

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES | \*APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE

**PM Modi has belied the age-old saying 'blood is thicker than water', as he considers society as a family and his own family lives a nondescript life, says Amit Shah at a book launch function, P 9**

**With Elon Musk hinting at removing Twitter ban on Trump, junior IT minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar says de-platforming is a violation of the fundamental rights of users, P 7**

**Cong veteran and ex-telecom minister Sukh Ram passes away in Delhi at 94.** Sukh Ram, who won 5 assembly polls and was thrice elected to LS, was a minister in the Rajiv Gandhi govt, P 10

**A Delhi court seeks ED's reply on a plea by actor Jacqueline Fernandez seeking suspension of an LOC issued against her & allowing her to travel abroad**

# SC tells govts to put sedition law, cases on hold till Centre completes its review

'Parties In Fresh Cases Can Go to Courts For Relief'

Dhananjay Mahapatra  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday virtually suspended operation of the much-misused 124-year-old sedition provision to stop police from invoking it against anyone from now on and stayed both probe and trial in existing sedition cases to allow the Centre to examine softening the rigour of Section

FULL COVERAGE: PG OPP, 2

124A in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) to sync it with the present social milieu.

Not content with the Centre's offer that in future no sedition FIR would be registered without prior approval of the area superintendent of police until the re-examination of the controversial provision had been completed, a bench of Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli in their

## PROSECUTION CAN CONTINUE ON OTHER CHARGES

**WHAT THE COURT SAID**  
The case of the petitioners is that this provision of law dates back to 1898, pre-dating the Constitution itself, and is being misused. The attorney general had also, on an earlier date of hearing, given some instances of glaring misuse of this provision, like in the case of racial of the Hanuman Chalisa.

We hope and expect that state & central govts will restrain from registering any FIR, continuing any investigation or taking any coercive measures... while the aforesaid provision of law is under consideration... if any fresh case is registered... affected parties are at liberty to approach the concerned courts... courts are requested to examine the reliefs sought, taking into account the present order passed as well as the clear stand taken by Union of India



► SC says Centre free to issue directive to state govts/UTs to prevent misuse of Section 124A. However, it says courts can proceed against arrested persons on charges other than sedition if no prejudice is caused to accused

► Earlier, solicitor general Tushar Mehta had placed a draft guideline, signed by the Union home secy, which said an FIR involving sedition would be registered only if an officer of at least SP rank recorded in writing his satisfaction that the offence alleged "involves Sec 124A as analysed by the SC in its 2021 judgment in Vinod Dua case."

► In the Vinod Dua case, the SC had said, "A citizen has a right to say or write whatever he likes about the govt... so long as he does not incite people to violence against the govt established by law or with the intention of creating public disorder"

in existing sedition cases registered, the bench said, "If any fresh case is registered under Section 124A, the affected parties are at liberty to approach the concerned courts for appropriate relief."

It asked the courts to examine relief sought by arrested persons taking into account the SC order and the Centre's unambiguous stand.

► 'Must balance', PAGE OPP

**ALSO IN SC**  
► Order reserved on Rajiv case convict Perarivalan's plea for premature release, P 10  
► SC questions UP for filing cases against Azam Khan, who'd claimed 'harassment', P 8  
► Court to examine lowering eligibility for BDS seats, P 9  
► State laws cannot regulate NBFCs registered with RBI, says apex court, P 8

**Rijiju: Court must be mindful of Lakshman rekha**

New Delhi: In his first reaction to the SC suspending the sedition law, law minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday told reporters that the court should be mindful of its "Lakshman rekha (boundary)" as should the government.

The minister looked visibly upset with the court virtually pausing the operation of the sedition law despite the government's request on Tuesday not to pass an order until the Centre had completed the re-examination of the controversial penal provision. "We have a clear demarcation of boundaries and that 'Lakshman rekha' should not be crossed by anybody," Rijiju said here after an event. He, however, qualified his comments saying, "We respect each other... the court should respect the government, the legislature, so as the government should respect the court." TNN

► 'Will consider', PAGE OPP

**Justice Rajiv Shakdher, ruling in favour of criminalising marital rape, said:**

Non-consensual sex is an antithesis of what matrimony stands for: the relationship of equals. Marital rape exception (MRE) has contributed to diminishing the freedom won by human beings from slavery. Good men have nothing to fear if this change is sustained... those who want status quo to continue would perhaps want to have MRE struck down if the victim involved was his/her mother, sister, or daughter

► CENTRE, STATE MADE NO CASE FOR OR AGAINST, P 2

**Justice C Hari Shankar, upholding validity of exception under rape law, said:**

Just as every incident of taking of the life by one, of another, is not murder, every incident of non-consensual sex of a man with a woman is not rape. The exception is not unconstitutional and is based on an intelligible differentia. If rape is to apply even to non-consensual sex within marriage, it may be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the husband to establish existence of consent as the act has taken place within the confines of the bedroom

ings opposing the batch of petitions seeking criminalisation of marital rape.

The lawyers for both the petitioners and the intervenors said they will move the SC. "Yes, I will be moving the Supreme Court on Monday," senior advocate Colin Goncalves, representing one of the petitioners, told TOI. Meanwhile, advocate Raj Kapoor, who had appeared for an NGO, Hriday, in opposition to the petitions, said they will go to the Supreme Court within a week to appeal.

The two judges penned separate lengthy opinions of a combined 393 pages, tracing the history of the colonial era provision, the reason for its continuance and why it must go (Justice Shakdher) or remain (Justice Shankar).

Shakdher, who headed the bench, favoured striking down the marital rape exception for being "unconstitutional" and for being "steeped in patriarchy and misogyny."

► Colonial-era law, P 2

## J'khand IAS officer arrested in ₹18cr MGNREGA scam

Ranchi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Jharkhand mines and industries secretary Pooja Singh on Wednesday evening after questioning the 2000-batch IAS officer for more than 20 hours following allegations that Rs 18 crore of MGNREGA funds were embezzled between 2006 and 2010 in Khunti district when she was deputy commissioner, report Jaideep Deogharia & Sanjay Sahay.

This is the first arrest of a serving IAS officer in the state. The arrest assumes significance as the departments she headed are on Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren's watch and he himself is caught in an office-of-profit storm following an Election Commission notice related to a mining lease allotted to him in July last year.

► ED gets officer's custody for 5 days, P 8

## FCRA violations: 6 serving officials among 14 arrested

New Delhi: Six serving officials, including an assistant director posted with the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) division of the MHA, are among the 14 people arrested by the CBI for facilitating clearance to NGOs to obtain foreign grants illegally, reports Rajshekhar Jha.

The agency has named 36 people as accused in the case and more arrests are likely to follow. Cash totalling Rs 3.21 crore has been seized after Tuesday's nationwide raids.

The probe has revealed that a network of people in Delhi, Jharkhand, Assam and Manipur orchestrated the scam in collusion with officials. "Accused were involved in corrupt activities for getting backdoor FCRA registration & renewal to NGOs illegally with an objective to continue receiving donations despite not fulfilling prescribed norms," CBI spokesman RC Joshi said. TNN

► Home secretary's missive, P 14

## UP DGP shifted for 'neglect of duty, indolence'

Lucknow: The Yogi Adityanath government shunted out UP police chief Mukul Goel on Wednesday for "disregard of government duty, not taking interest in departmental work and indolence", reports Pathikrit Chakraborty. Additional DGP (law and order) Prashant Kumar was given interim charge until a full-time successor to Goel is appointed.

DGP Mukul Goel has been removed and sent to the civil defence department as DG, a government spokesperson said. Additional chief secretary (home) Awasthi Awasthi confirmed to TOI Goel lost the post on grounds of underperformance and his allegedly lackadaisical approach to work.

► CM miffed with Goel, P 8

## Lanka prez vows to shed powers, bring reforms, appoint new PM this wk

Colombo: Sri Lanka's president on Wednesday promised to appoint a new prime minister within this week, empower Parliament and abolish the all-powerful executive presidential system as reforms to stabilise the country engulfed in a political crisis and violence triggered by the worst economic crises in memory.

► India denies any plan to send troops to Lanka, P 14



Army personnel patrol Colombo with orders to shoot on sight

In a televised address, Gotabaya Rajapaksa said he, without partisanship, condemns attacks on peaceful protesters by mobs who came to support his brother and ex-PM Mahinda Rajapaksa, who resigned Monday. "I will make way for the new PM," he said, adding he will also give away much of his powers to Parliament, and when some normalcy returns, take steps to abolish the country's powerful executive presidential system. AGENCIES

► Troops on streets, P 14

## Taj site belonged to Jaipur royals: MP Diya Kumari

Jaipur: The land on which the Taj Mahal stands belonged to the erstwhile Jaipur royal family and used to have a palace that Mughal emperor Shah Jahan grabbed before building his grand monument, BJP MP and royal scion Diya Kumari claimed on Wednesday.

Her claim came two days after the Allahabad HC received a plea to re-examine locked rooms within the Taj inner sanctum. The plea was filed by Rajneesh Singh, media in-charge of BJP's Ayodhya unit. "I am glad someone has appealed to open the closed doors. This will reveal the hidden truth," she said. TNN

► Taj Mahal rooms, P 14

## 'Droughts cut India's GDP by 2-5% over 20 yrs'

The effect of severe droughts is estimated to have reduced India's GDP by 2.5% from 1998 to 2017, according to a report from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The report says droughts represent 15% of natural disasters globally but took the largest human toll — 650,000 deaths in 50 years (1970-2019). Globally, droughts caused economic losses of roughly \$124 billion during that period, reports Vishwa Mohan.

Though severe drought affected Africa more than any other continent with over 300 events recorded in the past 100 years, accounting for 44% of the global total, the highest total number of humans affected by drought were in Asia. P 7

## 50% of Covid hospitalised ailing 2 years later: Lancet

New Delhi: Even as most people who recovered from Covid-19 have since returned to work, around half of the patients who were admitted to hospital still have at least one symptom even two years after getting the infection, according to the longest follow-up study to date, published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine.

While physical and mental health generally improved over time, Covid-19 patients still tend to have poorer health and quality of life than the general population, the study says. This was specially the case for participants with long Covid, who typically still have at least one symptom — fatigue, shortness of breath and sleep difficulties — even two years after initially falling ill.

► Some need over 2 yrs, P 14

## 3-mth booster gap for those going abroad?

The health ministry is considering reducing the gap between the second dose of the Covid vaccine and the precaution/booster dose to three months for those planning to travel abroad. A final decision on this is yet to be taken, sources said. Currently, the mandated gap is nine months. P 7

The study followed 1,192 participants in China infected with SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) during the first phase of the pandemic in 2020 at Jin Yin-Tan Hospital in Wuhan between January 7 and May 29, 2020 and then at six months, 12 months, and two years. TNN

► Personal enmity, P 14

## Bhilwara on the edge again over youth's murder

Jaipur/Ajmer: Bhilwara bristled and braced for a potential backlash for the second time in a week after a 20-year-old man was stabbed to death by three suspects Tuesday, prompting the administration to again block mobile internet as a precaution against spread of rumours.

Police teams fanned out

► Man killed by kin of girlfriend in Gujarat, P 7

into all parts of the city as several groups called a general strike on Wednesday to protest the murder of Adarsh Tapadiya outside a sweet shop in the Kotwali police station neighbourhood. Shops across markets were shut all day. TNN

► Personal enmity, P 14

► Some need over 2 yrs, P 14

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## Al Jazeera reporter killed while covering Israeli raid

Jerusalem: Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was shot and killed while covering an Israeli military raid in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin early Wednesday. Al Jazeera accused Israel of "deliberately targeting our colleague".

The Israel army initially raised the possibility that Abu Akleh might have killed by stray Palestinian fire. However, army chief Lt Gen Avi Kochav later stepped back from that assertion, saying that "at this stage, we cannot determine by whose fire she was harmed and we regret her death".

Abu Akleh, 51, was a respected and familiar face in the West Asia, known for her

## ₹3.8L fine for dog attack in swank Gurgaon society

Gurgaon: The district consumer forum has imposed a combined fine of Rs 3.8 lakh on a pet owner, the management of The Magnolias, and its maintenance and security agencies in a case related to a 2020 attack by the dog on a minor girl inside an elevator.

The forum also ordered a payout of Rs 20,000 to the complainant, also a resident of the society, as litigation cost as resident Pankaj Agarwal had filed the plaint in September 2020. He alleged his daughter took the society lift on February 20 that year to visit her uncle's house on the 22nd floor.

► Spent 2 wks at home, P 2

► The minor girl was attacked by a pet dog in the lift of an upscale society in Gurgaon on February 20, 2020 when she was visiting her uncle's house on the 22nd floor

► Besides ₹3.8L fine on the pet owner, the district consumer forum ordered a payout of ₹20,000 to the complainant, also a resident of the society, as litigation cost

as resident Pankaj Agarwal had filed the plaint in September 2020. He alleged his daughter took the society lift on February 20 that year to visit her uncle's house on the 22nd floor.

► Spent 2 wks at home, P 2

## Couple sue son for 'depriving them of grandkid'

A retired senior BHEL officer in Haridwar and his wife have sued their Guwahati-based pilot son and Noida-based working daughter-in-law on grounds of "mental harassment" after they "failed to give them a grandchild, even after 6 years of marriage", reports Kalyan Das. They demanded a grandchild "within a year" or Rs 5 crore, which they claimed they spent on the son's "upbringing". P 7

coverage of the harsh realities of Israel's military occupation for the past three decades. She reported for Al Jazeera's Arabic language channel and was also a US citizen. The State Department called her death "an affront to media freedom." AP

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**41.4°**  
MAXIMUM  
FORECAST Mainly clear sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 43° and 29°C  
**28°**  
MINIMUM  
SUNRISE 5.32AM (FRI)  
SUNSET 7.03PM (THU)

**TIMES CITY**  
THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022

1897141  
TOTAL COVID-19 CASES

NEW CASES 970	ACTIVE CASES 5,202
RECOVERED 18,65,755	DEAD 26,184

DDA asks Delhi govt to relax tree planting norms over lack of vacant land | 4



## SHORT TAKES

Pre-cast cement segment of RRTS Corridor 'slips'

A pre-cast cement segment of the upcoming high-speed Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor "slipped" at a construction site near Modi Nagar North Station on Tuesday evening and fell close to the barricades during a load testing exercise. No one was injured.

"Around 4.30pm, during the load capacity testing of a recently installed launching girder, a segment slipped within the barricaded area. While lifting this first segment, the cable snapped, and it fell within the barricaded zone with a loud sound," said a spokesperson of National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), which is implementing the project. "As the exercise is being done following the safety norms, no one got injured and traffic movement remained unaffected," he added.

Launching girders are installed on pillars and are used to join pre-cast segments together to give shape to the viaduct, on which tracks are later laid. Modi Nagar North Station is close to Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. The under-construction 82km-long corridor between Meerut and Delhi promises to bring down travelling time to around 55 minutes. A 17km-long priority section between Duhai and Sahibabad is expected to be completed by next year and the entire corridor by 2025. TNN

## DU offline exams see 97% turnout

As offline examinations began on Wednesday for undergraduate students of Delhi University, the turnout was over 97%. After the Covid-19 pandemic-induced gap of two years, students returned to the campus to appear for their examinations. DS Rawat, dean of examination, said, "Today's exam went very smoothly. Among others, even I was interested to know how many students do not turn up for the exams, especially as they are being held in the physical mode after two years. Recently, some students had also protested against the physical mode of exam. However, the news has been very encouraging." Out of a total of 45,435 students who registered for the morning session, 44,311 students appeared for the examinations, Rawat said. TNN

## Capital may get exclusive wine-and-beer bars soon

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The city could soon witness the opening of special bars that will serve only soft liquor, i.e., beer and wine. The Delhi Excise Policy 2022, which is likely to be implemented after the lieutenant governor's nod, has a provision wherein such bars can operate by paying a smaller licence fee.

The group of ministers, which was formed by the government earlier this year to find a solution to the challenges faced in the implementation of last year's excise policy, has also suggested granting of licence to independent bars at five-star bars, streamlining the mechanism to make draught beer available at bars regularly, dropping the brand registration fee for non-whiskey variants and reducing the excise duty on micro-breweries.

Industry insiders said most proposals will help revive the restaurant sector, which was battered by the Covid-induced lockdowns and restrictions.

According to officials, special licences will be granted to enterprises to open bars to serve only soft liquor, such as beer and wine. Such bars, said officials, existed earlier but were discontinued by previous governments. With bars and restaurants set to be allowed to open till 3am now, those serving soft liquor are likely to become hugely popular.

"As the licence fee for such bars serving soft liquor will just be 50% of the normal fee, it will significantly benefit smaller restaurants and cafés. It will become financially viable to avail the licence and they can think of reducing the prices of wine and beer," said an official.

With a large number of bars

Abhinav Garg & Usha Das | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi High Court's split verdict in the PILs on "marital rape" came in absence of any stand by the state, a unique and unprecedented situation.

In a 2017 affidavit, the Centre had opposed the petitions seeking criminalisation of marital rape, saying it could not be made a criminal offence as it could become a phenomenon that may destabilise the institution of mar-

riage and an easy tool for harassing husbands.

But in January this year, the Centre disowned that affidavit and told the court it was having a relook at its earlier stand. In February, the Centre urged the court to grant it more time to enable it to state its stand on the issue after a consultative process. The request was, however, turned down by a bench of justices Rajiv Shakdher and C Hari Shankar on the ground that it

was not possible to defer an ongoing matter endlessly.

The shifting stand of both the Centre and Delhi government was recorded by justice Shakdher in his opinion. It was noted that solicitor general Tushar Mehta had stated in no uncertain terms that the Centre did not wish to take a stand in the matter and filed an affidavit to the effect that it would like to engage in consultation before moving further in the matter.

While the petitioners had

said that marital rape was the biggest form of sexual violence against women, Delhi government had said this act was already covered as a "crime of cruelty" under IPC.

"On the other hand, while submissions were made at length by Nandita Rao, who represented Delhi government, on the last day on instructions, she stated that she wished to withdraw the submissions made by her in the course of the hearing on behalf of Delhi govern-

ment," the court noted, pointing out that "practically, the state made no case for or against the continuance of the impugned provisions on the statute".

Meanwhile, lawyers for the petitioners and interveners said they would move Supreme Court. "Yes, I will be moving Supreme Court on Monday," senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, representing one of the petitioners, told TOI.

Advocate Raj Kapoor, who had appealed for NGO Hriday

in opposition to the petitions, said though both the judges were right in their stand, he would prefer if the petitions were dismissed.

"Both the verdicts have been decided from a constitutional viewpoint. Both the judges are right in their own way, but we wanted the petitions to be dismissed and Execution 2 to Section 375 remains intact. We will go to Supreme Court within a week to appeal," said Kapoor.

Dr Bharti Sharma, honorary secretary of voluntary organisation Shakti Shalini that works with survivors of domestic violence said "the split verdict reflects two distinctly divergent views within the judiciary on the matter and that is disappointing". "We must understand that the problem of marital rape is a reality that exists and a woman going through it is in severe trauma. We have seen such cases and the problem emanates from a social system deeply entrenched in patriarchy," Sharma added.

## RAISING THE BAR



₹ 9,500  
government  
estimates to  
earn through  
excise

Home delivery of liquor through empanelled intermediaries  
► Provision of wine tasting at mega-vends  
► Exclusive bars for soft liquor (beer and wine)



**AN OFFICIAL SAYS**  
As the licence fee for such bars serving soft liquor will just be 50% of the normal fee, it will significantly benefit smaller restaurants and cafés

facing the problem of making draught beer available, the GoM has suggested that the excise department come up with a separate mechanism to ensure its regular supply. Draught beer is a hugely popular segment and industry insiders say its unavailability impacts sales at restobars. They added that draught beer has not been registered in Delhi since November 17, 2021, when registration of new liquor vends started in the capital under the Delhi Excise Policy 2021.

In the new policy, the excise

department, on the GoM's recommendation, has also proposed reducing excise duty on microbreweries to Rs 30 per bulk litre and bring it on a par with Haryana. Microbreweries are also a hugely popular segment and the produce is considered a soft liquor. The move, said officials, will also help in reviving the sector.

"We applaud the policymakers for quick redressal and proposing initiatives for the forthcoming excise policy for 2022-23. Proposals such as reducing brand registration fee for non-whisky to Rs 5,000 per brand will ensure a larger, especially international, range to guests at restaurants. Developing a mechanism to reinstate the supplies of draught beer, allowing independent restaurants in five-stars to serve liquor 24 hours and promotion of soft liquor, which is low on alcohol content, will have a positive impact on the restaurant sector," said a bar owner.

Bidhuri said before formulating the liquor policy, the government must talk to the municipal town planner, DDA commissioner (planning), and Delhi Police commissioner, apart from its own legal department on where such mega liquor stores could be opened and what facilities could be provided. "If the Kejriwal government does not change the plan, BJP will protest more strongly," added the Badarpur MLA.

A Delhi government official said legal aspects had already been taken into consideration.

"Under the master plan, liquor shops cannot be opened in non-conforming and residential areas. That's why only 649 outlets have been opened. It was only after we protested that liquor shops opened in non-conforming areas were sealed," Bidhuri said. TNN

Raj Shekhar Jha & Abhay | TNN

New Delhi: With the new Delhi Excise Policy proposing to allow mega vends to organise liquor tasting sessions, BJP on Wednesday said the AAP government should take inputs from MCD, DDA and Delhi Police before implementing the policy.

Leader of the Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the move would be legally wrong and such an arrangement could only be done in hotels and bars and not at liquor stores.

"Delhi government is making a mistake by proposing to open huge liquor shops in 5,000 square feet of space. First, there are no commercial areas where such huge space is available. Such space can only be found in shopping malls and tasting facilities will attract large gatherings of liquor drinkers at every shop. The places will become liquor dens. In the name of a tasting facility, bars will come up," said Bidhuri.

Bidhuri said before formulating the liquor policy, the government must talk to the municipal town planner, DDA commissioner (planning), and Delhi Police commissioner, apart from its own legal department on where such mega liquor stores could be opened and what facilities could be provided. "If the Kejriwal government does not change the plan, BJP will protest more strongly," added the Badarpur MLA.

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## UNDER LENS



Kanhaiya Kumar



Umar Khalid

## A few cases

- JNU sloganneering case
- Disha Ravi toolkit case
- Red Fort case (separate FIR)
- Case against Late Vinod Dua (quashed by SC)

## The law Section 124A

Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation brings or attempts to bring in hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the government established by law

Punishment | Max punishment is imprisonment for life and/or fine

Union president Kanhaiya Kumar, along with other student leaders, among them Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya, for sedition under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code.

Former JNU student Sharjeel Imam was booked for sedition for alleged making inflammatory speeches in Jamia area in December 2019 and at Aligarh Muslim University in January 2020 during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests. In March this year, a Delhi court framed charges against Imam and others.

The JNU sloganneering case relates to a 2016 "poetry session" to commemorate the third anniversary of the hanging of 2001 Parliament attack case convict Afzal Guru. Anti-India slogans were apparently shouted during the event. Delhi Police booked the then JNU Students'

seminating a "toolkit" on the farmers' protests against the central government's agricultural laws. The said toolkit was tweeted by Swedish environment activist Greta Thunberg on February 3, 2021 but subsequently deleted, kicking off a massive Twitter storm.

Delhi Police registered an FIR and tracked the IP address to reach Ravi, who was granted bail on February 23, 2021 by a Delhi court, which remarked that "the offence of sedition could not be invoked to minister to the wounded vanity of the government". The court held that the citizens were "conscience keepers" of the government in any democratic nation and they couldn't be jailed simpliciter.

Delhi Police needs to have a sanction of prosecution from the Delhi government to proceed with filing of a chargesheet for sedition against any person so accused.

Attacked by dog, girl had to spend 2 weeks at home

Bagish.Jha@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: The district consumer forum has imposed a combined fine of Rs 3.8 lakh on a pet owner in a case related to a 2020 attack by the dog on a minor girl inside an elevator. The domestic staffer of another flat in The Magnolias society entered the lift with the dog, which was not on a leash, according to a complaint. The dog allegedly pounced on the girl and injured her. The domestic staffer

got off the lift with the pet and the girl reached her uncle's house, after which she was taken to a hospital. Traumatised by the incident, she spent two weeks at home and could not attend school, complainant Magnolias resident Pankaj Agarwal alleged.

He said he reached out to the dog's owner, the security in-charge and the society's management but they did not take cognizance of his complaint. It was after this that he approached the district consumer forum.

The complainant had argued before the forum that he pays a rent of Rs 3 lakh and other charges amounting to Rs 1 lakh every month. Despite these costs, his daughter's safety was compromised, he argued.

The forum passed the order in favour of Agarwal on Tuesday. The penalty, it ordered, must be given with an additional 9% interest since the date of admission of the case. The society management did not respond to TOI's requests for a comment.

# Split Wide Open On Colonial-Era Provision

Judges Disagree On Whether Continuance Of Marital Rape Exception Should Be Allowed

Upset, women groups pin hopes on SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** All India Democratic Women's Association expressed disappointment over the split verdict and reiterated its stand that rape in marriage amounts to violation of a woman's fundamental right to bodily integrity. AIDWA is one of the petitioners in the case.

The organisation's legal adviser and vice-president Kirti Singh said, "Rape is rape within or outside marriage and is an act of violence and a violation of a woman's fundamental right to bodily integrity. We will appeal against the verdict," Singh said.

The Centre for Social Research, another voluntary organisation vociferous in its demand for criminalisation of marital rape, feels that even though the split verdict is disappointing at one level, those fighting for the cause must not give up hope as the debate is very much on. CSR director, Ranjana Kumari said the focus has to be to convince those in the position of decision-making to recognise that the problem of marital rape exists.

"The discussion on marital rape gained momentum as part of the consultations that led to the amendments in the criminal law after the horrific case in December 2012 when a 23-year-old girl was gangraped in Delhi. However, despite the recommendations made on the matter in the Justice J S Verma Committee report the amendments failed to address the issue of marital rape," Kumari said. "I would want the central government to speed up the consultative process that they have referred to in the affidavit in Court," Kumari added.

Dr Bharti Sharma, honorary secretary of voluntary organisation Shakti Shalini that works with survivors of domestic violence said "the split verdict reflects two distinctly divergent views within the judiciary on the matter and that is disappointing". "We must understand that the problem of marital rape is a reality that exists and a woman going through it is in severe trauma. We have seen such cases and the problem emanates from a social system deeply entrenched in patriarchy," Sharma added.

Meanwhile, lawyers for the petitioners and interveners said they would move Supreme Court. "Yes, I will be moving Supreme Court on Monday," senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, representing one of the petitioners, told TOI.

Advocate Raj Kapoor, who had appealed for NGO Hriday

in opposition to the petitions, said though both the judges were right in their stand, he would prefer if the petitions were dismissed.

"Both the verdicts have been decided from a constitutional viewpoint. Both the judges are right in their own way, but we wanted the petitions to be dismissed and Execution 2 to Section 375 remains intact. We will go to Supreme Court within a week to appeal," said Kapoor.

The National Crime Records Bureau data shows that in 2016, Delhi Police filed two cases of sedition and one each in 2018 and 2019. There was no case in 2017, but as many as five FIRs were registered in 2020. Between 2015 and 2020, 356 sedition cases were registered across India under Section 124A and 548 people were arrested. Of them, only six were convicted. In 2014 and 2015, no case of sedition was registered.



# You can be denied US entry if you're carrying meds without prescription

Malathy Iyer &amp; Manju V | TNN

Indians travelling overseas, especially to the US, are known to carry a mini dispensary with them – not just for their regular medicines but also for medical contingencies ranging from fever and stomach problems to more serious ailments. They do it mainly for two reasons: (a) medicines in the US are way more expensive than in India (they are covered by insurance for Americans), and (b) they are difficult to access – not only do a wider range of medicines need a doctor's prescription in the US, drugstores are stricter in enforcing this requirement (whereas in India, the friendly neighbourhood pharmacy tends to be relatively relaxed).

And yet, most Indians don't bother to carry prescriptions when they go abroad, not even to the US. That's primarily because they don't think their stash of medicines will be checked at airports when they arrive – or that they could be denied entry.

They should know they are taking a big risk – and their luck might turn for the worse the next time they touch down in New York or DC or San Francisco or Chicago – or any other city in the US.

If you don't believe us, read this recent tweet by a partner in a top-tier law firm: "If anyone/family etc traveling to the US, please be careful about the medicine that is being carried. Yesterday, a client of ours was deported from San Francisco for carrying two strips of Zolfresh (which has Zolpidem) and Tramadol without a prescription. These are apparently Schedule 4 controlled substances in the US and require a prescription. Her visa has been revoked and a five-year ban on travel to



## DOS AND DON'TS FOR TRAVEL TO THE US

- A valid prescription or doctor's note – written in English – is needed to bring medication to the US
- The medication should be in its original container with the doctor's instructions printed on it. If you don't have the original container, bring a copy of your prescription or a letter from your doctor explaining your condition and why you need this medication
- Travel with no more than you need for your personal use

Note: Based on norms laid down by US FDA, CBP and TSA

cation to the US, states the FDA on its website. The general rule of thumb is: Carry no more than a 90-day supply of medication needed for personal use.

A senior airline commander, requesting anonymity, said: "Other countries in Europe and Asia, too, have similar rules on carrying medication. But in my three decades of flying international, I have not seen any other country impose it with as much rigour as the US."

Some frequent-flier Indians, say local doctors, are aware of the need to keep prescriptions ready. Others like 23-year-old Sunaina (name changed), who got an elaborate prescription written by her former classmate-turned-doctor before flying to Nashville for higher studies in biochemistry, heeded advice from more experienced travellers. "Seniors in my college had warned me that I should get prescriptions for any painkiller I may need for my period pains," she said.

Dr Suhas Pingle, who heads the Maharashtra chapter of the Indian Medical Association, said people often visit him before flying out. "The standard demand is that I should write down drugs for headaches, stomach-ache, possible toothaches and, of course, any chronic illness such as diabetes," said Dr Pingle.

Many even seek prescriptions for Vicks VapoRub, Eno or some ayurvedic pills but doctors are wary about writing out non-allopathic drugs.

A senior Mumbai-based doctor said problems arise when scheduled drugs are carried without proper documents. "Paperwork is very important for drugs containing psychotropic components written for sleep or psychiatric disorders," he added.

ter, the rules for OTC sales and scheduled drugs in the US are clearly stated and followed. The stringency spills over to medications brought in by international fliers as well.

International passengers flying into the US with medications fall under the purview of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

There are varying restrictions imposed by different agencies, but the general rule is the passenger should carry a valid prescription or doctor's note – written in English – in order to bring medications on dead ears.

While in India many medicines, including high-potency antibiotics, can be bought over the coun-

## TIMES ADVISORY

could result in revocation of your American visa. In the case of the Indian lady who was deported, her pleas to airport staff that they simply throw away her medications fell on deaf ears.

While in India many medicines, including high-potency antibiotics, can be bought over the coun-

try, the rules for OTC sales and scheduled drugs in the US are clearly stated and followed. The stringency spills over to medications brought in by international fliers as well.

"For the year 2022-23, the commission has advised enhancing plantation targets as compared to the previous year (2021-22). A 33% increase in plantation target has also been set. The target for plantation/greening for the current year is 31,89,191 compared with 26,21,481 for 2021-22," CAQM stated. TNN

# Conditions apply for power subsidy, here's how to opt in

Both Offline And Online Options To Be Available For Registering

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Your frugal consumption of electricity will not automatically make you eligible for power subsidy offered by Delhi government. To avail the benefit, you now have to apply for it. According to government officials, consumers will be offered both online and offline methods to register themselves for the power subsidy scheme.

"Those who are computer literate will be able to register through the website of the discoms or the mobile app. The others will have the option to fill up a form and deposit it at the payment centres of the power discoms," said a government official on Wednesday.

While announcing that Delhites could now choose to opt for subsidised or non-subsidised electricity earlier this month, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said that over the years, a large number of people had suggested that instead of providing subsidies to financially strong households, the money could be used for schools and hospitals.

The new system for subsidised electricity will kick in from October 1.

In a recent meeting with representatives of the power distributing companies, the government asked them to come

## MORE POWER TO CONSUMERS

**October 1, 2022** | Consumers to get a choice if they want to continue getting power subsidy or opt out of it

**Possible options to apply for getting subsidy**

► Website of power discoms (link to be available on Delhi govt's website)

► Mobile app

► Physical submission of forms at billing centres, MLAs offices

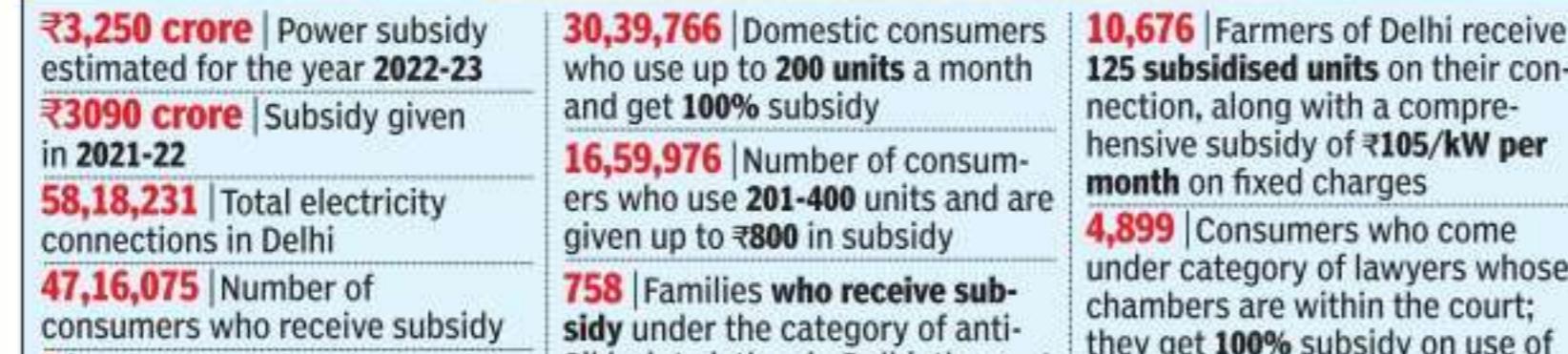
**₹3,250 crore** | Power subsidy estimated for the year 2022-23

**₹3090 crore** | Subsidy given in 2021-22

**58,18,231** | Total electricity connections in Delhi

**47,16,075** | Number of consumers who receive subsidy

**5** | Categories of consumers who get power subsidy



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**5** | Categories of consumers who get power subsidy

**10,676** | Farmers of Delhi receive 125 subsidised units on their connection, along with a comprehensive subsidy of ₹105/kW per month on fixed charges

**4,899** | Consumers who come under category of lawyers whose chambers are within the court; they get 100% subsidy on use of up to 200 units, subsidy up to ₹800 on use of up to 400 units

up with a concrete plan on software changes to ensure that proper bills are generated for those who are eligible for subsidy but decide to opt out of the scheme. The government has also sought suggestions from the discoms on how the procedure for people to opt for subsidy can be made hassle free.

"The discoms are likely to submit their report by next week. We hope to prepare a proposal and table it at the Cabinet by the end of May. We would like to give the consumers at least three months to learn about the new system and apply for the subsidy," said an official.

According to officials, more than 80% of Delhites pay their power bills online. The power department officials assume that a large number of people apply for the subsidy online and only a fifth of the consumers queue up at the cash payment centres. To make the process easier, therefore, the government may also give people the option of depositing the

subsidy forms at the offices of the local MLAs.

While there are 58,18,231 electricity consumer connections in Delhi, the number of subsidised connections totals 47,16,075. Only domestic consumers are eligible for the subsidy on power consumption. Households that consume only up to 200 units a month and get 100% subsidy number 30,39,766, while those that use 201-400 units and get up to Rs 800 in subsidy number 16,59,976.

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CENTRE USING AGENCIES, BEHAVING LIKE RUSSIA, WILL RESIST LIKE UKRAINE, SAYS HEMANT SOREN

HIMANTA ERRS, SWAPS DESIGNATIONS OF MODI & SHAH IN SPEECH, KICKS UP A CONTROVERSY

**Modify timings, uniform rules: Govt to schools on heatwave**

**New Delhi:** The ministry of education (MoE) on Wednesday issued guidelines regarding precautions to be observed by schools to combat ill-effects of the ongoing heat-wave. The guidelines include modification in school timings and daily routine, non-crowding of school transport, availability of drinking water and relaxing norms for uniforms.

The guidelines by the MoE asked the schools to modify timings and reduce the number of school hours each day.

"School hours may start early and get over before noon. Timing may be from 7am onwards. Sports and other outdoor activities... may be appropriately adjusted in the early morning. "School assembly should be conducted in covered areas or in classrooms with reduced timing..." it said.

The MoE also advised schools to ensure that the school bus or van should not be overcrowded and parked in shaded areas. "Drinking water should be available on the bus," it said. Schools should ensure all fans are functional and classrooms are properly ventilated. TNN

**Entry into any country can't be a right: Govt in Tablighi case**

**New Delhi:** The Centre on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that entry into any sovereign country can never be an enforceable fundamental right and India has prohibited Tablighi activities since 2003.

The apex court was hearing the pleas, including those challenging the orders blacklisting several citizens of 35 countries from travelling to India for 10 years for alleged involvement

#### IN APEX COURT

in Tablighi Jamaat activities.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told an SC bench that the right to enter a sovereign country, contrary to the law of that nation, can never be traceable to Article 21 of the Constitution.

Arguing that the petitions per se are "not maintainable", Mehta suggested that petitioners can make a representation to the authority for revocation of the blacklisting. PTI

**In caste attack, boy pushed into fire by minors**

**Villupuram:** An 11-year-old tribal boy suffered 18% burns after he was attacked by three boys — his friends not too long ago — who hurled casteist abuses and pushed him into a dying bonfire of garbage in a village near Tindivanam town in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district earlier this week, reports *Bosco Dominique*. The boy jumped into a pit of water under a drinking water tank.

Police said the three accused, all minors belonging to the OBC community, have been booked under relevant sections of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and the IPC.

**Minister: Ban by social media co violates rights**

**New Delhi:** While former US president Donald Trump is likely to return to Twitter, minister of state for electronics and information technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Wednesday said that de-platforming is a violation of the fundamental rights of the users.

The MoS, reacting to Elon Musk calling the decision to ban Trump from Twitter "morally bad", said there must be a set force of law to establish who is to be banned and on what grounds, and added that it must never be done arbitrarily.

Musk had said if his deal to acquire Twitter is completed he would restore Trump's account on the website. ANI

## Droughts reduced India GDP by 2-5% over 20 years: UN

**Suggests Land Restoration, Other Remedies**

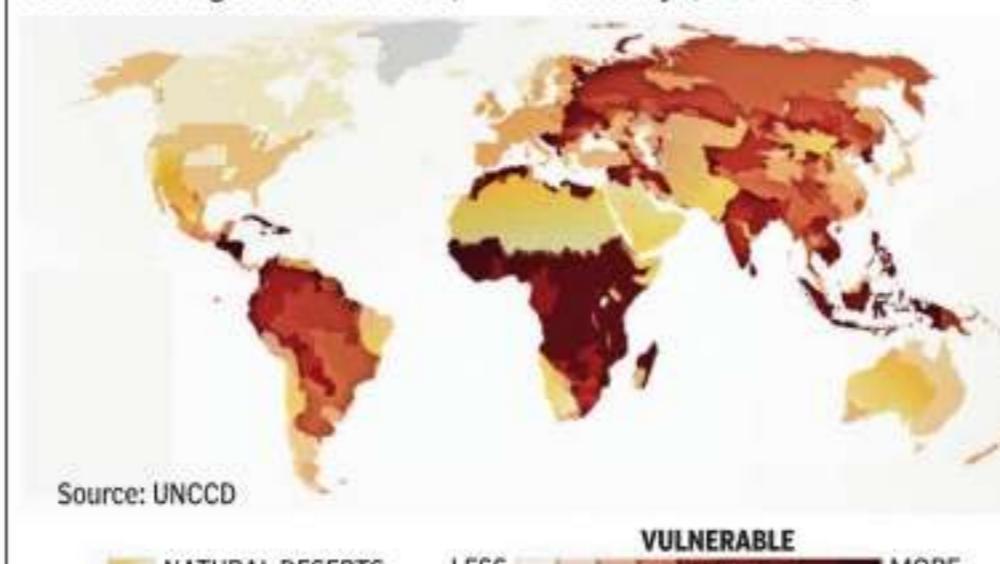
Vishwa.Mohan  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The number and duration of droughts has risen 29% globally since 2000 and the effect of severe droughts is estimated to have reduced India's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2-5% over the 20 years from 1990 to 2017, said a new report from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) released on Wednesday.

While calling for multiple actions, including land restoration to reduce the risk, the report released on the sidelines of the ongoing 15th session of the UNCCD conference (COP15) at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, also flagged that the droughts represent 15% of natural disasters globally but took the largest human toll,

### 6.5L DEATHS FROM 1970 TO 2019

- Number and duration of droughts have risen 29% since 2000
- Over 1.4 billion people were affected by drought from 2000 to 2019
- From 1970 to 2019, weather, climate and water hazards accounted for 50% of disasters and 45% of disaster-related deaths, mostly in developing countries
- Droughts represented 15% of natural disasters but took the largest human toll, approximately 650,000 deaths from 1970 to 2019
- From 1998 to 2017, droughts caused global economic losses of roughly \$124 billion
- In 2022, more than 2.3 billion people face water stress; almost 160 million children are exposed to severe and prolonged droughts
- More than 10 million people died due to major drought events in the past century (1900-2022)



other continent with over 300 events recorded in the past 100 years, accounting for 44% of the global total, the highest total number of humans affected by drought were in Asia.

"We are at a crossroads when it comes to managing

making a full global commitment to drought preparedness and resilience in all regions a top priority.

He said, "One of the best, most comprehensive solutions is land restoration, which addresses many of the underlying factors of degraded water cycles and the loss of soil fertility. We must build and rebuild our landscapes better, mimicking nature wherever possible and creating functional ecological systems".

The report comes against the backdrop of the UNCCD's earlier report on 'global land outlook' that flagged in April

#### Related reports, P8

how up to 40% of all ice-free land is already degraded globally, affecting 50% of humanity. It also noted that the current scale of degradation threatens half of global GDP (US\$44 trillion).

The UNCCD report notes that 128 countries, including India, have already expressed willingness to achieve or exceed 'Land Degradation Neutrality' and nearly 70 countries participated in the Convention's global drought initiative, which aims to shift from reactive approaches to drought to a proactive and risk-reducing approach.

**Man in interfaith relationship killed by kin of girl in Gujarat**

Kalyan.Das@timesgroup.com

**Rajkot:** The love story of a couple belonging to different faiths ended tragically with the girl's brother beating the youth to death and the girl slashing her wrists to attempt suicide.

Mithun Thakur (22), a native of Bihar working in a local factory, and 18-year-old Sumiyya Kadivar were in a relationship for the past few months. They stayed in the same neighbourhood.

On Monday, Thakur called up Sumiyya on her cellphone at 10am but her brother Saakir answered the call. He threatened Thakur with dire consequences and there was a heated argument between the two.

Saakir and three unidentified people went to Thakur's house and thrashed him. One of the neighbours saw him lying unconscious in the house and rushed him to hospital. He was referred to Ahmedabad due to critical injuries and brain haemorrhage. Thakur succumbed on Wednesday.

When Sumiyya got to know about his death, she attempted suicide by slashing her wrists. The entire incident came to light on Wednesday after she was hospitalised. Police inspector LL Chavda said, "We have rounded up Saakir and one of his accomplices. Further investigation is on". TNN

**Couple sue son & bahu for 'depriving them of grandkid'**

**The elderly couple have demanded a grandchild 'within a year' or Rs 5 crore, which they claimed they spent on their son's upbringing and education'**

He added, "We got him married in 2016 with the hope that we would get us a grandchild to play with in our retirement. However, almost six years have passed and there is no child. We are facing immense mental harassment".

The father told TOI: "My son and daughter-in-law are in two separate cities because of their jobs. We treated our daughter-in-law like our own daughter. Despite that, she seldom stays with us, adding to our sufferings. We even told her that if she is worried about taking care of the child due to her job, she could give the baby to us so that we could look after his upbringing." TOI was unable to contact the son.

Counsel Srivastava added, "A notice will be served to the couple's son and daughter-in-law, seeking their reply before the court".

## For travel abroad, booster gap may be cut to 3 months

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



**New Delhi:** The health ministry is considering a proposal to reduce the gap between the second dose of Covid vaccine and the precaution/booster dose to three months for those planning to travel abroad. A final decision on this is yet to be taken.

Currently, only those who have completed nine months since the administration of the second dose of the Covid vaccines are eligible to receive a third or booster dose.

The proposal has received a go-ahead from the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (Ntaci). The panel had recommended that those who need to travel overseas can take the precaution dose as required by the country they are travelling to before the mandatory nine-month gap.

The move comes in the wake of several representations to the ministry seeking the precaution dose for those who have to travel abroad for employment, business commitments, admission to foreign educational institutes and meetings as part of India's official delegation.

## Can telcos manage net speed, traffic? Govt call likely soon

Pankaj.Doval@timesgroup.com



#### FOR WEB OF TRANSPARENCY

**New Delhi:** In a decision that will have wide-reaching ramifications on the issue of net neutrality, the government's top body on telecom matters is likely to take a call soon on whether mobile companies should be allowed to manage network speeds and internet traffic.

The digital communications commission (DCC), the inter-ministerial decision-making body on telecom issues, will decide whether it wants to go with regulator Trai's views on the matter, that gave a free hand to mobile companies, though seeking transparency for telecom users and customers.

Sources said the DCC will look into the issue, which also has a direct bearing on net neutrality that guarantees same quality of internet for the entire gamut of online users.

In its recommendations, Trai had said in 2020 that mobile operators may be allowed to manage network speeds and traffic, but these may be based on carefully-framed rules and should carry transparency for telecom users and customers when they impact services for a longer period.

It had emphasised that transparency regarding traffic management practices (con-

Ministry of Finance  
Government of India

75  
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

## e-Invoice

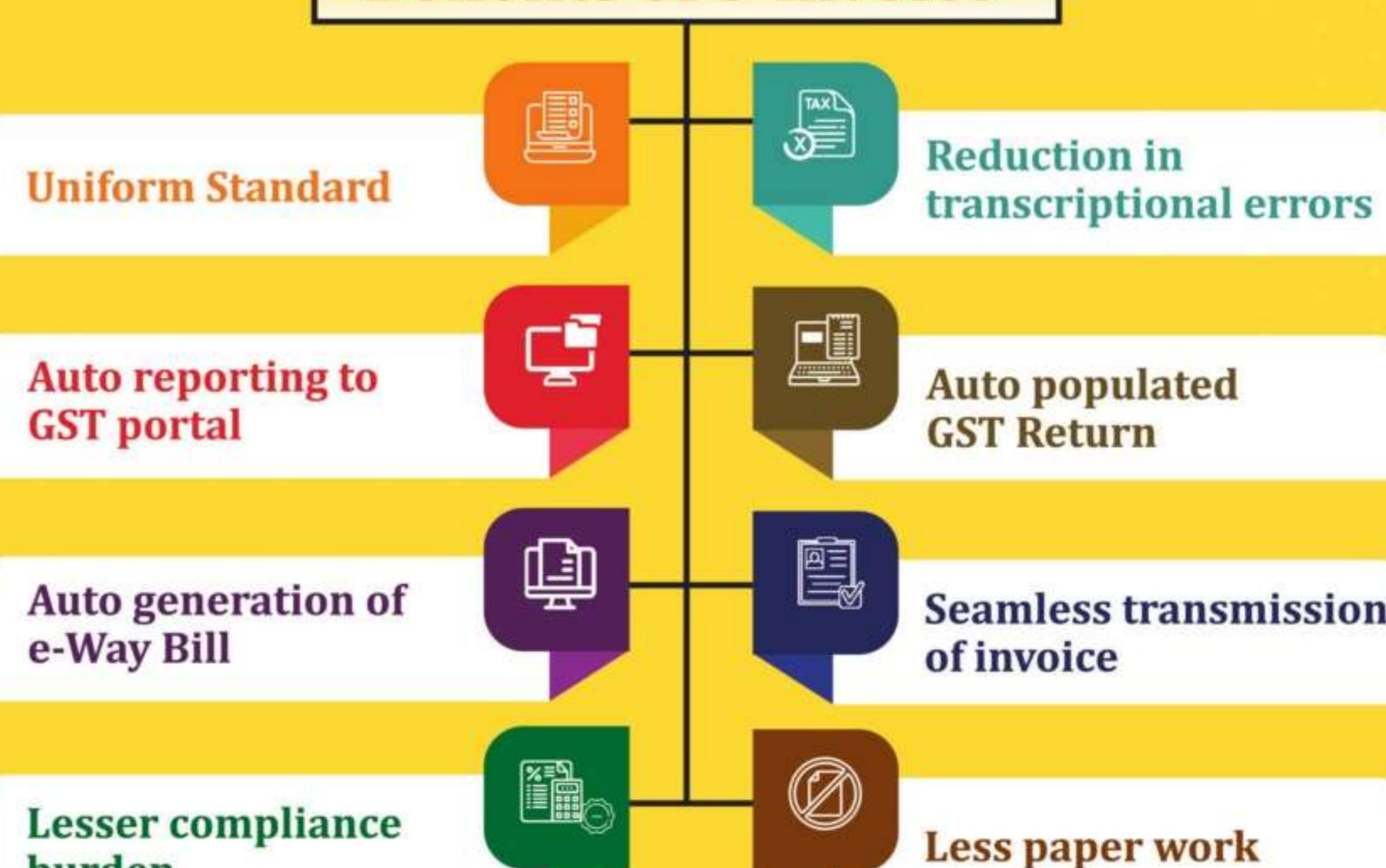
### A step towards Ease of Doing Business

**It is mandatory to generate e-Invoice, for B2B supply of Goods or Services or both, or for exports, for taxpayers\* with Aggregate Annual Turnover above ₹ 20 Cr in any of the preceding financial year**



**e-Invoices bear Unique Invoice Reference Number generated through Invoice Registration Portal**

#### Benefits of e-Invoice



**\*except certain specified category of taxpayers**

**For more details, please refer to the Notification No. 13/2020-Central Tax dated 21.03.2020 as amended from time to time, last being Notification No. 01/2022 - Central Tax dated 24.02.2022**

**Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs**

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## 'Yogi was miffed with DGP Goel for skipping crucial meetings'

**Lucknow:** The Yogi Adityanath government shunted out UP police chief Mukul Goel on Wednesday. Sources said CM Adityanath was not happy with Goel for skipping departmental meetings that are traditionally meant to be chaired by the state police chief. He didn't show up for a recent law-and-order review presided over by the CM.

It transpired that Goel had proceeded on leave after applying for the same, albeit without intimating his bosses, a source said. "He also didn't visit crime sites or issue any directives to the district police chiefs." Goel was

unavailable for comment despite repeated attempts to reach out to him.

Since 2010, Goel happens to be the fourth DGP to have been removed from the post before completing a two-year tenure as state police chief, as per the norms. DGP Brij Lal was removed from the post in 2012 by the Election Commission just before assembly polls in UP. Goel was among several IPS officers to be suspended in 2007 by the then CM Mayawati over alleged irregularities in police recruitment. He was the ADG (law and order) in 2013 when the Muzaffarnagar riots took place. TNN

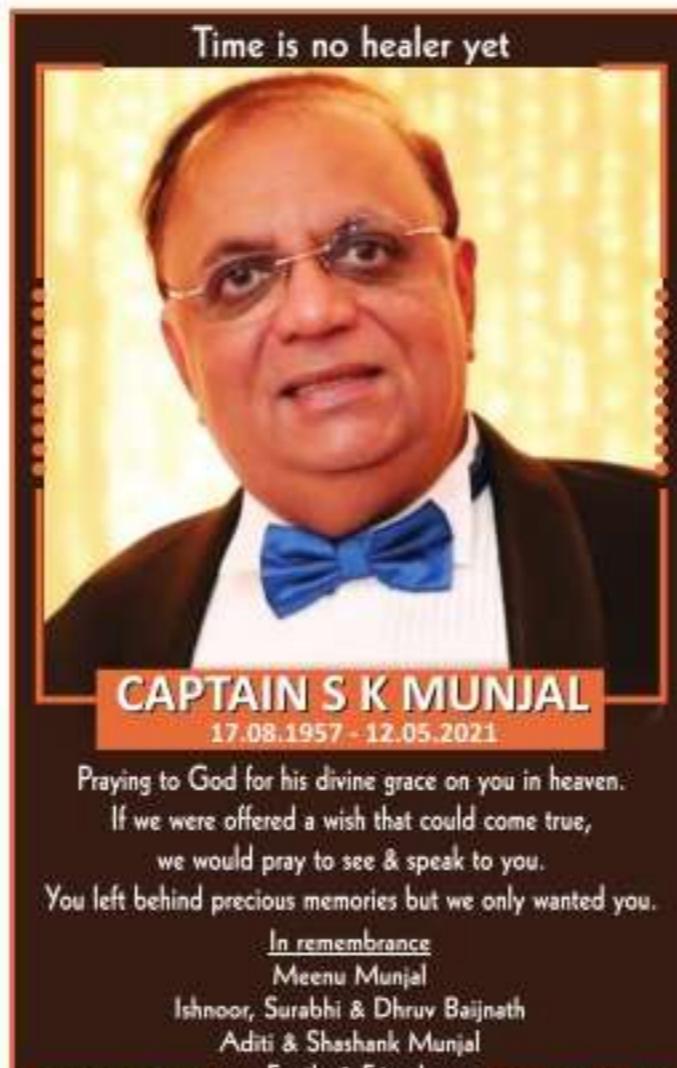
## ED gets J'khand IAS officer's custody for 5 days

Jaideep Deogharia & Sanjay Sahay | TNN

**Ranchi:** The ED registered a case in 2012 linked to the alleged embezzlement after the role of IAS officer Pooja Singhal came under the scanner when one of the key accused, junior engineer Ram Govind Sinha, revealed during questioning that he had bribed the DC's office with cuts from the pilfered funds. The alleged embezzlement took place between 2006 and 2010 in Khunti district when Singhal was deputy commissioner.

The ED arrested Jharkhand mines and industries secretary Pooja Singhal on Wednesday under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in alleged embezzlement of Rs 18 crore of MGNREGA funds and a special court remanded her in the agency's custody for five days, beginning Thursday. After her arrest, CM Soren said the state government would take appropriate action against the bureaucrat.

Responding to criticism from the opposition BJP, Soren said former CM Raghubar Das should answer why his government cleared Singh in the MGNREGA scam. "BJP's 20 years of rule in Jharkhand should be probed because they encouraged the bureaucrat for all the wrongdoings, gave her a clean chit," Soren said. BJP state president Deepak Prakash asked the CM to suspend the IAS officer. "We expected the CM, who was calling the ED action 'geedar bhabhki' (false threat), should now suspend the corrupt, instead of protecting her," Prakash said.



**Shri Raman Kumar Kumra**

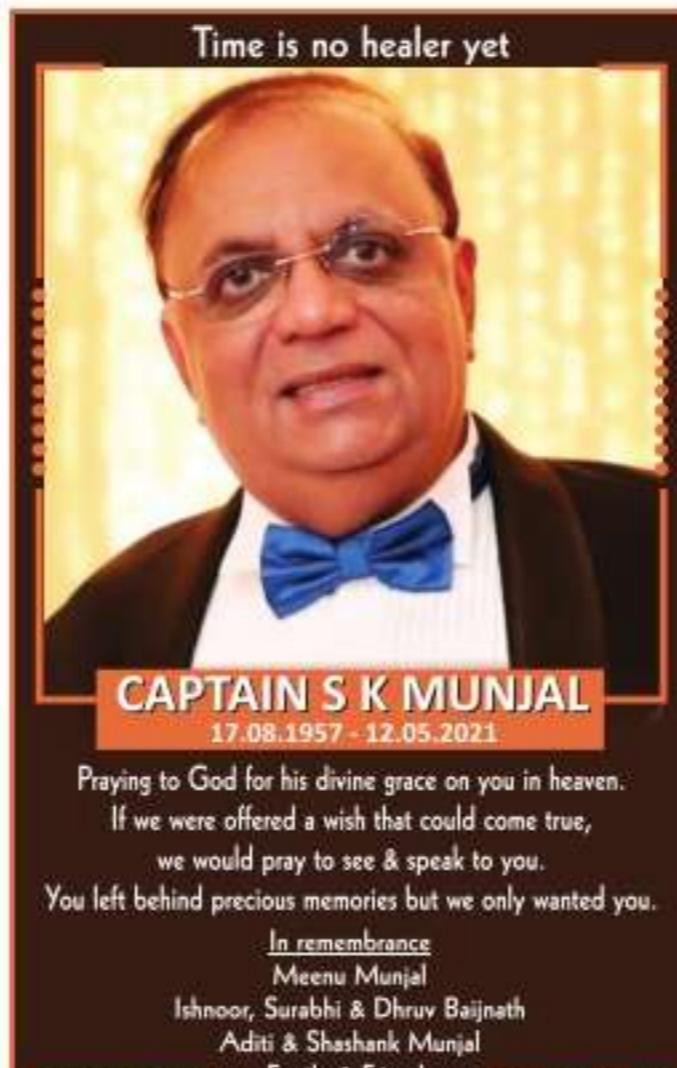
(17.01.1949 - 12.05.2012)

You live in our hearts and in our memories.  
Your wisdom, ideals and selflessness  
will continue to guide us.

\* Fondly remembered by \*  
Smt. Parvesh Kumra (Wife)  
Smt. Karmawali Bajaj (Mother-in-Law)  
Sh. Mohit Kumra (Son)  
Smt. Mili Takyar & Sh. Vikas Takyar  
(Daughter and Son-In-Law)  
Yajna and Rudra (Grandchildren)

Takyars, Sachdevas, Batras and Behals

Staff and Members of  
**KUMRA HEALTHCARE**



CAPTAIN S K MUNJAL  
17.08.1957 - 12.05.2021

Praying to God for his divine grace on you in heaven.  
If we were offered a wish that could come true,  
we would pray to see & speak to you.  
You left behind precious memories but we only wanted you.

In remembrance  
Meenu Munjal  
Ishnoor, Surabhi & Dhruv Baijnath  
Aditi & Shashank Munjal  
Family & Friends

## SEVENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**Shri R. L. Khanna**

Main akela chala tha jaanib-e-manzi, Log saath aate gaye kaaran banta gaya....

Guide and philosopher to the Khanna Clan in his lifetime. With each passing day, His advise then, resonates even louder. The void of his absence is still fresh in our hearts. We take inspiration from his life & remember him with respect and love.

Rohini & Ajay Khanna | Gaytri & Rakesh Khanna & all Grand Children

**R.L. KHANNA & CO./TAREX EXPORTS**

In loving memory of



**Smt. Nirmal Devi Jain**

"Beautiful souls are never forgotten"

Fondly remembered by:

Renu Jain (Daughter)  
Sapna Jain (Daughter-in-law)  
Aditi & Ruchir Parekh (Granddaughter & Son-in-law)  
Meghna & Nikhil Mehta (Granddaughter & Son-in-law)  
Varun Jain (Grandson)  
Mansi Jain (Granddaughter)  
Mayank Jain (Grandson)

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THE TIMES OF INDIA (Delhi) Full Run##	900
NAV BHARAT TIMES (Delhi+NCR)	595
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**Vinod: 9958992088**

**Pankaj: 8130604727**

## COLONEL VIJAY GUPTA (RETIRED) (17 Sep 1944 to 10 May 2022)



Colonel Vijay Gupta (Retired) was commissioned into 101 Field Regiment on 27 June 1965 and commanded 299 Field Regiment. The officer was a dedicated soldier, whose demise on 10 May 2022 has left an irreparable void in the Gunner Fraternity. His leadership and devotion to duty will always remain enshrined in the annals of Regiment of Artillery. We salute his immense contributions to the Regiment and offer sincere condolences to the family.

Director General Artillery, Colonels Commandant and All Ranks of the Regiment of Artillery.

Colonel Vijay Gupta (Retired) was commissioned into 101 Field Regiment on 27 June 1965 and commanded 299 Field Regiment. The officer was a dedicated soldier, whose demise on 10 May 2022 has left an irreparable void in the Gunner Fraternity. His leadership and devotion to duty will always remain enshrined in the annals of Regiment of Artillery. We salute his immense contributions to the Regiment and offer sincere condolences to the family.

Director General Artillery, Colonels Commandant and All Ranks of the Regiment of Artillery.



Thus Spoke Zarathustra

## New MTP rules focus on marital status, says doctor, moves SC

### 'Rules Need To Be Fine-Tuned'

Malathy.Iyer@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Gynaecologist Nikhil Datar, who began a movement in 2008 seeking extension of India's abortion deadline from 20 to 24 weeks, has moved the Supreme Court again to "fine-tune" the new rules in the amended Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2021.

The rules, which came into force in September 2021, seem "illogical" and emphasise on the marital status of the woman seeking termination, said Datar. More clarity is needed on the definition of termination, the new licensing norms for abortion clinics, especially for pregnan-

cies beyond 24 weeks, and the breach of confidentiality clause.

"On the one hand, it is said spousal consent is not required, but section 3B, which defines the categories of women who can get termination up to 24 weeks,

requires a 'marital status,'" said the doctor who had moved the Bombay HC in 2008 on behalf of his patient, Nikita Mehta, as she wanted to terminate her 24-week pregnancy after a scan showed cardiac anomalies in the fetus. Women in live-in relationships or invalid marriages (in case of bigamy under Hindu Personal Law) could be left out.

One of the points Datar made is that a married woman cannot seek termination between 20 and 24 weeks as it is allowed only for those whose marital status change during the pregnancy. "So only a woman who is widowed or divorced can seek termination," he said.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act not only extended the deadline, it also directed the setting up of state-level medical boards to de-

cide if a pregnancy can be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of substantial fetal abnormalities. "The new amendments have made life easier for women. It is liberal," said Dr Nirjanan Chavan of the Mumbai Obstetric & Gynaecological Society.

However, Datar believes there is a need to spell out things now so that they don't emerge as a problem later. "The definition of 'termination of pregnancy' is itself a problem. Is it about terminating the woman's state of being pregnant or terminate the existence of the fetus? There should be no confusion," he said.

Pointing out that various HCs and the apex court have allowed termination even after 24 weeks for minor rape survivors, he said it is unfortunate the amended law has disallowed it for minors.



TO IRON OUT THE WRINKLES

## States can't regulate NBFCs registered with RBI, says apex court

Dhananjay.Mahapatra  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** In an important judgment, the Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that state laws cannot apply to over 9,500 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Sawing off attempts by Kerala and Gujarat governments to bring NBFCs under the purview of their legislations regulating money-lending business, a bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and V Ramasubramanian said, "We are of the considered opinion that the Kerala Act and the Gujarat Act will have no application to NBFCs registered under the RBI Act and regulated by the RBI."

Writing the judgment, Justice Ramasubramanian said no NBFC can carry out business without being registered under

the RBI Act. "An NBFC which takes birth with the registration under the Act is liable to be wounded at the instance of the RBI. The entire life of an NBFC from the womb to the tomb is also regulated and monitored by the RBI (Amendment) Act, 1997."

"Once it is found that Chapter IIIIB of the RBI Act provides a supervisory role for the RBI to oversee the functioning of NBFCs, from the time of their birth till the time of their commercial death, all activities of NBFCs automatically come under the scanner of RBI. As a consequence, the single aspect of taking care of the interest of the borrowers which is sought to be achieved by the state enactments gets subsumed in the provisions of Chapter IIIIB," the bench ruled.

### MONEY MATTERS

see the functioning of NBFCs, from the time of their birth till the time of their commercial death, all activities of NBFCs automatically come under the scanner of RBI. As a consequence, the single aspect of taking care of the interest of the borrowers which is sought to be achieved by the state enactments gets subsumed in the provisions of Chapter IIIIB," the bench ruled.

should be a phased programme over a number of years with the first phase being that of providing inspiration, followed by a second phase of providing incentives, and eventually having a third phase with some appropriate disincentives. Referring to the second strategy, he suggested the "need to facilitate carbon credit incentives" for farmers, noting that the current processes for farmers to avail of carbon credit benefits are far too complex and therefore it needs significant simplification.

Thirdly, he suggested the need to develop a mark of superior quality for food grown from soils that

A day after SP MLA Azam Khan was granted bail in a case related to the illegal occupation of enemy property, a special court on Wednesday issued non-bailable warrants against his son SP MLA from Suar, Abdullah Azam, and his wife Tanzeen Fatima in Ramapur after rejecting their applications for exemption from appearance in a fake birth certificate case against the legislator. The warrant was issued after the two failed to appear for the hearing in the special court for MPs and MLAs. TNN

the allegations against Khan are serious. The court asked the state to file a reply and posted the case to May 17.

## SC questions UP govt for back-to-back FIRs against Azam Khan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday questioned the UP government for lodging one after another FIRs against Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan and sought response from it on the plea of the politician alleging that he was being harassed and cases were being filed to keep him in custody

"What is this? He's been jail since two years. One or two cases is okay but it can't be in 89 cases. Whenever he gets bail, he's again sent to jail in some other matter... This chain will continue and prior to his release a fresh FIR would be filed," a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, B R Gavai and A S Bopanna said.

Additional solicitor general S V Raju, however, said

## UN meet: Sadhguru suggests 3-pronged strategy to save soil

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

should be a phased programme over a number of years with the first phase being that of providing inspiration, followed by a second phase of providing incentives, and eventually having a third phase with some appropriate disincentives. Referring to the second strategy, he suggested the "need to facilitate carbon credit incentives" for farmers, noting that the current processes for farmers to avail of carbon credit benefits are far too complex and therefore it needs significant simplification.

Addressing the 15th session (COP15) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) conference at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Sadhguru said, "Time is running out. But fortunately we know what to do. With the development of appropriate government policies, we can turn the clock back on the impending extinction of soil."

Suggesting the three-pronged strategy which is part of the recommendations of the ongoing 'Save Soil Movement' spearheaded by him, Sadhguru said, "We need to make it aspirational for farmers to achieve the minimum threshold of 3-6% organic content by providing attractive incentives for getting to this threshold. Such incentives would create an aspirational race amongst farmers."

He suggested that there

## Change consumption habits, India tells rich countries

**New Delhi:** With UN body's two back-to-back reports on land degradation and drought presenting a bleak future for humanity in a 'business as usual' scenario, India on Wednesday appealed to rich countries to change their "consumption habits", saying the world will continue to put pressures on land without shunning the high-consumption lifestyle of a global minority among countries, reports **Vishwa Mohan**.

"The three conventions on climate change, biodiversity and combating desertification in Côte d'Ivoire, 'I'd like to emphasise our recovery process needs to awaken change at the individual level by changing consumption habits.'

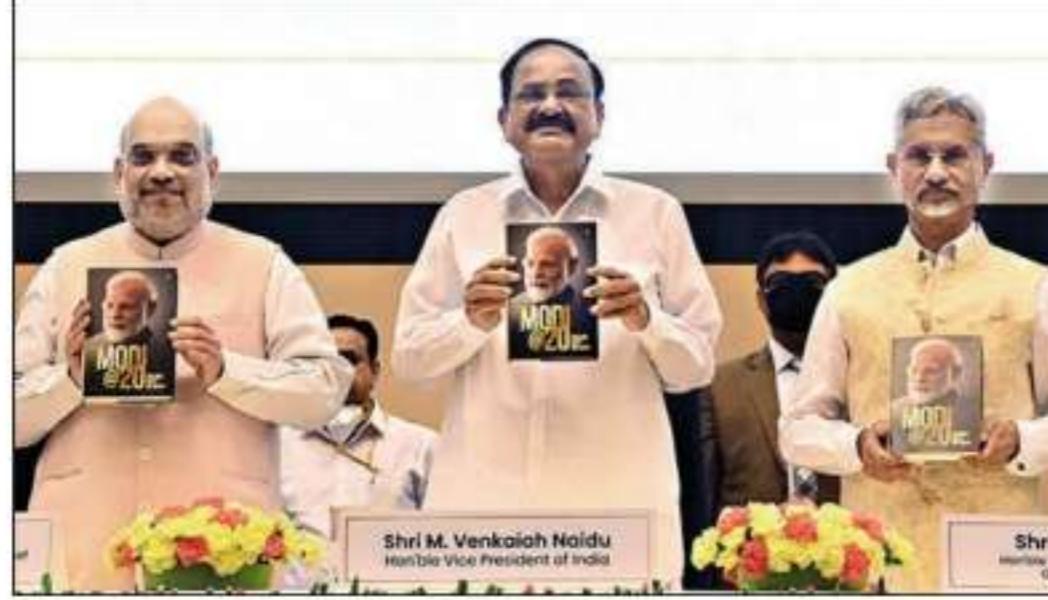
ing 15th session (COP15) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification conference in Côte d'Ivoire. "I'd like to emphasise our recovery process needs to awaken change at the individual level by changing consumption habits."

"The three conventions on climate change, biodiversity and combating desertification are all linked by the

# Shah: Modi debunked blood is thicker than water adage

PM One Of Most Popular & Iconic Leaders Of Modern India: Naidu

Akhilesh.Singh  
@timesgroup.com



Home minister Amit Shah, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and external affairs minister S Jaishankar at the launch of the book 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery' in New Delhi on Wednesday

**New Delhi:** Days before the third anniversary of Narendra Modi's second term, the BJP brass joined hands with leaders of diverse fields to celebrate the completion of his uninterrupted run of 20 years as a public functionary and what they called the transformational impact it has had for the country.

A function at Vigyan Bhawan presided over by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu for the launch of a compilation of 21 articles from experts titled "Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery" saw speakers focusing on different facets of Modi's leadership.

Home minister Amit Shah shared his experience of working with Modi, describing the PM as a sensitive leader who has the concern for the poor as his sole lodestar — a trait which has earned him the popular trust of the people to such an extent that at his call the entire nation shuttered itself within 24 hours to fight the virus.

"There is a saying in En-

## Rlys retires 19 senior officers in a single day

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The Indian Railways on Wednesday approved compulsory premature retirement of 19 senior officers, including 10 joint secretary level officers, on a single day. It invoked 56(J) of CCS Rules which gives absolute right to the government to retire officials prematurely on grounds of lack of integrity and ineffectiveness. This is perhaps the largest ever lay off by any government entity of such senior officers invoking this provision in one day.

In 2019, the national transporter had prematurely retired 32 of its officers above the age of 50 years on grounds of inefficiency, doubtful integrity and conduct unbecoming of a public servant as part of a periodic review. Many were director level officers. The Rule 56(J) of Fundamental Rules specifies how the government

can ask employees to put in their papers. It says the authority has the absolute right to retire any government servant by giving him notice of not less than three months in writing or three months' pay and allowances, if it finds so in public interest. Employees who have completed 30 years in service or attained 50 years are impacted under this rule after review.

### STRICT ACTION

Those who've been retired include four senior officials each from the electrical and signalling services, three each from medical and civil, two from personnel and one each from stores, mechanical and traffic. They are from different zones, rail production units and also railways' research organisation. "The message is clear there is no place for those who are deadwood or have integrity issues," said an official.

### Public Work Department Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works (West), Division Aurangabad

**Address :-** Public Works Premise, Padampura, Aurangabad 431005  
**Email address :-** westaurangabad.ee@mahapwd.gov.in  
**Telephone/Fax Number:-** 0240-2331288

**E-Tender Notice No. (04) of 2022-23**

E-Tender for the following work in B-1Tender Form is invited via online e-tendering system from Eligible Contractor by the Executive Engineer, Public Works (west) Division, Aurangabad on behalf of Public Works Department, Government of Maharashtra. Tender Document are downloaded from government portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. Right to select or reject is reserved by Executive Engineer, Public works (west) Division, Aurangabad. Conditional Tender will be not accepted. (No. 8 Works)

**All information of e-tender is available on following portal.**

A) <http://mahapwd.gov.in>  
B) <https://Mahatenders.gov.in> If any change made in this e-tender is informed on above portal.

**Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Public works (West) Division,  
Aurangabad**

DGIPR/2022-2023/559

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NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location	30-Elect-14-T-RI-21-22-E3
Approx cost of the works	Rs. 109.39 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earliest Money	Rs. 2,04,700.00
Date & time of submission of tender	02.06.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	02.06.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
	1109/2022

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### UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Sahastradhara Helidrome Dehradun, P.O. Kulhan, Pincode 249013 Tel. 0135-2608981

Letter No. 6282/UCADA/2022 Dt. 11/05/2022

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of an Agency to design, install, operate and manage Tracking Management System (TMS) for Helicopters.

Date of downloading tender document: 12.05.2022 Time : 10:00 hrs

Pre bid meeting: 18.05.2022 Time : 11:00 hrs

Last date for seeking clarification 18.05.2022 Time : 11:00 hrs

Last Date for submission of Tender: 27.05.2022 Time : 11:00 hrs.

Opening of Technical Bid: 27.05.2022 Time : 15:00 hrs.

Financial Bid will be intimated by e-mail to the technically qualified bidders. Tender Documents (Technical & Financial) are to be uploaded on <https://uktenders.gov.in>. For any further clarification, please visit the office during any working day. Any corrigendum / addendum including date extension shall be uploaded on above website.

CEO, UCADA

### No. 1-32/2019-Estt.

भारत सरकार /Government of India  
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय / Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare

उत्तरी क्षेत्र कृषि मंत्रालय प्रशिक्षण एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान / Northern Region Farm Machinery

Training and Testing Institute

ट्रैक्टर नगर, सिरसा ज़िला, हिसार (हरयाणा) |Tractor Nagar, Sirsa Road,

Hisar (Haryana)- 125 001

Website: <http://nrifmtti.gov.in> E-mail: [fmti-nr@nic.in](mailto:fmti-nr@nic.in)

Tel./Fax: 01622276984 GSTIN: 06AAAGN0273PZ3

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up of the post of Technical Assistant at Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes (FMTTs) [(Budni (MP)/Hisar (Haryana)/ Anantapur (AP)/ Biswanath Chariali (Assam)], subordinate Institutes of the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Name of the Post	Pay Scale	Mode of Recruitment	No. of vacancies	Category
Technical Assistant (General Central Service, Group 'C', Non-Gazetted, Non-Ministerial)	Level-5 (Rs.29200-92300) in Pay Matrix	Through Direct Recruitment	01 (One)	Scheduled Tribe (ST)

2. Complete information about Application proforma, eligibility, terms & conditions etc. and other requirements are available on the following websites:

- i. [www.nrifmtti.gov.in](http://www.nrifmtti.gov.in)
- ii. [www.fmttibudnu.gov.in](http://www.fmttibudnu.gov.in)
- iii. [www.srfmtti.dacnet.nic.in](http://www.srfmtti.dacnet.nic.in)
- iv. [www.nrifmtti.nic.in](http://www.nrifmtti.nic.in)
- v. [www.agricoop.nic.in](http://www.agricoop.nic.in)

3. Fully filled Application/Bio-data in plain paper accompanied by required documents as contained in Advertisement on website should be sent to the Director, Govt. of India, Northern Region Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute, Tractor Nagar, Sirsa Road, Hisar (Haryana)-125001 so as to reach them within 45 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.

4. Govt. Employees may send application through proper channel on the above address.

5. The crucial date for determining the age limit shall be the closing date for receipt of applications.

67% of seats in BDS vacant, reduce cut-off, aspirant tells SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

No change in policy, says Pak after appointing trade minister in Delhi

A day after it appointed a trade official for its high commission in India, Pakistan said on Wednesday at the appointment of the minister (trade & investment) should not be seen in the context of "any relaxation of trade restrictions with India". Islamabad had for the first time in five years announced appointment of a trade minister in Delhi. Pakistan had called off trade with India following the latter's decision to revoke J&K's special status in 2019. TNN

NETAJI SUBHAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

(Formerly Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology)

AZAD HIND FAUJ MARG, SECTOR-3, DWARKA,

NEW DELHI-110078

Phone no. 25099050-Ext.-3020, Fax. 25099022, 25

Website: [www.nsut.ac.in](http://www.nsut.ac.in)

NOTICE FOR NSUT PH.D. & M.TECH

ADMISSIONS FOR 2022-2023

In continuation to our earlier Advertisement of Ph.D admission in Academic Session 2022-2023 (summer) on dated 06.04.2022 and M.Tech admission in Academic Session 2022-23 on dated: 29.03.2022.

It is hereby informed that the last date of submission of online application of various courses of NSUT Ph.D. and M.Tech programs has been extended up to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (Wednesday).

Sd/-  
Assistant Registrar (Academic)

DIP/Shabdhar/0081/22-23

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(A Joint Venture of Government of India and Government of Madhya Pradesh)

CIN : U75100MP2015SGC034343

2nd Floor, Smart City Development Corporation Limited Office Building, Kalibari Road, BHEL, Sector A, Berkeda, Bhopal - 462022, Madhya Pradesh, India, Phone No. : 0755-2475607

Tender Notification No. : 629/MPMRCL/2022/Package IN-08, Date : 29.04.2022

**TENDER NOTIFICATION (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)**

E-Tenders are invited from reputed and experienced contractors for following Works. Tenderers may download the tender documents from the official e-portals <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> from 29.04.2022 to 20.06.2022. Non-refundable cost of tender documents/tender fee is INR 50,000/- inclusive of GST (Indian Rupees Fifty Thousand only) in the form of online payment only. The details of Works are as under :

S. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost of Work	Completion Period
1.	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Ballastless Track of Standard Gauge, Yellow Line from Gandhinagar-Bawarsala-Bengali Square-Indore Railway Station and Underground from Indore Railway Station to Airport Station of Yellow Line Corridor along with Ballasted/Ballastless Tracks at Gandhinagar Depot for Indore Metro Rail Project.	INR 238.69 Crores	1274 Days

Any clarification/corrigendum/addendum to the tender documents shall be uploaded on the official e-portals only, without any obligation of press notification.

For further details, please visit official e-portal <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>.

For any additional information & help for downloading & uploading, please contact e-tendering service desk at the following ID : support-eproc@nic.in or at Toll Free No. : (91)120-4001002, (91)120-4001005, (91)120-6277787.

M.P. Madhyam/10475/2022

MANAGING DIRECTOR  
Madhya Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited

### MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, NAGPUR

Waranga, PO: Dongargaon (Bulibori), Nagpur - 441108 [Maharashtra]

RN-15 / May 6, 2022

Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur invites applications for the following Positions:

Position's	No. of Positions and Category
Finance and Accounts Officer (Tenure)	01 (UR)
System Administrator (Contractual)	01 (UR)
Hostel Warden (Male) (Contractual)	01 (UR), 01 (OBC) Mah., 01

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I, Abhishek Pankaj Sharma S/O H.K.Pankaj Sharma, resident of plot NO B-46, FLAT NO S-5, Shalimar Garden, Extension-2, S.M.World, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201005 has changed my name to Abhishek Sharma

LOST &amp; FOUND

HANDING OVER of Allotment Letter of the Plot number 478, Block-C, Sushant Lok 1, Gurugram, between Ansals Properties and Industries Ltd. and Mrs Sunaina Wadhwa has been lost. Finder plz contact on 9811604132

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DDA Commercial Complex  
Road No. 44, Pitampura  
New Delhi-110034

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)  
PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE  
SBI Invites offers from owners / Power of Attorney holders for premises on lease rental basis for Commercial / Office use.

Name of Branch &  
Approx built-up area

Sector-1/2 Rohini

Hiring of premises for shifting of Sector-1/2 Rohini Branch (11549) (within 1 km from the existing premises) Built up area 232 sq mtr (550 sq ft) preferably on ground floor

For further details and downloading bidding form / documents, please visit website [www.sbi.co.in](http://www.sbi.co.in) or <https://bank.sbi> under "PROCUREMENT NEWS" section. The last date for submission of bids at our above office is 21.05.2022 upto 3 PM.

No brokers please.  
Authorised Signatory

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Fax: 011-22501185

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

On behalf of Constituents of SCOPE Minar, online e-tenders are invited from eligible reputed, specialized Contractors as per eligibility criteria specified in the NIT for the following work at SCOPE Minar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092.

"Supply & installation of parapet wall mounted guide track for 2 Nos. Building Maintenance unit (BMU) / Roof top trolleys of South Tower."

For details please visit SCOPE's website [www.scopeonline.in](http://www.scopeonline.in) & [www.tenderwizard.com](http://www.tenderwizard.com)

SCOPE & contact at above mentioned address. For e-tendering support:- 8799753401, 080-45811365 General Manager (Tech. & HR)

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For Property ads call  
Sunil : 9999499496

Dated : 11th April, 2022  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
EXTRA-ORDINARY  
APPELLATE JURISDICTION  
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION  
(CIVIL) No. 1044 OF 2020**

WITH PRAYER FOR  
INTERIM RELIEF  
WITH

36366/2021- APPLICATION FOR  
SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s) Respondent(s)

**BANK OF BARODA  
VERSUS  
SANJAY SHUKLA AND OTHERS**

To, Def. No. 3 KHURSHEED AHMED ARIFF S/o late Hajji Mohd Ariff R/o 31/B Maulana Shaukat Ali Street, Chittaranjan Avenue, Post Office Kolkata, WEST BENGAL - 700073

Also at 12 Barin Bari, 2nd Lane, Bow Bazar, Kolkata, West Bengal - 700073

The defendant above named whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on 19.7.2022 at 10 A.M. the date fixed for final disposal, it will be heard and determined exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 29.4.2022.

(seal) Civil Judge-01  
Central Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi.

From the Office Report

I Find That Service Stands Effectuated On The Said Proposed Respondent. This Case Arises Out Of Recovery Proceedings Before The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur. It Appears That Certain Mortgaged Property Was Sold By Auction

By The Petitioner-bank And The Proposed Respondent No.13 Is The Auction Purchaser. The Petitioner In This Petition For Special Leave To Signature Not Verified

Appeal Is The Bank Who Had Extended Credit Facilities. The Bank Was Digitally Signed By JAGDISH KUMAR Date:

2021.03.10 10:44:34 IST Reason: Successful Before The

Tribunal But On A Proceeding Filed By The .../2 Debtor, The High Court Of Madhya Pradesh Has Quashed The Orders Passed By The Recovery Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur On

25.01.2018 And 30.06.2018

And Also An Order Passed On

24.09.2018 By The Debt Recovery Tribunal, Allahabad (prayag). I Am Satisfied That

The Proposed Respondent No.13 Is Proper Party To This

Proceeding And I Allow The

Application For Impleadment, Let The Registry Take Necessary Steps For Alterations Of Records. Mis. Nature Infotech Is Added As A Party Respondent. Let Service Be Effected On All The Unserved Respondents Including The Newly Added Respondent After Amendment Of Cause Title.

List The Matter After Six Weeks."

AND WHEREAS, The Matter Above-mentioned Was Listed Before Ld. Registrar's Court On 08th April, 2022, When The Following Order Was Passed:-

"LD. Counsel For Respondent No. 10 Has Failed To File The Counter Affidavit Within The Period Stipulated Under The Rules. Ld. Counsel For Respondent No.10 Seeks And Is Granted four weeks time, as last chance to file counter affidavit. Service of notice is complete on respondent Nos. 1, 6 and 11 to 13 but no one has entered appearance on their behalf. Ld. Counsel for petitioner has filed an application for substituted service in respect of Respondent Nos. 2 to 5 and 7 to 9. The same is allowed. Further steps be taken.

List again on

12.07.2022."

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE

NOTICE that the above petition with prayer for interim relief will be posted for hearing before this Court in due course and you may enter appearance before this Court either in person or through an advocate on record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within 30 days from the date of service of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why Special Leave Petition and interim relief as prayed be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

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

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

Dated : 11th April, 2022  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

# Centre backs guv on referring Rajiv case convict plea to Prez

Supreme Court  
Raises Question,  
Reserves Order



Perarivalan, one of the convicts in the assassination of ex-PM Rajiv Gandhi, has sought premature release after spending more than 30 years in jail

to be corrected," he said.

After holding the hearing for two hours, the court reserved its verdict. As the dispute lingers on regarding who is the competent authority — the President or Tamil Nadu governor — to take a call on premature release of Perarivalan, the court had on the last hearing said it could order for his release as he has already spent 36 years in jail as the apex court granted similar relief to other convicts.

The court had observed that it is prima facie of the view that the action of the governor to refer the issue to the President despite state cabinet recommendation to accept Perarivalan plea was not permissible as it is against the country's federal structure.

The uncertainty over whether Perarivalan can get pardon and come out of jail continued for as the governor last year refused to take a decision on his application to remit his sentence after keeping it pending for more than five years and forwarded the application to the President. The convict had applied to the governor for pardon in December 2015 and the SC in September 2018 asked the governor to decide the pardon plea "as he deemed fit".

# Sukh Ram, quintessential neta who courted both glory & infamy, dies at 95

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

deterred by the noise around.

A measure of his popularity was that during the 25 years he spent outside Congress following CBI raids that made him the face of political depravity — first launching Himachal Vikas Congress, then joining BJP and returning to Congress, he and his son continued to ride "Pan-ditji's" goodwill to assembly and Parliament. The belief is that BJP benefitted from his association in many polls during these years.

In the days of Congress's high, Sukh Ram represented the Brahmin pole in the hill state where the Thakur community enjoyed dominance — Sukh Ram's inhouse rival being late CM Virbhadra Singh. Not a coincidence that Sukh Ram blamed Singh for the CBI raids on him, as he always denied the charges of corruption as minister.

His currency among people made him a multiple-term minister at the Centre, the Communications ministry in the PV Narasimha Rao government (1993-96) being his pinnacle. The boy born in a poor family with 10 siblings in Aranya village in Mandi came a long way through sheer grit and savvy. Even today, he is remembered for the PCO booths that in the 1990s sprang up in every nook and cranny of the difficult hilly terrain that is Himachal Pradesh.

'Chintan Shivir' likely to explore structural revamp to revive Cong

Subodh.Ghildiyal@timesgroup.com

As many as 35 proposals for organisational revamp will be discussed by the 400-plus delegates, a senior member said. While looking at reviving up the machine, Congress believes it needs to amplify its ideological stance to reconnect with masses. The larger idea is likely to focus on how "BJP's divisive politics around language, lifestyle, religion" is hurting social cohesion, resulting in "governance deficit", evident in "economic downturn and joblessness".

Crucially, though a call to like-minded parties for a united front against BJP is viewed as important, Congress strategists believe that the crisis facing the party is unprecedented and existential in nature, and the focus in the future will have to be on strengthening Congress.

Revamp and political ideas to reinvent Congress apart, what may limit the Udaipur conclave's ability to rejuvenate the cadre is that lack of clarity on the leadership issue is likely to continue. Given that organisational polls are scheduled for August, the party will not take a decision on the next party chief, sources said.

10

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
EXTRA-ORDINARY  
APPELLATE JURISDICTION  
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION  
(CIVIL) No. 1044 OF 2020WITH PRAYER FOR  
INTERIM RELIEF  
WITH36366/2021- APPLICATION FOR  
SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

By WAY OF PUBLICATION

Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s) Respondent(s)

**BANK OF BARODA  
VERSUS  
SANJAY SHUKLA AND OTHERS**

To,

Def. No. 3 KHURSHEED

AHMED ARIFF S/o late Hajji

Mohd Ariff R/o 31/B

Maulana Shaukat Ali

Street, Chittaranjan Avenue,

Post Office Kolkata, WEST

BENGAL - 700073

Also at 12 Barin Bari, 2nd

Lane, Bow Bazar, Kolkata,

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The defendant above named whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on 19.7.2022 at 10 A.M. the date fixed for final disposal, it will be heard and determined exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 29.4.2022.

(seal) Civil Judge-01

Central Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi.

From the Office Report

I Find That Service Stands Effectuated On The Said Proposed Respondent. This Case Arises Out Of Recovery Proceedings

Before The Debts Recovery

Trib




**National Dairy Development Board**

PB No. 40, Anand 388001, Gujarat. Tel : 02692-260148 / 149 / 160, Fax : 02692-260159

 Website : <http://www.nddb.coop>, Email : [purchase@nddb.coop](mailto:purchase@nddb.coop)
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) / LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (LCB)**

Bids are invited on behalf of Service Recipients / NDBB from eligible bidders for the works listed below :

Sr. No.	Description of Works/ Bid Reference	Estd Cost (₹)	Event Start / incl GST/Duration	Close Date / Opening Date & Time
<b>I Civil, Structural, Water supply, Sanitary, Roadwork, Internal Electrification &amp; other Misc. works for I (A&amp;B) :</b>				
A	Cheese and Whey Powder Plant at Sabar Dairy, Himmatnagar, Gujarat. <b>NDBB:HO:PUR:LCB:02/2022 (ET/02)</b>	11300 Lakh / 18 Months	12/05/22 / 02/06/22 15:00 hrs.	02/06/22 15:30 hrs.
B	Expansion of Ice Cream Plant from 10 TLPD to 20 TLPD at Ponital, Puducherry. <b>NDBB:HO:PUR:LCB:10/2022 (ET/10)</b>	650 Lakh / 12 Months	13/05/22 / 03/06/22 15:00 hrs.	03/06/22 15:30 hrs.
<b>II Design, Supply, Installation, testing and Commissioning for II (A&amp;B) :</b>				
A	Fire Fighting System for Milk Product Plant Dairy at Barauni, Bihar. <b>NDBB:HO:PUR:LCB:14/2022 (ET/14)</b>	85 Lakh / 10 Months	12/05/22 / 02/06/22 15:00 hrs.	02/06/22 15:30 hrs.
B	Fire Hydrant System at NDBB, Anand, Gujarat. <b>NDBB:HO:PUR:LCB:15/2022 (ET/15)</b>	172 Lakh / 10 Months	18/05/22 / 09/06/22 15:00 hrs.	09/06/22 15:30 hrs.

For further details pertaining to IFB and for downloading the bid documents, please visit these website: [www.nddb.coop](http://www.nddb.coop) and [www.mstscommerce.com/eprochome/nddb](http://www.mstscommerce.com/eprochome/nddb). For Any Clarification please contact Group Manager (Purchase), NDBB, Anand-388001. NB: Any corrigendum/modification etc. will be posted only on these website.


**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI**  
 OFFICE OF THE ADD. CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-2

2142 JANTA FLATS G.T.B. ENCLAVE DELHI- 110093

PRESS NIT NO 12 (2022-23)

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender	Date of release of tender in E- Procurement solution	Last date / time of receipt of tender through E-Procurement solution
1	Replacement of old damaged 350 mm dia P.S.C water Main at New Seemapuri in NE-I (AC-63) Re-invited	51,86,424.00	10.05.2022	21.05.2022 2.10 PM

Further details in this regards can be seen at <https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>

Sd/- V.K. Chauhan  
Ex. ENGINEER (T)-2  
"Stop Corona; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"


**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
 (CIN:U40109KA1999GCG025521)

No.:CEE/T&amp;P/SEE-2/KCO-154/43630/2022-23/1922-69 Date:10.05.2022

**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION**

(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites bids on Electronic mode for establishing 110kV & 66kV Sub-stations with associated lines along with terminal bays and construction of Transmission line on TTK/PTK basis against the following enquiry numbers.

Sl. No.	Enquiry No./ Name of the Work
1	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/66KV/SOMVARAPETE/PTK/TLSS-1349
2	Establishing 1x8 MVA, 66/11 KV substation at Somavarapete (Galipura) and construction of associated line in Chamarajanagara Taluk & District.
3	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/66KV/UDBURU/PTK/TLSS-1350
4	Establishing 1x8 MVA, 66/11 KV substation at Udburu (D Saalundi) and construction of associated line in Mysuru Taluk & District.
5	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/66KV/MARAGOWDANAHALLI/PTK/TLSS-1351
6	Establishing 1x8 MVA, 66/11 KV substation at Maragowdanahalli (Mavatur) and construction of associated line in K.R.Nagara Taluk, Mysuru District.
7	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/66KV/DHANAGURU (HALASAHALLI)/PTK/TLSS-1352
8	Establishing 1x8 MVA, 66/11 KV substation at Dhanaguru (Halasahalli) and construction of associated line in Malavalli Taluk, Mysuru District.
9	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/110KV/KOLLUR VILLAGE/PTK/TLSS-1353
10	Establishing 1x10 MVA, 110/11 KV substation at Kollur village and construction of associated line in Chincholi Taluk, Kalaburagi District.
11	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/110KV/UDNOOR CROSS/PTK/TLSS-1354
12	Establishing 2x10 MVA, 110/11 KV substation at Udnoor Cross and construction of associated line in Kalaburagi Taluk and District.
13	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/110KV/HULLUR (JETTAGI)/PTK/TLSS-1355
14	Establishing 2x10 MVA, 110/11 KV substation at Hullur (Jettagi) and construction of associated line in Muddebalih Taluk, Vijayapura District.
15	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/110KV/VANAHALLI/PTK/TLSS-1356
16	Establishing 1x10 MVA, 110/11 KV substation at Vanahalli and construction of associated line in Talikoti Taluk, Vijayapura District.
17	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/110KV/MALLUR/PTK/TLSS-1357
18	Upgradation of 33/11 KV substation to 2x10 MVA, 110/11 KV substation at K.Shivapura and construction of associated line in Soundatti Taluk, Belagavi District.
19	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/66KV/HUDEM/PTK/TLSS-1359
20	Establishing 1x8 MVA, 66/11 KV substation at Hudem and construction of associated line in Kudligi Taluk, Vijayanagar District.
21	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/110KV/MUSTUR/PTK/TLSS-1360
22	Establishing 1x10 MVA, 110/11 KV substation at Mustur and construction of associated line in Karatagi Taluk, Koppal District.
23	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/110KV/KALABELGUNDI/PTK/TLSS-1363
24	Establishing 2x10 MVA, 110/11 KV substation at Kalabelgundi and construction of associated line in Yadgir Taluk and District.
25	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/110KV/ARJUNAGI/PTK/TLSS-1364
26	Establishing 2x10 MVA, 110/11 KV substation at Arjunagi (Nidoni) and construction of associated line in Babaleshwara Taluk, Vijayapura District.
27	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/66KV/CHIKKAGONIGERE/PTK/TLSS-1365
28	Establishing 2x8 MVA, 66/11 KV substation at Chikkagonigere (Konanatale) and construction of associated line in Honnai Taluk, Davangere District.
29	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/66KV/HOSAHALLI/PTK/TLSS-1366
30	Establishing 2x8 MVA, 66/11 KV substation at Hosahalli (Gummanuru) and construction of associated line in Davanagere Taluk & District.
31	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/110KV/NAAD/PTK/TLSS-1367
32	Establishing 2x10 MVA, 110/11 KV substation at Yankanchi and construction of associated line in Sindagi Taluk, Vijayapura District.
33	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/66KV/EECHALAGUDDA KAVAL/PTK/TLSS-1369
34	Establishing 1x8 MVA, 66/11 KV substation at Eechalagudda Kaval (Ganadahalli) and construction of associated line in K.R.Pete Taluk, Mysuru District.
35	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/66KV/RATNAPURI/PTK/TLSS-1370
36	Establishing 1x8 MVA, 66/11 KV substation at Ratnapuri (Aspathre Kaval) and construction of associated line in Hunsur Taluk & Mysuru District.
37	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/66KV/SUNKATONNUR/PTK/TLSS-1371
38	Establishing 1x8 MVA, 66/11 KV substation at Sunkatonnur (Halebeedu) and construction of associated line in Pandavapura Taluk, Mysuru District.
39	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/110KV/KAGODU/PTK/TLSS-1372
40	Establishing 1x10 MVA, 110/11 KV substation at Kagodu (Hirenalluru) and construction of associated line in Sagara Taluk, Shivamogga District.
41	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/66KV/DODDAAGRAHARA/PTK/TLSS-1373
42	Establishing 2x8 MVA, 66/11 KV substation at Doddaagrahara and construction of associated line in Sirataluk, Tumakuru District.
43	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/110KV/LINE/HANDANKERE-D.M.KURKE/TTK/TLTB-1374
44	Providing alternate source to existing 110/11KV Handankere s/s in C.N.Halli Taluk, Tumakuru district by constructing new 110/11KV SC line from existing 110/11KV D.M.Kurke s/s along with construction of TBs.
45	KPTCL/CEE/T&P/110KV/PKG-208/PTK/TLSS-1375
46	Combined package of Work A: Establishing 2x10MVA, 110/11KV Sub-Station at Nimbal and construction of associated line in Indi Taluk, Vijayapura district
47	Work B: Establishing 1x10MVA, 110/11KV Sub-Station at Kannur and construction of associated line in Vijayapura Taluk & district.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink "e-procurement-kptcl" or <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 3:00 PM on 18.05.2022. Pre-Bid meeting of subject tenders will be held on 20.05.2022 at 15.00 Hrs. Last date and time for receipt of bids is 22.06.2022 at 16.00Hrs. Any extension of last date of bid submission will be intimated in e-portal. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours. All Corrigendum's / Addendum's shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electricity, Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, III Floor, Bengaluru – 560 009 . Tel.: 080-22274744.

**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

( A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

# 49, East Wing, 4th &amp; 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road

 Bengaluru – 560 001. website : [www.ikiadb.in](http://kiadb.in), e-Mail: [cdoce1@kiadb.in](mailto:cdoce1@kiadb.in)

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-05/1929/2022-23 Date:10.05.2022

**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

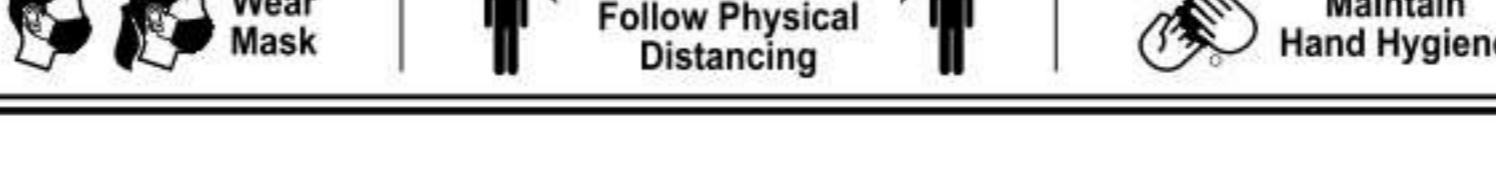
Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding Class-II & above (Civil) Contractors registered in KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of Improvements to Roads RCC Side Drains, Culverts and RCC Storm Water Drain in Sathyamangala Industrial Area, Tumakuru Taluk & District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **27.05.2022 upto 04:00 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

 Sd/-  
**Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru**

DIPIR/C452/Zenkar/2022-23

**STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.**

**RAJASTHAN SAMWAD**

 Department of Information and Public Relations, Government Secretariat, Jaipur-302005  
 (Telephone No. : 0141-222057, E-mail id : [gproc@rajgov.in](mailto:gproc@rajgov.in), [dipraj@rajgov.in](mailto:dipraj@rajgov.in))

**NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

NIB No. 1716 Date : 10/05/2022

Single stage Two–envelopes (Two Part) (unconditional technical and Financial) Bids are invited electronically by Rajasthan Samwad for Empanelment of upto 04 Media Agencies working in the field of developing Print, Audio, Visual, Outdoor and Social Media creative contents during the period of next 12 months on rate contract basis. Brief particulars of the Bid are given below:

Approximate value of Services	Last time and date for receiving Bids	Period of the Rate Contract	Validity period of Bids	Processing fee for Procurement	Price of Bidding Document	Amount of Bid Security
Rs. 5 crore	Upto 03:00 PM of 30/05/2022	12 Months (likely to be extended by another 12 months on satisfactory performance)	90 Days	Rs. 1000	Rs. 1000	Rs. 10 Lakh

(Note : Estimate quantities of items is tentative and actual work orders will depend on the availability of budget)

1. The complete Bidding Document containing Instructions to Bidders and Bid Data, Terms of Reference including Scope of Work and Specifications, Bidding forms, Conditions of Contract, Contract Forms, etc. may be seen at or downloaded from the website of State Public Procurement Portal <http://spp.rajasthan.gov.in> or e- procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>
2. Technical and Financial Bids, duly digitally signed by the bidder on all pages and serially numbered, enclosed in a cover and also containing scanned copies of documents of payment of price of Bidding Document, electronic bid processing fee (both being non-refundable) and Bid Security must be submitted electronically to the Managing Director, Rajasthan Samwad on the e-Procurement Portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> by using

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
S.R. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE/CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED	IMPLEMENTATION OF E-INVOICING WITH API INTEGRATION TO THE EXISTING ERP	11.05.2022 24.05.2022	3000/-	www.haic.co.in hac@gmail.com	012-2561306, hac@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO 9564

### New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

## सर्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित भूमि नींवेड़ा प्राधिकरण द्वारा आपसी समझौते के आधार पर क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है—

क्र. सं.	ग्राम का नाम	खाता सं.	खासरा संख्या	दोषफल (हे. मे.)	नाम काशकार व पता	क्रय करने का उद्देश्य
1.	नलगढ़ा जनादेह—गौतमबुद्धनगर	69	9M	0.3586 हें में से 0.2106 हें भूमि	ओमवीर, कर्मवीर, संजय पुरगण रु. 0 अजयपाल उर्फ अजीपाल व श्रीमती शकुनता पल्ली अजयपाल निमांग हेतु। उर्फ अजीपाल निः 0 ग्राम	से वटर-166 (औद्योगिक) के लिए उपयोगित विकास एवं सड़क निर्माण हेतु।

उपरोक्त भूमि को क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी जन साधारण को प्रश्नगत भूमि के सम्बन्ध में कोई दावा/आपत्ति देनी हो, तो सर्वजनिक प्रकाशन के 15 दिन के अंदर नींवेड़ा विकास प्राधिकरण के भूलेख विभाग के कार्यालय में प्रत्युत कर सकता है।

डिप्टी कलेक्टर नींवेड़ा

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE &amp; SECURE NOIDA

### Assam Society for Comprehensive Financial Management System (AS-CFMS) World Bank financed Assam State Public Finance Institutional Reforms (ASPIRE) Project Management Unit (PMU)

Ground Floor, F-Block, Janata Bhawan, Dispur, Guwahati-781006 (Assam, India)

No. ASPIRe/60/2022/196  
Assam Society for Comprehensive Financial Management System invites Bid for Procurement of Scientific Instruments and related services for Modernization of Assam Excise Chemical laboratory at Guwahati Bio tech Park, Assam as detailed below:

RFB Ref No- IN-AS-CFMS-283562-GO-RFB

Approximate Value: INR 267 Lakhs

The detailed notice and bid will be available at [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) from 12.05.2022. The deadline for submission of Bid is 13.06.2022. Bid shall be submitted through the e-procurement portal only. Any corrigendum/ addendum to the bid shall be uploaded in the e-procurement portal only.

Project Director  
ASPIRE, AS-CFMS

Janasanyog/CF/528/22

CAD-490	NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
<b>Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited(OSMCL)</b>	
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar -751 001	
Tel. : (0674) 2380950, Website : <a href="http://www.osmcl.nic.in">www.osmcl.nic.in</a> , Email : <a href="mailto:drugs-osmcl@gov.in">drugs-osmcl@gov.in</a>	
Bid Ref. No.: OSMCL/2022-23/DRUGS-AYUSH-UNANI/09 Date:12/05/2022	
Online Bids are invited through e-Tender portal ( <a href="https://tendersodisha.gov.in">https://tendersodisha.gov.in</a> ) from eligible bidders for SUPPLY OF UNANI DRUGS FROM THE GMP HOLDERS OTHER THAN M/s I.M.P.C.L, P.S.U.s, PHARMACIES UNDER STATE GOVT. AND CO-OPERATIVES. The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: <a href="http://www.osmcl.nic.in">www.osmcl.nic.in</a> and <a href="https://tendersodisha.gov.in">https://tendersodisha.gov.in</a> and the last date for submission of online bid will be 08.06.2022, 6.00 PM. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.	
Sd/- Managing Director OSMC Ltd., Odisha OIPR-10112/11/0008/22-23	

## Bihar State Mining Corporation Ltd.

(Government of Bihar Undertaking)

Room No.164, Vikas Bhawan (New Secretariat)  
Bailey Road,Patna - 800015

CIN-U10300BR2017SGC035811

Email:[bih.minescorp@gmail.co](mailto:bih.minescorp@gmail.co) Website: [www.bsmcl.in](http://www.bsmcl.in)

## Short Notice Inviting Re-Tender

(Through e-Procurement mode over eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Notice Inviting Re-tender for selection of Contractors for Bihar State Mining Corporation Limited, Patna for operation of inoperative sand ghats / clusters including where single or no bidder participated in previous tender vide NIT NO- 01/ 2022-23 dated 22-04-2022 published on 22-04-2022 in different news paper, (PR No.-1189(Mines)2022-23) situated in different districts of Bihar.

Sl. No.	Information	Details
1	Name of the Organization	Bihar State Mining Corporation Limited
2	Name of the Assignment	Selection of Contractors for operation of Sand Ghats
3	Tender Processing Fee/Cost (Non-Refundable)	INR 590/3540/5900 (Inclusive of GST) payable online through e -payment mode i.e. NEFT / RTGS / Credit Card / Debit Card on following website: <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> Up to 70 lacs- INR 590/- 70 lacs - 3 Crores - 3540/- >3Crone - 5900/-
4	Tender Fee/Cost (Non- Refundable)	INR 29,500 (Inclusive of GST) (Rupees twenty nine thousand and five hundred only) payable online through e -payment mode i.e. NEFT / RTGS / Credit Card / Debit Card on <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a>
5	Date of issue of NIT	12/05/2022
6	Date of issue of tender document	14/05/2022
7	Last Date of submission of bid	20/05/2022 at 01:00 PM
8	Date and Time of opening of Technical Bid	20/05/2022 at 03:00 PM
9	Uploading of names of successful bidders	23/05/2022
10	Date and Time of e-Auction	Date of Auction: 24/05/2022 and 25/05/2022 Aurangabad, Arwal, Banka, Bhojpur, Gaya, Jamui, Kishanganj, Patna, Rohtas, Saran, Lakhisarai, Vaishali, Buxar and Bettiah
11	Contact person for queries	General Manager Bihar State Mining Corporation Limited email : <a href="mailtobih.minescorp@gmail.com">bih.minescorp@gmail.com</a>
12	Addressee and address at which Hard Copy of proposal in response to RFP notice is to be submitted.	General Manager Bihar State Mining Corporation Limited, Vikas Bhawan (New Secretariat), Bailey Road, Patna - 800015

- Detailed descriptions of the item and instructions for submitting offer can be downloaded from e-tender website (<https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>).
- For support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at "eProc 2.0 Help Desk Address: mjunction services limited RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajipura, Ashiana Road, P.S. - Shastri Nagar, Patna 800 014, Bihar. Toll Free Number: 1800 572 6571 or may visit <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>.
- Bidder should be registered on e-Procurement portal (<https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>) and have the Class III Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) with signing + Encryption and User-id of the e-Procurement website (<https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>) before participating in the e-Tendering process.
- The Managing Director, Bihar State Mining Corporation Limited reserves the right to reject or cancel the tender or any part thereof without assigning any reasons thereof.
- Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, will be published on the website of the Corporation [www.bsmcl.in](http://www.bsmcl.in) / <http://state.bihar.gov.in/mines> and e-Procurement, Bihar <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>.
- This NIT is being published in the light of the order dated 10.11.2021 & 31.03.2022 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 3661-3662/2020.

General Manager  
BSMC Ltd, Patna

PR- 002113 (Mines) 2022-23

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से यारा।

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORIGENDUM						
Ref: Tender Notice No. 02/2022-23 Dated 09.04.2022						
(I) Tender No. 09222548 due on 02.06.2022 (S.N.08)						
In reference to above tender, split clause has been added. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . 1104/22 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM						
Principal chief materials manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi - 110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:						

S.No. Tender No. Brief description Qty. Closing date

01	82221117	Terparitafe Inj 250mcg per ML in 3 ML Cartridge With Delivery Pen Device per PFS	1730	31.05.2022	Nos	
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Note:- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS websites i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.Tender Notice No. Inj. Medicines Date :- 09.05.2022 1100/22  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

Tilhan Sangh Bhawan, 01 Area Hills Bhopal

URL : [https://mpphscsl.mp.gov.in](http://mpphscsl.mp.gov.in), Phone : 0755-2578915  
Dated 11.05.2022

## TENDER NOTICE

Tender for Quantity contracts of following items/Services shall be floated on website and portal dated 10.05.2022 :-

- Online Quantity Tender Ref. No. T-327/MPPHSCSL/ANATOMY VIRTUAL VISUALIZATION SYSTEM (VIRTUAL DISSECTOR)/QC/2022 uploaded on 10.05.2022 Portal and Website.

All prospective bidders are requested to visit [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) for further details.  
M.P. Madhyam/104738/2022 CGM (TECHNICAL)



ON-SET SHOOTING: PRODUCERS OF ALEC BALDWIN'S 'RUST' DENY GUN SAFETY FAILURES, CONTEST AUTHORITIES' \$1,36,793 PENALTY

JENNIFER ANISTON, ELLEN DEGENERES' FIRST-EVER GUEST, WILL APPEAR ON HER SHOW'S FINAL EPISODE ON MAY 26



## Ukraine cuts Russia gas at one hub, underlining risk to supply

Kremlin Signals Openness To Annexing Kherson

Russian gas flows to Europe via Ukraine fell by a quarter on Wednesday after Kyiv halted use of a major transit route blaming interference by occupying Russian forces, the first time exports via Ukraine have been disrupted since the invasion. The transit point Ukraine uses usually handles about 8% of Russian gas flows to Europe, although European states said they were still receiving supplies. The Ukraine corridor mostly sends gas to Austria, Italy, Slovakia and other east European states. Kremlin-controlled Gazprom said it was still shipping gas to Europe via Ukraine, but volumes were seen at 72 million cubic metres (mcm) on Wednesday, down from 95.8 mcm on Tuesday. GTSOU, which operates Ukraine's gas system, said on Tuesday it would suspend flows through the Sokhranovka transit point, which it said delivered almost a third of fuel piped from Russia to Europe via Ukraine. GTSOU said it was declaring "force majeure", invoked when a business is hit by something beyond its control, and proposed diverting deliveries for Europe to another route, the Sudzha entry point, the biggest of Ukraine's two crossing points. GTSOU chief executive Sergiy Makogon said Russian occupying forces had started taking gas and sending it to Russia-backed separatist regions in east Ukraine. He did not cite evidence. The gas pipeline via the Sokhranovka point runs through Ukraine's Luhansk region, part of which has been under control of pro-Russian separatists. Sudzha lies further north-west.

Meanwhile, a Kremlin-installed official in a southern re-



A burnt car and tractor outside a destroyed building in the town of Orikhiv, near Zaporizhzhia, eastern Ukraine, on Wednesday

### Hungary spoiler for EU unity over oil ban

European Union ambassadors held another fruitless meeting in Brussels on Wednesday as efforts to approve an embargo on Russian oil continued to run into fierce resistance by a single member of the bloc, Hungary. Sanctions require unanimity to be approved. Hungary PM Viktor Orban, who maintains a warm relationship with Russian President Putin, has blocked the measure, arguing that a ban on Russian oil would be the equivalent of an "atomic bomb" for his country's economy. Wednesday's ambassadorial meeting was held without much hope of a breakthrough. There was no revised proposal on the table, officials and diplomats involved in the process said, and it would likely be days yet before the envoys could reconvene with meaningful hope of striking a deal. The impasse comes as US intelligence officials have warned that Putin is counting on cracks appearing in Western resolve. **NFT**

gion seized by Russian troops said the area will ask Moscow to annex it. The talk of annexation in Kherson raised the possibility that the Kremlin will seek to break off another piece of Ukraine. Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014. "The city of Kherson is Russia," Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the Kherson regional administration installed by Moscow, told RIA Novosti news agency. He said regional officials want President Putin to make Kherson a "proper region" of Russia. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that it would be "up to the residents of the Kherson region"

to make such a request, and that any move to annex territory would have to be closely evaluated by experts to make sure its legal basis is "absolutely clear". Kherson, a Black Sea port, provides access to fresh water for neighbouring Crimea and is seen a gateway to wider Russian control over southern Ukraine. It was captured early in the war. Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak mocked the notion of its annexation, tweeting: "The invaders may ask to join even Mars or Jupiter. The Ukrainian army will liberate Kherson, no matter what games with words they play." **AGENCIES**

### Britain strikes new security deals with Sweden & Finland

British PM Boris Johnson on Wednesday said he had agreed to new deals with Sweden and Finland to bolster European security, pledging to support both countries' armed forces should they come under attack. Johnson signed the new declarations, described by Britain as "a step-change in defence and security cooperation", during visits to both Sweden and Finland on Wednesday. "What it says is that in the event of a disaster, or in the event of an attack on either of us, then we will come to each other's assistance, including with military assistance," Johnson said. During a joint press conference with Johnson in Stockholm, Swedish PM Magdalena Andersson said: "Putin thought he could cause division, but he has achieved the opposite. We stand here today more united than ever." In Helsinki, asked if Finland would be provoking Russia by joining Nato, Finnish President Sauli Niinistö said President Putin would be blamed for any decision to the military alliance. "My response would be that you caused this. Look at the mirror," he said.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has forced a rethink of how Sweden and Finland safeguard national security. Both are expected to join Nato, but both are worried they would be vulnerable while their applications are processed, which could take up to a year. Sweden have also received assurances of support from the US and Germany. The Kremlin has warned of "military and political repercussions" if the duo decide to join Nato. **AGENCIES**

## Troops on Colombo streets to quell unrest

Defence Ministry's Top Official Denies Speculation Of Military Takeover

Colombo: Sri Lankan president Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Wednesday refused to quit, but promised he will take all possible steps to end violence and instability in the country. "I am taking steps to appoint a PM who has the trust of a majority in parliament, who can win over the confidence of the people and a new cabinet to control the current situation, to stop the country from falling into anarchy and to continue the government's functions that are at a standstill," he said.

His comments came as authorities deployed armored vehicles and troops in the streets of the capital on Wednesday, two days after pro-government mobs attacked peaceful protesters, triggering a wave of violence across the country. Security forces have been ordered to shoot those deemed to be participating in the violence, as sporadic acts of arson and vandalism continued despite a strict nationwide curfew that began on Monday. In the past few days, 9 people have died and more than 200 have been injured.

Armoured trucks with soldiers riding on top rolled into some areas of Colombo. Defying the curfew, some protesters regrouped opposite the president's office to continue demonstrations that began over a month ago. Police announced over loudspeakers that it is illegal to stay in public places during



Sri Lankan army patrols Colombo streets during curfew on Wednesday

### SL central bank chief threatens to quit

Sri Lanka's central bank governor said on Wednesday he would quit within weeks unless political stability was restored to the country. P Nandalal Weerasinghe, appointed central bank chief last month to help the nation of 22 million people find a way out of its worst economic crisis in history, said a stable government was essential to stop the turmoil. "I have clearly told the president and other political party leaders that unless political stability is established in the next two weeks I will step down. Without political stability, it doesn't matter who runs the central bank," he said. The IMF in a statement overnight expressed concerns about the violence, adding that it continues "technical level" discussions in order to be ready for policy talks once a new Sri Lankan government is formed. If Weerasinghe steps down, there's a risk even the technical talks may slow. **REUTERS & BLOOMBERG**

ring the curfew. Videos posted on the social media showed lines of military trucks moving out of the capital, along with soldiers riding on motorbikes and setting up checkpoints across the country amid fears that a political vacuum could pave the way for a military takeover. The defence ministry's top official, Kamal Gunaratne, denied speculation of a military takeover at a news conference held with the country's army and navy chiefs. "None of our officers has a desire to take over the government. It has never happened in our country, and it is not easy to do it here," he said. President Rajapaksa is a former top army officer and remains the country's official defence minister. Gunaratne said the army will return to its barracks once security situation normalises. **AGENCIES**

### India denies any plans to send troops to Lanka

With rumours swirling in Colombo that New Delhi is looking to help the beleaguered Sri Lankan government, the Indian government strongly denied on Wednesday it had any plan to send forces to Sri Lanka. In what was the latest in a series of denials by New Delhi meant to scotch speculation that India was going to bail out former PM Mahinda Rajapaksa, the Indian mission said such views were not in line with the position of the Indian government. "The high commission would like to categorically deny speculative reports in sections of media and social media about #India sending her troops to Sri Lanka. These reports and such views are also not in keeping with the position of the Government of #India," it said on Twitter. "The spokesperson of MEA clearly stated yesterday that India is fully supportive of Sri Lanka's democracy, stability and economic recovery."

The MEA had said that India would be guided by the best interests of the Lankan people, in a clear sign that it had no special interest in continuation of the current dispensation. **TNN**

### Pakistan defence minister doesn't rule out early poll

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Asif said on Wednesday that the possibility of holding general elections cannot be ruled out before the appointment of the new army chief, who will be replacing the incumbent General Qamar Javed Bajwa in November.

General elections are due in Pakistan in July next year. However, in an interview with BBC Urdu in London, Asif said: "It is possible that we hold elections before the appointment of the new army chief. There will be a caretaker government at that time. It is also possible that a caretaker government is replaced by an elected one before November." General Bajwa will remain in office till November 29, when his second three-year tenure ends. He was given extension by former PM Imran Khan.

### PIO to be dean of Stanford's new climate change school

Houston: Arun Majumdar, Indian-American material scientist, engineer and professor, has been named the inaugural dean of Stanford University's new school that focuses on climate change and sustainability.

To be launched on September 1, Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability — the university's first new school in 70 years — aims to accelerate solutions to the global climate

crisis. Majumdar will assume his new post on June 15.

Originally from Kolkata, Majumdar got his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at the IIT, Bombay in 1985 and his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in 1989. He was nominated for the position of undersecretary of energy in the US between November 30, 2011 and May 15, 2012 but then the nomination was retracted.

\*

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Tokyo to recognise same-sex unions but not as marriage

Japan's capital Tokyo has announced it will start recognising same-sex partnerships to ease the burdens faced by residents in their daily lives, but the unions will not be considered legal marriages. The Tokyo me-

tropolitan government unveiled a draft plan to accept registrations starting in October from sexual-minority couples seeking certificates of their partnerships. It said applicants will be limited to adult residents of Tokyo but will include foreign nationals.

**Baby formula shortage in US**  
Parents across the US are scrambling to find baby formula be-

cause supply disruptions and a massive safety recall have swept many leading brands off store shelves. Months of spot shortages at pharmacies and supermarkets have been exacerbated by the recall at Abbott, which was forced to shutter its largest US manufacturing plant in February due to contamination concerns. Nationwide about 40% of large retail stores are out of stock.

## China slams WHO chief's zero-Covid criticism

China hit back on Wednesday against what it called "irresponsible" comments by the head of the WHO, who described the country's uncompromising and increasingly painful "zero Covid" policy as "not sustainable".

The policy has placed millions of people across dozens of cities under various degrees of movement restrictions, most dramatically in Shanghai, causing significant economic da-



Image in China and beyond and fuelling wide-spread frustration. Officials in Shanghai, now

in its sixth week under a sweeping lockdown, said on Wednesday half the city had achieved "zero Covid" status, but curbs would remain in place. In rare public comments on a government's policies, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said China's zero-tolerance strategy is not sustainable and that it was time for a change in policy. Tedros' comments were not covered in China's state media and were cen-

sored on social media. "We hope the relevant individual can view Chinese Covid policy objectively and rationally and know the facts, instead of making irresponsible remarks," a China spokesman said. China's leaders last week threatened action against critics of the policy, which they say "puts life first". WHO critics have previously accused the UN agency as being too close to China, which the WHO denies. **REUTERS**

Mufti cites Lanka to attack Centre, BJP hits back

Srinagar: PDP president and former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday warned BJP not to create situation like Sri Lanka and asked it to take lessons from the financial crunch in that country, reports Saleem Pandit.

Mehbooba said the way communal hatred is being promoted and spread in the country, it would certainly deteriorate the situation on the ground. "Such a situation was also being witnessed in Sri Lanka, and I hope the BJP government will take lessons from there and stop such happenings at the earliest," she said.

J&K BJP chief spokesman Sunil Sethi lashed out at Mehbooba for "trying to incite the sentiments of the people against the government". "The situation in our country is peaceful," Sethi said.

**JUST LIKE THAT** AJIT NINAN



## Some need over 2 yrs to recover fully from Covid, suggests study

### PM to attend Biden-led Covid meet today

PM Narendra Modi will participate in the second Global Covid Virtual Summit to be hosted by US President Joe Biden on Thursday. The summit intends to galvanise new actions to address the continued challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and build a stronger global health security architecture, said the government in a statement. Modi will deliver his remarks in the opening session of the summit on the theme 'Preventing Pandemic Fatigue and Prioritising Preparedness'. **TNN**

symptomatic sequelae remained fairly high. Covid-19 survivors had a remarkably lower health status than the general population at two years, the study, published in *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine*, said.

The findings indicate that there is an urgent need to explore the pathogenesis of long Covid-19 and develop effective interventions to reduce the risks.

"Our findings indicate that for a certain proportion of hospitalized Covid-19 survivors, while they may have cleared the initial infection, more than two years are needed to recover fully from Covid-19," says Prof Bin Cao of China-Japan Friendship Hospital in China, the lead author of the study.

Ongoing follow-up of Co-

vid-19 survivors, particularly those with symptoms of long Covid, is essential to understand the longer course of the illness, as further exploration of the benefits of rehabilitation programmes for recovery. There is a clear need to provide continued support to a significant proportion of people who've had Covid-19, and to understand how vaccines, emerging treatments and variants affect long-term health outcomes," he added.

Mental health assessments of long Covid participants found 13% displayed symptoms of anxiety and 11% displayed symptoms of depression, while for non-long Covid participants, the proportions were 3% and 1%, respectively.

### Personal enmity behind Bhilwara youth murder: Cops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Jaipur/Ajmer:** The murder of a youth late on Tuesday appeared to rekindle the tension that had gripped Bhilwara last week after two youths identified as Azad Mansoori and Sadam Hassan were attacked by around eight masked assailants in the city's Sangana area on May 4. The gang had also torched a motorbike belonging to one of the assailants.

The fracas took place a couple of days after clashes in Jodhpur over a religious flag being put up next to a freedom fighter's statue on the eve of Eid. The desert city spent the rest of the week under a curfew and a mobile internet ban.

In Bhilwara, a semblance of normalcy seemed to have returned before Adarsh's murder stoked the embers of the friction last week, although the police said the killing was the outcome of personal enmity rather than any inter-community dispute.

The case was registered on May 10. During the investigation, two accused were caught while delivering and accepting the bribe amount of Rs 4 lakh on behalf of a senior accountant in the ministry of home affairs.

The delivery of bribe was done through a hawala operator and a close associate of the public servant at Avadi, Tamil Nadu. The last rites were done later in the day, the police said.

The delivery of bribe was done through a hawala operator and a close associate of the public servant at Avadi, Tamil Nadu.

## Taj Mahal rooms should be opened for probe: BJP MP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Jaipur:** BJP MP and royal scion Diya Kumari claimed on Wednesday that "I have documents to prove that the Taj Mahal complex used to have the palace of the Jaipur royal family."

The MP declined to be drawn into speculation that there was a temple at the site of the Taj Mahal. "I have not seen all the documents yet, but it is clear that the property belonged to our family."

Clarifying the silence of her family so far on the antecedents of one of the world's most famous historical monuments, Diya Kumari said: "When Shah Jahan wrested the palace and the land, the Jaipur royal family could not oppose him as he was the ruler of the time. There was no law to appeal against the ruler or do anything against him. It's good that someone has raised this now and filed a petition in the high court."

### Rlys rejects reports claiming supply of coal rakes below monthly targets

**New Delhi:** The railway ministry on Wednesday said it has on an average made 498 rakes available daily for coal loading only for power sector against the demand of 456 rakes, as it rejected certain reports which claimed that supply of rakes to Coal India has fallen short of targets.

It said only during the current month the availability of rakes for the power sector has averaged an average of 472 per day, and on Tuesday 417 rakes were loaded with coal meant for power plants. "Both the coal companies and railways work jointly to ensure per day loading of 415 rakes of domestic coal and 30 rakes of imported coal to the power sector. This month, loading of domestic coal for power houses has averaged 409 rakes per day," a statement said. **TNN**

ian Church North East India and Nayi Roshni Foundation have been booked in the FIR.

The CBI's action came in the wake of a detailed note the home secretary sent, as per orders of Union home minister Amit Shah, to CBI

### FCRA CASE

director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal on March 29 this year. The note pointed to three FCRA clearance networks that have allegedly been operating in connivance with government officials. These networks had allegedly been

charging 'speed money' or 'problem resolution money' to expedite FCRA nods and resolve issues regarding FCRA clearances and formalities, respectively.

The case was registered on May 10. During the investigation, two accused were caught while delivering and accepting the bribe amount of Rs 4 lakh on behalf of a senior accountant in the ministry of home affairs.

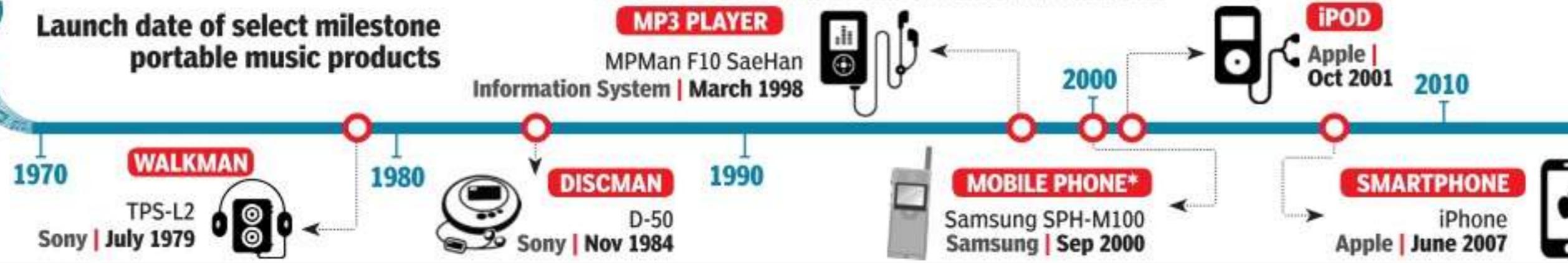
The delivery of bribe was done through a hawala operator and a close associate of the public servant at Avadi, Tamil Nadu. The last rites were done later in the day, the police said.

## THE HISTORY OF PORTABLE MUSIC

As the world says goodbye to the iPod, which Apple officially discontinued more than 20 years after its introduction, we look back at more than 40 years of portable music. From the first Walkman to wireless earpods, technology has shaped the way we are consuming music in 2022 – anytime, anywhere. When Sony introduced the first Walkman in 1979, the portable, if clunky, cassette player was a total game changer.



### Launch date of select milestone portable music products



### TRUE-WIRELESS EARBUDS

AirPods  
Apple | Dec 2016



It freed music lovers around the world from the shackles of only being able to listen to their favourite tunes at home or while driving a car and brought music everywhere. Much to the disdain of some people that saw the Walkman as "a potent symbol of an antisocial electronic future" and "worried about the fate of humanity".

\* First mobile phone with an MP3 player  
(Source: Statista)

# Airfare caps to stay till biz holds steady for a quarter

**Need Cheaper Jet Fuel, E-Virtual Aircraft Cos, Says Scindia**

Saurabh.Sinha  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Domestic fare caps will continue till air traffic within the country holds steady for a quarter and aviation turbine fuel (ATF/jet fuel) prices fall from their current stratospheric levels. Union aviation minister Jyoti Randhir Singh on Wednesday said these caps – last remaining special pandemic-time measures, apart from face masks and enhanced hygiene — are being continued to protect consumers from high spot fares and airlines from predatory pricing.

Scindia said, "Air traffic has been reviving steadily after we removed all capacity caps. However, ATF prices are at all-time highs. I have persuaded states to cut tax on jet fuel but the same is yet to happen at big hubs of Delhi and Mumbai. Cutting excise on ATF is under finmin's consider-

DELHI-MANALI BY 'EVA': ₹26K, 60 MINS			
Sector	Time by road (hours)	Time by hybrid 6-seater XT1 EVA of US (minutes)	Ticket price (₹)
Delhi-Manali	12-14	60	26,000
Gurgaon-Noida	1.5-2	7	2,900
HAL Airport B'luru to Coorg	5-8	35	14,000
Mahalaxmi Race Course, Mumbai, to Shirdi	5-7	28	12,000
Mahalaxmi Race Course, Mumbai, to Pune	3-4	20	8,800
Guwahati-Darjeeling	12	55	24,000

Source: CII presentation to govt on electric vertical aircraft or EVA

deration. Till air traffic remains steadily healthy for a quarter and fuel prices fall, domestic fare caps will continue."

The minister was recently in the US and Canada, where apart from aerospace majors like Boeing and Airbus, he turned his focus on Electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (eVTOL) craft for urban mobility. "I have invited eVTOL tech providers, including BLADE that has a JV in India, to come here and explore-

ing units both for use in India as well as for exporting to rest of Asia from here, to study routes here and the infra required in terms of charging stations. They have shown tremendous interest."

Blade India MD & co-founder Amit Dutta, who heads the urban air mobility task force for CII, told TOI that Scindia has invited BLADE to launch electric vertical craft simultaneously in the US and

In a presentation made to the aviation ministry, Dutta has said India's road network has increased by 33%, while car registration is up by 300%. "Given the congestion in cities and limited place to extend roads, air taxis and sky taxis are the future," Dutta, who is headed to New York next week to make the government's vision for EVA a reality, said.

Scindia is learnt to have told EVA makers in US and Canada that India presents a unique opportunity given the focus on improving urban mobility through all possible means of transport, with flying taxis being the future. "They are all very excited about India," Dutta said.

### STAFF QUOTA 6%

Of the IPO size of Rs 5,235 crore, shares worth Rs 4,000 crore are offered for sale by some of its existing investors while the balance is by the company through issuance of new shares. The shares are being offered in the Rs 462-487 per-share price band.

After initially planning to raise about Rs 7,240 crore, the company pared down the offer size, seemingly due to weak market conditions. On Tuesday, the company raised Rs 2,347 crore through the anchor investor route. The IPO will close on May 13.

## Central Banks Hint At Future Rate Hikes To Bring Down Elevated Inflation

# Bond yields fall on rumours of RBI buyback

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Bond yields fell sharply in the government securities market following rumours that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would conduct bond purchases or open market operations to bring down the government's cost of borrowing. A rise in bond prices results in a drop in bond yields.

### Morgan Stanley sees lower GDP growth

New Delhi: Global investment bank Morgan Stanley has cut India's GDP growth forecasts for the current financial year and next year, citing the global slowdown and higher crude oil prices. "Even as we expect the cyclical recovery trend to continue, we expect it to be softer than we previously projected. Building in higher oil prices and slower global growth, we trim our GDP growth forecasts to 7.6% for FY2023 (from 7.9%) and to 6.7% for FY2024 (from 7%)," Morgan Stanley said in its latest report.

"We expect broad-based price pressures will keep CPI inflation above the 6% mark through October, with average CPI expected to be 6.5% for FY2023. Similarly, reflecting the commodity price pressures, we expect the current account deficit to widen to a 10-year high of 3.3% of GDP in FY2023," the report said. TNM

Meanwhile, the rupee also gained nine paise to close at 77.24 against the dollar, which retreated against major currencies on Wednesday.

Yields on the benchmark 10-year government bond had

risen to 7.5% last week after the RBI, in a surprise move, hiked the repo rate by 40 basis points (100bps = 1 percentage point) on May 4. The hawkish statement from the regulator also added to the pressure on bond prices. On Wednesday, the yield on the 10-year bond fell to 7.21% — a drop of 25bps in two sessions. However, yields could rise again as volatility emanating from the US markets following higher-than-expected inflation is also adding to the pressure on bond prices.

Market participants are divided on whether the central bank would announce a bond buyback or resort to other measures to increase the appetite for bonds. Earlier, the RBI had said that the yield curve derived by the one on government bonds across maturities was a 'public good' as it served as the basis for the pricing of bank credit. The statement was made when yields came under pressure. The central bank took steps to ensure that yields do not cross 6%.

Some feel that with the RBI announcing measures to withdraw liquidity through various measures, including a hike in the cash reserve ratio, buying back bonds would work at cross purposes. However, others feel that the RBI can do bond buybacks for yield management, and it does not amount to the monetisation of the deficit.

In its policy last month, the RBI allowed banks to hold 23% of their deposits in the held-to-maturity category, up from 22%. This encourages banks to buy long-term bonds as they would not be required to make provisions if prices crash subsequently.

New Delhi: Tightening of policy rates by major central banks, including the RBI and Bank of England have hiked their benchmark lending rates to rein in inflation, which has been exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The ongoing war has disrupted global supply chains and further

pushed commodity prices, especially for fuel and foodgrains, across the world.

According to sources, decision of various central banks will have a bearing on the demand, thus hurting the global economy which has yet to reach pre-pandemic level.

Even in the past, sources said, inflation was mainly on account of supply constraints, which have worsened due to the war.

All the major central banks are now forced to act, the sour-

ces said, adding the focus the world over for the next six to eight months would be to bring down inflation by killing whatever demand there is. All the central banks are now going to drive their economies towards decline in demand through rate hikes, the sources said.

The US Fed has been the most aggressive as it raised lending rate by 0.50%. It was followed by RBI, which in an off-cycle action hiked the repo rate by 40bps (0.40%). AGENCIES

## Rate hikes to hit demand, prolong recovery

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changes apply only to bulk deposits above Rs 2 crore. The highest increase has been on bulk deposits with maturities of over three years, where the bank is offering 90bps more than what was available earlier. Deposits from three to 10 years now earn interest at 4.5% as compared to 3.6%.

In HDFC's case, this is the second time the housing finance company has tweaked its deposit rates in recent days

## HDFC, Bajaj Fin hike FD interest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: HDFC has increased interest rates on fixed deposits by 15 to 20 basis points (100bps = 1 percentage point) effective May 12. For retail deposits ranging from 33 months to 99 months, the corporation offers interest between 6.65% and 6.95%. It also offers an additional 0.05% interest rate on individual deposits that are placed through the online system. The corporation has also revised rates on other bulk deposits.

The rate hike comes close on the heels of HDFC raising its benchmark lending rate by 30bps, resulting in a corresponding increase in the cost of home loans.

On Tuesday, Bajaj Finance raised interest rates too by up to 10bps on its fixed deposits for up to Rs 5 crore for tenors ranging from three to five years. Following the increase, deposits between three to five years will get a return of 7%. Shorter-term deposits below 23 months would continue to receive 5.7%, and deposits between 24 and 33 months will earn a return of 6.4%.

In HDFC's case, this is the second time the housing finance company has tweaked its deposit rates in re-

cent days. Earlier, HDFC had reduced short-term rates and tilted returns on longer-term deposits. Some analysts feel that the corporation may increase deposit mobilisation in the run-up to the merger with HDFC Bank as banks have to maintain a larger proportion of their funds in liquid assets.

SBI, the country's largest bank, has also revised deposit rates. But the

In HDFC's case, this is the second time the housing finance company has tweaked its deposit rates in recent days

## Aakash+Byju's MD leads \$5mn round in HR tech co HONO

Manash.Gohain  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Aakash Chaudhary, managing director of Aakash+Byju's, has led a series-A funding of HONO — a frontrunner in HR automation — by investing \$4 million. With over 300 clients like IndiGo Airlines, HDFC Bank and Aakash+Byju's already on its list, and more than 1 million employees on its AI-backed platform, HONO has achieved growth of 2x during financial year 2022.

HONO has raised another \$1 million from individual investors such as Hemant Sultania, Amit Khanna of Amaya Ventures, and Harsh Gupta of Udayat Group. It now intends to scale up the business and sales vertical, and plans to double its client numbers, aiming at supporting 5 million people on the HONO platform in the current fiscal year 2023.

Strategically, HONO is looking to leverage the fresh corpus of funds to expand its operations across India, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia, with expansion plans in UAE, Singapore and Indonesia. Chaudhary said, "We feel that with our experience of scaling up and managing people, we can actually build a very good business for the owners."

foreign investors in their renewables and passenger electric vehicle businesses.

Tata Motors plans to launch 10 electric models by 2025, while its UK arm Jaguar Land Rover, a green energy drive at Tata Power and a less carbon-intensive approach at Tata Steel. "The global support for businesses that are based on new energy will receive huge acceptance from all stakeholders and investors," N Chandrasekaran, chairman, Tata Group

at Tata Motors and its UK arm Jaguar Land Rover, a green energy drive at Tata Power and a less carbon-intensive approach at Tata Steel. "The global support for businesses that are based on new energy will receive huge acceptance from all stakeholders and investors," said Chandrasekaran. Recently, Tata Power and Tata Motors received big-ticket investments from

## US consumer prices' growth slows in April

U.S. consumer price growth slowed sharply in April as gasoline prices eased off record highs, suggesting inflation has probably peaked, though it is likely to stay hot for a while and keep the Fed's foot on the brakes to cool demand.

The consumer price index rose 0.3% last month, the smallest gain since last August, the Labor Department said on Wednesday. That stood in sharp contrast to the 1.2% month-on-month surge in the CPI in March, which was the largest advance since September 2005. In the 12 months through April, the CPI increased 8.3%. REUTERS

## Coinbase blames RBI for UPI cutoff

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**It's been called a 'shadow ban'. They're applying soft pressure behind the scenes...I guess we have a concern that they may be actually in violation of the SC ruling, which would be interesting to find out if we were to go there. But I think our preference is really just to work with them**

**BRIAN ARMSTRONG | CO-FOUNDER & CEO, COINBASE**

vestors could participate using UPI as a payment mode. The same day, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) issued a statement, "We are not aware of any crypto exchange using UPI."

"It's been called a 'shadow ban'. They're applying soft pressure behind the scenes to try to disable some of these payments, which might be going through UPI. I guess we have a concern that they may be actu-

ally in violation of the Supreme Court ruling, which would be interesting to find out if we were to go there. But I think our preference is really just to work with them

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toys, Armstong said that India is a unique market where the SC has ruled that crypto cannot be banned but there are elements in the government, including at the RBI, who don't seem to be positive on it.

The RBI was not available for comment till the time of going to press.

According to Armstrong, in most places in the "free world and democracies", crypto is going to be regulated eventually and legal, but it's going to take time for them to get comfortable. "That's why we're going to go launch, even if we're not exactly sure how it's going to go — the reaction is going to be received, we're going to launch because it forces the discussion to be had," he said.

Describing the UPI integration as a great example of Coinbase's international stra-

tegy, Armstong said that India is a unique market where the SC has ruled that crypto cannot be banned but there are elements in the government, including at the RBI, who don't seem to be positive on it.

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**A thought for today**

Even when laws have been written down, they ought not always to remain unaltered

ARISTOTLE

**Don't Just Reform – Remove**

Even a changed sedition law will be misused. SC's review must end in scrapping Section 124A

**T**here's never been a better moment than now for consigning to history a law that goes back to the 19th century and that free India should have never had on its statutes for so long. GoI has agreed that sedition law provisions need re-examination, and the Supreme Court has strongly restrained all authorities from filing cases under IPC Section 124A till the review is complete. The court has also rightly asked that bail be expedited for those already charged under these provisions. We should also note that Narendra Modi has added the considerable weight of his personality and office to these efforts. But all of this will amount to little if the review ends in merely "reforming" the law – sedition provisions must go.

These columns have long argued that a sedition law, in any form, is an ever-present threat to civil liberties, an invitation to authorities to misuse it, and a perfect opportunity for politicians in office to settle scores. Therefore, no matter how finely-grained a review is, and however sincere the intent of both SC and GoI to guard against misuse of a reformed law, there's little doubt it will be misused. The problem lies in the dangerously vague concept of 'sedition'. State and local authorities will always find a way to use it as a blunt instrument. And local courts, as is well-established, very rarely question FIRs based on such laws. Remember that quite a few attempts were made to fine-tune the law to prevent its brute-force application.

The 1962 Kedar Nath Singh judgment by SC attempted to narrow sedition's application to instances betraying an "intention" and "tendency" to cause public disorder or endanger the security of the state. But words like "hatred", "contempt", "disaffection", which were in the colonial era law and are still present in provisions, and words like "intention" and "tendency", lend themselves to broad and subjective interpretations. Such subjectivity simply cannot be removed by tweaking the law. There was also the 1995 Balwant Singh judgment by SC that said mere sloganeering doesn't amount to sedition. That, too, has had little effect. Slogans and now tweets and chants are seen as enough for slapping a sedition case. Therefore, the process underway now must end in erasing this blot on India's democracy.

Sedition is of course not the only law that threatens civil liberties and is misused against critics of those in office. UAPA is a prime example of another law that needs a relook. Higher courts, and even some lower courts, have already made caustic observations on police use of UAPA as a tool of repression and harassment. Terrorism is cited as a justification for UAPA, but even granting that, the law needs to be pared down.

**Marital Rape Is Rape**

Delhi HC verdict is a setback. But judiciary remains the best hope for gender justice

**D**elhi high court's split verdict on criminalising marital rape is a setback for the legal battle to rid IPC Section 375 of the exception clause, which stipulates that "sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife" isn't rape. Justice Rajiv Shakdher ruled the exception unconstitutional, terming it violative of Article 14, Article 15, Article 19(1) and Article 21. Justice C Hari Shankar upheld the provision noting that the exception carved for marital relationships was based on intelligible differentia and was reasonable.

The UK in 1991 and several post-colonial nations have criminalised marital rape leaving India in a strange club with the likes of Bangladesh, Nigeria, Iran, Saudi Arabia etc. GoI must change tack. Its affidavit that the issue shouldn't be "treated merely as a question concerning constitutional validity of a statutory provision" because of "far-reaching socio-legal implications for the country" was unfortunate. Such arguments reduce constitutionally guaranteed rights to abstractions. The reality is that fundamental rights have helped citizens discover agency, dignity and self-preservation.

Making consent immaterial in a marital relationship has the effect of reducing Article 14, which guarantees to every citizen equality before law and the equal protection of all laws, to a high-sounding principle without substance for an assaulted woman. It puts those wives on a weaker footing against husbands who repeatedly "rape" them knowing fully well that the law shields them. Seen in this light, arguments that marital rape cases will damage the institution of marriage are particularly tone-deaf. During the Supreme Court's hearings to decriminalise adultery, GoI had termed it a threat to the sanctity of marriage. Given such arch-conservative posturing, neither executive nor legislature is likely to address marital rape. This makes the judiciary the best hope for gender justice. It must fast-track appeals against this verdict.

**Yeh Dil Mango More**

Seeing the emotions it invokes, is aamrus the nava aamrasa?

Bachi Karkaria

This is the season when all aam admi (and biwi bachchey) party. Thank you, Mr Keriwal. Depending on where you grew up, you will swear that the mango of your childhood scores above the rest. The golden-orbed Alphonso may have been crowned king, but east, north and south will deflate it to hapoosss. For them, the himsagar, dusseri/chausa/langra and banganapalli respectively command greater respect.

Why, even in its western home states, alphonso's suzerainty is challenged by neelam, payri and kesar. By the way, Maharashtra savours some political one-upmanship. Its Devgad/Ratnagiri hapoos is way superior to the Valsad hapoos of Modi-Shah's Gujarat.

While few will agree that their mango by any other name tastes as sweet, all our custom-unstaled infinite varieties have one thing in common. Wallowing in amrus, (and the unpulp fruit) is akin to experiencing the navarasas as laid down in Bharat Muni's Natyashastra. Ok, if you must be pernickety, the ninth, Shanta, was added by Nandikeshwara.

Shringara is the pan-Indian yearning for the mango. Hasya is the unbridled laughter that rings through the house as it arrives by crate, carton or affordable couple. Veera is the courage it takes to shell out the spiralling price, or even the stoic wait till it comes down.

Raudra is the anger which rises as you see your neighbour's empty cartons pile up long before you can afford to buy. Conversely, Karuna is the (usually fake) compassion he expresses for the not-yet-haves among friends and family. Bhabbhatta is the disgust the latter feel over the glutinous way in which the show-off-haves attack their pricey prize.

Bhayankara is the fear that prices may never fall enough, and you'll have to scrounge for the end-of-season squishy/shrivelled substandard fruit. Finally, Shanta is the sated calm that washes over you as you suck and scrape the stone dry.

Navratri/Navratri is the twice-a-year time when Hindus must abstain from the navarasas. Conveniently, considerately, compassionately, the mango season falls between these two periods. Even the gods don't expect you to resist the heavenliest of fruits.

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Alec Smart said: "A Sadition day if that much-abused law stays."

**The Good Side Of Inflation**

Accelerating prices make govt debt management easier. Higher food prices mean bigger farmer income

Somnath Mukherjee



Inflation's reared its head as the devil of our times, globally. A bit of a nasty devil too, given just how long it has been sleeping.

India has a politically fraught relationship with inflation. Even when headline inflation numbers are benign, charges of "price rise" fly thick and fast. When the numbers are elevated, as they are today, they obviously acquire a sharper edge. Paradoxically, inflation isn't a monochromatic evil.

For starters, inflation, in moderate doses, is a great aid to the government expanding fiscal intervention amid economic sluggishness. After many years in the 70-75% (of GDP) range, India's public debt-to-GDP ratio has shot up in the last two years.

Partly on account of the sharp slowdown in growth and partly on account of higher government borrowing to support the Covid-impacted economy, India's debt-to-GDP touched 87% in the fiscal year ending March 2022. It is expected to settle in the 85-90% range in the foreseeable future.

That is likely the peak range for comfort – both for a government that has made fiscal cautiousness its calling card as well as for international ratings agencies. In other words, even as India struggles with a K-shaped recovery and myriad imported challenges, the government has limited headroom to expand fiscal intervention.

Unless, a high-ish inflation, trending at a rate higher than the yields on government bonds, inflates the debt away faster, creating the headroom for the government to expand the fisc.

This is how India managed to maintain an elevated level of fiscal deficit (including off-budget public spends like oil subsidies) for 5-6 years post the Global Financial Crisis, without blowing out on debt-to-GDP ratios. It was made possible because of high single-digit, near double-digit inflation for most of that period.



There have been reports in the media that the finance ministry has asked RBI to take measures to cool off government yields, even as RBI undertook a surprise policy rate hike last week. While not confirmed yet, within moderation, it's a logical ask from the perspective of the ministry. High inflation with negative risk-free interest rates is an implicit tax – on savers – to fund fiscal support to those who don't have surplus savings and to kickstart broad-based growth.

• A somewhat less straightforward, but perhaps more high-impact consequence of inflation is a partial reversal of the terms of trade (ToT) in agriculture. It's well-known that ToT in farming has been on a secular decline. Even during periods of food price hikes – something that happens periodically in India – farmgate prices have kept capturing lesser and lesser of those hikes.

Especially in the last few years, when the government, with a hawk-eye on inflation, has kept MSPs' growth at modest levels and global food prices have also largely been soft.

It's well-known that the terms of trade in farming have been on a secular decline. But now, farmgate food price inflation is trending significantly above retail price inflation. Price increases are not restricted to cereals like wheat. Milk, cotton, edible oils – the anecdotal evidence of higher farmgate prices is adding up. It's an income transfer from urban India to the farmers

inflation, has kept MSPs' growth at modest levels and global food prices have also largely been soft.

This is partially reflected in the relative movement in CPI and WPI food inflation numbers. Even when retail

inflation, represented by CPI-food inflation went up, farmgate prices, which can be proxied by WPI-primary articles, lagged behind. In fact, the spread between the two (WPI-primary and CPI-food) has been negative for most years between 2012 and 2021.

Short of jargon, it meant that bulk of the retail food price inflation was accruing to parts of the value chain outside of the farmer. A synchronised inflation in the last one year – substantial increase in MSP last year and a global uptick in food prices as a result of the war in Ukraine – has significantly reversed the trend. Farmgate food price inflation is trending significantly above retail price inflation.

Several other high-frequency indicators support the same hypothesis. Food Corporation of India's wheat procurement was down 44% till May 1. This was primarily on account of private traders offering higher prices as export demand has shot up and expectation of further price increases.

The price increases are not restricted to cereals like wheat. Milk, cotton, edible oils – the anecdotal evidence of higher farmgate prices is adding up. It's an income transfer from urban India to the farmers.

RS Sodhi, the MD of Amul, said in an interview to *The Economic Times* some time ago, "Food inflation for urban India is rising income for rural India." This is perhaps a little glib. The real issue is realisation by farmers rather than just headline prices, but it is a point well made.

In short, inflation is a policy paradox, like Hamlet's "To be or not to be" soliloquy. Policymakers need to find a balance, rather than condemning inflation as an unmitigated evil that it is projected to be in popular discourse.

The writer is the Managing Partner and CIO, ASK Wealth Advisors. Views are personal

This is the third of a series of commentaries on inflation and its implications

**What Do We Want A Marriage To Be, That's The Question**

When hearing appeals on marital rape verdict, courts must recognise autonomy of married women

Mihira Sood



Yesterday, a two-judge bench of the Delhi high court delivered a split verdict on a batch of petitions that challenged the colonial-era exception to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code. While Section 375 defines the offence of rape, the exception that follows states, "Sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under 15 years of age, is not rape."

Justice Rajiv Shakdher held that the exception violates the right to equality enshrined in the Constitution, while Justice C Hari Shankar upheld the provision. The matter will now be heard in appeal.

**What's the courts' duty?**

Among lawyers, the primary argument used to justify the legalisation of marital rape is that the court cannot make laws. This is misleading. The law already exists, and it is well within the court's remit, indeed it is the court's job, to examine the constitutionality of laws and strike down those which do not pass the test. When a court refuses to do so, it is not respecting the separation of powers, it is abdicating its duty.

The argument that the courts cannot create a new offence is also incorrectly made in this case, for the offence already exists. Removing the exception to it does not amount to creating a new offence.

But the heart of the debate doesn't lie in these technicalities, as the lawyers using them know all too well.

The heart of the debate also does not lie in the bogey of false accusations that is predictably raised every time there is a law brought in to protect women's rights. We know that false accusations may be made in any kind of crime, and yet nobody talks about legalising murder or theft. Nobody is concerned about false accusations made under anti-terror laws. We also know that data on false accusations is flawed,



Joy comes from choice

as it rests on acquittals/withdrawal of cases that can happen due to a variety of reasons, which rarely include proven falsity.

**What about women's sexual autonomy?**

Citing privacy of the bedroom, an argument used by equality advocates in decriminalising homosexuality, is also not the trump card that the law's supporters think it is. In that case, privacy was based on respecting consent and autonomy, not on taking it away, and that is the heart of the issue – sexual autonomy of women, particularly married women.

The Supreme Court has made great strides in this area in recent years, notably with the nine-judge bench decision on privacy in *Puttuswamy* (2017) and the raft of judgments that followed, which have explicitly linked sexual autonomy to dignity and privacy, including in the Navtej Singh Johar, Joseph Shine, and Shafin Jahan cases.

The judgment in the Joseph Shine case, which struck down the lopsided criminalisation of certain types of adultery, is particularly relevant here, as it

deals with the applicability of constitutional morality to the matrimonial relationship. It specifically found that the section was based on outdated stereotypes of women's sexual agency, and treated married women as their husband's property. It went on to hold that such a view of marriage could not be permitted under the essential values on which the Constitution was founded – liberty, dignity and equality. It also ruled that marital privacy was inapplicable in cases of crimes against women.

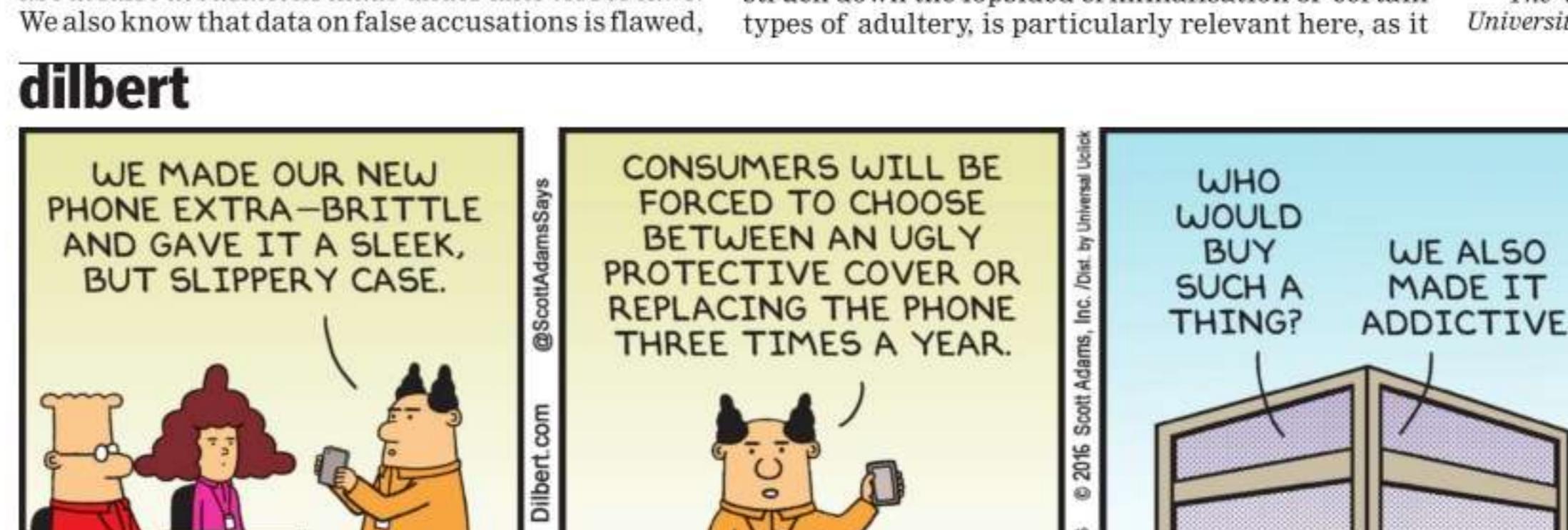
**What will secure marriage's future?**

It is this that the SC must consider while deciding both this appeal, as well as the related case of Ojaswa Pathak which is pending before it. That case challenges the provision of restitution of conjugal rights which is prevalent across personal laws in India, and rests on the same outdated conception of marriage. Neither of these provisions can withstand the test of Joseph Shine.

Does this undermine the social institution of marriage? This question requires a deeper examination of what marriage truly is. Is it a partnership of equals, or a relationship of slavery? Surely, the institution of marriage is better served if it comprises people who enter it willingly, who find joy in it, and who are able to live in it with dignity and freedom, rather than those who are stuck in unhappy, abusive marriages. Is it better to have fewer, but happier marriages, or millions of unhappy ones that survive only on paper?

If one truly believes that marriage is a valuable social institution, then one must do the work of reforming it, modernising it and excising from it its ugly history of oppression. Only if one believes that the foundation of this institution is one of oppression and exploitation, that rape is an integral part of married life, can one truly think it is threatened by removing this exception.

The writer is a Visiting Professor at the National Law University, Delhi

**Overcoming Constraints To Spiritual Awakening**

Arup Mitra

O ur desires for wealth, materialistic pleasure and fame are said to be some major constraints to spiritual attainments. But at the same time, with inadequate consumption, the realisation of higher realities remains a dream. Since the primary objective of human life is spiritual upliftment, in what way can the trade-offs be tackled?

Indic philosophy comes up with a resolution: Attend to the minimum possible requirements, and devote the rest of the time and energy to fulfilling spiritual needs. Now, the crucial point is how to determine the 'minimum'. It naturally varies in relation to several factors, including the physical, social, cultural, spatial and psychological attributes, making the process more difficult. This is rationality comes into play. And this rationality is known as knowledge.

Knowledge in the true sense would

mean awareness that helps observe oneself in the backdrop of an infinite space, so that one does not end up optimising for the self alone. When we contemplate upon the all-inclusive universe, the concept of timelessness becomes evident, along with the tininess of the 'self'. In the milieu of this larger perspective, as we proceed to pursue our action to determine the minimum requirement in the material world, we can never be misled. Once the karma is selfless, the rest is easy. Just with a little feeling we need to surrender that selfless action as a flower of love at the feet of Infinity, so that no desire to attain success remains as a residue. After all, this residue is the disturbance itself, resulting in digressions that may delay spiritual advancement.

If the true spirit of surrender is



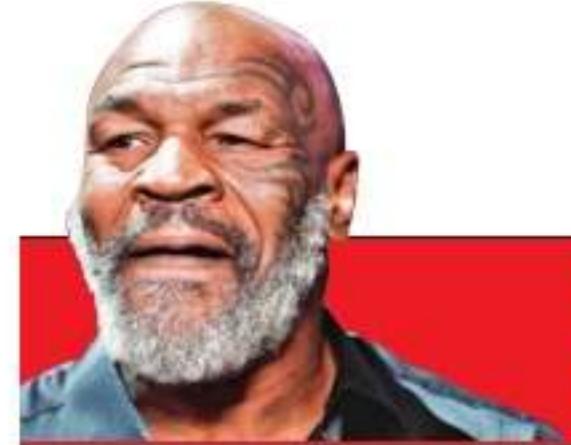
THE SPEAKING TREE

present, there is nothing to worry about. It is the devotion which actualises surrender. Thus, the tripartite mechanism of knowledge, action and devotion will have to be set in life in such a manner that every moment is transformed into the manifestation of eternity. After all, life is nothing but an opportunity to realise within the limited space, the existence of vastness.

Beyond the audible sound

there is a continuity of unstruck sound; beyond the light that strikes sight, there is an uninterrupted flow of glow; and beyond all relationships, there is an all-encompassing affection encircling the individual existence. However, since we do not seek, we remain stuck in mundane matters and do not realise the joy that remains beyond earthly achievements. One who becomes realised, attains the state of liberation of the

spirit even while alive. One can master the art of avoiding the issues which tend to entangle, exactly as an efficient driver tries to shun accidents on the street. Worldly experiences are essential to remind us that we need to look beyond them so that spiritual awakening happens. The pain that we earn from the world forces us to move towards joy. In this infinite space, like an oasis in the desert, there are planets comprising life and creating time so that we get an opportunity to transform ourselves and acquire the ability to have the feeling of being one and the same with the universe. How long or how often we can hold on to that experience is an important question. Efforts will have to be made, but ultimately it is the divine grace that matters. And as Ramakrishna says, grace can gather only if there is a container of humility. Water cannot collect in the high land; it needs deep hovels to form a waterbody.



**BOXING LEGEND MIKE TYSON TO FACE NO CHARGES OVER PLANE FRACAS: US PROSECUTOR**



**ACE FORWARD SADIO MANE SAYS HE IS HAPPY AT LIVERPOOL AMID TRANSFER TALK**

**His Allround Show Takes Capitals To Crucial Win Over Rajasthan**

## MARSH MAKES MERRY

Mandakini.Shalya@timesgroup.com

There was no collapse or blowing apart of the batting line-up as Delhi Capitals remained stubborn in their pursuit of victory. Mitchell Marsh and David Warner made it a one-sided contest as Capitals easily chased down 161, registering an eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Wednesday.

In full bloom, it was an all-round show by Marsh who first returned figures of 3-0-25-2 before excelling with the bat to bring his first half-century of the IPL. En route his 89 off 62 balls, Marsh was accompanied by Warner (52 not out off 41 balls), who, for a change, played second fiddle. The Aussie duo stitched a 144-run partnership.

The win takes Capitals to 12 points, giving a big boost to their playoff chances. Royals, despite appearing to be a strong contender, now find themselves dependent on the result of their remaining two matches. From missed opportunities to dropped catches and luck evading Royals, nothing went in their favour.

It is at this stage of the tournament that Royals need their skipper Sanju Samson to lead from the front. But the wait is only getting longer.

Earlier, in the face of quality bowling by Capitals seamers – Chetan Sakariya, Anrich Nortje, Mitchell Marsh and Shardul Thakur – Ravichandran Ashwin did not muck up and instead responded with clarity of mind. Not a recognised batter in the T20s, Ashwin's 50 off 38 balls while batting at one down is proof enough of his versatility. At 35, the off-spinner continues to experiment, innovate and upgrade himself to add value to the team.

He along with Devdutt Padikkal (48 off 30 balls) took Royals to a competitive total of 160/6, but that proved insufficient in the end.

It was a day off for Jos Buttler and after his dismissal in the third over, Samson promoted Ashwin to score some quick runs, a ploy tried by the Royals in a couple of previous games as well. But, it was on Wednesday night that Ashwin proved most effective batting at No. 3, while the genuine batters took a back seat. Though Royals openers Buttler and Yashasvi Jaiswal (19 off 19 balls) were kept in check, Ashwin refused to get intimidated before Padikkal upped the ante. Courtesy his bold approach, Royals could manage 43/1 in the Powerplay.

Sakariya, who came in place of in-

**89** Mitchell Marsh has recorded his highest score in the IPL – his maiden fifty. His previous best being 38 for Pune Warriors against Mumbai Indians at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on April 13, 2013.

TEAM	M	W	L	N/R	PTS
GT	12	9	3	0.376	18
LSG	12	8	4	0.385	16
RR	12	7	5	0.228	14
RCB	12	7	5	-0.115	14
DC	12	6	6	0.210	12
SRH	11	5	6	-0.031	10
KKR	12	5	7	-0.057	10
PBKS	11	5	6	-0.231	10
CSK	11	4	7	0.028	8
MI	11	2	9	-0.894	4

(Updated till DC vs RR match)



Jahel Ahmed, gave Capitals an immediate edge in the game after gobbling up the prized wicket of Buttler. While the England batter was taking his usual time to settle down, the late inward movement cramped him and he gave an easy catch at mid-on to Thakur.

Coming out to bat at No. 5, Samson (6 off 4 balls) too floundered under pressure. In an attempt to up the strike rate, he went for a lofted shot, but miscued it and holed out to mid-wicket.

Sakariya, who came in place of in-



### SCOREBOARD

**Rajasthan Royals:** Y Jaiswal c Lalit b Marsh 19, J Buttler c Thakur b Sakariya 7, R Ashwin c Warner b Marsh 50, D Padikkal c sub b Nortje 48, S Samson c Thakur b Nortje 6, R Parag c Powell b Sakariya 9, R van der Dussen not out 12, T Boult not out 3; **Extras:** (b1, w5) 6; **Total:** (6 wkts) 160; **FoW:** 1-11, 2-54, 3-107, 4-152, 5-142, 6-146; **Bowling:** Sakariya 4-0-23-2, Nortje 4-0-39-2, Thakur 4-0-27-0, Axar 2-0-25-0, Marsh 3-0-25-2, Kuldeep 3-0-20-0.

**Delhi Capitals:** S Bharat c Samson b Boult 0, D Warner not out 52, M Marsh c Sen b Chahal 89, R Pant not out 13; **Extras:** (lb2, w5) 7; **Total:** (2 wkts, 18.1 overs) 161; **FoW:** 1-0, 2-144; **Bowling:** Boult 4-0-32-1, Prasidh 3-1-20-0, R Ashwin 4-0-32-0, Sen 3-1-0-32-0, Y Chahal 4-0-43-1.

**IMPACTFUL:** Delhi's Mitchell Marsh hits a boundary on Wednesday

## 'Not my fault I went for big money'

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

**S**hane Watson had said a few days ago that Mumbai Indians had a shocking auction and paying Rs 15.25 crores for Ishan Kishan was a big mistake. "So much money on Ishan Kishan... He is a brilliant and skilled player, but he's not worth spending your whole contract on," Watson, a former IPL superstar and an assistant coach of Delhi Capitals, had said.

Kishan has had an up-and-down season, scoring 321 runs at a strike-rate of 117 as Mumbai languish at the bottom of the table. The Jharkhand keeper-batsman did agree that price tag is a pressure, albeit for the first few days. "Yes, it's there initially but you realize that you are not responsible for your price tag. If someone has thought you are good enough, they have paid that amount of money," Kishan said ahead of Mumbai's match against CSK on Thursday.

The 23-year-old said that he had spoken to the likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma on how to deal



**ISHAN KISHAN'S BATTING IN IPL**

Overall	M	I	No	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR
<b>Best year: 2020</b>	14	13	4	516	99	57.33	0	4	145.76*
<b>In 2022</b>	11	11	1	321	81*	32.10	0	3	117.15

(\*Topped for Mumbai)

with this pressure. "They also got big money when they were pretty young. So I spoke to them and tried to get a feeling on how to deal with it. They told me not to think about it, and slowly as the tournament progresses, you forget about it. What becomes important is giving 100% for your team, whether you have gone for base price or big money," Kishan said.

While price-tag has its own baggage, there is the constant social media scrutiny that often unnerves

young players. Kishan, now a senior in the Mumbai Indians squad, said that he had often noticed young players "going through the comments section" right after a match. "I tell them not to lose sleep over it. I have stopped looking at what is said about me... It's a competitive sport, fans are invested in it and they have an opinion and they voice it. But my job is to keep my focus in place and do the processes correctly," the swashbuckling left-hander added.

### HOPEFULLY, ABD WILL BE BACK AT RCB IN SOME CAPACITY: KOHLI

New Delhi: Virat Kohli is hopeful that South African superstar AB de Villiers will be back at the Royal Challengers Bangalore in a new role next year. De

Villiers had been a big part of RCB family before he retired from all forms of cricket last year.

"I miss him a lot. I talk to him regularly. He was in the US recently with his family watching golf... He is keenly observing RCB and hopefully he will be here next year in some capacity," Kohli said in a chat posted on RCB's Twitter handle.



## Barca close to sealing 2nd spot

### Team Relieved As Defender Araujo Leaves Hospital After Suffering A Head Injury

**Barcelona:** A Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang brace earned Barcelona a 3-1 home win against 10-man Celta Vigo, putting Xavi Hernandez's side on course to secure a spot in the lucrative Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia with a second-place finish in LaLiga.

With two games left and Real Madrid already crowned champions, Barcelona are second on 72 points. They are seven points clear of third-placed Sevilla, who have one game in hand. Memphis Depay opened the scoring in the 30th minute following a brilliant individual effort by Ousmane Dembele. Aubameyang extended Barca's lead 10 minutes later and scored again four minutes after the break, following more fine play by Dembele.

Barca had a real scare as the game was



**SAFE:** Ronald Araujo appeared unconscious after a collision with Gavi. He was discharged after a night in the hospital

interrupted so defender Ronald Araujo could receive medical attention after suffering a head injury in a collision with team mate Gavi. Xavi said later that doctors had given the player the all-clear: "We were really worried that something awful could have happened, but I understand he was conscious and he's been taken to hospital as a precaution," he said. REUTERS

The Indian backline – minus Sandesh Jhingan and Pritam Kotal who played for ATK Mohun Bagan – crumbled soon after with Liton Colaco and Kiany Nassiri scoring a goal each in the space of seven

## Nikhat, Parveen and Manisha register wins

**New Delhi:** Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (52kg), Parveen (63kg) and Manisha (57kg) advanced to the second and third rounds of the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul after clinching impressive wins in their respective bouts on Wednesday.

### BOXING WORLDS

Zareen outpunched Mexico's Herrera Alvarez 5-0, while Parveen defeated Ukraine's Maria Bova by a similar margin.

Manisha, who received a bye in the opening round, too prevailed by unanimous decision against Kala Thapa of Nepal to make her way into the third round.

**Jyothi breaks 100m hurdles nat'l record**

**New Delhi:** A month after her wind-assisted effort was not registered as a national record, hurdler Jyothi Yarraj has finally made the mark her own while winning a 100m event in Cyprus with a timing of 13.23 seconds.

The 22-year-old Andhra athlete on Tuesday won the gold in Cyprus International Meet at Limassol under a headwind speed of 0.1m/s. The old national record of 13.38 seconds was in the name of Anuradha Biswal since 2002. The Cyprus Meet is a World Athletics Continental Tour Challenger category D event.

Jyothi had clocked 13.09 seconds during the Federation Cup in Kozhikode last month but since the wind speed was +2.1m/s. PTI

**Indian women to face Thailand in quarterfinals**

**Manne.Ratnakar**  
@timesgroup.com

**Indian women, who were whitewashed by South Korea in their last Group D match on Wednesday, will face Thailand in the quarterfinals of the Uber Cup in Bangkok on Thursday. The Indian men too lost their last Group C match against Chinese Taipei 2-3 in the Thomas Cup. The men and women have already qualified for the quarterfinals.**

PV Sindhu suffered a 15-21, 14-21 loss to Se Young. This is the fifth victory for the 20-year-old Korean against Sindhu in five meetings.

The doubles team of Shriti Mishra and Simran Singh was no match for Sohee Lee and Seungchan Shin and lost 13-21, 12-21. Kim Gaun routs Aakarshi Kashyap 21-10, 21-10 to seal the match for Korea. The unseeded Indian pair of

Thais In Thomas Cup, Kidaambi Srikanth and HS Pranoy won their matches. Srikanth drubbed Wang Tzu Wei 21-19, 21-16 and Pranoy defeated Lu Chia Hung 21-18, 21-21.

**Results (Thomas Cup):** Chinese Taipei bt India 3-2 (Chou Tien Chen bt Lakshya Sen 21-19, 13-21, 21-17; Lee Yang/Wang Chi-Lin bt Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty 21-19, 21-19; Wang Tzu Wei lost to Kidambi Srikanth 19-21, 16-21; Lu Ching Yao/Yang Po Hanbt MR Arjun/Dhruv Kapila 21-17, 21-19; Lee Sohee/Shin Seungchan bt Shruti Mishra/Simran Singh 21-13, 21-12; Kim Gaun bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-10, 21-10; Kim Hye Jeong/Kong Hee-bong bt Tanisha Crasto/Treesa Jolly 21-14, 21-11; Sim Yujin bt Ashmita Chaihna 21-18, 21-17).

**THOMAS AND UBER CUP**

an squad are ranked way below the Thais. Pornpawee Chochuwong, who plays the second singles for Thailand is No.10 in the world, while Busanan Ongbamrungphan is No.12. The first doubles team comprising Jongkolpan Kititharakul and Rawind Pratongjai are No.8. It would require a sensational effort from the Indians to stop the

### 'CHELSEA'S RUDIGER TO JOIN REAL'

**London:** Chelsea defender Antonio Rudiger has agreed to join Spanish Real Madrid on a four-year deal when his contract expires at the end of the season, Sky Sports reported. Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said last month that the 29-year-old German would leave the club.

Rudiger joined Chelsea from AS Roma in 2017 and won the FA Cup, Champions League, Europa League, UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup at the London side. Sanctions imposed by the British government on Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich following Russia's invasion of Ukraine means the club



### DORTMUND LOOK TO ADEYEMI NOW

**Berlin:** Borussia Dortmund have signed forward Karim Adeyemi from Austrian champions RB Salzburg on a contract until 2027, the Bundesliga club said, hours after Man City agreed to sign the German team's talisman Haaland. Adeyemi has previously been linked with a move to the EPL. The 20-year-old scored 23 goals in 42 appearances in all competitions this season. He has been capped three

### INDIA LOSE TO BAGAN IN FRIENDLY

**Kolkata:** Sunil Chhetri returned to action after a seven-month injury layoff with a delightful strike but it was not enough as India went down 1-2 to ISL side ATK Mohun Bagan in a practice match at the Salt Lake Stadium. The Indian backline – minus Sandesh Jhingan and Pritam Kotal who played for ATK Mohun Bagan – crumbled soon after with Liton Colaco and Kiany Nassiri scoring a goal each in the space of seven

### ACTION TODAY

**BADMINTON:** Thomas & Uber Cup, Knock-Outs, 7.30 am (Sports18)

**CRICKET:** IPL: CSK vs MI, 7.30 pm (Star Network)

<b

# Panel junks minor's plea to donate liver to dad

Girl Moves HC Against Decision, Hearing Tomorrow

**Swati.Deshpande**  
@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** The state authorisation committee, headed by the director of Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER), while rejecting a 16-year-old girl's application to donate part of her liver to her father who was diagnosed with decompensated liver cirrhosis, said it "can't rule out the existence of emotional pressure and can't confirm that the consent given by the minor daughter is out of free will".

The girl, through her mother, on Wednesday challenged the rejection before a vacation bench of Justices AK Menon and NR Borkar of Bombay HC. Citing urgency, her lawyer Tapan Thatté sought orders to state to grant her approval to donate. It posted it for hearing first on Friday and will hear Thatté and state government pleader PP Kakade.

The panel, comprising

## TIMELINE

<b>March:</b>	Father advised to undergo liver transplant
<b>April 25:</b>	After all relatives not found suitable, his 16-year-old daughter, a match, through her mother, seeks permission to be a donor for her ailing father; wants to donate part of her liver
<b>April 30:</b>	Teen, through mother files plea before Bombay HC for permission to be the donor, though minor
<b>May 2:</b>	HC directs State to take decision by May 4

eight members including the joint director of health services, DHS Mumbai, said the recipient is a chronic alcoholic which is likely cause of hepatic failure and there is no documentation of rehabilitation. It added that the "mother and daughter seem unaware of the risks and complications of the surgery to the donor and recipient".

The committee said it feels that provisions under Rule 5(g) of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules, 2014 aren't fulfilled. The rules say living organ or tissue donation by minors shall not be permitted, except on exceptional medical grounds, to be recorded in detail with full justification. The panel added, "The donor is the only child conceived six years after taking treatment for infertility." On May 6, the HC bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Madhav Jamdar said a Mumbai hospital had rejected the girl's plea as she was a minor; had directed the state-level committee to take an appropriate decision based on the case. The committee on Tuesday interviewed the donor girl and her uncle.

The Act doesn't consider minors as competent organ donors. An exception is carved in compelling reasons where the state can approve such donation by minors, but no proper rules are set out, Thatté said.

## Russian girl, 12, raped, staffer of Goa hotel held

### HC notice to Centre, MP on disputed religious site

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Panaji:** A 12-year-old Russian girl was allegedly raped by a hotel staffer in Pernem, Goa, on April 6. After raping her, the accused (28) had fled to Karnataka. An FIR was registered at Pernem police station on Monday under the Goa Children's Act, PoCSO Act and IPC and the accused was arrested from Karnataka.

Police said the minor and her mother arrived in Goa last November and have been staying in Pernem. The crime took place when the girl's mother had gone to a grocery store, leaving her at the hotel. Upon returning, she found her daughter crying. The girl told her mother that a hotel staffer who was playing with her in the swimming pool had sexually abused. When she tried to escape, the accused chased her and pulled her into a room and sexually assaulted her again, police said. TNN

The petition challenges an ASI 2003 order that allows Muslims to offer Friday prayers at Kamal Mau-

### Saffron flag hoisted atop K'taka mosque

**Unidentified people hoisted a saffron flag atop a mosque in Karnataka's Belagavi on Wednesday. Police rushed to the spot to bring it down after leaders of Hindu and Muslim communities gathered at the Madina Masjid mosque and agreed to resolve the matter amicably. Both communities have filed a police complaint. Village elders said the village has always prided itself on its commitment to communal harmony. TNN**

la Mosque situated on the site. The order had allowed Hindus to offer prayers on Tuesdays and on Basant Panchami.

The petitions are likely to be taken up for hearing on June 27.

## Man held for questioning over blast at Punjab Police intel HQ

**Chandigarh:** The Punjab Police is learnt to have detained a man from Tarn Taran district in connection with the explosion at the intelligence wing headquarters in Mohali, sources said on Wednesday.

Nishan Singh, a resident of Kulla village in Tarn Taran, is already facing criminal cases, including one related to 'attempt to murder' and another under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

### Driver arrested over Khalistan flags in HP

**A** 31-year-old resident of Morinda in Punjab's Ropar was arrested on Wednesday for hanging Khalistan flags at the gate and writing graffiti on the boundary wall of the Himachal Pradesh assembly complex at Tapovan in Dharamshala.

Harveer Singh, a driver working on daily wages, has confessed to having put up the flags at the entrance to the assembly complex on Sunday along with a co-accused identified as Vaneet Singh, CM Jai Ram Thakur said. The arrest came a day after a purported audio message from the banned Sikhs for Justice to Thakur said the rocket-propelled grenade attack on Punjab police's intelligence headquarters in Mohali on Monday could well have been in Shimla. TNN

Punjab Police have already rounded up several suspects for questioning.

In the attack on Monday, a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at the third floor of the highly-guarded building in Mohali, which sent the state in a high alert mode. On Wednesday, a CCTV footage of the RPG attack also emerged. In the video, a car was seen moving on the road in front of the building of the intelligence headquarters. Suddenly there was a flash of light, suggesting that the RPG was fired from that moving car. Police on Tuesday said that it had recovered the launcher used in the attack.

In his statement after the attack, Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann had promised strictest punishment to those trying to spoil the state's atmosphere. PTI

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-Dr Priti Adani  
Chairperson, Adani Foundation

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### 1 Jamini Roy's Untitled

(Lot 23) can be perceived as a memoir to his geographical background and history in West Bengal. Roy's work shows a deep engagement with the traditions of the local artisans and craftspeople. One can notice the impact of this engagement in this work through the use of earthy browns and reds that are symbolic of the soil found in the region, while the decorative motifs used are an homage to the Kalighat pat tradition and a marker of Roy's distinctive style.



**2 V S Gaitonde's Untitled, 1974** (Lot 5) is a rare figurative portrait from a period when the artist was almost exclusively painting large abstract canvases. Depicting an introspective subject, much like the artist himself, this sketch is a reminder of Gaitonde's tremendous ability with the line.



**4 G R Iranna's Untitled, 2003** (Lot 52) questions the boundaries of art and society, much like his other works. It illustrates anguish as an amorphous entity fuelled by sorrow and the struggle to transcend it. His oil on canvas could be considered a harbinger of transformation since Iranna's works attempt to gain independence from the boundaries of a style that is restrictive.

### 3 Jeram Patel's Untitled, 2007

(Lot 36) showcases how the artist's mode of expression was well ahead of its time. He played a pivotal role in turning around the Indian art scene and formulated a new visual identity and method of abstraction in the late 1950s and '60s. He was well-known for his use of blowtorches on woodwork, a technique he discovered in Japan and later adopted in India



**5 Meera Mukherjee's Untitled, 1974** (Lot 32) signifies movement. Mukherjee's art expresses a strong spiritual connection to her ancestors, tradition, and culture, and a deep reverence for her roots and history. Her sculptures frequently feature bucolic scenes exhibiting workers, tradesmen, and artists at work.



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Department of Information and Public Relations, Rajasthan

# Must balance state security with civil liberties: SC

Courts Can Proceed Against Arrested Persons In Charges Other Than Sedition, Says SC

Dhananjay Mahapatra  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** While virtually suspending operation of the sedition provision, the Supreme Court on Monday said that the courts could proceed against the arrested persons with regard to charges other than sedition.

The bench posted further hearing of petitions challenging the validity of Section 124A to the third week of July. Attempting to balance the security interests and integrity of the states with the civil liberties of citizens, it said, "There is a requirement to balance both sets of considerations, a difficult exercise. The case of the petitioners is that this provision of law dates back to 1898, pre-dating the Constitu-

tion itself, and is being misused. The attorney general had also, on an earlier date of hearing, given some instances of glaring misuse of this provision, like in the case of recitation of the 'Hanuman Chalisa'."

The CJI-led bench, which drafted the order within 30 minutes of it being reserved, said, "We hope and expect that the state and central governments will restrain from registering any FIR, continuing any investigation or taking any coercive measures by invoking Section 124A of the IPC while the aforesaid provision of law is under consideration."

After passing these directives, the SC said that the Centre would be free to issue the directive as proposed and placed before the court to the state governments/Union ter-

## In a first, officials asked not to enforce a law which is under scrutiny for abuse

This decision is historic and unusual as the Supreme Court had never passed an order or made public its expectation that law enforcement authorities would step back from enforcing a penal provision when its constitutional validity was challenged on the grounds of misuse and abuse. The SC in the Kartar Singh case in 1994 had not stayed the operations of the anti-terror law TADA during the long scrutiny of its constitutional validity. The court eventually upheld the law.

In the PUCL vs Union of India case, the SC on December 16, 2003 had validated POTA, the successor of TADA, and ruled that misuse of a provision of law was no ground for declaring a law unconstitu-

**The solicitor general had placed a draft guideline, signed by the Union home secretary, which said 'an FIR involving Section 124A will be registered only if an officer not below the rank of SP is satisfied and records his satisfaction in writing that the offence alleged involves Section 124A as analysed by the SC in its 2021 Vinod Dua judgment'**

tories to prevent any misuse of Section 124A of the IPC.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta had placed a draft guideline, signed by Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla, which said that "an FIR involving Section 124A will be registered only if an officer not below the rank of superintendent of police is satisfied and records his satisfaction in writing that the offence alleged involves Section 124A as analysed by the SC in its 2021 judgment in Vinod Dua case".

In the Vinod Dua case, the SC had said, "A citizen has a

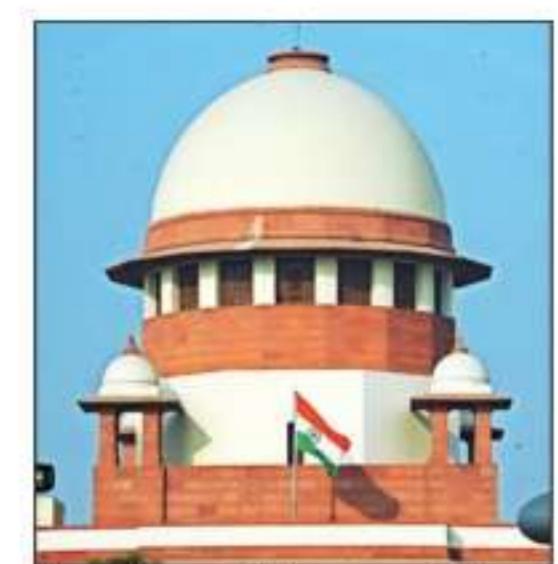
right to say or write whatever he likes about the government, or its measures, by way of criticism or comment, so long as he does not incite people to violence against the government established by law or with the intention of creating public disorder."

It had said Section 124A aims to penalise only activities having a tendency to create disorder or disturbance of public peace by resort to violence. "We propose to limit its operation only to such activities... involving incitement to violence or intention or tendency to create

public disorder or cause disturbance of public peace."

On Wednesday, the bench of CJI Ranjan and Justices Kant and Kohli said the Union government in its affidavit has clarified that it was prima facie in agreement with the SC's past judgments outlining that "the rigours of Section 124A of IPC is not in tune with the current social milieu, and was intended for a time when this country was under the colonial regime. In light of the same, the Union of India may reconsider the aforesaid provision of law."

**EGI welcomes order, says journos bore 124A brunt**



**New Delhi:** The Editors Guild of India on Wednesday welcomed the interim order of the Supreme Court staying the application of the sedition law. "The Guild welcomes this interim order as sedition law has been used far too often by central and state governments against journalists in an effort to curb independent reporting," the Guild said in a statement.

The Editors Guild was one of the petitioners to challenge the sedition law in the SC. The law has often been used against journalists in an effort to curb independent reporting, the Guild said

Court of India on May 11, 2022, has passed an interim order effectively keeping the law in abeyance, until the Union government reconsiders the provision," the Guild said in a statement on Wednesday.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF A LAW USED TO SILENCE INDIANS FOR 150 YEARS

### 1870 to Independence: Origins and Application

The 1857 Mutiny was fresh in the minds of the colonial rulers and the need to double down against political ferment was cited as a reason for inserting Sec.124A in 1870. As the freedom movement gathered steam, the who's who of Indian leaders - Mahatma Gandhi to Bhagat Singh - were slapped with sedition charges.

### 1947 to 1962: Debating Utility and Misuse

Framers of the Constitution debated whether the sedition law had a place in independent India. It was to be one of the restrictions on the fundamental right to free speech and expression. The term 'sedition' itself was dropped from the final document although it continued as part of the IPC.

The Supreme Court defined the limits of sedition in the landmark Kedar Nath Singh judgment of 1962. Singh, a leader of the Forward Communist Party in Bihar, was convicted on a charge of sedition for a 1953 speech critical of the Congress government. He moved the Supreme Court where a five-judge constitution bench upheld the validity of Sec.124A but said it could only be used when there was an actual incitement to violence or disruption of public order, and that mere criticism of the government did not amount to sedition.

### 1962 to 2022: Persistence and Resistance

Governments have consistently stuck with Sec.124A. In the early 1970s, the Indira Gandhi government made sedition a cognisable offence, meaning one could be arrested without a warrant. However, courts have underlined the need to avoid abuse of the law. Multiple petitioners have moved the Supreme Court to strike down Sec.124A or to formulate safeguards against its misuse. A Law Commission report of 2018 also states that constructive criticism and debates might involve expressions that are "harsh and unpleasant to some", but do not amount to sedition.

**TIMES Special** The Indian Penal Code (IPC) came into effect in 1860, three years after the Mutiny. But Section 124A was not part of it until 1870, when the British felt they needed to rein in sedition in India. Gandhi, Nehru, Tilak, Patel - 124A snared them all. But 75 years after Independence, the colonial law is still very much the weapon of choice to silence dissent. However, the Centre has now agreed to review it, and on Wednesday the Supreme Court put the law on hold till the review is done. Kenneth Mohanty traces the origin and journey of this much-abused law

**FIRST SEDITION CASE IN INDIA** | In 1891 a change in the law made sex with a girl below the age of 12 years tantamount to rape. A newspaper titled Bangobasi opposed the change as an attack on Indian traditions and morality, leading to the first case of sedition in British India. The proprietor, editor, manager and printer of Bangobasi were all charged with sedition but eventually got away with an apology.

**MK GANDHI** | In 1922 Gandhi was charged with sedition and sentenced to six years in jail for taking part in anti-government protests in Bombay. He pleaded guilty and famously said: "If one has no affection for a person or system, one should be free to give the fullest expression to his disaffection, so long as he does not contemplate, promote or incite violence."

**BAL GANGADHAR TILAK** | Tilak was first charged with sedition in 1897 for an article he wrote in his paper, Kesari. He was sentenced to a year in prison. In 1908, he was handed a 6-year sentence for sedition, and exiled to Mandalay in Burma for writing in favour of the Bengal revolutionaries. He faced a charge of sedition again in 1916, but was eventually tried under another law.

**FREEDOM FIGHTERS' TRYSTS WITH SEDITION**

**JAWAHARLAL NEHRU** | In October 1930, Nehru was charged with sedition for addressing farmers in Allahabad. He refused to defend himself and was sentenced to two years in jail. In 1934 he was again charged with sedition for speeches made in Bengal but refused to defend himself, and was sentenced to two years.

### WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE DONE

Countries around the world, including former colonies, have done away with sedition laws or watered down their rarely-invoked provisions.

**UK:** It scrapped the sedition law in 2009 but sedition by an alien (resident but not a national of the country) remains an offence.

**NEW ZEALAND:** It scrapped the sedition law with an overwhelming majority of 114 to 7 in 2007.

**AUSTRALIA:** After two reviews in 1984 and 1991, Australia replaced the word 'sedition' in its law with 'urging violent offences'.

**US:** It scrapped its sedition law in 1820, then brought it back in 1918 to protect US interests during World War I. However, America's robust freedom of speech protections mean the law is as good as dead.

Source: Media reports; Graphic: Karthic R Iyer

**Will consider all views without compromising on security: Govt**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** On Monday hours after submitting an affidavit before the apex court, law minister Kiren Rijiju had said that the government will suitably

take into account the views of stakeholders while re-examining Section 124A in a way that does not compromise the country's security and integrity. The decision to re-examine the working of the law was a bold step, he said, adding law-making is the executive's responsibility.

Interestingly, CJI N V Ramana had also mentioned the "Lakshman rekha" between the executive and the judiciary while addressing a recent conference of chief ministers and chief justices. He had then said that the judiciary will never come in the way of governance if it is in accordance with law. While suspending the law, the CJI-led bench also said there was a need to balance the interest of civil liberties and the interests of citizens with that of the state.

**Review UAPA too: Arrested journalist's wife**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kozhikode:** Raihanath, wife of journalist Siddique Kappan who is lodged in a UP jail on sedition, sections of the UAPA and other charges, welcomed the SC order to keep all proceedings in sedition cases in abeyance. She said a similar reexamination should be made about the UAPA as well to prevent its misuse.

"Siddique won't be able to come out as there is a UAPA section also invoked against him. There should be a similar re-examination of the UAPA as well. Whether it is sedition or UAPA, these laws are not meant to be invoked against innocent people and their individual rights," Raihanath said on Wednesday.

The UK found the sedition laws 'unnecessary', having a chilling effect on freedom of speech. Retaining such a law will send 'wrong signals' to other countries which actually use sedition offences as a means to limiting political debate, it felt.

The Supreme Court of India looked into some of these arguments while hearing a bunch of petitions seeking to

**Immediate relief unlikely for terror, Naxal accused Cases Also Include UAPA, Arms Act Charges**

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com



seniority may be decided by the government" — to register a case under Section 124A. "This way there will be some accountability against its abuse," said Singh.

He admitted that the long-standing debate on Section 124A was testimony to the fact that it was controversial and lacked safeguards against its misuse. "A DGP, for instance, would not come to know if a sedition case has been registered even where not justified."

**UK killed sedition law for its chilling effect on free speech**

**Explaining its reasoning behind the abolition of the law on sedition in 2009, the UK government had argued: "Sedition and seditious and defamatory libel are arcane offences — from a bygone era when freedom of expression wasn't seen as the right it is today... the existence of these obsolete offences in this country had been used by other countries as justification for retention of similar laws which have been actively used to suppress political dissent and restrict freedom."**

The UK found the sedition laws 'unnecessary', having a chilling effect on freedom of speech. Retaining such a law will send 'wrong signals' to other countries which actually use sedition offences as a means to limiting political debate, it felt.

Sedition was made an offence in the US in 1798; it was repealed in 1820 and reenacted in 1918 to 'protect the American interest in the First World War'. Despite its reintroduction, the US Supreme Court has in several judgments subsequently upheld the right of free speech. To

strike down Section 124A.

The debate over this particular provision had, however, started long ago. In 2016, the Union home ministry had requested the law commission to look into the issue. The panel conducted a detailed study on the subject before consulting stakeholders.

The law panel also looked into the sedition laws in international jurisdiction. It noted how the US has already narrowed the scope of sedition with its Constitution proscribing the State from enacting any legislation that curtails the First Amendment — Right to Expression.

The Supreme Court of India accepted the argument that the sedition law is unnecessary and has a chilling effect on freedom of speech. Retaining such a law will send 'wrong signals' to other countries which actually use sedition offences as a means to limiting political debate, it felt.

The Supreme Court of India looked into some of these arguments while hearing a bunch of petitions seeking to

**'Historic,' says petitioner Mahua Moitra; Cong, Left hail court order**

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL

SANDEEP ADHWARYU

SUPREME COURT SUSPENDS SEDITION LAW TEMPORARILY



petitions who challenged the validity of sedition law, hailed the SC order as "historic" in a Twitter post. "Victory! Supreme Court stays Sec 124A — no new cases can be filed, existing cases can apply for bail & release immediately. Thank you to my lawyer Sr. Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan for his 1 page which swung the day!" she wrote.

Welcoming the SC decision to keep it in abeyance, CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury said it is imperative for the law to be scrapped because of its rampant misuse, adding that of the 400 pending sedition cases in India, only 6 have led to the accused being convicted.

The party also said the Supreme Court must not wait for the Modi government's review of the sedition law and that the apex court should "proceed to scrap the anachronistic Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code, when it resumes hearing in July".

## SC accepted govt stand, it's a slap on Cong's face: BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



**New Delhi:** Asserting that the Supreme Court order putting on hold the application of IPC Section 124A is a slap on the face of Congress, which is an alliance partner of the MVA government in Maharashtra where the sedition law was imposed even for reciting the Hanuman Chalisa, BJP on Wednesday said the order must be viewed in the context of the overall positive suggestion of the government that it wishes to examine the matter, which has been "duly accepted" by the court.

"The matter regarding the sedition law under Section 124A of the IPC is being heard in the Supreme Court, whose order staying its use is an endorsement of the government affidavit in the apex court," BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said. He said the Centre has made it clear that it was in favour of reviewing the law as the government strongly be-

**Ranas, booked for sedition, slam Uddhav**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra MP Navneet Rana and her husband, MLA Ravi Rana, welcomed the Supreme Court stay and accused CM Uddhav Thackeray of invoking the 'British-era' legislation to silence the opposition and the scheduled caste community.

"We were charged with sedition for wanting to chant Hanuman Chalisa. I am thankful to the court for saying sedition charges don't apply to our case. It is only the Modi government who dares to uproot such laws," said Navneet. The Ranas were arrested after their announcement to chant Hanuman Chalisa outside CM Thackeray's residence.

The couple on Wednesday announced that they will be conducting a 'maha aarti' and chant the Hanuman Chalisa at Delhi's Old Hanuman temple on Saturday, the same day when chief minister Uddhav Thackeray is scheduled to hold a public meeting in Mumbai.