound significance for the international community. By this elevation, we can collectively reaffirm the critical importance of culture in fostering inclusive, resilient, and interconnected societies. This paradigm shift in global development thinking is not just timely but essential for the well-being of current and future generations. As we look towards a post-2030 world, embracing culture as a core component of the global development agenda is not just a strategic choice — it is an essential step towards a brighter, more harmonious future for all nations and peoples.

Mohan is secretary and Pandeya is joint secretary, Union Ministry of Culture

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HOW TO FUND POLLS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Instead of electoral bonds' (IE, February 27). The Supreme Court's recent verdict outlawing electoral bonds has rightly shifted focus on the future of political funding in the world's largest democracy. The money raised by political parties through the EBS was only a fraction of what they and their candidates actually spent during elections. Elections are now reduced to a display of financial power.

The more money a party has, the more it can spend on campaigning. An ideal fundraising structure should have total transparency about donations beyond a specific threshold to maintain people's trust and combat corruption. To prevent quid pro quo deals and cronyism, there should be a cap on the amount one could donate to a political party. Parties should incorporate crowdfunding into their campaigns to promote public participation.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

WAR'S TRAGEDY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A tragic anniversary' (IE, February 27). Against a relatively weak opponent like Ukraine, many political analysts and military experts had expected Moscow to run over Kyiv. But the war has dragged on, with no end in sight. Besides the immense

toll that it is taking both sides, there have been many unfortunate consequences. The world appears to be more divided than ever before, supply chains have been disrupted and the pandemic-affected global economy is yet to find its feet. Knowing that there cannot be any clear winner in this war, a resolution is needed for the sake of humanity.

Vijai Pant, Hapur

THE STORE WE NEED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'More in store' (IE, February 27). The government's move to double the storage capacity is better late than never. The continued wastage of foodgrains due to lack of proper storage facilities amid poverty outraged the SC in 2010, when it ordered the free distribution of food grains to the poor instead of allowing them to rot in the FCI godowns. In 2020, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution told the Lok Sabha that more than 38,000 metric tonnes (MTs) of food grains had been damaged in the last five years. This damage has caused a cumulative loss of over Rs 484 million. Moreover, apart from capacity, the lack of human and other resources in FCI to manage challenges posed by pests, leaching during the rainy season, flooding etc are detrimental to grain safety.

LR Murmu, New Delhi



SUANSHU KHURANA

IN THE LATE 1990s, my mother, a classically trained sitar player, reluctantly attended a Pankaj Udhas concert, cajoled by her closest friend. Reluctantly, because she always thought that Udhas's voice was ordinary and lacked the *vuzan* (gravitas) and *golai* (wholeness) that her heavyweight favourites — Mehdi Hassan, Ghulam Ali and, to some extent, Jagit Singh — had.

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DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 27

HIGH DRAMA unfolded in Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday as the BJP pulled off an upset by defeating the Congress's Abhishek Manu Singhvi in the Rajya Sabha elections because of cross-voting by six of the party's MLAs. While the BJP called on the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government to step down, saying it had "lost the mandate and trust", the CM dismissed the claim.

The trouble for the government comes at a time when the Assembly's annual Budget session is going on and ahead of voting on the state Finance Bill in the Assembly.

The BJP's Harsh Mahajan, a former Congress leader, won the election in a draw of slips after both he and Singhvi polled 34 votes each in the 68-member Assembly. Out of the two slips, the one that was drawn carried Singhvi's name and as per the norms he was "excluded" and Mahajan was declared the winner. The Congress has 40 MLAs in the House compared to the BJP's 25 and was counting on the support of three independent MLAs.



BJP candidate Harsh Mahajan celebrates after being elected as Rajya Sabha MP from Himachal Pradesh, on Tuesday. PTI

Congress MLAs Rajinder Rana, Sudhir Sharma, Chaitanya Sharma, Inder Dutt Lakhpal, Davinder Kumar Bhutto, and Ravi Thakur, and independent legislators Ashish Sharma, KL Thakur, and Hoshyar Singh voted for Mahajan. Before the results were declared, they were allegedly escorted to Panchkula in Haryana. A video clip that appeared online purportedly showed the MLAs in about five cars outside a government guesthouse in Panchkula. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu alleged that "five to six Congress MLAs" had been "kidnapped" and taken away by a convoy of the CRPF and Haryana Police.

Demanding that the Sukhu government resign, state BJP president Rajeev Bindal told reporters, "They have no right to remain in power. We will meet the Governor in the morning to call for voting on the day of the vote on Budget. The government should step down." Former CM and Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur also said the Sukhu government "will have to tender resignation".

But at a press conference, Sukhu dismissed the BJP leaders' claim. "We have not lost the trust. We got 34 votes and they got 34 votes. Six Congress MLAs did cross-voting. They voted

against a leading lawyer. Was it a vote of resentment?"

Asked what would be the party's line of action, Sukhu said, "No line of action. 34 MLAs showed their honesty. They were given various allures. But, they showed character, morality, and honesty. Those MLAs are with us. The culture of Himachal does not allow this (cross-voting)."

With Sukhu by his side, Singhvi said, "I want to congratulate Harsh Mahajan that he has won. But I would certainly ask his party to introspect. If a party having 25 seats fields a candidate against one having 43, it only has one message. I am talking about principles here. The message is that 'we will shamelessly do what the law doesn't allow'. If you think that nine people have changed by getting impressed with a new ideology and that too overnight, then I think we all are living in a fool's paradise."

He added, "If this is the definition of new India, then I prefer old India. We have created history even by losing today. It is probably for the first time in the country's history that a tie has happened at 34-34 despite all efforts by our friends." —WITH PTI

Face-saver for Cong in Karnataka, with help of two BJP MLAs

AKRAM M
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 27

ST Somashekar cross-voted, Shivram Hebbar abstained

flight with the Deputy CM, triggering speculations of his return to the Congress. He may now be fielded by the party as a candidate from the Bangalore North Lok Sabha constituency.

Hebbar also is a three-time MLA, with an areca nut plantation and other business interests. He served as minister of labour in the Yediyurappa and Bommai Cabinets.

He is reportedly also unhappy with the BJP, though reasons about this are still unclear. Speculation is doing the rounds that he may return to the Congress fold and may be the party's candidate from Uttara Kannada Lok Sabha seat.

In 2008, he contested the Yellapur-Mundgod seat as a Congress nominee but lost to BJP's VS Patil.

BJP's Pandey is a big asset. A three-time MLA from Unchahar Assembly constituency of Raebareli, he won the past two times defeating BJP candidates.

Tuesday's developments could also have repercussions in the Lok Sabha polls. If the Congress had hoped that Manoj Pandey's popularity would rub off on its candidate in Raebareli, it was counting on Rakesh Pratap and Abhay Singh's base to make the fight easier in Amethi, as their seats lie adjacent to the constituency.

Tuesday's cross-voting is also set to dampen the enthusiasm of the SP-Congress alliance, which finally saw a ray of light in sorting of seat-sharing.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

GENETIC TRAIT

UNION SCIENCE Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, a trained diabetologist himself, said at an event that central obesity among Indians was linked to a higher prevalence of diabetes. Talking about how this must be a genetic trait as it is present even among Indians who have lived abroad for a couple of generations, the minister said that Indians, however, have figured out smart ways to conceal the central obesity with six-yard 'sarees' and knee-length 'kurta'.

MINISTER ORDINARY

AS FORMER diplomat Lakshmi Puri has been on a publicity tour for her book 'Swallowing the Sun', her husband, Union Minister Hardeep Puri, is attending the launch events like an ordinary guest. At the Mumbai launch event on Tuesday, the Minister took a seat in the second row of the audience. Last week, for the Delhi launch of the book, Puri could be seen seated towards the back of the hall, while officers from his ministries sat a couple of rows in front of him.

Film certification overhaul: Online applications, more women in Board

Ministry seeks comments on Draft of Cinematograph (Certification) Rules

DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

INA bid to overhaul the film certification process in the country, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has framed some sweeping changes to the cinematograph rules, and the new set of rules will be notified in a few weeks.

While the BJP was expected to win 7 seats as per its numbers in the UP Assembly, the SP should have got 3. However, the BJP put up a surprise eighth candidate, forcing a contest. In the end, while all 8 candidates of the party in cross-voting, causing one of the three candidates put up by the SP to lose.

While the BJP was invited comments and suggestions on these Draft Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024, till March 1, 2024, after which, these rules will formally come into effect in due course. This is in consonance with the provisions of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023, which was notified last year, officials say.

Significantly, the role of third parties in the certification process has been totally done away with in the wake of allegations of bribery against middlemen. The applications can only be submitted online, as per the draft rules. It says, "Every application to certify a film for public exhibition shall be made on the online portal of the Board, hereinafter referred to as the e-cinepramaan portal."

As per the earlier rules, "application to certify a film for public exhibition had to be made in writing", and addressed to the Board and delivered to the regional officer concerned.

Significantly, in a relief to filmmakers, the new rules also provide that a certificate granted by the CBFC will be perpetually valid. As of now, a certificate was only valid for 10 years, after which a film had to be recertified.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

The Central Government may take such steps as it thinks fit to appoint women members in the Board so that there is due representation for women, where one-third of the members in the Board shall be women and preferably half shall be women," states the 2024 rules.

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The Ministry

Viksit Maritime Sector Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee



Foundation Stone Laying for the
VOC Port's Outer Harbour Container Terminal
&
Dedication to the Nation, Inauguration and Foundation Stone Laying for
Various other Development Projects

Worth more than ₹ 17,000 Crores

by

NARENDRA MODI

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Wednesday, 28th February, 2024, 9:30 AM onwards at V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu



36 PROJECTS

18
INAUGURATION
₹5350
CR.

15
FOUNDATION
₹10500
CR.

3
DEDICATION
₹1550
CR.

Launch of
VOC PORT AS INDIA'S FIRST GREEN HYDROGEN HUB PORT
INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS HYDROGEN VESSEL



Projects for Inauguration, Foundation Laying and Dedication to the Nation

Mechanization of Berth and 5 MLD Desalination Plant at VOCPA | Retrofitting of Existing SCI Ships to run on Green Hydrogen or its derivatives | Development of Tourism Facilities at 75 Lighthouses across India | Roads at NMPA and JNPA | Construction of Berth and Rehabilitation of Jetty at VPA | Four Laning of Jittandahalli - Dharmapuri section of NH-844 | Two Laning of Meensurutti-Chidambaram Section of NH-81 | Four-laning of Oddanchatram - Madathukulam section of NH-83 | Two Laning of Nagapattinam - Thanjavur section of NH-83 | 86 km doubling of Vanchi Maniyachchi - Tirunelveli and Melappalayam | Aralvaymoli Railway sections | O&M of Berths at MbPA & JNPA | Mechanization of East Quay and Upgradation of Hospital to super specialty at VPA | 150 bedded multi-specialty hospital and Covered storage at NMPA | Development of dry dock & ship repair yard and O&M of 2 berths at MPA | Re-construction and mechanization of berths at SMPA | New Launch Complex of ISRO at Kulasekharapatnam

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- More efficient, Safe & Speedy Cargo evacuation & logistics
- Employment generation through economic activity related to tourism
- Zero Emission Zero Noise vessels for Waterways
- Enhanced Speed, ease & comfort of travel
- Upgraded Rail & Road infrastructure for better connectivity

IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF

R.N. Ravi
Hon'ble Governor,
Tamil Nadu

Sarbananda Sonowal
Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports,
Shipping & Waterways and Ayush;
Govt. of India

Shripad Yesso Naik
Hon'ble Union Minister of State for
Ports, Shipping and Waterways &
Tourism

Shantanu Thakur
Hon'ble Union Minister of State for
Ports, Shipping and Waterways

E.V. Velu
Hon'ble Minister for Public Works,
Highways and Minor Ports,
Tamil Nadu

P. Geetha Jeevan
Hon'ble Minister for
Social Welfare &
Women Empowerment

Kanimozhi Karunanidhi
Hon'ble Member of Parliament,
Thoothukkudi

Former SC judge Khanwilkar to head Lokpal, 6 other members also named

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

NEARLY 19 months after he retired as a Supreme Court judge, Justice A M Khanwilkar was appointed the chairperson of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal on Tuesday. The post fell vacant nearly two years ago.

"President Droupadi Murmu is pleased to appoint Justice Ajay Manikra Khanwilkar as the chairperson of the Lokpal," a statement released by Rashtrapati Bhavan said. Justice Khanwilkar had a six-year tenure as an SC judge. He retired in July 2022.

The government has also appointed six members, including three judicial members, to the Lokpal. Former Himachal Pradesh HCCJ Lingappa Narayana Swamy, former Allahabad HC CJ Sanjay Yadav and former Karnataka HC CJ and Law Commission Chairperson Ritu Raj Awasthi are judicial members; non-judicial members include former CEC Sushil Chandra, former Chief Secretary of Gujarat Pankaj Kumar and former Rural Development Secretary Ajay Tirkey.

The Lokpal chairperson and the members are appointed for a term of five years or serve till they are 70 years old, whichever is earlier. The first Lokpal chairperson was former Supreme Court Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose, who had assumed office in March 2019. Since his retirement in May 2022, former Jharkhand HC Chief Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty has been the acting Lokpal chairperson.

Justice Awasthi was appointed the chairperson of the 22nd Law Commission in November 2022. The panel's tenure ends in August 2024. During his tenure, the panel submitted a key report in support of retaining sedition as a criminal offence. *The Indian Express* has reported that the Justice Awasthi-led panel also finalised a report favouring the idea of one-nation, one-election.

Sushil Chandra, a retired IRS (Income Tax) officer of 1980 batch served as CBDT chairman before being appointed as an Election Commissioner in February 2019, and later the CEC from April 2021 to May 2022. As EC, Chandra was a part of the panel, along with then CEC Sunil Arora, which gave PM Narendra Modi a clean chit in MCC violation matters in 2019 LS polls, over the objections of then EC Ashok Lavasa.

Justice Swamy was originally a judge of the Karnataka HC. For five months, he held the office of Acting CJ of Karnataka HC in 2019.

Justice Yadav, whose parent HC is the Madhya Pradesh HC, had a tenure of just 13 days as CJ of the Allahabad HC in June 2021. During his tenure as CJ, when the Uttar Pradesh ordinance on anti-conversion had been passed as a law, Justice Yadav had refused permission to the petitioners to amend their plea.

Tirkey, a 1987-batch Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS (retd) officer, superannuated as Secretary, Department of Land Resource, Ministry of Rural Development on December 31, 2023. He has served in various ministries, including women and child development and defence. Pankaj Kumar, a 1986-batch IAS officer was chief secretary of Gujarat from August 2021 to January 2023. A civil engineer from IIT-Kanpur, Kumar was at the helm during the pandemic, and was given an extension in May 2022. Kumar had served as Additional Principal Secretary in the Chief Minister's Office from 2004-2008 when Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister.

Aadhaar to UAPA to PMLA, he authored many crucial orders

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

AFTER NEARLY two years, the new chairperson of the Lokpal, former SC judge Justice (retd) A M Khanwilkar, was appointed to May 2022. As EC, Chandra was a part of the panel, along with then CEC Sunil Arora, which gave PM Narendra Modi a clean chit in MCC violation matters in 2019 LS polls, over the objections of then EC Ashok Lavasa.

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In September 2018, Justice Khanwilkar was part of the five-judge Constitution Benches in the landmark Aadhaar and Sabarimala cases.

In 2020, he authored the decision to uphold the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020. In 2021, he authored the three-judge Bench judgment establishing the protocol that state governments must follow before reserving seats in local bodies.

In June 2022, Khanwilkar



Khanwilkar, 66, is the second chairperson of Lokpal. File

was part of the bench that upheld the SIT clean chit to Modi and others in the 2002 riots case, which had been challenged by Zakia Jafri. The SC held that Jafri, whose husband Ahsan Jafri was killed in the riots, had pursued the proceedings to "keep the pot boiling, obviously, for ulterior design". The next day, the Gujarat Police had arrested activist Teesta Setalvad and former IPS officer on charges of fabricating evidence linked to the riots.

A month later, on July 27, 2022, two days before his retirement, Justice Khanwilkar delivered the judgment upholding the constitutionality of the PMLA, 2002, granting wide investigative powers to the ED. As a SC judge, Justice Khanwilkar wrote 226 judgments – only three judges wrote more – and was a part of 817 Benches, as per data collected by the Supreme Court Observer.

In his last year, he authored a series of crucial verdicts that validated state's sweeping powers against citizens in special legislations- the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and the Foreign Contribution(Regulation) Amendment Act.

Top court contempt notice to Patanjali on 'misleading' ads

Supreme Court also restrains company from branding, advertising its products

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE SUPREME Court issued contempt of court notice Tuesday to Patanjali Ayurveda and its Director Acharya Balkrishna for allegedly flouting an undertaking given to the court not to come out with any advertisement about its drugs and to desist from making statements against "any system of medicine".

The bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah also restrained the company from advertising or branding of products made by it for treating diseases/conditions as laid down in Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954, and the rules framed under it.

It "cautioned... the respondent and its officers... from making any statements adverse to any system of medicine in the media (both print and electronic) in any form as undertaken by them on the last date".

Justice Amanullah asked what the Ministry of Ayush had done about the complaints on "misleading advertisements" since the petition was filed two years ago. "The entire country has been taken for a ride. You shut your eyes!... For two years, you wait for this important thing when the Drugs Act itself says it's prohibited?" he said.

In its plea, the Indian Medical Association had accused Patanjali of carrying out a smear campaign against modern medicine and vaccination.

Hearing it on November 21,

2023, a bench presided by Justice Amanullah had recorded a statement of Patanjali counsel that "henceforth there shall not be any violation of any law(s), especially relating to advertising or branding of products manufactured and marketed by it and, further, that no statements claiming medicinal efficacy or against any system of medicine will be released to the media in any form" and said that the company "is bound down to such assurance".

On Tuesday, Senior Advocate P S Patwaria, appearing for IMA, told the court that the company had continued to issue advertisements about the efficacy of its medicines and that this was prohibited under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act.

Justice Kohli said the court is only concerned about the last order and how that has been followed. Patwaria said, despite the November 21 order, "he is going on releasing these medicinal efficacy statements and he is advertising his products along with that".

He said advertisements of such claims about diabetes, blood pressure, obesity, asthma etc are prohibited under Section 3 of Act.

The senior counsel said the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) had been receiving "multiple complaints" about Patanjali's advertisements and that the Council had "upheld" some of these.

Justice Kohli asked "when you say they were upheld, what were these complaints?" She also asked senior advocate Vipin Sanghi, who appeared for the company, when it had taken any consequential action in response to the Council "upholding" the complaints, "that your competitors are trying to berate you in public?"

Sanghi explained that ASCI is

only a self-regulatory body and its recommendations have "no consequence in law".

Patwaria said Patanjali subsequently filed a suit before the Bombay High Court seeking damages to the tune of Rs 50 crore.

Appearing for the Centre, Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, referring to the provisions of the Act, said that in case a violation is established, it is the respective state government which has the power to act.

"We have been trying to get data and details whether such complaints have been filed, and what are the steps that have been taken. The consultation is going on," he said, seeking more time to file a detailed response. "If there is a violation, they are definitely bound to answer to it," he said.

Justice Kohli asked "What kind of consultation has been undertaken by you and which are the authorities with whom you have consulted?".

Nataraj said, "Ayush ministry is the nodal ministry... There are four stages. One is granting permission. Number two is marketing. Third is the violation. Fourth, whether it meets the standards or not, that is testing all these things... So it requires effective consultation with four different agencies."

At one stage, Justice Amanullah said the court wanted to issue contempt notices to the "two persons" (Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna) whose photographs had appeared in the advertisement.

It subsequently issued notice to only Patanjali and Acharya Balkrishna.

SANDESHKHALI FALLOUT

Mamata to party leaders: No one can snatch tribals' land

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 27

WITH HER party leaders facing heat over land grabbing charges in Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Tuesday said land belonging to tribals would not be taken away in any condition.

Speaking in Purulia district, she referred to the legislation made by her government and said, "Nobody can snatch land from the tribals. Their land will not be taken away in any way. The tribal land cannot be also transferred."

In a message to her party leaders, the TMC supremo also warned them against depriving people of their rights and said she would not tolerate any kind of atrocities on people. "You must stay with people. They helped us win (in the elections). If you do not provide service to them, they will throw us away. If you want to join another political party, I have no objection to it. But, if you are determined to stay in my party, then you will have to work for the people," she told TMC leaders and workers.

Since the beginning of this month, Sandeshkhali has been witnessing protests, mostly by tribals, who have accused the lo-



Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee in Bankura on Tuesday. PTI

cal TMC leaders of forcibly occupying their land, not paying the lease money of land, and sexually harassing women. So far, three TMC leaders of Sandeshkhali – Uttam Sardar, Shibaprasad Hazra, and Ajit Maity – have been arrested.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, a senior TMC leader said the CM has tried to assuage the anger among the tribal people of Sandeshkhali with Tuesday's assertion.

Meanwhile, she also announced her government has started a survey to enumerate the population of the Mahato community amid their long-pending demand for ST status. She said her government would also write to the Centre seeking recognition of Sarnaism as a separate religion as

SANDESHKHALI EX-MLA GETS BAIL

Kolkata: The Calcutta HC Tuesday granted bail to CPI(M)'s former Sandeshkhali MLA Nirapada Sardar, who was taken into police custody on charges of fomenting unrest in the area, with a division bench Justices Devangshu Basak and Mohammad Shabbar Rashidi expressing surprise at his arrest being made on the basis of an FIR that was registered a day before police complaint was lodged. Sardar was arrested on February 11 from South Kolkata after a complaint by TMC leader Shivprasad Hazra's associate Banu Mandal on February 10. An FIR was lodged a day before, sources said. ENS

being demanded by tribals, and asserted that if it is not given, she would start a massive demonstration. "The Mahatos have a long-standing demand to declare them as STs. But, I will tell them it is not in my hands... I would like to inform you that we have started a geographical survey to find the actual percentage of the Mahato population in the state. We have over 6 per cent tribal population in West Bengal," she said.

The Union Ministry of I&B and the Union Education Ministry came together for the campaign. "Let us make our electoral process even more participative. I call



PURPLE FEST

President Droupadi Murmu with Divyangan during a day-long 'Purple Fest' at Amrit Udyan, Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday. ANI

LS polls: Campaign for first-time voters

New Delhi: Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the government Tuesday launched a national campaign to encourage first-time voters to exercise their franchise and make the poll process more participative.

The Union Ministry of I&B and the Union Education Ministry came together for the campaign. "Let us make our electoral process even more participative. I call

upon people from all walks of life to spread the message, in their own style, among first time voters," PM Narendra Modi said on X.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said he has directed all higher education institutions in the country to conduct voter awareness activities on their campuses from February 28 to March 6. The voter awareness related activi-

ties will be conducted in designated spaces on campuses.

"As the nation gears up for its biggest festival of democracy, I urge all of you to join the #Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye campaign," said Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur. A jingle "Banega Desh Mahan, Jab Vote Karenge Hum" aimed at reaching out to 1.85 crore first-time voters in the country was launched Tuesday. ENS

Gur & khandsari stage revival through new production tech, savvy marketing

HARISH DAMODARAN
SHAMLI, MUZAFFARNAGAR (UP), FEBRUARY 27

FROM COTTAGE and bulk commodity to automated production and consumer brand marketing – that's what some entrepreneurs are attempting with gur (jaggery) and khandsari (unrefined country sugar) in western UP.

K P Singh, 67, owner of Hans Heritage Jaggery and Farm Produce, is a former group head (operations) of Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd, who, between 2002 and 2018, helped expand the company from 3 to 10 sugar factories and from one to 4 distilleries.

In 2018, Singh bought 3 acres of land at Sikandarpur in Shamli district's Unn tehsil for Rs 1.5 crore.

On that land, he invested another Rs 14 crore to set up India's first automated, pollution-free gur plant.

"I wanted it to be in my village where we farm 60 bigha (10 acres). But Unn had a mill (of Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar) and the rules didn't permit a power crusher to come up within 7.5 km from an existing factory. I then chose this site, which is also 8.5 km from the Shamli sugar mill (of Sir Shadi Lal Enterprises)," said Singh.

Traditional gur-making kolhus have a single diesel engine-driven crusher with a vertical roller. The juice they extract from sugarcane is boiled in open pans. The fuel used for boiling is bagasse, the fibrous residue after juice extraction. The juice is boiled to about 75 degrees Celsius in the first pan, along with a sticky solution made from bhindi (okra) plant stems.

The latter binds with various impurities, with resultant scum settling at the surface of the boiling juice and ladled off. The clarified juice is further boiled to 110 degr-

ees or more in the next two pans. The concentrated syrup is finally taken to a flat platform, where it cools and forms gur. A kolhu can crush 10-20 tonnes of cane daily (tcd). Every 10 tonnes crushed yields around 1.2 tonnes of gur.

Khandsari units have power connection for crushing cane, but, like kolhus, use bagasse to boil juice in open pans. They normally have two crushers, each with three horizontal rollers of 12x18 inches size. Their capacities range from 50-70 tcd (with two crushers) to 150 tcd (four crushers), with 9 (3 of 3-in-series) or 12 (4 of 3) pans. Khandsari is made by transferring the concentrated liquid gur to a crystalliser pan, where it is slowly rotated and cooled for 1-2 days to form coarse sugar. The recovery of khandsari and gur in power crushers is 13-14%, higher than average 12% in kolhus.

Singh's plant has four crush-

ers, each with three larger rollers of 20x30 inches, and 250 tcd capacity, expandable to 500 tcd. It makes only gur, no khandsari. "My gur is natural and black. Kolhus add masala (sodium hydroxide) and sugar in the boiling juice, the former to give gur a golden hue and the latter to

make it crisp. I add neither. Natural black jaggery has 80% sugars and 20% non-sugars. In regular kolhu gur, the ratio could be 95:5 due to added sugar," he claimed.

Singh's gur unit runs on grid power through a 500 kilovolt-amper (400 kilowatt) connection. There's no biomass burning; the

entire bagasse byproduct from cane crush is sold. Boiling of juice happens in plate evaporators (as against open pans). The clarified juice is evaporated first by a heat pump and a mechanical vapour re-compressor. The semi-solid jaggery is then poured into stainless steel moulds to cool and set.

The technology for Singh's first-of-its-kind automated gur plant, commissioned in the first week



Government of
Madhya Pradesh

MPIDC
MP INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION LTD.



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



INVEST
MADHYA
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1-2 March, 2024 – Ujjain



Dr. Mohan Yadav
Chief Minister

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CONCLAVE HIGHLIGHTS



BUYER &
SELLER
MEET



EXHIBITION



5 THEMATIC
SESSIONS

Foreign
Delegates:

30+ from
10 Countries

Industry
Participants:

650+ Prominent
Industrialists

Thematic
Sessions:

5 Sessions with
25 Industry Leaders

Buyers and
Sellers:

3000+

B2B
Meetings:

1000+



USA



Canada



Fiji



Germany



Gabon



Israel



Japan



South Korea



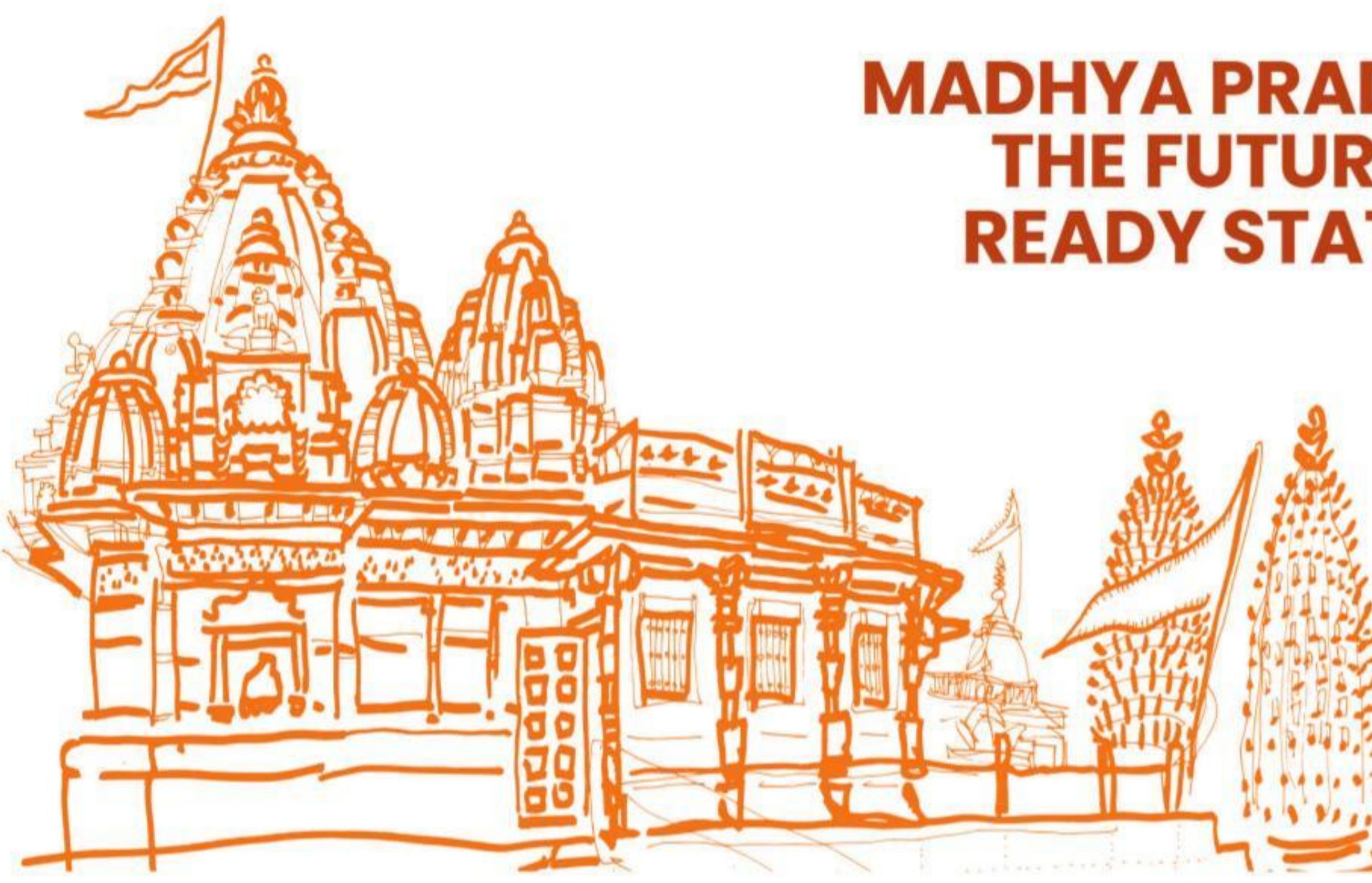
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In weeks before Supreme Court scrapped scheme, Govt printed electoral bonds worth ₹8,350 crore

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 27

FROM DECEMBER 29, 2023 until February 15 this year, when the Supreme Court struck down the electoral bonds (EB) scheme of anonymous political funding, the Government printed 8,350 bonds of ₹1 crore face value each.

Overall, since 2018, when the scheme was launched, the Government printed EBs worth ₹35,660 crore – 33,000 bonds of ₹1 crore face value each

and 26,600 bonds of ₹10 lakh face value each.

The information was provided by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, in reply to an RTI application filed by Commodore Lokesh K Batra (Retd).

According to the RTI reply, commission and printing the EBs cost the Government ₹13.94 crore, while the State Bank of India (SBI) – the authorised financial institution under the scheme – charged it ₹12.04 crore, inclusive of GST, as com-

mission for sales in 30 phases since the scheme was launched. Donors and political parties were not charged any commission or GST, the information revealed.

On February 15, in a historic verdict barely weeks before the Lok Sabha polls were set to be notified, a five-judge Constitution bench, headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud, struck down the EB scheme, saying changes made in the laws to implement it were unconstitutional.

Holding the scheme “violative” of the constitutional right

to freedom of speech and expression and right to information, the court did not agree with the Centre’s contention that it was meant to bring about transparency and curb black money in political funding.

Although the EC is yet to publish the annual reports of political parties for the financial year 2023–24, between March 2018 and January 2024, the collective amount of funds generated through sale of EBs was ₹16,518 crore.

More than half of the funds

extended through EBs so far have gone to the BJP. The party, as per its declarations to the EC, received ₹6,565 crore via bonds between 2017 and 2023.

The Congress was a distant second at ₹1,123 crore.

In its two separate but unanimous verdicts spanning 232 pages, the top court also directed the SBI to submit by March 6 the details of EBs purchased since April 12, 2019 till date to the Election Commission (EC) which will publish the information on its official website by March 13.

Although what remains uncertain at the moment is whether the data shared by SBI will be presented in a format that helps one immediately match the bond buyer to the political party that received the same bond.

As of now, it is assumed that corporates and high-network individuals were the principal donors, as indicated by EC records, which show that around 94% of EBs purchased in most of the 30 phases since the scheme was launched were of ₹1 crore face value each.

EC orders watch on suspicious payments from digital wallets

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

REPEATED TRANSACTIONS of similar amounts from one digital payment wallet to multiple recipients are being tracked as suspected distribution of money to influence voters ahead of elections, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

recent bye-election as well. In the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections, similar instructions have been issued to banks in other states, the source said.

Among the transactions that raised eyebrows were those of around ₹1,000–₹2,000 each from a single payment wallet to multiple recipients in a short duration.

Asked how the EC would counter the use of digital wallets for distribution of money during the Lok Sabha elections, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said at a press conference in Chennai last week that he cannot reveal how it would be tackled, but added that the EC would keep a strict vigil.

“The banks will be keeping a watch on the accounts from where the money is going to multiple accounts, that is the wallets they are using. The organisation called the National Payments Corporation of India Ltd, will also be roped into to keep a watch on the transactions through wallet. If people try new ways of transferring money, we’ll also not be very far behind to catch them because the systems have all been put in place,” Kumar had said on February 24.

Acting on a EC letter, the Department of Financial Services had written to the State Level Bankers’ Committee (SLBC) of Karnataka on April 13, 2023, saying: “With the advancement of electronic modes of payments, the same may be used for transfer of money to influence the voters or to fund the candidates participating in the election. The Election Commission of India has raised concern on this and suggested this department to take suitable action as required.”

It asked the SLBC to sensitise its member banks to report high value and suspicious transactions to the authorities.

According to a source in the EC, apart from the Karnataka elections, the same suspicious transactions were seen during a Parliament on February 5.

POLL CODE CASES
Arrest Jaya Prada and produce her on March 6: Court to police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAMPUR, FEBRUARY 27

A COURT in UP’s Rampur on Tuesday declared former MP and actor Jaya Prada as an ‘absconder’ in connection with two election code violation cases and directed the police to arrest and produce her before it on March 6.

According to senior prosecution officer Amarnath Tiwari, two cases were registered against the former MP from Rampur at Kemari and Swar police stations for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

The actor was the BJP candidate from Rampur in the 2019 polls and was defeated by Azam Khan of the Samajwadi Party. She was elected to the Lok Sabha from Rampur in 2004 and 2009 on a Samajwadi Party ticket. The SP expelled her subsequently.

In these cases, the special MP-MLA court had issued summons several times but the former MP did not appear before it.

Subsequently, non-bailable warrants were issued against her seven times, but the police could not produce her before the court.

He said that the police, in its reply filed in the court, claimed that Jaya Prada was evading arrest and all her known mobile numbers were switched off.

Tiwari said that on this, judge Shobhit Bansal took a tough stance and declared Jaya Prada as an absconder.

The Rampur Superintendent of Police was ordered to form a team under a circle officer and arrest Jaya Prada and produce her in court on March 6.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar seeks the blessings of Jameela Begum, one of his teachers, during a visit to his school, in Thiruvananthapuram, Tuesday. PTI

Kerala HC upholds caste criterion qualifying only Malayali Brahmins for Sabarimala chief priest post

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOCHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE KERALA High Court on Tuesday dismissed a batch of petitions challenging notifications issued by the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) seeking only Malayali Brahmin applicants for the post of ‘melshanthy’ (chief priest) at the Sabarimala temple.

A division bench of Justices Anil K Narendran and P G Ajithkumar gave the verdict on the pleas that contended that restricting the selection of the chief priest post in such a way constituted untouchability and was violative of rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India.

The TDB notifications in question called for applications to the

post of chief priests in Sabarimala for Sannidhanam (the temple for the main deity, Lord Ayyappa) and Malikappuram (the goddess enshrined in a small temple nearby) with the caste criterion.

The court dismissed the writ petitions, saying that they lacked proper pleadings.

“The right protected under Article 25(2)(b) of the Constitution is the right to enter a temple and worship. This right is not absolute and unlimited in character. No member of Hindu public could claim as part of the rights protected under Article 25(2)(b) that a temple must be kept open for worship at all hours of the day and night or that they could perform the services which the archakas alone could perform,” the court said.

“Therefore, we find ab-

olutely no merit in the contention of the learned counsel for the petitioners that the conditions stipulated in the notification issued by the Devaswom Commissioner that the applicant for appointment as melshanthy at Sabarimala Devaswom and Malikappuram Devaswom shall be a Malayali Brahmin would amount to untouchability abolished under Article 17 of the Constitution,” the court added.

A July 2021 plea before the high court, filed through advocate B G Harindranath, challenged the TDB notification, saying that it totally disregards Supreme Court judgments and Articles 14, 15, 16, 17, and 21 of the Constitution of India.

cate B G Harindranath, challenged the TDB notification, saying that it totally disregards Supreme Court judgments and Articles 14, 15, 16, 17, and 21 of the Constitution of India.

The plea said the chief priest appointment had been held to be secular and should not have been confined to one particular community, especially in an institution administered by the TDB, fully controlled by the Kerala government.

Representing some of the

Jaipur: Police remove posters asking Hindus to ‘unite’ against Muslims

PARUL KULSHRESTHA
JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 27

POLICE IN Jaipur, Rajasthan’s state capital, say they have removed posters from outside half a dozen homes in Nandpuri colony that suggested residents should not rent or sell homes to Muslims.

Hari Om, second officer at Brahmputri police station, told *The Indian Express* they received information about this on February 19.

“We immediately removed the posters. It is not a big issue; only six or seven homes in the colony put these up.” No case has been filed in connection with the incident.

Anita Jain, councillor of ward 22 under which Nandpuri colony is located, said she was aware of the posters and supported the message.

“It is necessary to control the rise of the minority population

against the backdrop of discontent among some residents over Hindus renting or selling properties in the area to Muslims.

Hari Om, second officer at Brahmputri police station, told *The Indian Express* they received information about this on February 19.

“We immediately removed the posters. It is not a big issue; only six or seven homes in the colony put these up.” No case has been filed in connection with the incident.

Anita Jain, councillor of ward 22 under which Nandpuri colony is located, said she was aware of the posters and supported the message.

“It is necessary to control the rise of the minority population

in the Walled City. They are entering Hindu-dominated areas on purpose and it is important to control this,” she said, when contacted.

One of the residents outside whose home the poster came up said on condition of anonymity, “We put the posters but then someone informed the police. We agreed to the police removing the posters. We did not want to drag out the issue...”

Another resident who lives nearby explained, “A local resident recently gave his home on rent and moved elsewhere. Arumour then spread that he has sold his home to a Muslim.”

He added that “only a few homes in the neighbourhood were creating problems”.

THE GORAKHPUR district administration has revoked the registration of 45 private hospitals after it was found that doctors employed “full-time” in these hospitals were simultaneously engaged in other medical facilities.

The move comes on the basis of an inquiry conducted into the documents submitted to obtain nod to run a private hospital.

“Doctors’ affidavits, along with other documents, submitted to the office of the Chief Medical Officer while applying for registration to run private hospitals were examined. In these affidavits, doctors stated their com-

mitment to working full-time at the respective hospitals. However, during the inquiry, it was discovered that the affidavit of some doctors had been submitted at more than one place to seek registration,” said Dr Anil Singh, Additional Chief Medical Officer of Gorakhpur, on Tuesday.

After making a list of over 100 such hospitals, the district administration issued notices to the managements concerned.

“We identified 102 private hospitals and the managements are directed to submit affidavits from other doctors failing which their registrations would be cancelled. The management of 57 hospitals complied... by providing affidavits of other full-time doctors. However, the management

Gorakhpur: Licences of 45 pvt hospitals revoked as they fail to provide affidavits on full-time doctors

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 27

THE GORAKHPUR district administration has revoked the registration of 45 private hospitals after it was found that doctors employed “full-time” in these hospitals were simultaneously engaged in other medical facilities.

The researchers said that with advancements in biomedical and biotechnological sciences, the demand for gold nanoparticles in various applications, such as targeted drug delivery, medical imaging and electronics manufacturing, is

projected to skyrocket. Dr Nandkumar Kamat, a scientist who has been studying this variety of mushrooms for over three decades, said Goa has the largest species diversity and gene pool of the wild edible *Termitomyces* mushrooms.

“For the first time, this species of mushroom has been brought in pure culture, grown as pellets, and used to produce gold nanoparticles. The breakthrough pioneers the use of an eco-friendly species for mass production of gold nanoparticles. Other countries are using very toxic

chemical agents for production,” said Kamat.

“This wealth belongs to the country and needs to be conserved and judiciously used for industrial applications in the industrial and medicine sectors.

Suppose one wants to deliver a drug in the body, one can place the drug on the nanoparticle and it can enter the body,” she said.

Stating that gold nanoparticles are potentially lucrative in the global market, she added, “In February 2016, a single milligram of gold nanoparticles cost around \$80, which equates to \$80,000 dollars per gram.”

Acting on a tip-off that 30 to 40 members of Maoists had killed in an IED blast in Bijapur district,

4 Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 27

FOUR MAOISTS were gunned down by security forces in encounters while they were planting Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in a forest area in Chhattisgarh’s Bijapur district.

An encounter took place at 6.30 am and again at 9.30 am, leaving four Maoists dead. They are yet to be identified.

“We have recovered a radio set, three tiffin bombs and an IED, gelatin sticks, wires used for assembling bomb, a barrel grenade launcher, a pistol and an indigenously-made rifle from them,” said SP, Bijapur district, Jitendra Kumar Yadav.

Almost all victims of mob lynching, 'bulldozer culture' are Pasmanda Muslims: Report seeks stringent law

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, FEBRUARY 27

THE ALL India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz (AIPMM), an organisation working for backward Muslims, released a report based on the Bihar caste survey Tuesday, while demanding that the Centre bring in a stringent law against mob lynching and check "bulldozer culture" against the accused in a crime, claiming that almost all the victims of both such excesses belong to the Pasmanda community.

The report, which was released in Delhi, also seeks reservation for Pasmanda Muslims in private sectors, given their poor socio-economic conditions.

While the BJP, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been wooing Pasmanda Muslims in a strategic move, given that the larger Muslim community remains alienated with the party, the AIPMM report is equally critical of both the party and AIPMM.

The AIPMM report 'Bihar Caste Survey 2022-2023' and

Pasmanda Agenda' says: "Ninety-five per cent of the victims of mob lynching and excesses by government bulldozers belong to the Pasmanda community. Our demand is that a strict law be made against this. The Collector and SP of the district where such an incident occurs should be made accountable for it. In such incidents, compensation should be given to the family of the deceased and a government job should be given to a person from that family."

The report also sets an agenda for 2024 Lok Sabha elections, including a demand for "reservation in private sectors". Criticising the BJP and AIPMM, the report says "our ancestors" had protested in the thousands against both Mohammad Ali Jinnah's push for two States and V D Savarkar's Hindu Rashtra vision.

Referring to the Bihar caste survey, the report says: "Only 0.34 per cent of Pasmanda (EBC plus OBC) Muslims have ITI / diploma and only 0.13 per cent of them have bachelor of engineering degrees. Only 2.55 per cent of them are Arts / Science / Commerce graduates,

and only 0.03 per cent Pasmanda Muslims have chartered accountant and Ph.D degrees."

It says even in terms of how many have possessions such as computers, laptops or vehicles, the Pasmanda Muslims lag far behind. "About 99.10 per cent of Pasmanda Muslims have no computers or laptops and only 0.62 per cent Muslims use the Internet. About 96.47 Padmada Muslims do not possess any kind of vehicles. Only 3.10 per cent of them have two-wheelers."

The report further says: "While only 0.30 per cent OBC and EBC Muslims are taking education in other states, only 1.30 per cent are working outside the state... About 30.3 per cent Pasmanda Muslims have less than Rs 6,000 monthly income. About 55 per cent of them live in either tiled or tin-roof houses."

On the Centre's policies, the AIPMM report asks why it is stalling a caste census at the national level. It demands that the SC quota be extended to Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians, and that many tribes like

Mewati, Bangurjar, Madari, Sapera get ST status.

Of the 38 sub-groups identified among Muslims, 28 classify as EBCs in Bihar, forming 10.57% of the state population. There are 7 OBC Muslim groups, including Gaddi, Nalband, Kalal / Eraki, Jat, Madaria, Surjapuri and Malik, forming around 2% of the population. Together, the Pasmandas make up 72.52% of the Muslim population in the state.

AIPMM founder and former MP Ali Anwar Ansari told *The Indian Express*: "The Bihar caste survey report provides just a peep into the poor socio-economic and education status of Pasmanda Muslims in Bihar. If there is a nationwide census, we will get to know more on how and where the Pasmanda Muslims are placed and what corrective steps need to be taken." Expressing his disappointment with the Opposition's skirting of Pasmanda issues, afraid of how the BJP will project it, Ansari added: "They should not avoid the word Pasmanda. It is not wise to maintain silence on 80% of the Muslim population..."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

SC asks AIIMS to form board to examine founder of NewsClick

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

BENEFITS TO DISABLED SOLDIERS

HC notice to Govt after PIL over MoD challenging 'almost all' AFT verdicts

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 27

THE PUNJAB and Haryana High Court has issued a notice to the Union government on a PIL flagging the Ministry of Defence's recent move to challenge almost all verdicts of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) granting disability benefits to military personnel.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta asked the AIIMS Director to constitute a medical board to examine Purkayastha, considering his complete medical history, as emerging from the records of the jail hospital.

The court was hearing Purkayastha's plea challenging the October 13, 2023 Delhi High Court order upholding his arrest.

Though a report of a board, comprising a specialist medical officer, Tihar Central Jail, was submitted to the court, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Purkayastha, said it did not include what he faced in the jail and an independent evaluation must be carried out at AIIMS.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju submitted that Purkayastha must bear the expenses. "Why should we bear his cost?" he asked. "Because he is your special guest," said Justice Mehta.

of the directions of the Prime Minister (PM) and of high-level committees of the Law & Defence Ministries to end such litigation, and will burden the exchequer as well as disabled soldiers, the petition contends.

The PIL filed in January, states that pursuant to the PM's intervention, the MoD had withdrawn appeals from the Supreme Court in 2019. However, it is now flooding the courts again with similar cases. The PIL contends that that it had been decided by the Government that only those verdicts would be challenged, which involve disabilities due to negligence, intoxication or substance abuse, and that stress and strain of military service affects the health and longevity of soldiers.

The SC has already ruled the benefit of the doubt is to be given to soldiers' disabilities irrespective of the manner of exit from service or whether the disabilities have occurred in peace or field areas.

According to the PIL, close to 1,000 appeals filed by the MoD against disabled soldiers were dismissed by the Supreme Court in 2014, leading the Prime Minister to direct the defence minister to constitute a high-level committee of experts. The committee had come down heavily on the Army

and MoD for indulging in "ego-fuelled" litigation.

This was followed by a communication by then Attorney General Mukul Rohtagi asking the MoD not to "cause loss to the State and embarrassment to the government." SC had thereafter passed strictures against MoD for challenging settled pension matters.

The PIL further contends that in 2023, coercive orders were passed by AFT against MoD officials for not complying with judgments for years together, which led to the issuance of a policy for challenging all orders passed in favour of disabled veterans.

It adds the JAG officials have taken the opinions of senior law officers to initiate such litigation without informing them of the correct legal position and practical realities of the tough conditions of service of soldiers. They have been "hiding" the past government decisions taken to withdraw such litigation, it is claimed. The PIL further states ministries such as Ministry of Finance have taken appreciable steps to curtail litigation but MoD remains unaffected and is "bent upon washing-out the stellar efforts of PMO and the government as a whole by clogging the justice delivery system with unethical litigation".

Transgender person gets death penalty for infant's rape, murder

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 27

A SPECIAL court Tuesday sentenced to death a transgender person for the rape and murder of a three-month-old girl in 2021, after her family expressed their inability to pay money and give gifts for blessing the newborn child.

The court found the 24-year-old guilty on charges including rape, murder, kidnapping, destruction of evidence of the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, while it acquitted a co-accused, who was also booked on the same charges, for lack of evidence. The court said that the crime was pre-planned and would "send a chill down the spine of every parent of a girl child, especially in a poor vicinity".

While there were no eyewitnesses to the kidnapping of the child from home at night on July 8, 2021, the court based its judgment on circumstantial evidence, including testimonies of the family and two neighbours, who claimed to have seen the accused around 2 am carrying a "bundle" on his shoulder.

According to the grandmother of the child, on the day of the incident, the accused visited their home seeking gifts, including a saree, coconut and Rs 1,100 to bless the newborn child.

The grandmother said that since it was the time of the Covid-19 lockdown, she expressed her inability to give any money.

The grandmother said that the accused then threatened her that in the next 5-6 days, he will do something "which will make him name big".

"The motive behind the commission of the offence was to create terror in a vicinity and be-

come famous by his name so that no one should dare to refuse gifts to him. There are grievous penetrative genital injuries found on the body of the victim, who was totally defenseless. Extreme brutality reflects from the act of the accused," special POCSO judge Aditee Uday Kadam said.

According to submissions made by special public prosecutor RVTiwari, on July 8, 2021, the victim infant was put to sleep by her mother around 9.30pm.

The family had kept the door to their home open due to heat in the slum locality where they lived.

The mother woke up around 1am and fed the baby. Around 3am, she woke up again when she found the child was missing. The family began looking in the locality and then approached police.

The next day, the family in their supplementary statement took the name of the accused, narrating the incident from the previous day, including the "threat".

Police questioned the accused and claimed that he led them to the spot in the evening of July 9, 2021, where the body of the infant was dumped.

The police claimed that medical evidence showed that the child was raped, then dumped in a marshy area, to destroy evidence, where she drowned and died.

The court said that the case clearly comes in the category of "rarest of rare" and there is no ground to show leniency.

"The accused committed murder of an infant who was only three months old and even her family had no previous enmity with him. There was absolutely no provocation on their part to instigate the accused to take the life of an infant and to commit such a gruesome offence with her..." the court said.

Four L&T workers dead after landslide at mine in Dantewada

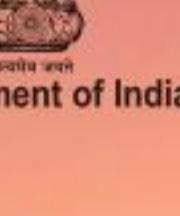
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 27

FOUR WORKERS died when a landslide struck as they were building a retaining wall inside an iron ore mine at Kirandul complex in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Tuesday afternoon.

The incident took place at around 2.30 pm, when a total of 14 workers were making a retaining wall in the SP-3 area of National Mineral Development Corporation's (NMDC) mine.

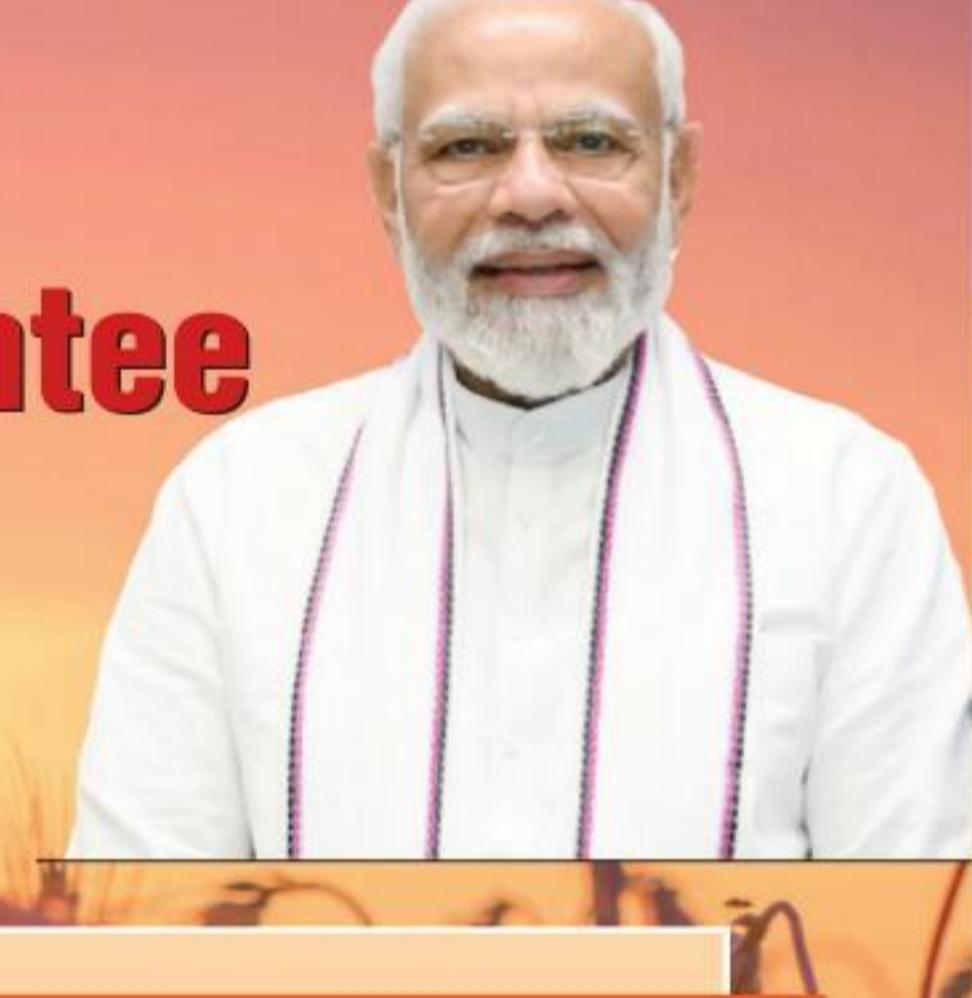
The NMDC had outsourced the work to Larsen & Toubro (L&T). The deceased were working for L&T.

After the landslide from the hill where the wall was being made, 10 workers were rescued,



Farmer's interest ensured

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EXPLAINED SCIENCE

Human space flight mission: a status check

As the astronauts train, ISRO is working on various safety and technological aspects of the Gaganyaan mission. A first unmanned flight is likely by the year-end

and return after three days, will follow.

In 1984, Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian in space when he flew to the Salyut 7 space station on a Soviet spacecraft. In 2006, India started work on an orbital vehicle mission that was later named Gaganyaan. Here's where the various aspects of the mission stand.

Launch vehicle's human rating

ISRO will use its LVM3 rocket for all of Gaganyaan missions. LVM3, earlier called GSAT-MkIII, is the space agency's most powerful vehicle that has flown seven times without failure. The rocket has a liquid, solid, and cryogenic stage.

ISRO has reconfigured all components of LVM3 to meet human rating requirements. On February 14, final tests on the cryogenic engine, known as CE20, were performed. The engine passed test and was certified for missions that would transport humans to space.

The Vikas engine for the liquid stage, and the solid booster, which is part of the solid stage, have already qualified for the missions.

The special flight engine, which ignites as the rocket lifts off, has completed acceptance tests. These tests certify/ qualify the test per-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre on Tuesday. PTI

formance of the hardware according to the mission requirement. The technology or development is then applied in the final mission.

Crew module & escape system

Preparations for the human space flight

includes development of life support systems to provide an Earth-like environment for the crew in space, provisions for emergency escape, and evolving crew management aspects for training, recovery, and rehabilitation of the crew.

Precursor missions such as Gaganyaan-1 will demonstrate the levels of technology preparedness before the manned mission. The unmanned mission will carry an unpressurised crew module — the capsule in which the astronauts will be seated during the human flight — to space and back.

The Gaganyaan-1 mission's crew module will not have the Environment Control and Life Support System, which ensures an Earth-like environment inside the module.

ISRO is currently developing and testing the various components of the system at its labs.

"It (Gaganyaan-1) will mainly test the safe re-entry of the crew module and proper orientation of the module when it splashes down in the sea," an ISRO official said.

A second unmanned flight is planned with a pressurised crew module, in which the complete life support system will be tested. This flight will carry the robot Vyommitra which will record all parameters

to study the impact of the flight on humans.

The schedules for these missions are not final yet. "For other launches, we already know the road, so planning is easier. For this mission, everything is new, and each test tells us what worked and what did not. We have to keep making adjustments as we go," the ISRO official said.

In October last year, ISRO successfully conducted the first test of a basic crew module and crew escape system (CES). The CES is a part of the module that ensures "the crew is taken to a safe distance in case of any emergency either at launch pad or during ascent phase," according to ISRO.

The test also demonstrated the success of the deployment of drogue chutes at the desired angle. Drogue chutes play an essential role in stabilising the crew module and reducing its velocity to a safe level during re-entry. They bring the crew module from a height of 17 km and speed of 150 metres/second to 2.5 km from the sea surface and a speed of 63 metres/ sec.

ISRO has also been experimenting with a crew module uprightness system, which ensures that the module remains upright after splashdown in the sea.

Training of the astronauts

The four astronauts completed their generic training at Russia's Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre between February 2020 and March 2021. ISRO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Glavkosmos, a subsidiary of the Russian space agency Roscosmos, for the training in June 2019.

The astronauts are currently training at ISRO's astronaut training facility in Bengaluru. "The training is continuous. They are now being trained on subsystem functioning on various subsystem simulators. They are a part of the development process of the crew module design, as they can pinpoint what is comfortable, what works etc.," the ISRO official said.

"The astronauts also have to continuously undergo fitness and psychological training," the official said.

One of the four astronauts is expected to be trained by the American space agency NASA. Bill Nelson, administrator of NASA, had made this announcement during a visit to New Delhi in 2023. This astronaut would likely be chosen from among the four who are preparing for the Gaganyaan mission, *The Indian Express* had reported at the time.

EXPLAINED AI

WHAT IS GOOGLE'S AI 'GENIE' THAT CAN TURN IMAGES INTO VIDEO GAMES?

BIJIN JOSE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

GOOGLE'S AI venture DeepMind on Monday introduced Genie, a new generative AI (GenAI) model that can create interactive video games from just a text or image prompt. Genie can generate these games without prior training on game mechanics, which are essentially rules that make up a game.

What is Genie?

According to the official Google DeepMind blog post, Genie is a foundation world model — GenAI that can produce output from one or two inputs or prompts in the form of text, pictures, etc. — that is trained on videos sourced from the Internet.

The model can "generate an endless variety of playable (action-controllable) worlds from synthetic images, photographs, and even sketches".

Genie is the first generative interactive environment that has been trained in an unsupervised manner from unlabeled Internet videos, according to a research paper, *Genie: Generative Interactive Environments*, published by the team which developed the model.

What does Genie do?

The research paper says that Genie is a new kind of GenAI that enables anyone to conjure up and step into generated worlds similar to human-designed simulated environments. Although it is trained on video-only data, Genie can be prompted to generate a diverse set of interactive and controllable environments.

Simply put, there are numerous GenAI models that produce creative content with language, images and even videos. Genie, however, can create playable environments from a single image prompt.

Why is it important?

The standout aspect of Genie is its ability to learn and reproduce controls for in-game characters exclusively from Internet videos. This is noteworthy as such videos do not have labels about the action that is performed in the video, or even about which part of the image should be controlled.

The model's ability to create an entire new interactive environment from a single image opens up many possibilities, especially new ways to create and step into virtual worlds. Genie is also a significant leap towards general AI agents — an independent programme or entity that interacts with its environments by perceiving its surroundings via sensors.

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

IN ITS memorandum submitted to the High Level Committee on One Nation, One Election last week, the BJP asked for simultaneous elections first to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, and subsequently to local bodies as well.

The One Nation, One Election committee, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, was set up on September 1, 2023. The committee, which is also considering a proposal to have a single list of voters for all elections, is likely to submit its report soon.

While the idea of simultaneous elections has been amplified by Prime Minister Narendra Modi since 2014, and especially in his second term, the BJP has long argued that one way to make India's elections "fair" is to hold them together.

This has been part of election manifestos of the BJP since 1984, the first Lok Sabha election that the party contested at an all-India level. The BJP manifestos also mentioned electronic voting machines (EVMs) and voter identity cards as part of a bundle of electoral reforms well before they became ubiquitous across the country.

1984: Simultaneous elections, EVMs, public funding of polls

Four years after its founding, the BJP fielded 224 candidates in the 1984 elections, which were held less than two months after the assassination of Indira Gandhi. The BJP manifesto resolved to contain four "evils" that "threaten to subvert the freedom and fairness of elections — money power, ministerial power, media power and muscle power", and presented an 11-point blueprint for electoral reform.

■ Give the right of vote to those above 18;

■ Introduce Identity Cards for voters;

■ Use electronic voting machines, and



Former President Kovind and others at the first meeting of the One Nation, One Election panel on Sept 23, 2023. PTI

change the law as needed to do so:

■ Examine the feasibility of introducing the list system of elections;

■ Give the right of postal ballot to Indian citizens living abroad;

■ Hold state and central elections simultaneously every five years;

■ Make the Election Commission a multi-member body; strengthen its independence by charging the expenditure incurred on it to the Consolidated Fund of India, and by providing it with an independent, minimal infrastructure;

■ Extend the jurisdiction of the Election Commission to local body elections, and ensure that elections to local bodies are held regularly;

■ Arrange for public funding of elections, as is the case in Germany, Japan and most other democratic countries;

■ Have party accounts publicly audited;

■ To prevent abuse of governmental power by the ruling party, give legal teeth to the Code of Conduct framed by Election Commission; violation of the code shall be made a corrupt practice under the law.

Most of these promises by the BJP, then led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, were subse-

quently adopted in the election system. In 1984 though, the Congress won a record 414 seats; the BJP only 2.

1989: Compulsory voting, ban on donations by companies

In the years after Independence, corporate contributions to political parties, a hugely contested issue today, were not regulated. In 1960, a cap was put on political donations and, in 1969, contributions to political parties and for political purposes were banned. In 1985, the Rajiv Gandhi government again allowed corporate contributions to parties.

The 13-point election reforms agenda in the BJP's 1989 manifesto included a ban on company donations. Some of the party's 1984 promises were repeated, and some new ideas were introduced — compulsory voting; empowering the Election Commission to monitor all political and election coverage by Doordarshan and Akashvani to ensure these media were not misused; and a ceiling on election expenditure by candidates, their agents, parties and supporters.

1991, 1996: Allowing donations by firms, incentivising them

In its 1991 manifesto, the BJP made a U-turn and promised to allow donations to parties by companies. In a 16-point electoral reforms roadmap laid out in 1996, the party promised suitable incentives for open, official corporate funding to all recognised political parties.

Apart from reiterating its previous promises, the also BJP promised to update and adopt the report of the Dinesh Goswami Committee on electoral reforms (May 1990); grant statutory status to the Code of Conduct; undertake fresh delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies on the basis of the 1991 census; scrutinise all voters' lists to ensure that no legitimate voter was excluded; and amend the anti-defection law to make it stronger.

The BJP emerged as the single largest party

in 1996 and formed its first government at the Centre, which, however, lasted only 13 days.

1998, 1991: Electoral reforms Bill; fixed five-year terms

In 1998, the BJP's 6-point election reform agenda reiterated its earlier promises. The BJP will, immediately on assuming office, introduce a comprehensive Electoral Reforms Bill, much of the groundwork for which has already been done but not acted upon," it said.

In its 1999 Lok Sabha election manifesto, the BJP included its promises on electoral reform under the head "Constitutional and Legal Reforms". The party said it would take steps to ensure a fixed term of five years for all elected bodies, and would "examine replacing the present No Confidence Motion with the German system of 'Constructive vote of Non-Confidence'".

2004, 2009: 1984 promises reiterated; simultaneous polls

The BJP's 2004 manifesto was similar to its 1984 manifesto. The 2009 manifesto focused on only one of these electoral reforms promises — simultaneous elections.

2014: Eliminate criminality in polls, revise spending limits

The 2014 manifesto said the BJP is committed to eliminating criminality in elections. It reiterated the promise of evolving a method of holding Assembly and Lok Sabha elections simultaneously. It also promised to realistically revise expenditure limits.

2019: Holding elections together; a single voters' list

The BJP's 2019 manifesto promised simultaneous elections and a single voters' list for all elections "in order to ensure that every citizen gets the right to exercise his/her franchise for all public bodies and to avoid confusion created by multiple voter lists".

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(From left) Malcom Browne's iconic photo of the burning monk won the Pulitzer Prize in 1964. AP; Rajeev Goswami is taken away after he set himself on fire. Express Archive; Jampel Yeshi at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Ravi Kanodia/Express Archive



Mandal protester Goswami

On September 19, 1990, Rajeev Goswami, a 19-year-old student of Delhi's Deshbandhu College, set himself on fire at the AIIMS crossing to protest the implementation of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission by the government of VP Singh.

The announcement had triggered massive anti-reservations protests. Goswami survived after sustaining 50% burns. But he never fully recovered from his injuries, and passed away in 2004 at the age of 32. Mandal and the 27% reservation for OBCs changed Indian politics forever.

Immolations for Tibet

Some 200 cases of self-immolation against the Chinese occupation of Tibet have been recorded since 1998. There was a rash of instances between 2009 and 2013, and 80 Tibetans set themselves ablaze in 2012 alone. That year, 27-year-old Jampel Yeshi set himself on fire in New Delhi to protest against the visit of President Hu Jintao to India.

The Chinese government's response to such protests, which it calls "violent behaviour whose aim is to create an atmosphere of terror", has been iron-fisted. Survivors have most often been detained and have

disappeared, and families of protesters have faced official retribution.

The Dalai Lama, whom the Chinese hold responsible for the self-immolations, has expressed sadness over the incidents, and has urged Chinese authorities to address their "root cause".

Sparking the Arab Spring

It was a self-immolation that ushered in the Arab Spring, the mass protests in countries across the Middle East and North Africa demanding democratic reforms.

On December 17, 2010, Tunisian street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi set himself on fire after the police confiscated his scales, and the local governor refused to see him.

Mohamed's brother Ali posted a video on Facebook, which went viral.

Protesters fed up with the corruption and repression of the Ben Ali regime forced him from power on January 14, 2011. Egypt's Hosni Mubarak was deposed in 2011, as was Libya's Muammar Gaddafi. Ali Abdul Saleh's regime in Yemen fell in 2012. Syria, Bahrain, Morocco, Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Kuwait, Oman, Sudan, and many other countries saw sustained, widespread protests.

LONGER VERSION

indianexpress.com/explained

ARJUN SENGUPTA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

AN ACTIVE-duty US Air Force Airman died after setting himself on fire in front of the Israeli embassy in Washington DC to protest Israeli actions against Palestinians on Sunday.

"I will not be complicit in genocide... I am about to engage in an extreme act of protest," Aaron Bushnell said, before setting himself on fire. The 25-year old shouted "Free Palestine" until he dropped to the ground.

</div



KISHAN MAKES 19 ON RETURN
Navi Mumbai: India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan, made a return to competitive cricket on Tuesday, scoring 19 runs in the DY Patil T20 Cup here. Playing for RBI, he scored 19 off 12 balls with two boundaries and a six, as his team suffered an 89-run loss to Route Mobile Ltd. PTI

Renuka finally makes her mark, Smriti dazzles

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN
FEBRUARY 27

RENUKA SINGH Thakur's addition to the Royal Challengers Bangalore squad last year was seen as a significant achievement for the franchise. Before the first season of the Women's Premier League, Renuka had had a stunning 2022 picking up 40 wickets in 29 matches across white-ball formats.

But when WPL 2023 began, Renuka – like most of the RCB bowling unit – struggled. In the 16.4 overs she bowled last season, she picked up a solitary wicket, conceded 9.54 runs per over, and had an average of 159.

On Tuesday at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Renuka doubled her wicket-tally from 2023 as she bowled a match-winning opening spell against Gujarat Giants. With figures of 2/14 in a four-over burst at the start of the match, Renuka pegged the Giants back from where they never recovered, posting 107/7 in 20 overs. It took just 12.3 overs for RCB to chase it down as Smriti Mandhana entertained a raucous crowd with her best knockin the WPL yet, smashing a boundary-filled 43.

The two players who perhaps summed up RCB's struggles last season delivered against a hapless Giants side. And after starting 2023 with five defeats in a row, they have started this edition with back-to-back wins.

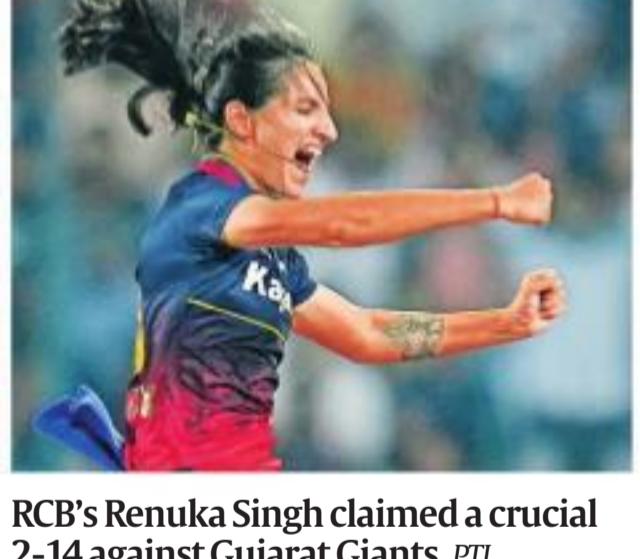
While Smriti's batting form came under a lot of scrutiny, most of RCB's struggles in the first year were down to the bowling unit underperforming. They did well to address that in the auction, with the shrewd addition of Australian spinners Sophie Molineux and Georgia Wareham, the former showing her class against Giants picking up 3/25 with her left-arm spin.

But the win was set up by Renuka, as she dismissed two key left-handers by bowling round the wicket. The first was Beth Mooney, as she got the ball to go in with the angle and rattle the stumps. The next was Phoebe Litchfield, getting the ball to move away this time and drawing the batter out to be stumped. Both were the result of the work Renuka put in at the National Cricket Academy since the home season ended.

"In India, just one kind of delivery will not help. We need more variations, so I have worked with [coach] Troy Cooley quite a bit to add on away-swinger, reverse-swinger and slower balls. That's specifically why I wanted to go to the NCA, to work more on these and fitness," Renuka had said before RCB's first match. She added that she bowled a lot from round the wicket during that time.

While Smriti's ball-striking against Giants is good news for RCB, Renuka's opening burst would please them as much. One of Renuka's strengths is dismissing opening batters through the gate, a sight Indian fans got used to in 2022. There were signs of her getting into that groove again, as she returned to international cricket in the home season after a lengthy injury layoff. Admittedly, it was her spell against the Giants where she felt she was truly back.

BRIEF SCORES: Gujarat Giants 107-7 in 20 overs (Dayalan Hemlatha 31; Sophie Molineux 3-25, Renuka Singh 2-14) lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore 110-2 in 12.3 overs (Smriti Mandhana 43, Sabhineni Meghana 36*) by 8 wickets



RCB's Renuka Singh claimed a crucial 2-14 against Gujarat Giants. PTI

After their measured partnership in fourth innings in Ranchi, why Gill-Jurel are a throwback to Dhoni-Yuvraj

SANDIP G
RANCHI, FEBRUARY 27

ONLY 32 times in 158 instances have India completed a successful chase in their Test history. Chennai 1998, Pune 2017, Chennai 2021, Bangalore 2004, 2005, 1987, or most recently Hyderabad 2024; there have been many instances of India failing to handle the fourth-inning pressure at home.

On Monday, on a flaking pitch where the ball turned and occasionally kept low, India was struggling. Chasing 192, they were 120/5. Ranchi 2024 seemed like a repeat of the same old story.

However, in Shubman Gill and Dhruv Jurel India would discover a pair of potential chase-masters. Gill likes fourth innings – in 10 knocks, he averages 44. To contextualise, Rohit Sharma averages only 32 and has scored a half-century fewer than Gill, having featured in eight more innings. Steve Smith, arguably the best batsman of his generation, averages 29. It shows how devious a pursuit it is.

Gill did post a foundation-laying 91 in a historic Brisbane chase. But this was a sterner challenge. At the Gabba, he was en route to stardom, but not a star yet. Thus, less baggage. For much of that innings, he had the stability of Cheteshwar Pujara at the other end. Here, he was playing the senior hand.

The chemistry, but not particularly their methods, whipped up memories of Yuvraj Singh and MS Dhoni when India had just begun to crack the chase code in ODIs. Yuvraj was insouciant, unflustered to a fault, as Jurel was. Dhoni was the puzzle-solver, bending his methods to suit the situation.

Gill, like Dhoni, often would just meander along with singles and twos. He controlled his instinct to go for the big hit. Dhoni, in his finisher avatar, struck sixes and fours only if those were necessary. Unlike his dasher role at the start of the career. "This would probably go down as my only innings where I didn't hit a boundary, like a four, after scoring a fifty," Gill said after the match. "But you have to see the situation and have to play the situation sometimes," he added.

Play the situation. That's what the best finishers, across formats, do. Jurel too played



Shubman Gill (L) and Dhruv Jurel stitched together a vital 72-run stand against England on Monday. Sportzpics/BCCI

the situation. He was fresh from his 90 in the first innings, but this was different. He could have counter-attacked. But he resisted and just knuckled down, soaking the pressure and manipulating the gaps for singles, a busy rather than a bustling player.

Jurel nudged and nudged, with pliant wrists; Gill often came down the track and extended his defensive push for a single. They barely got together in the middle; hardly advised each other.

Glances of assurance

They inhabited their own spaces and didn't infringe into the other. They mostly exchanged glances. Glares of assurance, nods of guarantee.

Like Dhoni and Yuvraj would. Perhaps, one of them, likely to be Jurel, would have

hummed a song too.

The mechanics, undoubtedly, differ with formats. But both contain challenges and hazards of their own. The scoreboard pressure remains, but in different ways.

A batsman doesn't, often, have the pressure of overhauling a total in half as many balls. He could often play out one bowler and target another. There would be restrictions on setting fields too. But pitches in Test matches, on the fourth and fifth days especially, would be far more treacherous than their T20 or ODI counterparts would ever be. In Asia, there would be variable bounce, excessive turn.

One has to possess the skill and mind to play the situation. India's batsmen were seldom short-fused for skills, but in the relentless heat of the situation, they often lost

their heads.

The Chennai 1998 meltdown is a classic case study. Soon after Sachin Tendulkar departed, clutching his tattered back, India lost three wickets for four runs.

Two years further back, India were 155 for 5, chasing 221 before folding up 16 short against the same opposition. In recent times, three of their last four losses at home have come when batting last. There have been several near-escapes too. Like Mohali 2010.

Ranchi 2024 was unlike Mohali 2010, despite the mini-collapse. Perhaps it was a sign of India overcoming another historic burden. At some point in time, Virat Kohli, who averages 47 in the fourth innings, would arrive to add another layer of solidarity to the line-up.

India's 4th innings fiascos:
Even greats like Kohli and Tendulkar have faltered

vs ENGLAND, HYDERABAD 2024

The target of 231 was stiff but not unconquerable. At one point, India were cruising at 63 for 2, before stuttering to 119 for 7, against the wiles of debutant left-arm spinner Tom Hartley. Despite some lower-order resistance, India fell 28 runs short.

vs ENGLAND, EDGBASTON 2018

India were chasing 194 and seemed on course until Virat Kohli perished, 53 runs short of the target. India added just 22 more runs and were left to rue a missed opportunity. The destroyer was Ben Stokes, with a four-wicket haul.

vs SRI LANKA, GALLE, 2015

Set a target of 176 on a raging turner, India seldom got going and folded up for a meagre 112. India's lone source of resistance was Ajinkya Rahane's 36. But that was not enough to douse the slow-fire of Rangana Herath.

vs PAKISTAN, BANGALORE 2005

The hosts were always looking to draw the match. The target of 383 was too tall an order. Openers Gautam Gambhir and Virender Sehwag put on 87, but the rest combusted. In the space of 48 runs, they lost five wickets, from where they never recovered.



vs PAKISTAN, CHENNAI 1998

The most heartbreaking of them all. SACHIN TENDULKAR scored one of his greatest hundreds, battling back pain, Saqlain Mushtaq, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, but departed with the target only 17 runs away. The rest is painful history.

Why all-heart Wagner's bouncer was nightmarish

SRIRAM VEERA
FEBRUARY 27

THE MOST unique pacer in modern-day cricket Neil Wagner will finally stop bowling his bouncers. Watching him spill his guts out, attempt to spill the batsmen's guts out, was one of the most visceral cricket experiences in modern-day cricket.

"The time's obviously come," said Wagner, who fought back tears when thanking people at his retirement press conference in Wellington." He would remember Brendon McCullum at this emotional time. "He always spoke about leaving the Black Caps in a better place when you're done, and moving that legacy forward, and I thought that's something I can be pretty proud of. To the NZ public and the fans, I can't thank you enough, for your support, for making me feel welcome, for making me feel like a Kiwi." His 260 Test wickets puts him in the fifth of all time New Zealanders' bowling list behind Richard Hadlee, Tim Southee, Daniel Vettori and Trent Boult. And importantly, only Hadlee's strike-rate is better than his.

Cricket has seen faster men, 'nastier' pacemen, more skilful with fingers and wrists, but rarely has it seen one passionate 'all-heart' package as Wagner. He dragged us with him into the heat of the battle, making

us feel his pain, his effort, his ceaseless energy, his undying passion- it can all get a bit gut-wrenching at times. No one was as accurate as him with them. It all began with Allan Donald.

Wagner was 12 and living in motherland South Africa when he saw one of the greatest duels between a fast bowler and a batsman: Allan Donald vs Mike Atherton, 1998. Balls of fire vs courage. "There were a lot of stares and glares in the middle of the wicket, and I remember getting absolute goose bumps," Wagner would tell the New Zealand Herald. He carried drinks for a couple of South Africa's Tests but with competition escalating, he switched to New Zealand. People didn't know what to make of him. Trent Boult once sledged him in a domestic game. He was seen as something 'silly', with his non-New Zealander traits. He buckled down and operated as a line-and-length bowler.

Until one day in Dunedin against Sri Lanka in 2016 when his team mate Tom Latham intervened.

"It was a 10-over spell, and I just bowled bouncers. People like (Black Caps opener) Tom Latham had often suggested I play to my strength and concentrate on the bouncers. But it was the first time it really fell into place. It got to the point where I had set [Angelo] Mathews up, and Tim Southee came up and said don't be shy of aiming a



New Zealand pacer Neil Wagner announced his retirement. AP

yorker at leg stump. I bowled a perfect one. It was an extremely special moment, a team-oriented effort, after a discussion that went around the players. It made me feel part of something bigger."

"If you looked at all the bouncers he bowled ... he's always between your shoulder and the top of your peak, or in your armpits. I don't think anyone in the game has bowled bouncers the way he bowled and been so consistent, and not gotten scored off while also picking up wickets."

MATTHEW WADE

AUSTRALIA WICKETKEEPER

When most pacers run out of gas attempting that line of attack, Wagner, incredibly, managed to dig deep to find undying fire. In the words of Australian Matthew Wade, who was once peppered by a Wagner barrage in Perth, "If you looked at all the bouncers he bowled ... he's always between your shoulder and the top of your peak, or in your armpits. I don't think anyone in the game has bowled bouncers the way he bowled and been so consistent, and not gotten scored off while also picking up wickets. I've never faced a bowler who is so accurate at bowling bouncers."

Wagner gave India an idea

Wagner was also the invisible face behind India's memorable triumph in Australia in 2021. He had tied up Smith with a leg-side attack with men in the arc on the on side. Watching it all unfold was India's then head coach Ravi Shastri who immediately called up his bowling coach Bharat Arun.

"We also took a cue out of the New Zealand attack when they bowled to Steven Smith, where they had attacked his body and he had felt very uncomfortable at that point in time," Arun would say later. Wagner had paved the way for India's famous tryst with history.

When he was 13, his parents lost their jobs in the real estate business. They lost their home. It took five years for their parents to reestablish themselves, with catering and gardening business. Neil's resolve to make something of his life grew. His pre-season training was quite something. He sprinted 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m with just a minute's rest in between. Three minutes of rest, basically. Then he would rush to the gym to pound his body for 90 minutes.

"You feel like you want to spew your guts out." On field, he did spew his guts out; so did the batsmen. It would have been a neatly romantic finish had he played one last Test against Steve Smith, whom he had harassed with bouncers in the past, before he called it a day. One last sighting of a bowler right out of fiction. But the dainty 'one for the road' was perhaps never his bottoms-up all-heart style.

RANJI TROPHY

Mumbai's last pair makes history

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 27

ON A DAY which was all about Mumbai completing the formalities to seal a Ranji Trophy semi-final spot, it was their Nos 10 and 11 batsmen who entered the record books by hitting hundreds to rub salt into Baroda's wounds.

On the final day at the MCA-BKC ground, Tanush Kotian and Tushar Deshpande became only the second numbers 10 and 11 batsmen in First-Class history to record tons in the same innings. Their stand of 232 for the 10th wicket was one run short of being the biggest stand for the last wicket in the Ranji Trophy.

Mumbai had started the day at 379 for 9 with Kotian and Deshpande at 32 and 23 respectively. Baroda, who were almost out of it already, trailing by 415, would have hoped to bat before too long, but that was not to be. The last pair did the basics right by respecting the good balls and punishing the bad ones.

Kotian later said that he was speaking to Deshpande, who began his career as a batsman, about picking bowlers they could go after.

"Singles were anyway coming easily. So the



Mumbai's Tanush Kotian (right) and Tushar Deshpande stitched together a 232-run partnership for the 10th wicket.

and playing it ball by ball. The pitch was helpful for batting. My father always tells me that I have the ability to become an all-rounder, and if I can apply myself and play with a straight bat, I can score runs," he adds.

Kotian and Deshpande took the Mumbai second-innings total to 569, and gave Baroda a notional target of 605 to chase in two sessions. Baroda reached 121 for 3 as the game ended in a draw. Mumbai cruised to the semi-finals where they host Tamil Nadu later this week.

The century was a box ticked for Kotian after twice getting out in the 90s.

"I had 10 fifties before this game and it was a crucial innings for me because of the timing. I was telling myself ke karna hai yeh ab (I have to do it). I was talking to Tushar and planning on which bowler we could go after. I know since my junior days that I can bat in any situation," he explained.

Kotian reached his century first in 115 balls and remained unbeaten on 120. His innings had 10 fours and four sixes while Deshpande scored 123 off 129 balls, before being caught in the last-four clash.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai 384 & 569 (T Kotian 120*, T Deshpande 123; B Bhatt 7-200) drew with Baroda 348 & 121 for 3 (P Moliya 54)

plan was to defend and when they bring the field up, we will charge them. We waited for the right balls and respected the good ones. We kept talking to each other and kept communicating till we reached our hundreds," Kotian said after the day's play.

Deshpande said the pair never thought of the records they could rewrite. "We got to know much later in the innings (about closing in on the record of the biggest 10th-wicket partnership). We were not thinking about it

would have 'severe implications'. This came

BRIEFLY

Anish wins again at shooting trials

Bhopal: Paris Olympic quota holder and India number one Anish Bhanwala registered his second consecutive win in the national shooting selection trials, clinching the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol T4 trial here on Tuesday. Anish posted 35 hits out of 40 in the final, to yet again leave Gurmeet of the Army in second spot with 31 hits, in what was a repeat of the T3 top two on Sunday. Vijayveer Sidhu, another Paris quota holder, was third with 22 hits. Arjun Babuta continued the good run of Paris quota holders in the trials, winning the men's 10m air rifle T3 trial with a score of 253.7 in the final. PTI

Ramkumar, Siddharth bow out of Delhi Open

New Delhi: India's singles challenge ended at the Delhi Open, an ATP Challenger event, with the opening round defeats of Ramkumar Ramanathan and Siddharth Vishwakarma here Tuesday. Ramkumar, who was handed a wild card entry, lost 3-6 2-6 to Australia's Tristan Schoolkate in what was a first meeting between the two players. Ramkumar, ranked 407, had two break chances in the match but could convert none and lost his serve four times to his rival, ranked 237. In another first round contest, former national champion Siddharth lost 4-6-6 to fellow qualifier Samuel Vincent Ruggeri from Italy. PTI

Injury-hit Liverpool need 'miracle': Klopp

Liverpool: Injury-hit Liverpool need a "miracle" with several prominent players in doubt for Wednesday's FA Cup fifth round tie against Southampton, manager Juergen Klopp said. Midfielder Ryan Gravenberch, injured during Sunday's League Cup final victory over Chelsea, is the latest player from the Premier League leaders to be sidelined for this week's clash. "We need miracles with a few players. That's why I don't want to rule (them) out for too long. But it's touch and go with a lot of players," Klopp said, adding that forwards Mohamed Salah and Darwin Nunez, who missed the League Cup final, are also not a certainty for Wednesday. REUTERS

First head coach, now CEO

Norman resigns shortly after women's coach Schopman quit claiming she felt disrespected by the federation

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 27

IN A toxic, political, and patriarchal world of Indian sports administration, it was an Australian woman who broke the stereotypes, challenged the status quo, and played an influential role in the resurrection of a dying sport. On Tuesday, her 13-year stint came to an end, albeit controversially.

Elena Norman, who came to India as a marketing consultant and rose to become Hockey India's CEO, resigned amidst an ongoing court case and owing to internal federation politics.

Norman said it was getting "suffocating" for her to continue working in the federation. Hockey India president and former captain Dilip Tirkey, too, told the federation's board in an email that Norman quit because of "unpaid wages and difficult working atmosphere".

It comes shortly after India women's head coach Janneke Schopman resigned, citing she felt disrespected in the federation.

While Tirkey didn't spell it out, Norman told the *Press Trust of India* that the ongoing power struggle within Indian hockey between the president and secretary-general was one of the reasons for her to quit. "It was getting tough to deliver in the fight between two factions. The environment was becoming suffocating," Norman told PTI. "There are two factions in Hockey India. There is (President) Dilip Tirkey and I think there is (Secretary) Bholanath Singh, (Executive Director) Cdr. R.K Srivastava and (Treasurer) Sekar J Manoharan. There are guys who want power and then there is (HI President) Dilip Tirkey who is a nice guy, only after betterment of Indian hockey."

The timing of her resignation is also intriguing because the Delhi High Court is currently hearing a plea filed by former India captain Aslam Sher Khan. The case pertained to Hockey India's administrative issues under former chief Narinder Batra and Norman, and the court ordered a forensic audit of Hockey India's accounts. The next hearing is scheduled for April. Yet, she leaves big shoes to fill for her successor; if Hockey India decides to retain the professional structure that Norman introduced more than a decade ago when she became Indian hockey's first chief executive in 2011.

Back then, the sport was at its nadir. India had missed the previous Olympics, the old fed-



Hockey India CEO Elena Norman resigned amidst an ongoing court case. File

EXPLAINED

HI left with a decision-making vacuum

THE RESIGNATION OF Elena Norman comes at a precarious time for Indian hockey. Dilip Tirkey, the Hockey India president, is preoccupied with Lok Sabha elections and secretary general Bholanath Singh, who has a wrestling background, is yet to get a grip on hockey affairs. In this backdrop, the men's team will head for the Olympics in less than 150 days and the women's team, which is without a coach, needs to start its rebuilding process. The federation must ensure the post-Norman transition is smooth.

eration was disbanded and a new one was controversially formed, the aftermath of a selection scandal could still be felt and unpaid players kept fighting for their dues.

The men's team has returned to the Olympic podium since 1980. Indian hockey, which was virtually bankrupt back then, became financially stable and the players began to enjoy basic comforts that were earlier con-

sidered a luxury. The Hockey India League – seen as one of the big reasons for India's transformation – was launched, discontinued, and will be revived next year. India became a nerve centre for global men's hockey, hosting numerous international tournaments. Although the women's game did not receive the same level of attention, the team over-performed at the Tokyo Olympics by finishing fourth.

Norman's biggest achievement would be to not just survive but thrive in a sporting ecosystem bereft of professionalism and where women are barely seen in decision-making roles. She was entrusted with significant responsibility by Batra and together, they controlled the sport for a decade and had a final say on all things Indian hockey. Her ways weren't always appreciated by some colleagues, former coaches who were hired and fired at will, and even the players – she once infamously told off then-India captain Manpreet Singh for entering a VIP arena during the 2018 World Cup. But Indian hockey got back on track during her reign. While the job is far from done – India still needs a robust domestic structure, the traditional pockets where the sport is dead have to be revived and the women's game needs proper attention – Norman leaves the sport at a better place from where she started. It's the current dispensation's responsibility to ensure India do not slide into an abyss.

Slippery take-off board: 'Extensive research' on, says World Athletics

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

FOLLOWING COMPLAINTS from long jumpers about the take-off board causing them to slip, World Athletics said 'extensive research' is ongoing and they are talking to manufacturers and other key stakeholders.

Last week, Asian Games silver medalist Murali Sreeshankar had said a more pressing issue World Athletics must address is the slippery take-off board that could cause injuries. Sreeshankar was responding to a proposed plan of World Athletics to use a larger take-off zone instead of a take-off board to reduce fouls in long jump.

When asked about jumpers slipping on the take-off board, a World Athletics spokesperson in an email reply said: "Yes, World Athletics began doing extensive research into this issue following feedback from athletes and we are currently discussing our initial findings with take-off board manufacturers and other key stakeholders. This research is ongoing."

Sreeshankar had cited examples of Jamaica's Carey McLeod and compatriot Jeswin Aldrin losing their footing on the take-off board during last year's World Championships in Budapest. France's Jules Pommery, the third-placed finisher at the European Championships, had slipped 'three-times' because of the board and injured his ankle, Sreeshankar had told *The Indian Express*.

"The issue is with the take-off board. Because of the material of the take-off board everyone was slipping. It was introduced after the 2021 Olympics (Tokyo) and everyone has been criticising it. It is definitely not wood. We wanted the material of the take-off board to be changed," Sreeshankar said.

World Athletics said 'the boards are primarily made of wood', but didn't give further details. Sreeshankar also elaborated on why an athlete who commits a foul is prone to getting injured. "If we foul, we slip, if we are not fouling, part of the foot will be on the synthetic surface, so chances of slipping will be less, but if it is entirely on the take-off board we are going to slip," Sreeshankar explained the fraught take-off.

Earlier this month, World Athletics CEO Jon Ridgeon said that the purpose of the proposed take-off zone was to reduce the time wasted because of jumpers overstepping.

"At the World Championships in Budapest last summer, a third of all the jumps were no-



Long jumper M Sreeshankar. Instagram

jumps, athletes stepping over the front of the take-off board," Ridgeon said on the Anything But Footy podcast. "That doesn't work, that's a waste of time. So we're testing, for example, a take-off zone rather than a take-off board, so we measure from where the athlete takes off to where they land in the pit. That means every single jump counts..." Ridgeon said.

The logic is that athletes will no longer have to worry about a foul as they won't have to get as close as possible to the take-off line (foul line) at the end of the take-off board. Currently, a jump is measured from the end of the take-off board to the closest point of impact in the sand.

Carl Lewis, the former American great, and winner of the gold in four successive Olympics had criticised the take-off zone proposal. "...that would just eliminate the most difficult skill from the event. Just make the basket larger for free throws because so many people miss them."

Sreeshankar said that if World Athletics introduced a take-off zone instead of a take-off board they would be questioning the skill of long jumpers. "It will affect the beauty of the sport. It is also questioning the skill of athletes. Long jump is a technical event and our aim is to be precise on the take-off board. The purpose of this intervention is to make the sport more interesting to viewers but it is affecting the novelty of the sport," Sreeshankar had said.

On the proposed take-off zone, World Athletics said: "World Athletics is currently running tests with take-off zones in multiple locations and across several training groups. This testing will continue throughout the outdoor season. As iterated by our CEO, should this proposed innovation to the long jump not pass testing, it will not be officially introduced."

Indian-origin ice hockey star takes Bibi, Baba to rink for NHL debut

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 27

ON SATURDAY, as Arshdeep Bains strapped up to make his home debut for the Vancouver Canucks against the Boston Bruins at the Rogers Arena, he pasted stickers of 'Bibi' and 'Baba' on his hockey sticks paying respect to his grandmother Gurian Kaur Bains and late grandfather Kewal Singh Bains.

His father, Kuldeep Bains, still remembers the time when he would take his three sons, including his youngest, Arshdeep, to the Canada Hockey Place by the Skytrain from Surrey to Vancouver to watch the Canadian Ice Hockey team's winning campaign in the 2010 Winter Olympics. Now, Kuldeep and his family are harbouring Olympic dreams for one of their own.

Arshdeep made a visit to our home to meet his grandmother and show her his team jersey before Saturday's game. Earlier, when he made a lap of the rink before his debut at Colorado as per the rookie tradition, I recorded the moments and showed it to the family later. We all cried that night and we hope to see him in the Canadian jersey in the Winter Olympics one day," Kuldeep tells *The Indian Express* from Surrey.

Earlier that week, the 23-year-old left-winger made his National Hockey League (NHL) debut, becoming the fourth Indian-origin player after Robin Bawa, Manny Malhotra and Jujhar Khaira to do so. He recorded more than 12 minutes in each of the three games he has played so far.

"On Saturday afternoon, as the whole Bains family cheered for Arshdeep, it was a dream come true for all of us. They say here that it takes 10,000 hours of practice to become a professional ice hockey player. This game time of one hour was like a whole lifetime for all of us," Kuldeep says.

As a teenager, Kuldeep Bains often featured in local football leagues near his village, Parsowal, in Hoshiarpur district in Punjab before the family immigrated to Canada in 1982. Bains would relocate to Surrey, where he would become a mechanical engineer and started his own workshop AK Diesel. It was in the area of Newton, Surrey that a young Arshdeep would accompany his elder brothers, Amrit and Harvir, who took up the sport only recreationally, to learn his first ice skating lessons.

While the family would relocate to Cloverdale in Surrey, Arshdeep would play



Canada-based Arshdeep Bains has become the fourth Indian-origin player to feature in the National Hockey League (NHL). USA TODAY

in the Surrey Minor Hockey League at different age groups with coaches like Surrey Minor Hockey president Harb Bains. For the Bains family, in addition to supporting their son financially, it would also mean that their days would start at 4 am and then they would travel to Vancouver or nearby cities along with Arshdeep on weekends. "We travelled to places like Winnipeg or Toronto to get him games. Whatever we could do, including some extra hours at the workshop, we did to support Arshdeep's dream. That's what each parent does for their children," says Bains.

In 2014, the youngster spent a year at Delta Hockey Academy before he was called up by Western Hockey League side Red Deer Rebels in 2017. His five years with the team saw him scoring 77 goals and gathering 209 points including his 43 goals in the 2021-22 season and making him the first Indian origin player to win the Bob Clarke trophy.

"Once he enrolled with the Red Deer Rebels, that was his life for five seasons. Junior teams travel by bus here. There were a couple of times when the team got stuck in a snowstorm and they had to spend nights in a small town. As a parent, it makes you worry but then that's life. In 2018, the whole of Canada mourned the loss of lives of players of Humboldt Broncos in a bus ac-

cident in Saskatchewan and Arshdeep too cried all night. His friends knew some of the players and it was a tragic loss. In 2020, he stayed in Alberta with the team for the whole season due to Covid-19 rules and things like these made him what he is today," says Bains.

In 2022, Arshdeep signed an entry level contract with Canucks' American Hockey League team Abbotsford Canucks and has so far played in 66 games scoring 13 goals and 25 assists. He was also named as AHL All Star MVP for the 2023-24 season. Last year, Arshdeep along with three other ice hockey players featured in the documentary 'Mareya shot, keetha goal: Make the shot' directed by Baljit Sangra and Nilesh Patel. The filmmakers, who spent the whole season with these players, trace the life of the players for a full season and their hopes for the NHL.

"I guess there are more than 1,000 players of Indian origin training here in Surrey only. The movie opens with the scenes of the community celebrating Vancouver Canucks win and what it means to the local Indian community. Eh sada apna khed hai (This is our own game). Of course there are challenges for us but then there is a support system too. Hopefully when Arshdeep wins the Stanley Cup, we will make another movie," says Sangra.

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Note: Gold, Silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of February 26

International market data till 1900 IST

Voda Idea plans to raise ₹45,000 crore via equity, debt

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 27

VODAFONE IDEA board on Tuesday decided to raise around Rs 45,000 crore through a combination of equity and debt, which will enable the company to make investments towards significant expansion of 4G coverage, 5G network rollout and capacity expansion.

The board of directors of the company at its meeting approved fund raise of up to Rs 20,000 crore via a combination of equity and equity-linked instruments. The board has also authorised the management to appoint various intermediaries, including bankers and counsels to execute the fund raise, it said in a statement.

The company will call for a meeting of its shareholders on April 2, 2024 and post-shareholder approval, it expects to complete the equity fund raise in the coming quarter. The promoters, with a holding of 50.36 stake in the company, will also participate in the proposed equity raise, as committed earlier, it added.

"The company remains actively engaged with its lenders for tying-up the debt funding, which will follow the equity fund raise," Vodafone-Idea said. The company's bank debt currently stands at less than Rs 4,500 crore.

The promoters, with a holding of 50.36 stake in the company, will also participate in the proposed equity raise

"These investments will enable the company to improve its competitive positioning and offer an even better customer experience. The proposed fund raise follows a marked improvement in operating metrics," the company said.

The company added it has managed to grow its 4G subscriber base and average revenue per user consecutively for the past 10 quarters.

"Further, the company remains focused on providing competitive data and voice experience at all locations where it is present. The company is also steadfast in building a differentiated digital experience adding several digital offerings in the recent quarters," it said.

The company said it has consistently shown an improvement in performance even with limited investments.

"With the proposed fund raise and the positive operational developments, the company is confident of effectively competing in the market," the statement added.

FM AT FICCI'S NATIONAL CONCLAVE ON VIKSIT BHARAT @ 2047

'Industry should align with India's developmental goals'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE INDUSTRY should align with country's developmental interests for the goal to make India a developed nation by 2047, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Tuesday.

Speaking at Ficci's National Conclave on Viksit Bharat @ 2047: Viksit Bharat & Industry, Sitharaman said the next generation reforms will be on top of the agenda of the government, including reforms for all factors of production – land, labour and capital – along with digital infrastructure.

"The reforms will touch on all the factors of production – be it your land, labour or capital. But I'll also add up, other than enterprise, which may not fit into the traditional definition of what factors of production are but I will add one more. The 21st century probably comes up with one more factor of production and that is the digital infrastructure. Today no country can move at a pace in which they would want to achieve developmental goals for their own citizens, can do it effectively, without digital infrastructure," Sitharaman said.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has shown how making investment in creating the digital infrastructure at the bottom, and scaling it up, led to the creation of 'India Stack', she said, adding, "other than the traditional factors of production like land, labour, capital and the enterprise, I would put Digital Infrastructure as an important factor, without which we will not be able to scale up and bridge the gap with those who are still aspiring to move forward".

Stating that the industry aligned with national interests even during British rule, Sitharaman said industry's role will be critical in moving towards

FM Nirmala Sitharaman addresses the audience at the 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047' event.
@nsitharamanoffc

Minister Narendra Modi, India has

Viksit Bharat. "Indian industry even during British time has always aligned with national interests and kept growing even against severe odds posed by the imperial colonial ruler. So if Indian industry has always kept that spirit up and against terrible odds kept moving along national interest, I can't see how they will be left out in this game of building a developed India by 2047. So it should be natural for the Indian industry to align itself with India's developmental interests. And after all, industry will be the first contributor as much as the first beneficiary if India becomes developed," she said.

Apart from agricultural warehousing, the government is offering support on policy, legislative, investment front and bringing people together for the larger warehousing sector, she said. The FM added India's logistics potential remains largely untapped and there is immense scope for further development in the sector.

said. "You were with India in its freedom struggle, you built your industry and capacity despite the colonial pressures. It's time for us to have economic independence with this goal of Viksit Bharat and I am sure industry will play its role," she added.

Noting that earlier generations saw a time of shortages and lost opportunities, the finance minister said there was a time when in spite of talent reviving to contribute to the country, they had to leave the country because of lack of opportunities. "It is our duty to provide the coming generations a better India which gives opportunities," she said.

Sitharaman said there are some areas in which the government is focussing a lot such as space, Artificial Intelligence (AI) among others. "We have emphasised that India should become a global hub for AI and we will set up centres of excellence for the same," she said.

"India said that the members should not lose sight of the harmful effects of subsidies for large-scale fishing on sustainable fishing and management of marine resources. India explained that the current approaches for addressing Over Capacity and Over Fishing (OCOF) is deeply flawed," the ministry said.

During the negotiations, India reiterated its long-held positions that responsible and sustainable fisheries is a practice ingrained in the ethos and practices of India's large and varied fishing community. In that context, any comprehensive agreement on fisheries subsidies should keep in mind the interests and welfare of the fishing community that depends on the marine resources for their livelihood and sustenance.

India stressed that historically, while subsidies to the fisheries sector has led to over exploitation, subsidies are also vital for developing countries and small economies to develop and diversify their fisheries sector as well as to protect the food and livelihood security of their

fishermen. The ministry added that the negotiation is linked to the concept of sustainability and as such, any comprehensive agreement on fisheries subsidies should be built on the principles of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). It should also incorporate the provisions of Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) appropriately, as is the case for all WTO agreements, it added.

At the same time, for such an agreement to be effective and forceful in advancing the sustainability objectives, there is an urgent case for capturing non-specific fuel subsidies and transfer of fishing rights to corporate fishing under Government to Government (G2G) payments within the ambit of the disciplines.

"Since the members had agreed to using the affirmative determination approach for negotiating disciplines on the overfished pillar, there was no reason why the members should not use the same approach in relation to the OCOF pillar. In addition, the current approach of considering the annual aggregate value of subsidies grossly overlooked the intensity of subsidies, and other factors such as the size of the EEZ, long coastal line, population of small fishers and the per capita subsidies to fishermen," the ministry said.

India reiterated that the sovereign rights of members for sustainable management of fisheries within their EEZs as provided under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) should be duly recognized and protected, the ministry added.

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more attractive to consumers.

Since Jio bundles the phones with its services and the phones are locked – they don't work on the network of rival operators – the company will gain in terms of migration of 2G users.

Jio has 4G feature phones in the market like JioPhone and JioBharat, but they are not attractive as smartphones because apps cannot be downloaded on them. These phones have some pre-burnt apps which work on them.

According to Qualcomm, the low-cost customised chipset will be capable of gigabit 5G speeds in smartphones leveraging stand-alone architecture, which would be up to five times higher than 4G within this smartphone price category. Qualcomm has been working for long to bring down the price of its chipsets especially to launch affordable 5G smartphones in the country. Last year, Qualcomm's former India president Rajen Vagadia said "while there are a lot of financing schemes, we are working to make 5G phones more affordable. I see probably by the end of the year (2023), we will bring down the price of entry level 5G phones below Rs 10,000 and that will again increase the demand". FE

In 2020, Qualcomm Ventures, the investment arm of Qualcomm had invested Rs 730 crore in Jio Platforms, which translates to 0.15 per cent equity stake.

The duo developing a smartphone priced at Rs 8,000 is significant as it may accelerate the migration of 2G users to 4G and 5G services. While Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have 2G users, Jio's network is fully 4G-5G. There are smartphones priced around Rs 8,000 in the market today but the Qualcomm-Jio product is expected to be packed with more features – higher RAM and processor – which may make it

Current approaches for addressing overfishing flawed: India at the WTO

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

INDIA ON Tuesday urged the members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to introduce a moratorium on subsidies by Distant Water Fishing Nations for fishing related activities beyond their exclusive economic zone (EEZs) for a period of at least 25 years.

This came during the WTO negotiation session on fisheries subsidies in the ongoing Abu Dhabi Ministerial Conference-13, ministry of commerce and industry said in a statement.

"India said that the members should not lose sight of the harmful effects of subsidies for large-scale fishing on sustainable fishing and management of marine resources. India explained that the current approaches for addressing Over Capacity and Over Fishing (OCOF) is deeply flawed," the ministry said.

Apart from agricultural warehousing, the government is offering support on policy, legislative, investment front and bringing people together for the larger warehousing sector, she said. The FM added India's logistics potential remains largely untapped and there is immense scope for further development in the sector.

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India stressed that historically, while subsidies to the fisheries sector has led to over exploitation, subsidies are also vital for developing countries and small economies to develop and diversify their fisheries sector as well as to protect the food and livelihood security of their

more attractive to consumers.

Since Jio bundles the phones with its services and the phones are locked – they don't work on the network of rival operators – the company will gain in terms of migration of 2G users.

Jio has 4G feature phones in the market like JioPhone and JioBharat, but they are not attractive as smartphones because apps cannot be downloaded on them. These phones have some pre-burnt apps which work on them.

According to Qualcomm, the low-cost customised chipset will be capable of gigabit 5G speeds in smartphones leveraging stand-alone architecture, which would be up to five times higher than 4G within this smartphone price category. Qualcomm has been working for long to bring down the price of its chipsets especially to launch affordable 5G smartphones in the country. Last year, Qualcomm's former India president Rajen Vagadia said "while there are a lot of financing schemes, we are working to make 5G phones more affordable. I see probably by the end of the year (2023), we will bring down the price of entry level 5G phones below Rs 10,000 and that will again increase the demand". FE

In 2020, Qualcomm Ventures, the investment arm of Qualcomm had invested Rs 730 crore in Jio Platforms, which translates to 0.15 per cent equity stake.

The duo developing a smartphone priced at Rs 8,000 is significant as it may accelerate the migration of 2G users to 4G and 5G services. While Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have 2G users, Jio's network is fully 4G-5G. There are smartphones priced around Rs 8,000 in the market today but the Qualcomm-Jio product is expected to be packed with more features – higher RAM and processor – which may make it

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Ola's AI platform Krutrim rates itself 7/10 on 'political neutrality'

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

OLA'S GENERATIVE artificial intelligence (AI) platform Krutrim gives itself a 7 out of 10 in terms of the "political neutrality" of its responses, and believes that on a scale of 1-10, religious polarisation in India ranks around 6-7. The platform also linked the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to what it itself described as the rise of Hindu nationalism in India.

Last week, Google's Gemini under fire from the Information Technology (IT) Ministry for answers generated by the platform on a question about Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. Ola's Krutrim, which has promised to be different, and as per its founder Bhavish Aggarwal, will have "much lower" hallucinations for Indian contexts than other global platforms, could be faced with some of the same pitfalls.

On Monday, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said that Google should first ensure its models are trained, and that "racial and other biases will not be tolerated". Minister of State for IT Rajeesh Chandrasekhar had earlier said that Google's AI's response to the question on PM Modi violated the IT rules.

Earlier this year, Krutrim raised \$50 million and became India's first unicorn in the generative AI space, even before its public

lic launch. On Monday, Aggarwal announced the launch of the beta version of Krutrim, after having earlier outlined the need to "build India's own AI".

When asked how Krutrim would rate India in terms of religious polarisation on a scale of 1-10, the platform said that "India is currently experiencing a level of religious (sic) polarisation that can be ranked between 6-7".

While it said India is a diverse and complex society, and religious polarisation is not uniform across all regions and social groups, it added that religious polarisation in India can be attributed to a combination of factors, including the rise of Hindu nationalism, political rhetoric, and the influence of certain religious figures". In a follow-up question, when asked who is responsible

for what the platform described as Hindu nationalism in India, Krutrim said it is "often associated with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his BJP", and added that it has led to the "marginalisation of other religious communities".

Its complete response: "The rise of Hindu nationalism in India can be attributed to multiple factors and political parties. However, it is often associated with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his BJP. The BJP has been promoting a Hindu nationalist agenda, emphasising the importance of Hindu culture, religion, and identity in the political discourse. This has led to the marginalisation of other religious communities, which has contributed to the polarisation of Indian society along religious lines."</p

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, N.E. Railway, Lucknow for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tender for the following work. **North Eastern Railway, Lucknow Division, S.No. 1; Tender No.: SR-DEE-TRD-UN-OT-138; Description of Work:** Periodic Overhauling (POH) of Auto Tension Devices (ATDs) in TSF-STP Section in UN Division of N.E. Railway; **Date & Time of closing of E-Tender:** 27.03.2024 at 15:00 hrs.; **Date & Time of opening of E-Tender:** 27.03.2024 at 15:30 hrs.; **Approximate Value:** ₹19,41,938.00; **Earnest Money:** ₹38,800/-; **Tender Cost:** ₹0.00/-; **Completion period of work:** 06 Months; **Note:** 1. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received, shall be ignored. 2. For full details and submission of bid, kindly visit the official website of Indian Railways i.e. <http://www.irrep.gov.in>. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD CPRO/EL-285 Lucknow PR-01815 (B & C) 2023-24 नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT
O/O THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAP)
ARRTI CAMPUS, FATASIL AMBARI, GUWAHATI – 25,
Email-id: as-ce.asbip@assam.gov.in

RFB No CE/EAP/ARRBP/111/TENDERS/2024/33

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE – Open Competitive Bidding
(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

The Government of Assam through Government of India has applied for financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program (ARRBP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to the eligible payment under the contract. Bids are invited online from the eligible bidders from India for the following works as detailed in the table below.

TABLE

Sl. No.	Package no.	Name of the work	Approx. Estimated Amount (Rupees in Lakh)	Bid security Rupees in Lakh	Tender Processing fees (INR)	Completion Period (month)
1	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Karbi-Anglong/07	Construction of Bridge in Karbi-Anglong district: i) Br. No. 1/2 on NH-39 to RJ Road via Balipathar High School	143.28	2.87	5000	12
2	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Karbi-Anglong/08	Construction of Bridges in Karbi-Anglong district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on NH-36 near Ronglimplam LP School to Sarpo Tisso Gaon PMGSY Road ii) Br. on Sikari Bey Gaon over Habjan River	469.70	9.39	5000	24
3	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/West Karbi-Anglong/01	Construction of Bridge in West Karbi-Anglong district: i) Br. No. 4/6 on Sarubarthal Doloni Hanlokrok Road	166.49	3.33	5000	12
4	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/West Karbi-Anglong/02	Construction of Bridge in West Karbi-Anglong district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on Road from Dalimbari to Rongpigaon	216.01	4.32	5000	12
5	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Cachar/06	Construction of Bridge in Cachar district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on NH-37 at Chiripool at Chiesel Punjee	206.13	4.12	5000	18
6	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Dhubri/03	Construction of Bridge in Dhubri district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Mayerchar Bazar to Noonkhowpara Masjid Road	234.18	4.68	5000	18
7	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Dhubri/04	Construction of Bridge in Dhubri district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on Howrapar Bazar to Dharmasala via Borbila Village Road	331.30	6.63	5000	18
8	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Barpeta/16	Construction of Bridge in Barpeta district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on Sarupeta Gossaivitha Road	195.86	3.92	5000	18
9	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Udalguri/08	Construction of Bridge in Udalguri district : i) Br. No. 1/2 on Ratanpur to Chenipara Railway Gate	380.44	7.61	5000	24
10	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Nalbari/12	Construction of Bridge in Nalbari district : i) Br. No. 1/1 on Khudia Rangaphali Road to Boragra Road, Namati ME School	145.64	2.91	5000	12
11	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-3/Kamrup/20	Construction of Bridges in Kamrup district : i) Br. No. 1/1 on Rangia Biweekly Market ii) Br. No. 6/1 on Changsari Sessa Road iii) Br. No. 6/2 on Changsari Sessa Road	688.32	13.77	5000	30
12	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Darrang/13	Construction of Bridge in Darrang district : i) Br. No. 1/1 Mahajanpara Hengalpara Road over river Barnadi	209.00	4.18	5000	12
13	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Sonitpur/03	Construction of Bridge in Sonitpur district : i) Br. No. 1/1 on Harchura Bagan to Factory connecting Road	106.84	2.14	5000	12
14	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Biswanath/09	Construction of Bridge in Biswanath district : i) Br. No. 1/1 on Bordoop Mikirbora Chuk Road	206.78	4.14	5000	12
15	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Tinsukia/13	Construction of Bridges in Tinsukia district : i) Br. No. 1/1 on Hollongguri to Dangari TE Road ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Chaulkhowa Nagaon to Betoni	535.61	10.71	5000	24
16	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Dibrugarh/11	Construction of Bridge in Dibrugarh district : i) Br. No. 2/1 on Mahmora Ali	111.35	2.23	5000	12
17	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Dibrugarh/12	Construction of Bridge in Dibrugarh district : i) Br. No. 3/2 on Hati Ali Linking Road	222.78	4.46	5000	18
18	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Dhemaji/01	Construction of Bridges in Dhemaji district : i) Br. No. 1/1 on Machkhowa Noichuk to Sissikalgarh ii) Br. No. 1/1 on NH-52 to Naharani Connecting Road under PMGSY Package No. AS-04-170	776.79	15.54	5000	30

The bidding documents are available online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> from 4/03/2024 to 4/04/2024. Bidders will be required to register on the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). Bids must be submitted online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> on or before 14:00 Hours on 4/04/2024. Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The method of paying Bid Security, Tender Processing fees as indicated in the table above of this e-procurement shall be required to be submitted online on <http://www.assamtenders.gov.in> by selecting "Pay Online" option.

Chief Engineer, (EAP) PWRD
Assam, Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati-25

Manipur: Senior cop's residence attacked, 3 hurt in exchange of fire

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
IMPHAL, FEBRUARY 27

ON THE eve of the Budget Session of the Manipur Assembly, armed miscreants attacked the residence of an Additional Superintendent of police at Wangkhei in Imphal East district on Tuesday night.

Four vehicles parked inside Additional SP Amit Singh's house were damaged in the attack. According to sources, this was followed by an exchange of fire between police personnel and the miscreants in which three people received bullet injuries. The miscreants were reportedly members of radical Meitei group Arambai Tengol.

According to official reports, the incident occurred around 7 pm. The ASP's father, Dr Moirangthem Kulachandra, said his son was not present at his residence when the incident occurred. Kulachandra said some people in some kind of uniform barged into the house and started ransacking the property. They opened fire following which the family members hid themselves, said the father. The motive behind the incident is yet to be ascertained, the police said.

Even while Barq had been afflicted with several age-related issues in recent years, he was known to speak his mind, especially on issues pertaining to the Muslim community, which often landed him in the headlines.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav

was among the first to express

grief over the death of the veteran

leader, calling it "very tragic".

Feroz Khan, an SP state working committee member and close confidant of Barq, told The Indian Express that his body was being brought to Sambhal from Moradabad. "He was critical for the last few days," Khan said, adding that Barq's death was "a huge loss for the people of Sambhal".

Barq, who was married to the late Quresha Begum, is survived

by his son, Mamluk Ur Rahman, a Muslim cleric in Sambhal. Barq's

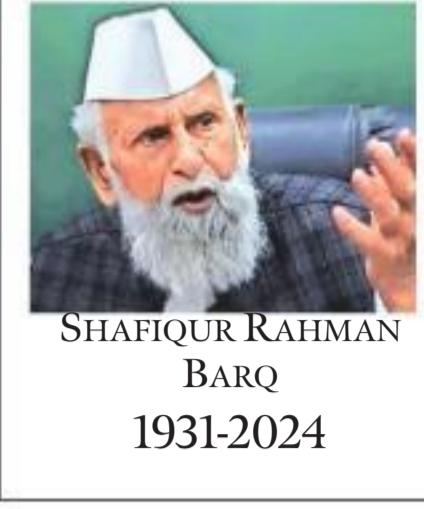
grandson Ziaur Rahman is currently an MLA from the Kundarki constituency in the Moradabad district.

Barq was born in 1930 in Sambhal's Deepa Sarai to parents who were daily-wage workers. He studied at Agraria University before returning to Sambhal. Having learnt medicine as a doctor's assistant, he started being consulted by patients suffering from minor ailments.

He began his political career after joining ranks with socialist leaders, including SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav and former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh. He was first elected as an MLA from Sambhal in 1974

on the symbol of the Bharatiya Kranti Dal.

In the subsequent elections of 1977, 1985 and 1989, he was



SHAFIGUR RAHMAN
BARQ
1931-2024

elected from the same seat on different symbols. In 1990-1991, he was a member of the UP Cabinet.

Barq's political career took a leap after the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992. An SP leader said that post the demolition, Barq "became vocal on the Muslim cause in UP and across the country." He also joined the Babri Action Committee.

In 1996, he contested his first parliamentary election from Moradabad, and was elected to the Lok Sabha on an SP ticket. He was reelected from the same seat in 1998 and 2004.

In 2008, he switched to the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and won the 2009 Lok Sabha polls from Sambhal. He then returned to the SP and unsuccessfully contested the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, when he lost to the BJP's Satyapal Singh Saini by a narrow margin of 5,000-odd votes. In 2019, he won the seat for the fifth time, defeating the BJP's Parmeshwar Lal Saini by 1.74 lakh votes.

In 2019, Barq was in the headlines when he objected to the raising of "Vande Mataram" slogans in Parliament by BJP MPs as members took oath.

In August 2022, he was booked for sedition after allegedly defended the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

Task force to study suicides among medical students

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS

The Management of the Gulmohar Sports-cum-Community Centre (GSCC), Gulmohar Park, New Delhi 110049, invites sealed quotations for the renovation of the swimming pool and changing rooms at GSCC.

Full set of documents for the work maybe collected from Trilok Singh, Manager, (9999562177), up to 2:00 pm, 1st March 2024.

Sealed quotations to be submitted in the GSCC Office by 3:00 pm, 2nd March, 2024. These shall be opened at 4:00 pm, 2nd March 2024.

Sd.
Hony. Secretary
GSCC

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

ITBP salutes its brave hearts Constable Rameshwar Dass and Consable Laxmi Dutt of 1st BN, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Bihar in 1998.

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE(ITBP)

TN SAND MINING

SC stays HC order, asks DMs to appear before ED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday put on hold the Madras High Court order staying the summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to some district collectors in Tamil Nadu, in connection with the probe into the sand mining scam.

The ED had approached the top court against the November 28, 2023 High Court order. A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mittal termed the writ filed by the state and officials as "very strange and unusual" and added that the state's plea "prima facie appear to be misconstrued". "District collectors shall appear and respond to summonses in question on the next date." ENS

Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date / Possession Notice Date	Description of Immovable Property(ies) with known encumbrances, if any	Bank's Dues	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit
1.	Borrower(s) Shri Ram Naresh Rajput S/o. Shri Nathu Ram @ Natu Ram Rajput and Smt. Malti Rajput W/o. Shri Ram Naresh Rajput, Both Address 1 : H. No. 95, Gayakwad Nagar (Santosh Nagar), Raipura Road, Opp. Sati Ashram, Firozabad-283203 (U.P.) Both Address 2 : H. No. 370, Nagla Karan Singh, Kolla Road, Firozabad-283203	28-06-2018 06-10-2018 (Symbolic Possession)	All that part and parcel of the property consists of land and building measuring 760.00 Sq. Ft. (70.68 Square Meter) as per Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 9724, Page No. 163 to 190, Sl. No. 12525, Registered on 29.11.2013 at Sub-Registrar-I, Firozabad, situated at Mohalla – Gayakwad Nagar, Tehsil & District Firozabad standing in the name of Shri Ram Naresh Rajput S/o. Shri Nathu Ram Rajput R/o. H. No. 95, Gayakwad Nagar (Santosh Nagar), Raipura Road, Opp. Sati Ashram, Firozabad-283203 (U.P.). Bounded by- East – Plot Sunita Jain; West – 8 Ft. Wide Way; North – 14 Ft. Wide Way; South – Plot Sanjay Jain Known Encumbrances, if any - Nil	Rs. 18,31,096.00 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Thirty One Thousand Ninety Six Only)	Rs. 22,62,000/-
2.	Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors: Mr. Gajadhar Singh S/o Ram Swaroop R/o 22, Kishan Nagar, Bamba Bypass Road Sukhmalpur Nizamabad, Firozabad- U.P.-283203 Guarantors: Mr. Satyendra Kumar Sharma S/o Mr. Gajadhar Singh R/o 22, Kishan Nagar, Bamba Bypass Road Sukhmalpur Nizamabad, Firozabad- U.P.-283203 Details of Boundaries (As per deed): East: Plot of Shri Bhagwan, West: Plot of Kriparan, North: Plot of Shyam Lal, South: Bamba & Patri Known Encumbrances, if any - Nil	24.04.2023 28.06.2023 (Symbolic Possession)	All that part and parcel of Double story building House No. 22, Kishan Nagar Mauja-Sailai, Bamba Bypass Road Firozabad, measuring area 1250 Sq. ft. as per Book No. 1, Volume No. 1433, Sr. No. 4958, Page No. 77 to 78, registered on 28.02.1989 at Sub-Registrar Office Firozabad District Firozabad standing in the name of Mr. Gajadhar Singh S/o Mr. Ram Swaroop, resident of 22, Kishan Nagar, Bamba Bypass Road Sukhmalpur Nizamabad, Firozabad- U.P.-283203 (U.P.) plus further interest thereon at the contractual rate, costs, charges and expenses etc. till date of payment.	Rs. 16,10,991.95 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety One & Paisa Ninety Five Only) as on 24.04.2023 (



मध्यप्रदेश राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम मर्यादित

पर्यटन भवन, भद्रभदा रोड, भोपाल - 462003

फोन नं. : +91-755 4027100, 2774304/42, वेबसाइट : www.mptdc.com

दिनांक : 27.02.2024

निविदा सूचना

मध्यप्रदेश राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम भोपाल द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा प्रप्त APPENDIX 2.10 पर म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में उत्पुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

क्र.	नि.मू. क्र.सिस्टम आई.डी. कार्य का नाम	ठेके की अनुमति राशि रु. लाख में
1	39/2024_STDC_338411_1/अटल लोक जिला वालियर में बाहरी विद्युतीकरण, फसाड लाइटिंग, स्मूजिंग लाइटिंग एवं एयर कॉडीशनिंग के कार्य। (09 माह)	325.88
2	40/2024_STDC_338413_1/अटल लोक जिला वालियर में ई.एल.वी. (फायर अलार्म सिस्टम, ओडियो/विडियो बुलालैंप, ए.ए.एस., सी.सी.टी.वी.) का कार्य। (06 माह)	95.04

वेबसाइट पर ऑनलाइन भुगतान कर निविदा प्रप्त (एण्ड्राइवर्स) वेबसाइट के माध्यम से क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा प्रप्त अनेकालाइन क्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि 13.02.2024 समय सार्व 05:00 बजे तक निर्धारित है। कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

म.प्र. माध्यम/114007/2024

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in
E-Tender Enq No. 7526/P-2/EMP-12588 Dt: 27.02.2024
Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_118862_1 for Procurement of Online monitor (Leakage current Monitor) for checking healthiness of Lightning Arrestor for EM-IV, GGSSTP Roopar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 27.02.2024 onwards.

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

RTP-26/24 329333/PB

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction Notice
No. IZN/C/e-Auction/2024-03
Dated: 27.02.2024

The bids are invited from registered entities on IREPS by Sr. DCM/ZN (ACO) through e-Auction to award the contracts of advertisement at stations/Trains and installation of ATM at stations. The Catalogue has already been published on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. The detail of upcoming e-Auctions of Izzatnagar division is as under:- Category : NFR/Advt.; Catalogue No.: IZN-OOH-ADV-03; Asset Detail:

Commercial publicity rights to display advertisement at station area of 19 stations over Izzatnagar Division for 03 years; Auction Start: 08.03.2024 at 11:00:00; Auction End: 08.03.2024 at 14:30:00; Category : NFR/Advt.; Catalogue No.: IZN-OOH-ADV-04;

Asset Detail: Commercial publicity rights to display advertisement at 32 LC Gates over Izzatnagar Division for 03 years; Auction Start: 11.03.2024 at 10:00:00; Auction End: 11.03.2024 at 15:40:00; Category : NFR/Advt.; Catalogue No.: IZN-RDN-2024-01;

Asset Detail: Commercial publicity rights to display advertisement at station platform over 10 stations of Izzatnagar Division for 03 years; Auction Start: 13.03.2024 at 11:00:00; Auction End: 13.03.2024 at 13:00:00; Category : NFR/Advt.; Catalogue No.: IZN-MOB-2024-01;

Asset Detail: Commercial publicity rights to display advertisement at exterior (Below window) surface of trains 12035/36, 15055/56, 12091/92, 15075/76 & 15073/74 of Izzatnagar Division for 03 years; Auction Start: 14.03.2024 at 11:00:00; Auction End: 14.03.2024 at 12:00:00; Category : ATM; Catalogue No.: IZN-ATM-2024-01; Asset Detail:

Rights to deploy ATM at station premises for a period of 5 years over 12 stations of Izzatnagar Division; Auction Start: 14.03.2024 at 11:00:00; Auction End: 14.03.2024 at 12:00:00; Bidders are advised to visit website www.ireps.gov.in for more information related to e-Auction.

2. The bids have been invited through e-Auction Leasing module of IREPS website. 3. All the e-Auction related information as eligibility, scope of work, contract period terms & conditions of contract etc. are available on IREPS. 4. Bidders can participate in e-Auction only as per the date & timing as indicated above. 5. All the prospective bidders are requested to visit website www.ireps.gov.in regularly for any corrigendum related to above e-Auctions.

CPRG/C-284 DCM/ZN
DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAINS

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Geeta W/o Sajjan Kumar R/o C-4/48, Gali No.10, Swarn Park, Nangloi, Delhi Aged-33 Years has been reported missing since 22.02.2024 at about 8:30 AM from her residence vide DD No.86A Dated 23.02.2024 registered at Police Station Nangloi, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Built: Medium, Clothing: Red coloured suit, pajama and white coloured jutti in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Nangloi, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641
SHO, Nangloi, Delhi
FAX No. : 011-24368639
Tel.: 011-25947225, 25949470
DP/2349/OD/2024
Mob.: 7065036127

STATION HEADQUARTERS, MATHURA CANTT

AUCTION OF SHOPS INSIDE MATHURA CANTONMENT

1. Applications are invited separately from War Widows/ Widows/ Disputed Soldiers/ Ex-Serviceman and spouses widows of Ex Servicemen for opening of following shops in shopping complexes mentioned against each inside Mathura Cantonment:-

- (a) Stationery & Gift shop in Jadunath Shopping Complex
- (b) Vegetable & Fruit Shop in Yodha Shopping Complex
- (c) Ladies Cosmetics Shop in Yodha Shopping Complex
- (d) RO Plant in Strike One Welfare Complex
- (e) Juice Corner in Strike One Welfare Complex
- (f) Cycle Shop & Cycle Repair Shop in Strike One Welfare Complex
- (g) Mobile & Accessories shop in Strike One Welfare Complex
- (h) Office for Financial Advisor in Strike One Welfare Complex
- (i) Office for Insurance Services in Strike One Welfare Complex
- (j) Amul Milk Shop in Strike One Welfare Complex
- (k) Vegetable Shop in Shoorveer Shopping Complex
- (l) Unisex Saloon in Shoorveer Shopping Complex
- (m) Stationery & Gift Shop in Shoorveer Shopping Complex
- (n) Cafeteria in Abdul Hamid Lines

2. Shops will be on contractual basis for sale of goods as approved by the Management Committee to defence personnel and their dependents only.

3. Shops will be allotted to the highest bidder over base rate Allotment will be for 11 months and extendable to maximum of five years at the discretion of the Management Committee. One Ex-Serviceman/ vendor will be allotted only one shop however they may bid for all and in case he is the highest bidder in more than one bid then he has the choice to retain any one bid and such left over shops will be allotted to the next highest bidders. Vendors should not have any other shop anywhere in India under quota.

4. Persons bidding for Electronic Shop must have minimum 05 years experience as CSO dealers.

5. Application should include the Biodata of the applicant alongwith PPO, Bank details and PAN, Aadhar Card, Address proof etc.

6. Earnest Money-Bank draft for Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) for each shop in favour of the "Station Welfare Fund, Station Headquarters Mathura" to be deposited along with the application. Earnest money is not refundable.

7. On allotment the applicant/allottee will be required to pay the following at the beginning of month:-

- (a) Monthly Rebate as decided during allotment
- (b) License fee and allied charges, as raised by MES Mathura
- (c) Security Deposit (One-time equal to sum of three months of Rebate. License fee and allied charges)

8. Application forms alongwith terms and conditions can be obtained from Station Headquarters, Mathura Cantt on any working day during working hours from 0900 to 1300 Last date of receipt of application is 1200h on 11 Mar 2024. For any clarification contact Mob No 9575542271 and 9736002762.



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, NOIDA-201301 (U.P.)

Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes / amendments & corrigendum etc.

Fresh-Tender

S. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)	Publication
1.	40/DGM/SM/WC-I/2023-24	M/o Road (Annual Maintenance of Road, Central Verge and Footpath in Work Circle-I Area), Noida	97.24	1 st Time

The above tender can be uploaded by date 04.03.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 05.03.2024 at 11.00 AM.

Sr. Manager
Work Circle-I, Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative
(Directorate of Dairy Development) Jharkhand, Ranchi

e-Tender

Date:- 26.02.2024

Online e-tenders are invited from sole manufacturers/OEM/Authorized reseller/partner for supply of items/equipments on rate contract basis in different districts of Jharkhand state as per details given below -

Name of Work	NIT reference No.	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Tender fee (Non-Refundable) In Rs.
Supply of 2070 Unit Hand Operated Chaff Cutter as per specification in NIT	01/2023-24	1,65,60,000.00	331200.00	5000.00
Supply of 704 Unit Power operated Chaff Cutter as per specification in NIT	02/2023-24	1,40,80,000.00	281600.00	5000.00
Supply of 430 Unit Milking Machine as per specification in NIT	03/2023-24	5,16,00,000.00	1032000.00	5000.00
Supply of 289 Unit Khoa-Paner Making Unit as per specification in NIT	04/2023-24	2,89,00,000.00	578000.00	5000.00
Supply of 1184 Unit Cow Mat as per specification in NIT	05/2023-24	61,56,800.00	123136.00	5000.00

*Units are indicative
Detailed tender document can be downloaded and applied through website <http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Note: The above dates may change due to unavoidable circumstances.

Tender notification & Tender document can also be seen (only reading purpose) on the Departmental website <http://animalhusbandry.jharkhand.gov.in>

1. After publication of the N.I.T., the desirous bidder(s) may download tender documents along with terms & conditions from the Website, <https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and <https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in>.

2. Disclosure of rate other than financial bid will disqualify the bidder.

3. Validity of the contract Period – One Year from the date of signing the agreement.

4. Tender fee and EMD will be received through online mode only. Bidders can use internet banking facility for faster processing of tender fee and EMD. Alternatively, bidders can use NEFT/RTGS challan generated for the tender from www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.

5. Bidder claiming relaxation for MSME/Small scale industry shall have to upload SSI or relevant registration and verification Certificate for the said items/equipments.

6. All uploaded documents should be legible/readable, if not tender may be rejected. Unsigned uploaded documents will be rejected.

The scheduled mentioned above is fixed; however, the undersigned reserves the right to change the date of activities in case of any exigencies through a notice in the government website <https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and <https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and Notice Board at official address Director, Directorate of Dairy Development, Sector II, Dhurwa, Ranchi Pin-834004.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Nidhi Mishra and Nidhi Sharma W/o Sachin Kumar Sharma R/o 105-D, Expressview Apartment, Sec-9, Noida have changed my name to Nidhi Sharma.

0040716817-1

I, Neetu, W/o Shiv Kumar A.S. R/o-16, Bilgi-3, Sector-34, Noida-201301, have changed my name to Neetu Kumar.

0040716817-4

I, Neeru W/o. Sh. Rajkumar R/o H.No. C02-401, 4th Floor, Sare Homes, sector-92, Wazirpur, Gurugram, Haryana-122505, That I hereby declare the both name of NEERU and NEERU KUMARI are the same and one person and not different person. That my actual and correct name is NEERU for future purpose. 0040716749-1

I, Natasha Nainita D/o Chanderlok Nainita R/o Plot No. 149, Flat No. 301, Sector 6, Vaishali 201019, have changed my name to Natasha Nainita for all future purposes.

0040716782-2

I, Naren Babu S/o Late Shri Chet Ram Gupta, R/o House No. H-19/31, Sector-7, Rohini, North-West Delhi, Delhi-110085, have changed my name from Naren Babu to NARESH BABU GOEL (or N.B. GOEL) and hereafter will be known as NARESH BABU GOEL (or N.B. GOEL) for all future purposes.

0040716754-1

I, Mohammad Zaki S/o Mumtaj Ali R/o 102, Gali-2, Chaman Colony, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Mohd Zaki. 0070891260-1

I, Manoj Kumar Pareek, S/o Ram Avtar Pareek R/o-60, G.F., Ashoka-Enclave, Main Sector-35, faridabad, have changed my minor Son name Reyansh Parik to Reyansh Pareek

0040716755-2

I, Manoj Kumar Pareek, S/o Ram Avtar Pareek R/o-60, G.F., Ashoka-Enclave, Main Sector-35, faridabad, have changed my minor Son name Reyansh Parik to Reyansh Pareek

0040716755-3

I, Mahendra Kalra S/o Sewaram Kalra R/o-H.No-101, 1st-Floor Satguru-Apartment, Ganga Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana-122017 have changed my name to Mahender Kumar Kalra, Permanently. 0040716755-1

I, MOHD KAYUM S/o ABDUL WAHEED R/o E-141, Dakshin Puri, New Delhi-110062, have changed my name to KAYUM for all purposes. 0040716758-1

I, MANAV S/o ASHOK KUMAR R/o A-243,DLF CAPITAL GREEN,KARMPUR,DELHI-110015.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANAV KUMAR. 0040716802-3

I, Karan Kaushal S/o Manoj Kaushal, R/o House No-16, Village Lampur Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi-110040. Declare that Name of My Father has been wrongly written as Manoj Kumar in my 10th and 12th Class Certificate. The actual name of My Father is Manoj Kaushal, which may be amended accordingly.

0070891221-1

I, Karamjeet Singh Chanana S/o Kulbir Singh R/o,WZ-1C/2A, Gali-No.3,New Sahibpura, Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Karamjeet Singh. 0040716819-5

I, Geeta W/o Sunil Sheoran R/o-903, The-New Rashtriya-CGHS Ltd., Plot-No.15, Sector-18A, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Geeta Sheoran. 0040716819-7

I, Chotey Lal Gupta S/o Brij Mohan R/o 12/12A, Sec-12, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Chotey Lal Gupta. 0070891274-1

I, Bhawna W/o Umakant Sharma R/o:Nehal, Akon Bhind, Madhya Pradesh-477111 Have Changed My Name to Bhawna Sharma. 0070891266-1

I, Amreet Singh S/o-Gurnam Singh, R/o/WZ-36A, Gali-No.9, Sant Garh, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 Have Changed My Name to Amrik Singh for all Purposes. 0070891284-1

I, Ajay Garg S/O Amrit Lal, R/o A-1/123, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi, South West Delhi-110029, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Ajay Kumar. 0070891229-1

I, Afsha D/o Md Jamil R/o 33/34, Gali-No.1, New Brijpuri, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Afsha Khan. 0040716819-6

I, Yogita Chaudhary W/o Sh. Rajesh Kumar Verma R/o-D-264, Near Delhi Convent School, Ganesh Nagar, Pandav Nagar Complex, Delhi-110092 have changed the name of my minor son from Samrat Chaudhary to Aaditya Chaudhary for all purposes. 0040716744-1

I, Paras S/o Sunil Sheoran R/o-903, The-New Rashtriya-CGHS Ltd., Plot-No.15, Sector-18A, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Paras Sheoran. 0040716819-8

I, SHILA DEVI,W/o VED PARKASH,R/o HOUSE,NO.100/1,GOHANA ROAD,SURYA NAGAR,ROHTAK, HARYANA-124001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHEELA DEVI. 0040716804-2

I,Pooran Singh Chaudhary S/o Bhagwan Singh R/o Tiket Aroha Hathras UP Have Changed My Name To Pooran Singh. 0040716817-1

I,Parichit Puri S/o Ranvir Puri R/o House No. 64, Pitampura, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Parikshit Puri 0070891212-1

I,Neetu,W/o Shiv Kumar A.S. R/o-16, Bilgi-3, Sector-34, Noida-201301, have changed my name to Neetu Kumar. 0040716817-4

I, Neeru W/o. Sh. Rajkumar R/o H.No. C02-401, 4th Floor, Sare Homes, sector-92, Wazirpur, Gurugram, Haryana-122505, That I hereby declare the both name of NEERU and NEERU KUMARI are the same and one person and not different person. That my actual and correct name is NEERU for future purpose. 0040716749-1

I, Natasha Nainita D/o Chanderlok Nainita R/o Plot No. 149, Flat No. 301, Sector 6, Vaishali 201019, have changed my name to Natasha Nainita for all future purposes.

0040716782-2

I,Dharmadurai Vaidyanathan Kallar S/O, Vaidyanathan K/R/o Rz-379, Gali No. 21, Tughlakabad Extension, Kalkaji, South Delhi, New Delhi -110019 have changed my name to Dharma Dhurai V. 0040716802-1

I,TRILOCHAND MEENA S/o Late Ram Singh Meena R/o H.No.268, Sector-15, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad(U.P)- DAL CHAND, DC MEENA and DAL CHAND MEENA is same and one person. I will be known as DAL CHAND MEENA for all future purposes.

0040716762-1

I,TDAL CHAND MEENA S/o Late Ram Singh Meena R/o FLATNO.44, Sector-15, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad(U.P)- DAL CHAND, DC MEENA and DAL CHAND MEENA is same and one person. I will be known as DAL CHAND MEENA for all future purposes.

0040716784-1

I,TREKHAR TIWARI alias REKHA D/o Om Parkash Tiwari W/o Bharat Bhushan R/o-WP-70-C,Maurya,Enclave,Near Arya Samaj Mandir, Pitampura, Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar GOEL

0040716804-4

I,TRITU GOYAL W/o SURINDER MOHAN R/o FLATNO.62,LOKNAYAK APARTMENT,SECTOR-9,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RITU ARYA. 0040716784-1

I,TRIKHA TIWARI alias REKHA D/o Om Parkash Tiwari W/o Bharat Bhushan R/o-WP-70-C,Maurya,Enclave,Near Arya Samaj Mandir, Pitampura, Delhi-110034,have changed my name to GAURAV TYAGI,for all future purposes.

0040716802-1

I,TRAJESH KUMAR SHARMA,S/o-RAM NIWASH SHARMA R/o-HOUSE NUMBER-E-114,RAJENDER-PARK EXTENSION, NANGLOI Delhi-41,have Change my name to RAJESH SHARMA.

0040716817-7

I,Pushpa W/o Amit Badoni R/o B-597 Kendriya Vihar Sector-51, Noida(U.P) Permanent Add. H.No.450, Bankhandi Rishikesh Uttarakhand-20291, have changed my name to Pushpa Bhatt for all future purposes.

0040716798-1

I,Pradeep Kumar Sharma S/o,Late Suraj Prakash Sharma,R/o,Flat;No;96,Akash-Ganga Apartment,Pocket-4,Sector-24,North-West, Delhi-110085,that name of mine has been wrongly written as Pradeep Kumar in my Service Records.The actual name of mine is Pradeep Kumar Sharma. 0040716802-7

I,Paritosh Kaur W/o Himanshu Singh Bisht R/o S-1 Plot No 124 Sector 4 Vaishali Ghaziabad have changed my name from Amrapreet Bisht to Amrapreet Kaur 0050237921-1

I,Vimlesh Gurung w/o sudheer Gurung,R/o,C-106,Reids-Line Delhi university MalkaGang, Delhi-110007,have changed my name to Bimla Gurung.

0040716804-5

I,Karan Kaushal S/o Manoj Kaushal, R/o House No-16, Village Lampur Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi-110040. Declare that Name of My Father has been wrongly written as Manoj Kumar in my 10th and 12th Class Certificate. The actual name of My Father is Manoj Kaushal, which may be amended accordingly.

0070891221-1

I, Tania Girotra D/o Satinder Nath Girotra R/o H-201 2westend Heights DLF Phase.

I, Tania Girotra D/o Satinder Nath Girotra R/o H-201 2westend Heights DLF Phase.

I, Tushar Singh Dayal R/o Richpal Singh R/o-Village Bhawani Pura Tehsil,Ringus Distt,Sikar Rajasthan-332602,changed my name to Sultan Singh Dhayal.

0040716874-1

I,Shiv Kumar S/o Janardhan Appukuttan Pillay,R/o-16-B, Nilgiri-3,Section-34, Noida-201301,have changed my name to Shiv Kumar A.S. 0040716817-3

I,Satyapal S/o Dharampal pal pahal,Address:- 994/29,Gali.No.3,Vikas-Nagar,Sonipat-(131001), Haryana-122009, have changed my name to Satya Pal Pahal For All Purpose. 0040716816-3

I,Saraswati W/o Rajender Yadav R/o,Ho.3248,Mianwali Colony, Gurgaon (Haryana) -122001,have changed my name to Saraswati. 0040716819-3

I,Sara Sethi D/o Seema Sethi,R/o R/075,New Rajinder Nagar,New Delhi-110060, changed my name to Sara Arrin Sethi in future. 0040716818-8

I,Sakshi Seth Bagga W/o Rishi Sumrani R/o F-6, Moti Nagar Delhi-15 have changed my name to Sakshi Sumrani. 0040716819-2

I,Afsha D/o Md Jamil R/o 33/34, Gali-No.1, New Brijpuri, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Afsha Khan. 0040716819-6

I,Yogita Chaudhary W/o Sh. Rajesh Kumar Verma R/o-D-264, Near Delhi Convent School, Ganesh Nagar, Pandav Nagar Complex, Delhi-110092 have changed the name of my minor son from Samrat Chaudhary to Aaditya Chaudhary for all purposes. 0040716744-1

I,Paras S/o Sunil Sheoran R/o-903, The-New Rashtriya-CGHS Ltd., Plot-No.15, Sector-18A, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Paras Sheoran. 0040716819-8

I,SHUBHASH CHAND ALIAS SUBHASH CHANDRA S/O MANOHAR SINGH R/O-A-38, 5/3,Hamuman Mandir,Shakti Vihar, Meethapur, Badarpur, Delhi-110044,have changed my name to SUBHASH CHANDRA. 0040716874-5

I,Rukhsana/Rukhsana,W/o Qayum Khan R/o,O-221/19,Gali-No.4-5,T/F,Back Portion Near-Mandir Vishnu Garden Tilak-Nagar Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Rukhsana Khan. 0040716874-3

I,Karuna W/o Dev Kumar Tomar,R/o-5/114 First-Floor Gali-No.5-Niranjan-Colony New Delhi-110009,Have changed my name to Karuna Rani. 0040716802-9

I,Rubi W/o Sandeep Choudhary Jain,R/o-KP-293, Second-Floor, Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Kanchan Jain for all purposes. 0040716817-8

I,JASMINA KAUR W/o Sh. Raminder Singh Sokhi R/o 1/589/5, Kabool Nagar Shahdara Delhi-110022 have declared that the both names Sushmeet Kaur and Sushmeet Kaur Sokhi are same and one person. In future I will be known as Sushmeet Kaur for all purposes. 0040716818-3

I,Rakesh Kumar,S/o TIRLOK CHAND GOEL,R/o HOUSE NO.197,HARSH VIHAR PITAM PURA DELHI-110044,CHANGED MY NAME TO JAMSHEED,FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040716818-6

I,TRITU GOYAL W/o SURINDER MOHAN R/o FLATNO.62,LOKNAYAK APARTMENT,SECTOR-9,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TRITU ARYA. 0040716784-1

I,REKHA TIWARI alias REKHA D/o Om Parkash Tiwari W/o Bharat Bhushan R/o-WP-70-C,Maurya,Enclave,Near Arya Samaj Mandir, Pitampura, Delhi-110034,have changed my name to GAURAV TYAGI,for all future purposes.

0040716802-1

I,GAURAV, S/o DHANPRAKASH TYAGI, H.NO-2,SHANKAR-VIHAR NEAR-POWER HOUSE VTC MODI-NAGAR GHAZIABAD,UP-201204, changed my name to GAURAV TYAGI,for all future purposes.

0040716802-1

I,GAURAV, S/o DHANPRAKASH TYAGI, H.NO-2,SHANKAR-VIHAR NEAR-POWER HOUSE VTC MODI-NAGAR GHAZIABAD,UP-201204, changed my name to GAURAV TYAGI,for all future purposes.

0040716802-1

I,GAURAV, S/o DHANPRAKASH TYAGI, H.NO-2,SHANKAR-VIHAR NEAR-POWER HOUSE VTC MODI-NAGAR GHAZIABAD,UP-201204, changed my name to GAURAV TYAGI,for all future purposes.

0040716802-1

I,GAURAV, S/o DHANPRAKASH TYAGI, H.NO-2,SHANKAR-VIHAR NEAR-POWER HOUSE VTC MODI-NAGAR GHAZIABAD,UP-201204, changed my name to GAURAV TYAGI,for all future purposes.

0040716802-1

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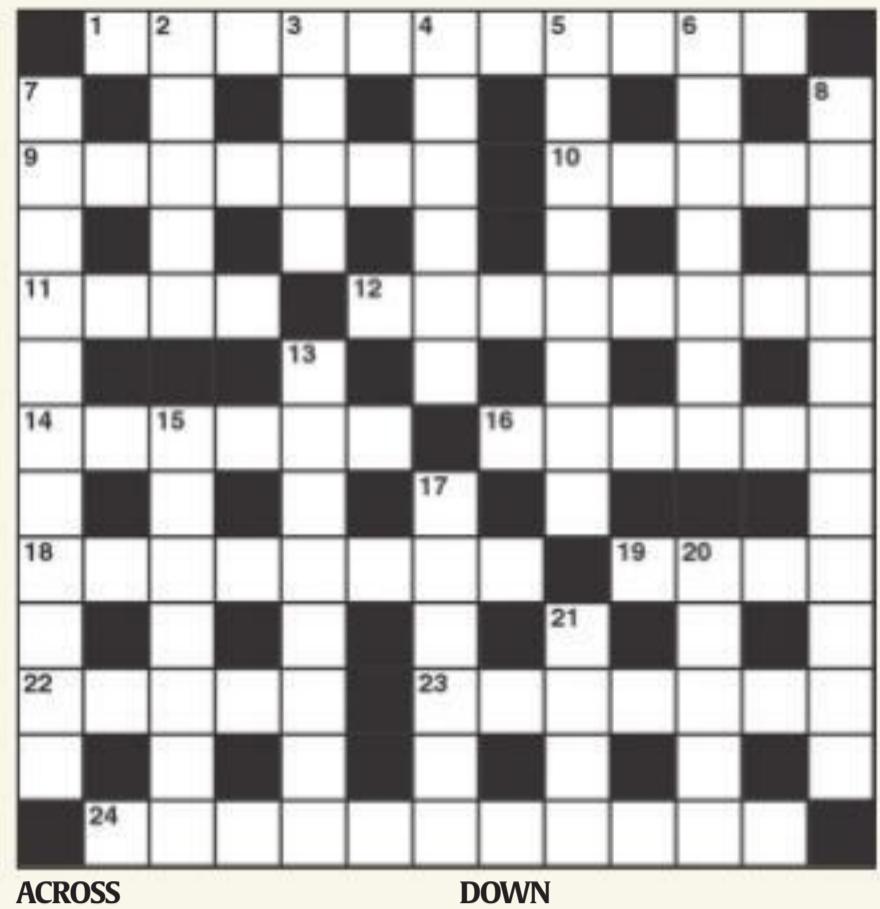
0040716802-1

I,GAURAV, S/o DHANPRAKASH TYAGI, H.NO-2,SHANKAR-VIHAR NEAR-POWER HOUSE VTC MODI-NAGAR GHAZIABAD,UP-201204, changed my name to GAURAV TYAGI,for all future purposes.

0040716802-1

I,GAURAV,

CROSSWORD 5299



ACROSS

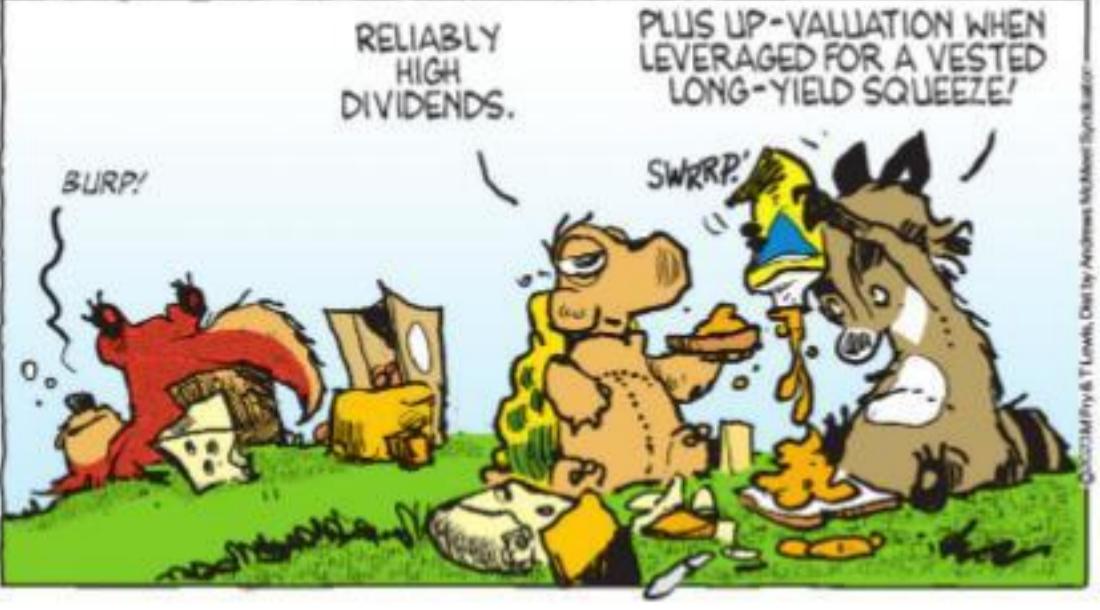
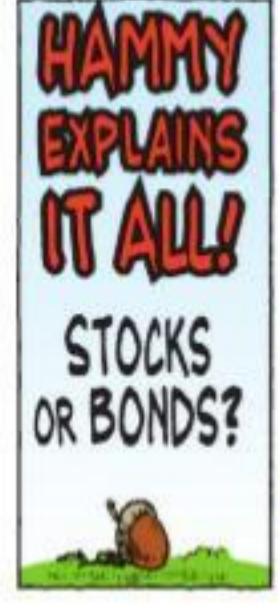
- 1 Rent is ideal for dwelling (11)
9 Appeal in French to doctor (7)
10 Be prone to illness? (3,2)
11 Shape of eggs at first light (4)
12 His relations make the headlines (8)
14 Find company in one churchman or another (6)
16 A new bride's bits and pieces (6)
18 You will know when you've got it (8)
19 Ring smuggled Algerian port (4)
22 It's sort of very loud and strong (5)
23 Cut down a dentist's work (7)
24 They are not openly played (6,5)

Solutions Crossword 5299 Across: 1 Advent, 4 Aperture, 9 Tocsin, 10 Palavers, 12 Late, 13 Laser, 14 Tell, 17 Proportioned, 20 Court-martial, 23 Hook, 24 Strap, 25 Cede, 28 Infantry, 29 Tissue, 30 Kingpost, 31 Sandal Down, 1 Antelope, 2 Vacation, 3 Naif, 5 Plates of meat, 6 Rear, 7 Uneven, 8 Easels, 11 Master-at-arms, 15 Cocoa, 16 Beard, 18 Diseased, 19 Bluebell, 21 Shrink, 22 Coffin, 26 Snap, 27 Visa

DOWN

- 2 Unusually speechless actor (5)
3 At the start of last month it turned very cold (4)
4 Good reputation to consider (6)
5 No more to discuss? (4,4)
6 One who helps a superior it's said (7)
7 Not the best moment to sort things out (6,5)
8 Noted part-player on stage (5,6)
13 A Ford not going on return trips (2,3,3)
15 Such nights figured in a fabulous story (7)
17 Not just ugly (6)
20 The hump in the middle of bridges (5)
21 A tune-up during the opera (4)

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 5486

Difficulty Level 4

Instructions

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



Difficulty Level

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5485



JUMBLE WORDS

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

— would always win by force of numbers, but it would win only more — - Ellen Glasgow (10,10) (same word twice)

LMEOR
EMOYCD
SVIT
AADYMY

meatcatty - Ellen Glasgow
Answers: Meatcatty would always win by force of numbers, but it would win only more — - Ellen Glasgow (10,10) (same word twice)

SOLUTION: MEATCATTY

SUDOKU 5486

C-3226

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO,
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan,
H.B. Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India



INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

Bid Identification No. WATCO (W) - 46/2023-24 Dtd. 23.02.2024
WATCO No. 1298 Date: 23.02.2024

- Name of the work :- 1. Installation of bulk flow meter and control valve zones under 12.5 MLD WTP at Ranibandh in connection with 24x7 water supply to Raigangpur Town.
2. Installation of bulk flow meter and control valve zones under 12.00 MLD WTP at Ranibagicha in connection with 24x7 water supply to Sundarganj town.
- Estimated cost :- Rs. 756.40Lakhs (Approx)
- Period of completion :- 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months including rainy season
- Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal :- Dt.01.03.2024 10:00 AM to Dt. 15.03.2024 up to 5.30 PM.
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal :- Dt. 15.03.2024 up to 5.30 PM.
- Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I) :- Dt. 16.03.2024 at 11:30 AM, O/o Additional Chief Engineer, Canal Circle, Burla
- Date of opening of Financial Bid (Cover-II) :- To be intimated later
- Name and Address of the Officer inviting Bid :- Additional Chief Engineer, Canal Circle, Burla-768017 Email Id: addlceccburla@gmail.com

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation/ erratum of tender can also be seen in the said Website.

2. Further details can be seen on the Government Website

<http://tenderodisha.gov.in>.

Sd/-

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
CANAL CIRCLE, BURLA
OIPR-32460/11/0011/324

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location Comprehensive AMC of VSAT Hub, Remote VSATs for FOIS and UTS for 2 years

App. Cost of the work ₹ 2,02,71,319.44/-

Tender Document Fee NIL

Earnest Money Deposit Rs.251400/-

Address of the office Dy.CSTE/TD/NR, 2nd floor Annexe-1, DRM Office New Delhi-110001

Date & Time for upload of the tender / closing of tender Tender uploading date & time 27.02.2024 up to 16.00 hrs & Tender closing date & time 20.03.2024 at 15.00 hrs

Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website www.reps.gov.in

Tender No. 561-Sig-NMO-VSAT HUB and O&M-CAMC-2-2024

Dated : 27.02.2024 637/2024

Serving Customers With A Smile

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

If others seem to want a greater degree of freedom, you deserve it as well. The only complication concerns your relationships with children, and you are still unsure where to draw the line. The best approach is to be firm but sympathetic and compassionate, but you probably know that, anyway.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You're facing the old dilemma: whether to compromise, or not! If you decide to insist that you get your own way socially, you must show other people that you have just cause. If you don't know what you're talking about, you'll soon be found out.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

There is an increasing tendency towards silly accidents. Take more care when handling priceless people or possessions. It's all down to carelessness, so the remedy is simple: watch out! And keep an eye open for an employer who is now on the warpath.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Business and pleasure can merge in mysterious ways. Complete all purchases of luxury items or investments in the arts or any other frivolous area. By the same token, agreements and arrangements affecting your working conditions must be finalised.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

It's a fair enough day for making applications, attending interviews and handling discussions, and you can do well if you're selling ideas. On the romantic front, certain emotional complications should by now have died down or have come to seem strangely irrelevant.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

There are so many awkward alignments in your horoscope that some of you may be feeling a little bewildered and hard done-by. Perhaps it's time to remind you that according to every tenet of your birth sign, you thrive on a challenge! In fact, there's nothing worse than having nothing to do.

PIRUS (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The world should generally be moving in your direction, today. This doesn't mean that you'll be able to get your own way; neither should it, for the universe has other ideas. It does show however, that you will be well fitted to cope with whatever life throws at you.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
CANAL CIRCLE, BURLA.
A-1603
e-Procurement notice no.-CCB-06/2023-24
Bid Identification No.: CCB-06/2023-24

1	Type of the work	Road Work
2	No of works	1(One) no.
3	Class of contractor	"A" & "Special" class
4	Bid identification No	CCB-06/2023-24
5	Estimated cost	Rs.756.40Lakhs (Approx)
6	Period of completion	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months including rainy season
7	Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal	Dt.01.03.2024 10:00 AM to Dt. 15.03.2024 up to 5.30 PM.
8	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	Dt. 15.03.2024 up to 5.30 PM.
9	Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	Dt. 16.03.2024 at 11:30 AM, O/o Additional Chief Engineer, Canal Circle, Burla
10	Date of opening of Financial Bid (Cover-II)	To be intimated later
11	Name and Address of the Officer inviting Bid	Additional Chief Engineer, Canal Circle, Burla-768017 Email Id: addlceccburla@gmail.com

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation/ erratum of tender can also be seen in the said Website.

2. Further details can be seen on the Government Website <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>.

Sd/-

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
CANAL CIRCLE, BURLA
OIPR-32460/11/0011/324

Rural Works Department
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Works Department, Bihar

Vishweshawariya Bhawan, 5th Floor, Rural Works Department, Bailey Road, Patna, Bihar -800015

(विश्वशारीय पर्यावरण नीति, 2018)

Notice Inviting Tender for Rural Roads Maintenance based on Output and performance based Contract through e-procurement mode on Model Bidding Document (MBD).

(Short Notice Inviting Tender No. - MR-3054-105/2023-24)

- Designation and Address of the Advertiser : Office of Engineer-in-chief-cum-Additional Commissioner-cum-Special Secretary, Rural Works Department, Bihar, Patna
- Date of Issue of Notice Inviting Tender : 23.02.2021
- Period for downloading of Tender documents From website:- <http://pmgsytenderbih.gov.in>
- Date, Time & Place of Pre- Bid Meeting : Date 03.03.2024 time 15:00 hrs. Place O/o Concerned Superintending Engineer
- Last Date & Time for uploading tender Document by bidder : Date 07.03.2024 upto: 15:00 hrs. <http://pmgsytenderbih.gov.in>
- Date, time for online opening of Technical bid : Date 07.03.2024 upto Time: 15:30 hrs.
- Last date, time and place for submission of Original instrument of EMD, Cost of BOQ, Bank credit facility certificate and an Affidavit regarding correctness of Information provided with bid document : Till 15:00 hrs on 07.03.2024
Place- O/o-concerned
(i) Executive Engineer Or (ii) Superintending Engineer Or (iii) Chief Engineer
- The Engineer in chief, Rural Works Department on behalf of Governor of Bihar invites bids from the eligible bidders for the works detailed below.

SL.No	Package No.	District	Name of Division	Block	Name of Road	Length (In Km)	Cost of Initial Rectification with Surface Renewal (In Lakhs)	Cost of 5-Years Maintenance (In Lakhs)	Total Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)	Cost of BOQ. (In Lakhs)	Bid Security (In Lakhs)	Amount Payable to Works Division
1	MR-N/23-24 Arwal/10	Arwal	Arwal	L042 - Patna Aurangabad road to Bajitpur (TRACK13)	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1				L040-T02 To Rajapura (TRACK13)	2.420	76.772	19.254	96.026		10000	6.010	EE, RWD Works Division, Arwal
				Total for the Group	7.048	252.747	47.558	300.305				

For further details please visit website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

PR-18288 (R W D) 2023-24

नरो से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है

Engineer in Chief-cum-Additional Commissioner-cum-Special Secretary

Rural Works Department, Bihar, Patna

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (ROADS),
PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT,
ASSAM, GUWAHATI-03

No. CE/DEV/TB/906/2023-24/10

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER(Re-BID)

The Chief Engineer (Roads), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites re-bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for 6 (Six) nos of Packages for construction of Roads and Bridge project under SOPD- ODS for the year 2023-24 in Biswanath, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Kokrajhar & Sivasagar Districts of Assam amounting to Rs 13.81 Crores (Approx.) including GST etc. from approved &