



General Manoj Pande says China has not shown any intent to move towards a final settlement of the boundary issue as it wants to keep the issue 'alive'. **P 11**

TODAY'S HAPPY TIMES

Q1. Name the Sri Lankan politician who quit on Monday after massive clashes. **READ**Q2. Name the cyclone that has weakened and is unlikely to make landfall. **WIN**

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In U-turn, Centre tells SC it will re-examine sedition law

'Defer Hearings On Validity Of IPC Section 124A'

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday told the Supreme Court that in deference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's views, the government will go for a comprehensive reconsideration of the sedition provision, Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, for necessary pruning and provisioning of safeguards to curb misuse and requested the court to defer scrutiny of the provision.

RPG fired at Punjab police intel wing HQ in Mohali

Three days after the arrest of four suspected terrorists with IEDs in Karnal, an RPG was fired at the Punjab police's intelligence wing HQ in Mohali Monday. The grenade landed on the third floor but did not explode. No casualty was reported. **P 7**

Aug date sought for razing twin towers

The private firm assigned to demolish Noida's Supertech twin towers on May 22 has requested the deadline be extended to August 28 on technical grounds. Noida Authority has said no. **P 5**

'Post on Gyanvapi misinterpreted'

The Vishwa Vedic Sangathan Sangh chief said his post, linked to the Gyanvapi case, about backing out of a lawsuit was "misinterpreted" as he was talking about filing amended pleas. **P 10**

DGCA begins probe, IndiGo backs staff

DGCA began a probe into IndiGo refusing to allow a boy in a wheelchair board after the aviation minister spoke of "zero tolerance". The IndiGo CEO said he stood by the staff's decision. **P 11**

HC hauls up Union minister over Kheri

The Allahabad HC Monday rejected bail pleas of four accused of Kheri violence, even as it noted had minister Ajay Mishra Teni not made anti-farmer remarks, the incident wouldn't have happened. **P 10**

Gzb to Kanpur by road in just 3 hrs?

The Centre has approved a 380km Ghaziabad-Kanpur road that is expected to be ready by 2025 and cut travel time between the two cities from six hours to three. **P 5**

'Avoid Char Dham yatra if comorbid'

The Uttarakhand DG (Health) on Monday urged comorbid pilgrims to postpone their Char Dham yatra on Monday, a day when four more pilgrims died, taking the total toll to 20. **P 11**

AOI offers art lovers a chance to buy masterpieces

The Art of India (AOI) 2022, the mega art showcase organised by TOI, is set for its grand culmination with a 24-hour live, online auction of 65 artworks on May 18 and 19. Art lovers will get a chance to take home some of the masterpieces showcased at AOI. **P 10**

2015-20: 548 HELD, 12 CONVICTED

Cases registered under Section 124A across India (in brackets, number of people arrested), as per NCRB data	Total
2015 30 (73)	30 (73)
2016 35 (48)	35 (48)
2017 51 (228)	51 (228)
2018 70 (56)	70 (56)
2019 93 (99)	93 (99)
2020* 73 (44)	73 (44)

*Year marked by extended lockdown due to Covid

CONVICTED 12 persons in 7 sedition cases during 2015-2020 period

AGE PROFILE 53% of people arrested were aged 18-30 years, 35% were 30-45 yrs old

Won't scrap law but curb abuse: Minister

Union law minister Kiren Rijiju ruled out the complete scrapping of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code while promising consultations with civil society groups and all other stakeholders for a rethink at the law. He said while there's unanimity on the need for a sedition law against acts affecting sovereignty and integrity of the country, concerns have been raised about its application and abuse. **P 7**

enging it. The affidavit, filed a day before a three-judge bench headed by CJN N Ramana is to hear the case, urged the SC to indefinitely defer adjudication of the colonial era law enacted in 1860.

► 'Civil liberties', **P 7**

Govt changes its stance in SC on minority tag for Hindus

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday superseded its March 28 affidavit in the Supreme Court that had said a state can consider granting minority status to Hindus if they are outnumbered by other communities within its boundaries, in order to enable the Hindus to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

In its fresh affidavit in a PIL filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, the ministry of minority affairs said the issue of declaring Hindus as minority in certain states involves questions of "far-reaching ramifications throughout India and, therefore, any stand taken without detailed deliberations with the stakeholders may result in an unintended complication for the country", reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.

► 'Talk to states', **P 16**

Lanka PM quits after daylong violence kills 5, including MP

Shots Fired From PM's Residence Under Siege



Colombo: Sri Lanka's PM Mahinda Rajapaksa quit on Monday to make way for a unity government, in a bid to find a way out of the country's worst economic crisis in history, but protesters said they also wanted his brother, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, to stand down as president.

The PM's resignation came hours after clashes broke out in Colombo and elsewhere, killing five people, including MP, and wounding almost 200. Ruling party parliamentarian Amarakeerthi Athukorala died after a stand-off with anti-government

protesters near Colombo. A nationwide curfew was imposed, on top of the continuing state of emergency.

Later, shots were fired from inside Mahinda Rajapaksa's official residence as thousands of protesters breached the main gate and torched a truck. Police sources

confirmed the shots were fired in the air to prevent the crowd from breaching the inner security ring of the residence where the outgoing PM was holed up. AGENCIES

► INSIDE JACKET

Bulldozer reaches Shaheen Bagh, but retreats in face of protests

Grant bail to all 1st-time offenders in jail for 10yrs: SC

2.5-Hr Stand-Off Ends Without Any Demolition

Vibha Sharma
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The South Delhi Municipal Corporation's anti-encroachment drive at Shaheen Bagh on Monday, announced with a lot of sound and fury, ended with a whimper. This was despite Delhi Police providing more than 200 cops and a company of the Central Armed Police Forces standing guard. The entire exercise was marked by high drama and saturated media coverage but the lone bulldozer had to retreat, without striking a single blow, after about two



and a half hours of standing idle at the spot.

Despite having drawn up a schedule and whipping up media interest, SDMC was unsure about carrying out the drive till the last moment due to non-availability of police.

► Stopped in tracks, **P 2**

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Two new SC judges superseded several seniors in queue

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In a big pushback to "seniority" as an elevation criteria, Chief Justice N V Ramana on Monday administered oath to new SC judges Sudhanshu Dhulia and Jamsheed Burjor Pardiwalla, who apportioned many HC chief justices and superseded scores of HC judges. Justice Dhulia, as Gautham HC chief justice, was 30th in the all-India seniority list of HC judges. Appointed as a judge of the Uttaranchal HC on November 1, 2008, he was junior to 23 CJs/acting CJs of HCs, except Uttarakhand acting CJ Sanjay Kumar Mishra, who was appointed on October 7, 2009 as a HC judge. Thus, Dhulia superseded 23 CJs/acting CJs and six other HC judges.

► 50% of SC judges, **P 16**

Rijiju: Criticism of govt for delay misguided

On the day two new SC judges, whose names were cleared by the Centre within 48 hours of recommendation, took oath, law minister Kiren Rijiju said criticism of the government for delay in judicial appointments is misguided and baseless. "I don't want to blame anyone when the decision-making is a collective responsibility," he told TOI. **P 16**

NIA raids 29 premises linked to Dawood, aides

The NIA on Monday raided around 29 premises in Mumbai and its extended suburbs as part of its probe into the activities of Dawood Ibrahim and his associates, and detained some of them. Dawood's close associate Chhota Shakeel's brother-in-law Salim Qureshi was among those detained. **P 7**

66% men say it's OK for wife to refuse sex if she's tired: NFHS-5

Ambika Pandit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: At a time when the debate over criminalisation of marital rape is in focus, the response to a question in the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21) shows that majority of women (80%) and men (66%) in India believe that a woman is justified in refusing sex to her husband for any or all of the three reasons — if he has a sexually transmitted disease; he has sex with other women; or because she is tired/not in the mood.

► 8% women & 10% men don't agree a wife can refuse sex for these reasons

► Survey also shows that over 45% women justify spouse beating wife

► NFHS-5 shows majority of women (80%) and men (66%) in India believe a woman is justified in refusing sex to her husband for any of three reasons — if he has an STD; has sex with other women; or she is tired/not in the mood

► Survey also shows that over 45% of women and 44% of men believe a husband is justified in beating wife in 7 circumstances — if she goes out without telling him; neglects house or children; argues with him; refuses to have sex; doesn't cook food properly; suspects her of being unfaithful; or shows disrespect to in-laws

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Impact of Cyclone Asani may bring relief today, but heatwave likely to return on Wednesday | 3

NEW CASES	799	ACTIVE CASES	5,369
RECOVERED	18,63,502	DEAD	26,182

FORECAST Mainly clear sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 41° and 28°C

SUNRISE 5.33AM (WED)

SUNSET 7.02PM (TUE)

MAXIMUM 40°

MINIMUM 27.6°

MOONRISE 1.11PM (TUE)

MOONSET 2.36AM (WED)



New OPD and IPD blocks now open at Lady Hardinge Medical College | 4



DU writes to Stephen's College over following admission norms | 5

SDMC's Demolition Men Stopped In Their Tracks

SHAHEEN BAGH: Case Registered Against AAP MLA On Corp's Complaint

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: SDMC's anti-encroachment drive reached Shaheen Bagh on Monday after word was received at 10.40am that police force had been made available, but the corporation's bulldozer and staff reached the site much before the cops could join them, giving enough time to residents to mobilise a crowd with some gathering around the bulldozer and others squatting on the road.

A corporation official said since the availability of police was confirmed late, the drive too got a bit delayed. When they finally wanted to act, they faced massive resistance. "Due to stiff resistance from the locals and political leaders, it was getting difficult to carry out any action," said the official. AAP and Congress functionaries had turned up by then to oppose the drive.

Area councillor Abdul Wazid Khan, who claimed to have reached the site at 9.30 am with the locals, said that they had questioned senior officials of the civic body and the DCP about the objective of the drive. "We asked them to provide details of properties which would face action but there was no response. This has forced us to protest for our people," he claimed.

Amidst all this drama, police and paramilitary forces managed to remove people and the bulldozer, along with two trucks, moved to the other side of GD Birla Road to begin the drive. The protesters then marched on the road and soon caught up with the squad. Even as this drama was unfolding, the bulldozer reached a building with scaffolding.

Before the operator could do anything, local politicians intervened and the shop owner said he would himself remove the scaffolding. "We had got the scaffolding erected to install a new signboard and it was supposed to be removed today. But the corporation officials found the height of the scaffolding to be more than the height of the shop (13 ft) and they suspected that we might carry out some construction which we denied. As soon as the bulldozer arrived, we removed it ourselves," said the owner on the condition of anonymity.

BJP: Those opposing action patronising Rohingyas, B'deshis

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

HOW THE DAY UNFOLDED



9.30am | Area councillor Abdul Wazid Khan reaches the site with locals

10.10am | SDMC official reaches police station to get force

10.20am | 20 SDMC employees, one bulldozer and two trucks reach G-Block Shaheen Bagh main road (GD Birla Marg), which connects the area to Noida

10.35am | Hundreds of locals gather around SDMC vehicles, some climb over them

10.40am | Confirmation for police force received; they reach the site by 11.15am

11.20am | Workers from various parties, including Congress, AAP and AIMIM, join the stir and demand details

11.30am | Some people sit in front of bulldozers; a woman climbs over the vehicle

11.30am | Area MLA Amanatullah Khan joins locals, he claims there were no encroachments in the area and bulldozers were brought only to indulge in politics

11.50am | After the paramilitary and police force manage to remove people, the bulldozer and vehicles move to another corner of GD Birla Road

11.50am | People carry out a march against the drive, leading to a major traffic jam

12.05pm | Fearing action, some traders shut down their shops

12.08pm | SDMC bulldozer targets a building with scaffolding

12.19 pm | Shopowner offers to remove the scaffolding voluntarily

12.45pm | Scaffolding brought down while police staff guard the place

12.47 pm | Bulldozers leave the site, but police and SDMC staff remain there

12.50pm | Khan reaches the shop and addresses

the media, calls the action 'complete drama'

12.55pm | Locals seen cheering and applauding

1pm | While the SDMC staff claims that action will continue, vehicles and forces start leaving

6pm | A complaint registered at Shaheen Bagh Police Station by SDMC licensing officer

1.15pm | The drive ends

Photos: Sanjeev Rastogi

Illegal constructions in O zone of Yamuna go unchecked: Locals

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

OFFICIALS SAY

SDMC has planned drives on Gurdwara Road, New Friends Colony, and D1 and D2 markets in Vasant Kunj, among others, on Tuesday

muna Khadar and government land in recent years. "While we have served notices to some of these recent illegal constructions, there is a plan for intense action against them once we are through with the anti-encroachment drive," said Suryan.

In December 2019, extending legal rights to people in these colonies, the central government launched the PM UDAY (Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana) scheme with DDA executing the ownership rights. But not many people came forward to register themselves. Last month, DDA proposed an amendment not to treat a valid will as a mandatory ownership document.

Allied to this, in September last year, SDMC proposed to allow building plans to be submitted for construction in unauthorised colonies and asked DDA to grant permission for such applications. "The move came in run-up to municipal elections. But the problem is that as long as such extensions and relaxations are given by the political parties, the problem cannot be resolved," said a retired civic official.

National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Act protecting houses constructed before 2014 in 1,731 colonies from any demolition till December 2023. These identified, unauthorised colonies will not face action like demolition or sealing till that date," said the official, adding, "We are, however, regularly acting against recent constructions anywhere. We can't be selective about colonies to take action against. It is actually the responsibility of DDA to check illegal construction or encroachment of their land."

The area MLA, Amanatullah Khan of AAP, however, refuted this. "No constructions have taken place beyond the DDA boundary wall. And if anyone claims there is unauthorised construction in the area, he or she should come with the area map to prove it," said Khan.

An SDMC official clarified, "In 2021, Parliament passed the

As hundreds take to road, traffic hit in nearby areas

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

No stay, SC objects to a political party moving it on issue

Sanjeev Rastogi



NO WAY OUT: A huge traffic jam resulted due to the protest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Times View

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay the demolition drive to remove encroachments in Shaheen Bagh and Mathura Road were affected by traffic snarls for hours due to protests by hundreds of people against the anti-encroachment drive planned by the municipal corporation.

This was not the first time

that such a drive ended without any outcome. Prior to this, on May 5, an anti-demolition drive in the Kalindi Kunj-Jamia Nagar area near Shaheen Bagh was deferred due to the unavailability of adequate police force. Earlier, they had also been denied permission for drives in Jasola on April 28 and Okhla on April 29.

public functions), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of IPC against Khan and his supporters.

drive but this should be carried out across Delhi without any discrimination. "Now that the municipal elections are approaching, these people (BJP) are trying to grab attention by taking action in Muslim-dominated areas," he said.

Later at night, Delhi Police registered a case against AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan and his supporters for obstructing government work. Deputy commissioner of police (South-East) Esha Pandey said on a complaint by the south corporation, they have registered a case under Sections 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of

their act was unacceptable. They obstructed government work. I have written to the commissioner for filing an FIR immediately and letting me know about the action taken against them," he said.

After the scaffolding was brought down, the bulldozer did not move any further, and around 12.47pm, it left the site.

Unhappy with the interference of the politicians, mayor Mukesh Suryan said that they had requested the police commissioner, Rakesh Asthana, to file an FIR against the area MLA,

and councillor. "Their act was unacceptable. They obstructed government work. I have written to the commissioner for filing an FIR immediately and letting me know about the action taken against them," he said.

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Mercury Likely To Hit 45°C Again By Sunday

Impact Of Cyclone Asani May Bring Relief Today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The mercury level dipped at some weather stations on Monday compared with a day earlier due to easterly winds blowing in the region under the impact of cyclone Asani. The maximum temperature hovered between 37.5 and 41.4 degrees Celsius on Monday.

The impact of cyclone Asani would likely be visible on Tuesday, but the maximum temperature may soar to 44 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, leading to heatwave conditions at a few places. The maximum temperature may reach 45 degrees Celsius by May 15.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), the maximum temperature at Safdarjung, the city's base weather station, was 40 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal, as against 40.4 degrees Celsius on Sunday. Najaigarh was the hottest station at 41.4 degrees Celsius. Jafarpur saw a dip from 42.3 degrees Celsius on Sunday to 41.1 degrees on Monday. SPS Mayur Vihar recorded the lowest maximum temperature at 37.5 degrees Celsius, followed by Lodhi Road at 39 degrees Celsius.

A Met official said, "Under the influence of cyclone Asani, easterly winds blew in the region with a speed of 20 kmph through the day and



CITY WORKFORCE BRAVES THE HEAT

OFFICIAL SAYS

Rain is unlikely under the influence of a western disturbance and the weather is predicted to remain dry

there was a rise in moisture content. It kept the temperature under control and stopped further rise in the mercury level. The impact of cyclone Asani is expected on Tuesday and easterly winds are likely to continue."

The minimum temperatu-

re on Monday settled at 27.6 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal. The relative humidity oscillated between 69% and 39%.

"Heatwave conditions are expected on two days, May 11 and 12. However, as a western disturbance is predicted to impact the region from May 13, leading to strong surface winds at the speed of 20-30 kmph during the day, it may lead to a dip in maximum temperature. However, rain is unlikely under the influence of western disturbance and the weather is predicted to remain dry," said a Met official.

Officials confirmed that the repair of all flats constructed under Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Rajiv Awas Yojana

How the men who keep us cool battle the heat

Illustration: Arya Praharaj



Alam tries to reduce his road travel during the hot afternoons. Due to the high temperatures, he wasn't able to fast during Ramzan this year either. "I tried it on the first day but couldn't bear it," he says.

Mumbai-based Hazrat Shaikh, who works with Urban Company, too found it difficult to work while fasting during Ramzan. "It was especially difficult to work between 12pm and 4pm as it gets very hot," he says. Shaikh has also seen a sudden spike in demand since mid-April. "Recently, I ended up servicing seven ACs at a single customer's house," he says.

Service provider Urban Company confirms that the demand for AC services almost doubled in March-April 2022 as compared to the same period in 2021.

Though they keep others cool, most AC technicians don't have an AC at their own rented accommodations. Ifran, 30, who works in Delhi, says it is difficult to afford the high electricity bills that come with air-conditioning.

Most technicians are re-signed to the sizzling temperatures. "We have to do it for the sake of rozi-roti (livelihood)," adds Hira.

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Govt to carry out repairs in vacant EWS flats

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Three months after a block of EWS flats, lying vacant and in a dilapidated state, collapsed in Bawana, Delhi government has decided to carry out their repairs.

To start with, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), which is responsible for identification of eligible slum dwellers through surveys and taking up the allotment process, will be carrying out the repair work of about 2,000 such units located in Dwarka Sector 16.

Officials confirmed that the repair of all flats constructed under Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Rajiv Awas Yojana

(RAY) by different government agencies would be taken up in a phased manner.

"There is a huge inventory of EWS flats that are lying vacant and require maintenance. Since these houses need to be made livable, we have decided to start the repair work. In the first phase, 2,000 flats in Dwarka are being taken up," said a senior Delhi government official.

Based on several surveys in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Delhi government, with a generous financial support from the Centre under JNNURM and RAY, planned about 55,000-odd EWS flats having one room, kitchen, bathroom in Narela, Bawana, Savda Ghewara, Bapraula, Rohini, Dwarka and Jahangirpuri. The idea was to rehabilitate

over 4 lakh residents of over 650 slums.

While about 39,000 flats were built and close to 4,000 were even allotted, the remaining have been lying vacant due to various reasons. The possession of the flats in Jahangirpuri, Nangloi, Dwarka and Rohini was immediately taken by the beneficiaries, but there

were no takers for houses in Narela, Bawana, Bhalswa and beyond.

Interestingly, Delhi government, through DUSIB, collected about Rs 40 crore from the applicants and another Rs 76 crore from other government agencies to rehabilitate slum dwellers having jhuggis on their land.

Once repaired, Delhi government is likely to hand over about 16,000 such flats to the Centre to be given to the migrant population under Affordable Housing Rental Complex scheme, while nearly 18,000 would be allotted under Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana.

"We will soon sign an MoU with the Centre in this regard. The flats will be handed over to the Centre after carrying out the repairs," said an official.

Why there may be plastic in your food: Study finds mulch sheets polluting soil

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PLASTIC IN AGRICULTURE

A majority of farmers use plastic as mulch material

78% of farmers interviewed during the survey in Karnataka and Maharashtra were using black-coloured sheet

65% of farmers disposed of plastic sheets on agricultural land or on the roadside, a few burnt them while others gave them back for recycling

Mulching is used to boost production

Contamination

The main polymers found in soil samples were
Polyacrylamide (69.8%)
Polyethylene (11.6%)
Polypropylene (7.7%)
Cellulose (3.9%)
Polyethylene terephthalate (3.9%)



Issues

- Microplastics are tiny plastic material with diameter less than 5mm
- Plants can uptake the microplastic and it can enter the food line
- Similar studies have found vegetables contaminated with microplastic

Photo for representation

the study, the heavy metal load was heightened in the mulched soil samples.

The study further pointed out that the plastic mulch films are generally created from low-density and linear low-density polyethylene, which are not biodegradable.

The report said that a recent study detected micro-

plastics in human blood for the first time, with scientists uncovering the tiny particles in nearly 80% of the people tested.

Owing to the environmental concerns over plastic mulch in the agricultural system, it is imperative to opt for viable alternatives," the study said.

While pointing out that shopping malls and food courts attract huge crowds across the city, government officials said the three ISBTs at Kashmere Gate, Anand Vihar and Sarai Kale Khan and the 40-odd bus depots in the capital were located on premium land and had the potential for commercial success.

The Grade-A Retail and Food Spaces Scheme is one of the various projects announced by Delhi government in its annual budget, characterised as

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DU writes to Stephen's over following norms for admission

Shinjini.Ghosh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi University (DU) on Monday wrote to St Stephen's College stating that the admission policy approved by the varsity's academic council will have to be followed by the latter and that admissions for those in the general category will be based solely on the common universities entrance test (CUET).

In a letter to the college, DU registrar Vikas Gupta said, "As per the admission policy, except wherever specified, the admissions for the session 2022-23 shall be on the basis of the merit of CUET 2022 scores. It shall be conducted by the National Testing Agency, government of India."

Gupta in his letter further stated, "With regard to your college, taking note of the fact that it is a minority institution (for candidates belonging to Christian community), the university has decided that 50% of the open seats shall be filled solely on the basis of merit of the CUET score. However, the remaining 50% of seats for minority candidates shall be filled on the basis of combined merit of 85% weightage to the CUET score and 15% weightage to the interview to be conducted by the St Stephen's College."

The varsity also specified that there must be just a single merit list for the admission of candidates belonging to Christian community.

15 private buses fined ₹10k for lane violations

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Delhi government's transport department started the second phase of its bus lane enforcement drive by also targeting private buses not plying in the designated lane.

According to sources, on day one, 15 private buses were challaned Rs 10,000 each for not plying in the bus lane.

Apart from buses, 815 other vehicles were also challaned for unauthorised parking in the bus lane, including nine vehicles that were towed away.

A total of more than 7,000 vehicles, mostly cars for unauthorised parking in bus lanes, have been penalised since the beginning of the bus lane enforcement drive on April 1.

Transport minister Kailash Gahlot went on a surprise inspection on Monday to ensure buses are plying in their de-

Gzb To Kanpur In 3 Hrs? New Corridor May Make It Happen

Project Gets Centre's Nod, Likely To Be Completed By 2025

Abhijay.Jha@timesgroup.com

Ghaziabad: A new road connecting the two industrial hubs of Ghaziabad and Kanpur has been approved by the Centre. Cutting through nine west UP districts, the 380km Greenfield Economic Corridor is expected to bring down travel time between the two cities to just three hours. A drive on the Yamuna Expressway between Ghaziabad and Kanpur now takes six hours.

"It was in September 2019 that Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari had announced an economic corridor linking Ghaziabad with Kanpur. The idea was to cut travel time between the two industrial cities. On Thursday last week, the ministry gave its approval for the corridor," said a senior NHAI official.

The project is scheduled to be completed by 2025. "It will be a 380km-long highway, which will initially be four lanes wide. But there are plans to develop the corridor into eight lanes," the official said.

According to the alignment, the corridor will pass through nine districts - Ghaziabad, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Kasganj, Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Unnao and Kanpur.

"Once built, people from Ghaziabad and Hapur will no longer need to take the Yamuna Expressway, which covers the distance in six hours, and GT Road or National Highway 9 which takes 8 hours to cover the same

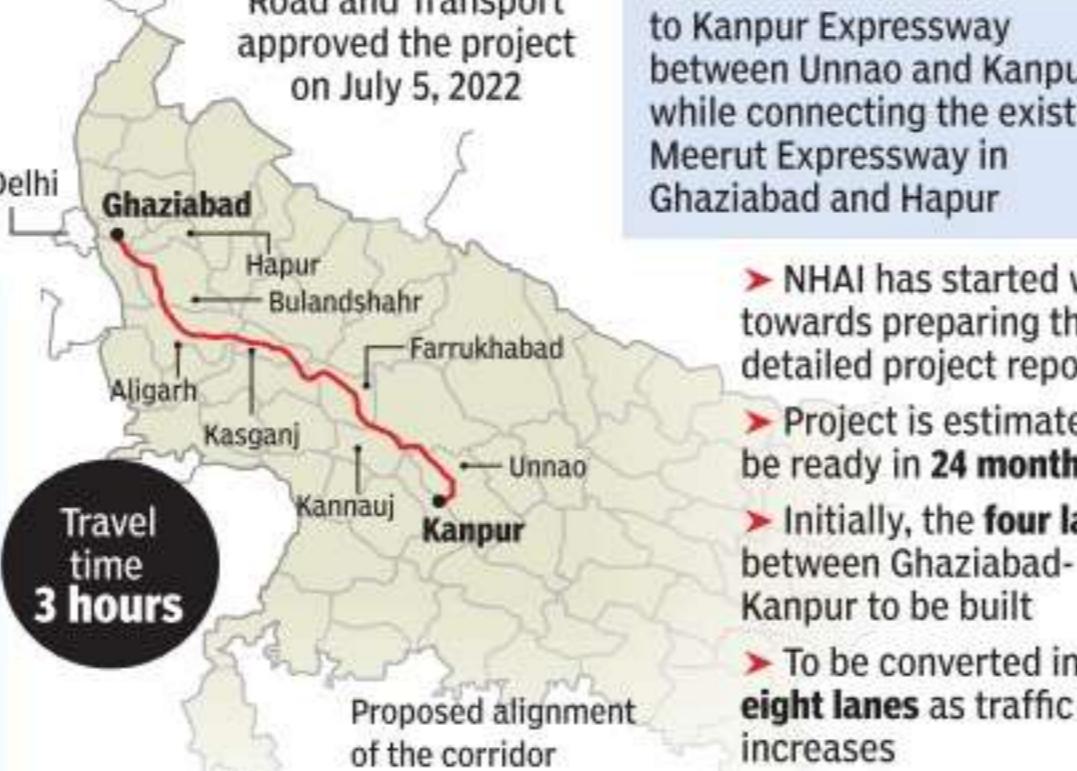
TO BE READY IN 3 YEARS?

380km Greenfield Economic Corridor to be ready by 2025

Project announced Sept 2019 DPR by Dec 2023



Status | Ministry of Road and Transport approved the project on July 5, 2022



Corridor to connect Lucknow to Kanpur Expressway between Unnao and Kanpur, while connecting the existing Meerut Expressway in Ghaziabad and Hapur

- NHAI has started work towards preparing the detailed project report
- Project is estimated to be ready in 24 months
- Initially, the four lanes between Ghaziabad-Kanpur to be built
- To be converted into eight lanes as traffic increases

Once built, people from Ghaziabad and Hapur will no longer need to take the Yamuna Expressway, which covers the distance in six hours, and GT Road or National Highway 9 which takes 8 hours to cover the same

bad. Commuters driving on the Yamuna Expressway take around six hours, while those travelling on NH-9 need at least eight hours. So, you see how the new corridor will be beneficial for commuters. It will cut down the travel time to just three hours," the official said.

A survey is currently being conducted to identify land for the project. Work on the DPR has started too, sources in the NHAI said, and it is

likely to be ready in about a year. "Land acquisition will start then and is expected to be completed by 2023. From there, it will take two years for the project to be ready," the NHAI official added.

According to the plan, the four-lane corridor will initially be expanded to six at culverts and underpasses. Land will be set aside for it to be widened to eight lanes in the future.

The corridor will also pro-

ve to be a boon for industries by cutting down the time and cost of travel.

"It will bring unprecedented economic benefits. The corridor will reduce the time and cost of travelling, which will ultimately have a cascading effect on our profits. Ideally, this should have been constructed 30 years ago," said SK Maheshwari, an industrialist and former vice-president of Ghaziabad Industries Federation.

Not May, twin towers likely to come down only in August

Aditya.Dev@timesgroup.com

Noida: The private company supposed to demolish the Supertech twin towers on May 22 has requested that the deadline be extended to August 28. While the Noida Authority has refused to extend the deadline, calling it a breach of the agreement, officials said Supertech, the developer, was planning to approach the Supreme Court with the private company's request.

Mumbai-based Edifice Engineering and its South African partner, Jet Demolitions, have sought the extension on technical grounds.

They have said that given the strength of the two towers in Sector 93A, they will have to carry out blasts on two additional floors. Consequently, the preparations will take more time. The companies, moreover, are also taking into account the monsoon, which will set in during the demolition process.

It was after the test blast on April 10 that Edifice had said that the basement of towers were quite strong and suggested the demolition process can be extended. The basements of the two towers were built to bear the weight of 40-storey buildings — 32 were finally constructed. Under a revised blast design chalked out by Edifice and Jet, blasts would now need to be carried out on 11 floors instead of nine.

Butter Cookies ke daam.
Butter aur Kaju Badam

₹ 35.35

Two new courses to be rolled out at Delhi pharma university

New Delhi: The Delhi government on Monday said that two new courses would be rolled out at Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU). The BSc biomedical science and nursing programmes will be job-oriented and will offer super specialisations in the third and fourth years in diagnostics, radiology techniques and other such fields, officials said.

Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said, "There has been an increase in the demand for healthcare manpower; specialised patient support services and management in post-Covid situations. These courses will provide specialised skills to medical science students

REQUIRED LAND

We require minimum 2000 sqmtrs. land/build or unbuilt building for setting up factory in site IV, UPSIDC, Surajpur Industrial Area, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar. Genuine Party who is interested to sell should apply with minimum rate required per sqmtrs. Total payment within 30 days.

8800921874

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HC fumes at portrayal of sex determination test in movie

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

signated lanes. "Witnessed high compliance to bus lane enforcement drive at South extension. Have also directed senior dept officials to explore if changing signal timings at certain choke points like Bhi-kaji Cama Place signal can be effective to avoid bunching of buses," Gahlot tweeted.

Senior officials also said that the drive has resulted in not only buses of the Delhi Transport Corporation and Cluster Scheme plying in their designated lane but also owners of private vehicles not parking their vehicles in the bus lane.

"From May 9, all private buses with Stage/Contract Carriage Permit, All India Tourist Permit and Inter-State Permit will also have to drive strictly in bus lanes," the transport minister had tweeted recently.

The court made it clear it won't permit release of the movie "Jayeshbhai Jordaar" if it finds that the illegal practice has been depicted as if it is done in a routine manner.

"You take instructions otherwise we will have to stay," a batch of acting chief justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla said after viewing the trailer of the film.

"Even in your trailer you don't show in what circumstances the lady was taken to the clinic. For example when you show a dacoit, which is an offence or a murder or rape in a movie, they don't show it as routine... there is nothing to show that the lady is taken clandestinely or that this is not legal or actors are aware (in the scene) that it is an offence. What is coming out is that any pregnant woman can be taken to any centre with a sonogram machine and this can be done in a routine manner," the court remarked.

It underlined that people should know that "this activity to determine sex of a foetus is illegal" while cautioning the makers that they can't "trivialise it".

The trailer gives the impression that there is no fretter on sex determination, there is no disclaimer, the bench observed, while hearing a PIL seeking deletion of the scene from the movie. It asked Yash Raj Films to show it the relevant portions of the movie and said that the "overall message" may be good but it cannot be projected that pregnant woman can be taken to any clinic with a sonogram machine to find the sex of the foetus.

The plea urged the high court to direct jail authorities to provide basic amenities, medicines for several body aches and a telephone.

The court was hearing a petition filed by the father on behalf of accused Hardeep Singh, seeking medical treatment, telephonic calls, etc.

Singh has been booked by the NIA and is currently lodged in Rohini Jail. Justice Chander Dhari Singh sought response of the jail authorities, while saying that they should provide medical treatment in the meantime.

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WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-D, Sector-II, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SC113473, ecorpm@gmail.com, www.wbsecl.in
NIT No.: ZM/SLG/e-Tender/2022-23/03 Date: 29.04.2022
Online percentage rate e-Tender in two parts is invited by the Zonal Manager, Siliguri Zonal Office, WBSECL for Construction of retaining-cum-boundary wall, land development, culvert, control room building including electrical wiring & installation of submersible pump, erection, testing & commissioning of structures for switchyard (spread out type) with 9M PCC pole, equipment support structure, 33 KV switchyard and control room building equipment installation, complete earth mat and equipment earthing, sub-station shielding, laying of power and control cable and connection and installation of battery with charger units for a new 33/11 KV sub-station at Malan, Raiganj Division, Uttar Dinajpur District. Tender ID : 2022_WBSECL_378697_1. Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,93,46,085/- Completion Time: 10 months; Document Download & Bid Submission Start Date (online): 10.05.2022 (at 11:00 hrs.) & 12.05.2022 (at 12:00 hrs.) respectively; Pre-Bid Meeting Date: 11.05.2022 (at 15:00 hrs.); Document Download & Bid Submission End Date (online): 01.06.2022 (up to 15:00 hrs.). Details can be obtained from https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbsecl.in. Corrigendum or addendum, if issued, will be published only on the above-mentioned websites.
ICA-T8073(4)2022



फाल सं: Lab furnishing/2021-22/Pur.
राष्ट्रीय शक्तिकारा संस्थान
अधिकारीकृतों 9001:2015 प्राप्तिकृत संस्थान
उपर्योगी मापदंड यथा पुस्तक वितरण भारतीय
(चाचा एवं सार्वजनिक वितरण विभाग)
(भारत सरकार)
कल्पनापुर, काशीपुर
दिनांक: 09.05.2022
तिथि विस्तार सुनना
संदर्भ : Lab furnishing/2021-22/Pur. दिनांक 30.03.2022
"Furnishing of Environment Lab" के कार्य हेतु दिनांक 02.04.2022 को जारी निविदा के क्रम में निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 26.05.2022 तक विस्तारित की जा रही है। विस्तुत विवरण संस्थान को वेबसाइट www.nsi.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। अन्य रूप अपरिवर्तित रहेंगे।
(योगेश चन्द्र श्रीवास्तव)
प्रशान्ति सह कर्य एवं विकाय अधिकारी

T.T.DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI

BIRRD Trust Hospital, Tirupati
e-Tender
Roc.No.TTD-104021(31)/186/2021-BIRRD Dated: 06-05-2022

E-tenders are invited for "Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Battery Operated Drill with Saw Reamer Facility Machine" at BIRRD Trust Hospital, TTD, Tirupati with Warranty of 5 years". For tender notice and tender details log on to the website: <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> or <http://www.tirumala.org/> and click on "current tenders" and select "more" and "Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams", BIRRD Trust Hospital. For further details Contact Phone Numbers 0877-2264025, 2264619, Fax 0877-2264071.

Sl. No.	EMD	Date of Tender	Download Start and End dates	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	EMD (₹ 1,14,646.00) as per Estimate Contract Value (ECV)	10-05-2022 @ 10:00 AM to 24-05-2022 @ 5:00 PM	25-05-2022 or tentative date will be intimated later	26-05-2022 or @ 11:30 AM	

NOTE: Detailed specifications and tender conditions in the tender document are uploaded in the above website.

Roc.NP/R413942/Adv. No.46/PRO/2022. Dated: 09.05.2022

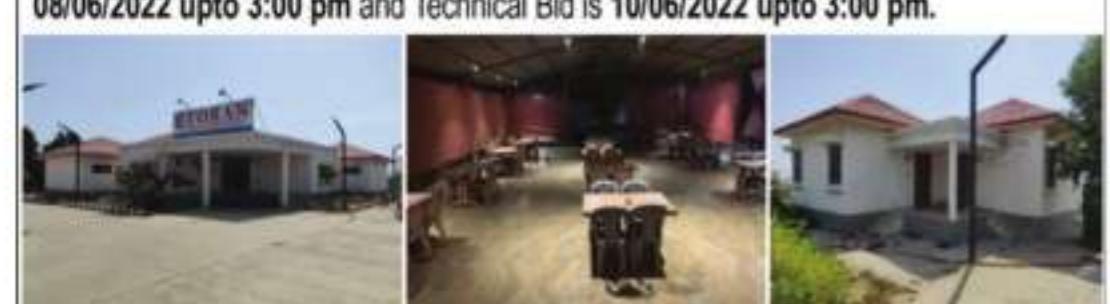
Sd/- Executive Officer



Components: Accommodation Facility, Restaurant, Parking and support infrastructure

RFP Document can be downloaded from <https://www.nprocure.com/> & <https://www.gujartourism.com/>, 10/05/2022 onwards.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on 23/05/2022, 2:30 pm. For any further details, interested Bidders may contact Mr. M. S. Joshi at msjoshi@gujartourism.com. The last date for submission of the Financial Bid (on n-procure website only) is 08/06/2022 upto 3:00 pm and Technical Bid is 10/06/2022 upto 3:00 pm.



NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.: 06 (A, B)- 22-23-WE

Name of work with its location:

(a) Repair of false ceiling roof and walls after replacement of existing AC system Ground to 6th floor at Rai Bhawan in the section of SSE/W/RB under ADEN-E/III/NDLS.

(b) Construction of 4 units transit accommodation in Delhi Area under Jurisdiction of Sr.Den/Estate/DLI

Approx. Cost of work : (a) Rs. 1,84,73,689.49, (b) Rs. 78,63,717.71

EMD amount : (a) Rs. 2,42,400.00, (b) Rs. 1,57,300.00

Completion period of work : (a) 08 Months, (b) 06 Months

Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender : Closing date of tender on 03.06.2022 at 15.00 hrs.

Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Above tender available on website i.e. www.reps.gov.in

No.: 128-W/269/OET/NIT No.06 (A,B)-22-23-WE Dated: 05.05.2022 1078/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile



Components: Accommodation Facility, Restaurant, Parking and support infrastructure

RFP Document can be downloaded from <https://www.nprocure.com/> & <https://www.gujartourism.com/>, 10/05/2022 onwards.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on 23/05/2022, 2:00 PM. For any further details, interested Bidders may contact Mr. M. S. Joshi at msjoshi@gujartourism.com. The last date for submission of the Financial Bid (on n-procure website only) is 06/06/2022 upto 3:00 p.m. and Technical Bid is 08/06/2022



Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority Gurugram

हरियाणा भूपूदा विनियोगम कार्यालय गुरुग्राम-

New PWD Rest House, Civil Lines, Gurugram, Haryana - १२२००३१. विविध ग्रुप विविध संस्थान, विविध

EXTENSION OF DATE FOR APPOINTMENT OF AGENCY WITH THE HARYANA REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY, GURUGRAM

This is in reference to the Advertisement for Appointment of Agency with The Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram published in newspapers dated 19.04.2022 and for which Request for Proposal (RFP) was simultaneously uploaded on the Authority's website www.haryanaregulatory.gov.in for inviting proposals from interested agencies for empanelment with the Authority. As per the EOI dated 15.05.2022 the last date of submission the last date of proposal was on or before 05.05.2022. This last date of submission is extended upto 15.05.2022. Interested agencies may submit their proposals on or before 15.05.2022 in the office of the Authority at New PWD Rest House, Civil Lines, Gurugram. All other conditions of RFP dated 19.04.2022 remain unchanged.

Secretary
Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram.

Issued through: DPR.Haryana/Advt.No. 9464/09/05/2022

6

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR, NORTHERN RAILWAY CENTRAL HOSPITAL, BASANT LANE, NEW DELHI-110055

File No: E/Med/SR/74/CH/2022 Advt. No. NRCH/SR/2022/02
ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR RESIDENTS

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement to the post of Senior Resident under Senior Residency Scheme at Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi. Detailed advertisement with VACANCY STATUS, Terms & Conditions, Format of Application form is available on Northern Railway website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in under head News & Recruitment info)

MEDICAL DIRECTOR
NORTHERN RAILWAY
CENTRAL HOSPITAL, BASANT LANE,
NEW DELHI-110055 1085/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ) | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

TENDER NOTICE

SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF IT EQUIPMENT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE LEARNING LAB IN THAPI, HARYANA & AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT' REF : 91162294

Bids are invited from reputed and well-established Competitive Agencies for the Supply & Installation of IT Equipment for climate change learning lab in Thapi, Haryana & Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Interested agencies are invited to download the complete set of Tender documents from the following weblinks and submit the bid.

dgmarket.com/tender/49708448

<http://www.tender24x7.com/GizTenderDetails/52235027>

The Bid must be submitted electronically/digitally in the prescribed format to GIZ Office, New Delhi on or before Wednesday, 25th May' 2022.

This tender does not entail any commitment on the part of GIZ, either financial or otherwise. GIZ reserve the right to accept or reject any or all bids without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the grounds.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001

Corporate Identity No. : AE/0109PB2010SGC033813

Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact number 9646118721)

Tender Enquiry No. QW-300/PO-W Dated 07.05.2022

Chief Engineer/Stores & Workshops Organization, Sarabha Nagar, PSPCL, Ludhiana, invites E-tender of Repair of 3-phase, 50 cycles, outdoor type, oil immersed, naturally cooled, stack core type construction, OWP, Aluminium Wound Distribution Transformers (Type Conventional) of capacity 25KVA, 53KVA, 100KVA, 200KVA (w/o Tap changer) and 300 KVA (w/o Tap changer) with voltage ratio 11/0.433 KV conforming to IEC: 2026 (with latest amendments, if any) and 1180 part-1 (2014) complete with first filling of oil conforming to IEC: 335/1993 (with latest amendments, if any). Quantity of T/Fs = 45000 Nos. For detailed information and addendum/corrigendum please refer to [https://eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in) from 07.05.2022 from 12.00 Hrs. onwards.

NOTE:- Corrigendum or addendum, if any will be published online at [https://eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in)

C 167/22, DPRPB : 76155/12/842/2021/4050

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER

(RFP No. RLDA/RFP/CD-28/SD-01 of 2022 of Dated 29.04.2022)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (FOR MAJOR UPGRADATION OF MUZAFFARPUR RAILWAY STATION AT EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY ON ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT & CONSTRUCTION (EPC) MODE

Station Construction Period Bid Document Fee Bid Security Estimated Cost

Muzaffarpur Junction 36 Months: Rs.88,500/- (IGST@18%) Rs. 2,000 Crore Rs. 397,74,11,159/-

PRE-BID MEETING AT PATHNA: 13TH MAY, 2022 AT 12:00 HRS.

(Pre-bid meeting details to be obtained from JMD/Projects-2)

Last Date of Submission of E-bid Online: 17.06.2022 UPTO 15:00 Hrs.

Opening of E-bids Technical: 22.06.2022 at 15:30 Hrs.

For Further details of the project, please visit our website www.rda.indianrailways.gov.in or on e-procurement portal www.tenderized.in under the heading 'e-tender'.

For any clarifications, may please contact:-

JL. Manager/Project-2 General Manager Project-1 Manager/Marketing M: 98104 41148 mprmarketingid@gmail.com suraj@elenderward.com

Note: Any Corrigendum or Addendum shall be published only on RLDA's Website AM/Tender (Mob: 8750554811)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER

(RFP No. RLDA/RFP/CD-28/SD-01 of 2022 of Dated 29.04.2022)

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(Pre-bid meeting details to be obtained from JMD/Projects-2)

Last Date of Submission of E-bid Online



TIMES NATION

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022

CBI NAMES BABUL EX-SECY IN GRAFT CASE FROM HIS TENURE AS MINISTER IN BJP GOVT

DAY BEFORE SC HEARS HIS BAIL CASE, AZAM SAYS FRESH CASE HAS BEEN LODGED AGAINST HIM



356 Sedition Cases Filed Between 2015 & 2020 Of 548 held, just 12 in 7 cases convicted

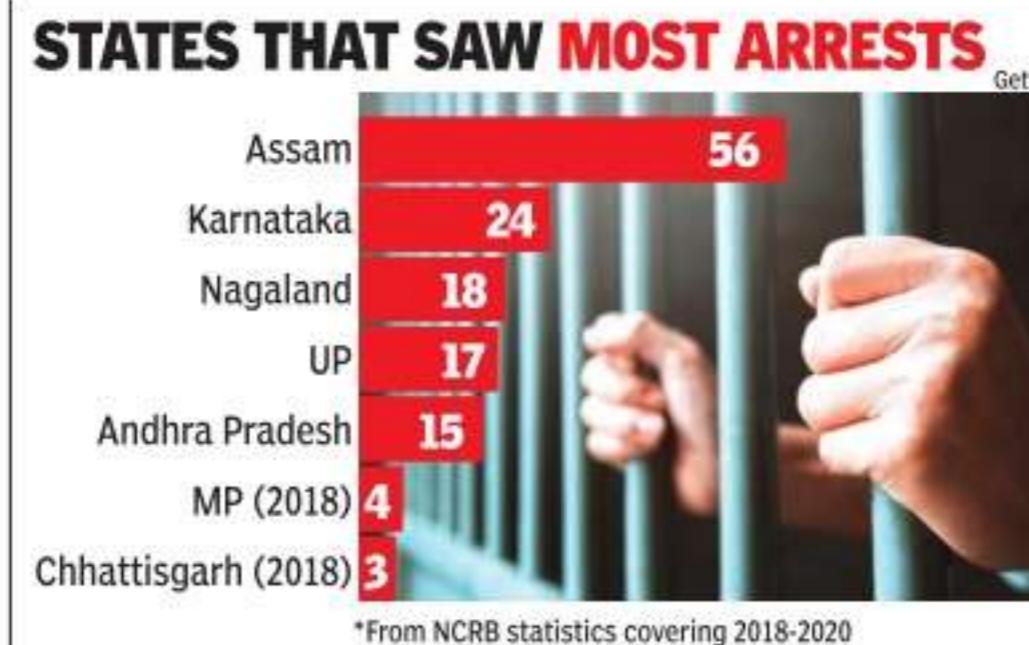
53% Of Those Arrested Aged 18-30: NCRB

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A total 356 cases of sedition — as defined under Section 124A of IPC — were registered and 548 persons arrested between 2015 and 2020, according to statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). However, just 12 persons arrested in seven sedition cases were convicted in this six-year period.

As many as 44 persons were arrested under the sedition law in 2020, as compared to 99 in 2019; 56 in 2018; 228 in 2017; 48 in 2016; and 73 in 2015. Total cases registered under Section 124A across the country were 73 in 2020; 93 in 2019; 70 in 2018; 51 in 2017; 35 in 2016 and 30 in 2015. The conviction rate of sedition cases was 33.3% in 2020; 3.3% in 2019; 15.4% in 2018; 16.7% in 2017 and 33.3% in 2016.

Interestingly, the home ministry appears to have hinted at an intent to review the sedition law (Section 124A) in 2021 itself. Then min-



ister of state for home G Kishan Reddy had, in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 16 last year as to whether the government proposed to scrap the present provisions of IPC concerning sedition, said, "Amendment of criminal law is a continuous process." NCRB data on the age profile of persons arrested for sedition shows that 290 or 53% of total 548 persons arrested between 2015 and 2020 belonged to the 18-30 years group, while nearly 35% were in the 30-45 years bracket.

Over the last three years for which NCRB has published crime statistics (2018-2020), Assam recorded the highest arrests for sedition with 23 each in 2018 and 2019

and 10 in 2020. The other states which showed most arrests under Section 124A of IPC were Andhra Pradesh (15), Madhya Pradesh (4) and Chhattisgarh (3) in 2018; Karnataka (18), Nagaland (11) and UP (9) in 2019; and UP (8), Nagaland (7) and Karnataka (6) in 2020. In 2020, Manipur had the most sedition cases (15), followed by Assam (12), Karnataka (8) and UP (7).

The home ministry is in the midst of a massive consultation exercise with all stakeholders ahead of a comprehensive review of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Evidence Act to weed out archaic provisions and make the laws relevant to the present times.

Shah's dinner sparks buzz of RS nomination for Sourav wife

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Odissi dancer and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly's wife Dona Ganguly is being spoken about as a possible candidate for a Rajya Sabha nomination. Speculation about her emerging as a potential nominee gained traction after Union home minister Amit Shah visited the Ganguly residence in Behala on Friday night. Shah was accompanied by Bengal BJP functionaries.

BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh said he wasn't aware if Dona was a contender for one of the vacant berths. "I don't even know if anyone from Bengal is being nominated to the Rajya Sabha," he said without outrightly rejecting speculation about Dona. Trinamool Congress chose not to respond to the chatter. A source said Dona dismissed it as "political gossip" when people known to her asked if she was being considered for a nomination. "Amit Shah is a family friend. There is no proposal or plan for Dona to join politics immediately."

The day after Shah had dinner at the Ganguly home, Sourav spoke of his long association with CM Mamata Banerjee and called her "a person very close to him".

MP power cut almost lands brides with wrong grooms

Ujjain: Call it the great Indian wedding miss-match. Two of three sisters ended up almost marrying the wrong grooms as power failure shrouded the auspicious muhurat in darkness in an Ujjain village. Three barbaats had arrived at Rameshwar Relot's house on May 5 in Aslana village to marry his three daughters. At the auspicious moment, the three brides went into a room with family members to perform the 'Mai Mata puja' ritual, where the two brides got exchanged. They had the same bridal dresses and a ghoomat covered their faces.

As soon as they came out of the room, the family realised the mistake and immediately fixed it. The priest performed the seven vows ceremony with the right match of bride and groom," a villager said.

The mix-up sparked a political punch-up over unscheduled power cuts. BJP MLA Yashpal Singh Sisodia denied there was any power cut when this incident was reported. TNN

He said the Centre has urged the apex court "not to invest its precious time in examining the validity of Section 124A of the IPC and await the exercise of reconsideration of Section 124(A) to be un-

dertaken by the government".

He said the latest position of the government was conveyed to the court after the PM expressed his "clear and unequivocal views in favour of protection of civil liberties, respect for human rights and giving meaning to constitutional freedom". Rijiju said that in the past few years, his government had taken several steps to remove outdated colonial laws and scrapped over 1,500 of them since 2014.

He said a larger five-judge bench of the SC has already examined the issue pertaining to constitutionality of the law related to sedition in the matter of Kedarnath Singh vs State of Bihar. The court is currently hearing a bunch of petitions with regard to the offence of sedition under Section 124A.

Divergent views have emerged on its misuse and demands for scrapping of the colonial law.

The mix-up sparked a political punch-up over unscheduled power cuts. BJP MLA Yashpal Singh Sisodia denied there was any power cut when this incident was reported. TNN

According to media reports, the NIA also questioned Sameer Hingora, who had been arrested along with actor Sunjay Dutt in the 1993 arms case, and a bookie-turned-builder. The NIA confirmed it searched 24 places in Mumbai and five places in the Mira Road-Bhayander Commissionerate area. It questioned Suhail Khandwani, trustee of two prominent

Birth, death registers will be linked to Census: Shah
'E-Census Will Shape Policy For Next 25 Yrs'

Prabin.Kalita@timesgroup.com

JUST LIKE THAT AJIT NINAN



Rock Star

ations at Amingaon, Assam. "By 2024, every birth and death will be registered, which means our Census will be updated automatically," he said.

"After birth, the details

will be added to the Census register; and after the person turns 18 the name will be included in the electoral roll. After death, the name will be deleted. Name and address change will be smoother, it will be linked to it," Shah said.

"Census is important from various aspects. For a state like Assam, which is population-sensitive, it is even more vital," he added.

A Directorate of Census Operations, Assam, statement said data will be collected through a mobile app for the first digital Census in the country. Shah said he and his family would be the first to fill all details online when it is launched.

Highlighting its significance, Shah said the census portrays the "status of development, and what kind of lifestyles people have in mountains, cities and villages. Only a Census can tell how far development has reached in different demographic areas, including how far it has reached in Scheduled Tribe and hill areas."

NIA crackdown on Dawood associates, several held in Mum

Vijay.V.Singh@timesgroup.com



Mumbai: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday raided around 29 premises in Mumbai and its extended suburbs as part of its probe into the activities of fugitive terrorist and 1993 blast accused Dawood Ibrahim and his associates, and detained some of them.

Dawood's close associate Chhota Shakeel's brother-in-law Salim Qureshi alias Salim Fruit was among those detained. The NIA also questioned Suhail Khandwani, Quayyum Shaikh, Guddu Pathan and Zubina Bhawaniwiwa after searching their premises.

city dargahs and a director in a company associated with Faraz Malik, son of NCP minister Nawab Malik.

A press release issued by the NIA said the Dawood gang indulged in arms smuggling, narco terrorism, money laundering, circulation of fake currency and unauthorised possession of assets. The NIA also alleged that the gang was involved in the acquisition of key assets for raising terror funds and was working in active collaboration with terrorist organisations, including Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Muhammad and al Qaeda.

ASI: J&K LG's puja at Martand temple was in violation of rules



New Delhi: A puja, attended by Jammu & Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at the premises of the Archaeological Survey of India-protected Martand Sun temple in Kashmir's Anantnag, was in violation of rules and the issue has been raised with the UT administration, ASI officials said on Monday. The J&K administration, however, rejected the ASI's claims.

A day after Sinha took part in a puja at the ancient temple's premises, ASI officials said no permission was sought from the conservation body for the prayers. "The district administration has been sent a message that it is a violation of our rules. No permission was sought from us for the prayers. The LG did not hold the prayers inside the temple, but outside it. However, even that is a violation," an ASI official said on condition of anonymity.

ASI officials said Sinha's visit violated rule 7(1) of the 1959 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act under which meetings, receptions, parties, entertainments or conferences can't be held at a protected monument without permission on writing from the Centre.

The J&K administration on Monday made it clear that no permission was required for Sinha to conduct a puja at the temple. Anantnag deputy commissioner Piyush Singhla said the event was allowed under rule 7(2) of the Act, which states "nothing in sub-rule (1) shall apply to any meeting, reception, party, conference or entertainment, which is held in pursuance of a recognised religious usage or custom". PTI

Rijiju rules out junking sedition law altogether

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Rijiju promised consultations with stakeholders for a relook at the controversial legislation

New Delhi: Hours after filing an affidavit before the Supreme Court on Monday asking it to keep away from giving any verdict on whether to retain the sedition law, Union law minister Kiren Rijiju ruled out the extinction of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code even as he promised consultations with civil society groups and all other stakeholders for a relook at the controversial legislation

able take into account views of stakeholders and ensure that the sovereignty and integrity of the nation is preserved while re-examining and re-considering the law on sedition," Rijiju said.

He said the Centre has urged the apex court "not to invest its precious time in examining the validity of Section 124A of the IPC and await the exercise of reconsideration of Section 124(A) to be un-

dertaken by the government".

He said the latest position of the government was conveyed to the court after the PM expressed his "clear and unequivocal views in favour of protection of civil liberties, respect for human rights and giving meaning to constitutional freedom". Rijiju said that in the past few years, his government had taken several steps to remove outdated colonial laws and scrapped over 1,500 of them since 2014.

He said a larger five-judge bench of the SC has already examined the issue pertaining to constitutionality of the law related to sedition in the matter of Kedarnath Singh vs State of Bihar. The court is currently hearing a bunch of petitions with regard to the offence of sedition under Section 124A.

Divergent views have emerged on its misuse and demands for scrapping of the colonial law.

As soon as they came out of the room, the family realised the mistake and immediately fixed it. The priest performed the seven vows ceremony with the right match of bride and groom," a villager said.

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UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2022-2023
University of Madras invites applications through online for admission into Post-Graduate, PG Diploma, Diploma and Certificate Courses offered by the University Departments under CBCS pattern for the Academic Year 2022-2023. The Prospectus and other details are available in the University Website : www.unom.ac.in.
Commencement of Online Application : 13.05.2022
Last date for online Registration for PG Courses : 16.06.2022
Last date for online Registration for PG Diploma, Diploma and Certificate Courses : 16.07.2022
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Registration starts from 1st May 2022
On 'first come, first serve' basis
Summer Vacation Camp
Programme Class Schedule
1. Scientific Toy Making (Jr.) 6'-8'
2. Astro Lab 6'-8'
3. Scientific Toy Making (Sr.) 9'-12'
4. Biotechnology 9'-12'
5. Wonders of Electronics 9'-12'
Timing 10:30 am to 1:30 pm
Registration Fee Rs. 2000/- for S.No.1 to 3 and Rs. 2500/- for S.No. 4 & 5
FEE MAY BE DEPOSITED BETWEEN 9:30 AM TO 5:00 PM ON ANY WORKING DAY

NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
(NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE MUSEUMS)
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GOVT. OF INDIA
Pragati Maidan, New Delhi-110016
Phone : 7428693710 to 17 (8 lines)
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nXi
NIXI invites application for the post of General Manager (Project) on contract.
General Manager (Project): Minimum 15 years of experience in the core field of IT & IT services, out of which cumulative experience of 5 Yrs. in implementation of Datacenter services.
Education: Engineering degree in Electronic & Communication or Computer Science from a recognized University/Institute.
Salary: No limit for suitable candidates.
For detailed job description, visit our website nxi.in career section.
Interested candidate may submit their resume on nxi@nxi.in by 12-May-2022. Shortlisted candidates may be asked to appear for interview on 13th May, 2022/14th May, 2022.

National Internet Exchange of India
B-wing, 9th Floor, Statesman House, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110 001

NORTH EASTERN INDIRA GANDHI REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SCIENCES, MAWDIANGDIANG, SHILLONG -793018
CORRIGENDUM
Refer to advertisement No. NEIGR-E.II/51/2014/Pt. for filling up the Group 'A' posts published in the Employment News dated 2nd-8th April 2022. The method of recruitment should be read as "Composite Method (Deputation/Promotion) and Deputation basis" instead of "Deputation basis" only. Other conditions of the advertisement remain unchanged.
Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admn.), NEIGRHM, Shillong.

No. 05-01/2001 WL/G-II
Department of Telecommunications
(General - II Section)
20, Ashoka Road, Sanchar Bhawan
New Delhi - 110001
Wanted part time Medical Consultant (Allopathy stream) on contract basis with fixed remuneration in Department of Telecommunications, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi. For all further details contact link <https://dot.gov.in>
Vacancies
Manoj Kumar Singh
Deputy Secretary (GA)
davp - 06201/11/0001/2223

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Notice
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-Auction for the following work:
1 Name of work with its location Contract of Parking lots over Delhi Division for a period of ONE year
E-Auction Lot Number Station/Location
Parking-DLI-SHDM-TW-22-22-1 (Parking Two Wheeler)
Allotment of Cycle-Scooter Parking Contract for a period of 1 year with measuring an area of 375 sq.mtrs at Shahbad Markanda Railway station 'D' category on "As is where basis".
Parking-DLI-MOZ-TW-15-22-2 (Parking Two Wheeler)
Allotment of Cycle-Scooter Parking Contract for a period of 1 year with measuring an area of 257.64 sq.mtrs at Shahbad Markanda Railway station 'A' category on "As is where basis".
Parking-DLI-GNU-TW-20-22-1 (Parking Two Wheeler)
Allotment of Cycle-Scooter Parking Contract for a period of 1 year with measuring an area of 405 sq.mtrs at Gammaur Railway station 'D' category on "As is where basis".
Parking-DLI-MUD-TW-13-22-

TIMES TRIBUTE
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With grief and sorrow,
we inform you about the passing of
MR. MAHENDRA RAJ

on Sunday, May 8th.

A prayer meeting will be held to celebrate his life at the Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi from 3pm to 4pm on Tuesday, May 10th.



Dheera, Vandini Mehta and Rohit Raj Mehndiratta
Tarini, Chandini, Amika and Chetan Chitnis
Kabir, Noor, Renu Pavate and Shomik Mehndiratta

Mum cops seek NBW against Ranas for violating bail terms

Mumbai: Five days after independent MP from Amravati Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana were granted bail, the Mumbai police on Monday submitted a plea before the special court stating that the bail stood automatically cancelled for violation of conditions, reports **Rebecca Samerel**. Special public prosecutor Pradip Gharat sought non-bailable warrants against the two. The plea will be heard on May 18. "Issue notice to the respondents to appear before this court," special judge Rahul N Rokade said.

Arguing on the plea, Gharat submitted, "Both the accused, by talking to media, have committed breach of condition which was imposed upon them directing them not to talk to media about the subject which relates to this case."

The Ranas were booked and arrested by Khar police on April 23 for alleged offences of sedition and breach of harmony for declaring their intention to chant the Hanuman Chalisa outside Matoshree.

Naveet and Ravi, while leaving for Delhi on Monday to "seek justice," said that they had not done anything that could amount to violation of their bail conditions. "We did not speak about the case at all. We have only spoken about the treatment given to us by police. The Constitution gives us the right to speak about the injustice done to us," said Navneet.

In Loving Memory of...**Late Shri Pritpal Singh Anand**

(19.08.1952 - 10.05.2021)

Vice Chairman - ALP Group

"Soul is eternal"**There is no beginning, no ending**

Thank you for continually inspiring us to do our best

You help us strive toward excellence.

We found guidance, discipline and love, everything in one person

Your life was an inspiration not only to the family

but to every life you touched.

In Remembrance**Anand Family & ALP Group Employees****CELEBRATING THE UNIQUE PRIVILEGE OF HIS PRESENCE**

Appa, a man of discipline and intellect rose to become Commissioner, Income Tax from humble beginnings in Neelamangalam village, TN. His stint in the Commerce Ministry & on the job travels all over the world with legendary business barons and his building of the beautiful

Sahaja Yoga Ashram in Delhi were proud moments in his life.

But truly he counted marrying a hugely talented melodious Mohna, as the acme of his life. Both built a wonderful family, contributed to charity and culture in their 50 years together. His ultimate goal though was to attain that heavenly abode where he knew she was waiting for him.

Shri. Venugopalan Swaminathan

6th Feb 1926 - 10th May 2021



S. Santhanraman, Swami & Bindu, Mani & Rina,
Chaitanya & Swati, Prahla, Ishwin & Rudra

SC paves way for mass bail to 1,500**Relief For One-Time Offenders In UP Who've Spent Over 10 Yrs In Jail**AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesgroup.com**CASES PILING UP**

New Delhi: Noting that a large number of convicts are languishing in various jails in Uttar Pradesh for years while waiting for their appeals to be heard by Allahabad high court, which is at present hearing appeals made in 1980s, the Supreme Court on Monday said all such prisoners who are one-time offenders and have spent more than 10 years in jail should be granted bail.

Considering the fact that there are 1,561 convicts who are languishing in jails for more than 10 years and whose appeals are not going to be decided soon, a bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M M Sundresh asked the Allahabad HC to club their cases and pass a single order granting bail to all of them at one go. It also directed the state government to

consider their remission pleas. As per the data filed in court, the number of convicts languishing in jail for more than 14 years is 727 and 834 convicts have spent in jail more between 10-14 years.

"We see no reason why these cases are not dealt with in one go by asking the state government to take a stand in respect of such cases which are single offence cases and pending for 10 years or more and unless there are special circumstances, all of them can be enlarged on bail. As far as cases which meet the norms of remission, the state govern-

Times View: This is a sensible move by the apex court. But it also underlines the long-standing issue of pendency that ails the judicial system and forces it to adopt such temporary broad-brush solutions.

ment, irrespective of pendency of the appeal, should be forthwith asked to take a call on the plea of remission. It may also facilitate posting all of the matters at one go and asking the counsels appearing for the convicts whether they would be satisfied with cases being considered for remission or would also like to urge the matter in appeal. This may help in clearing the backlog of some appeals," the bench said.

The court also said that it is a matter of concern convicts are languishing in jail while their appeals are not being heard due to huge pendency.

As per the data on pendency and disposal of cases in Allahabad HC, the most efficient year in terms of disposal of cases was 2019 in which it decided a record 5,231 criminal appeals. Going by that figure it will take almost 35 years to dispose of 1.83 lakh cases, and that too when no new appeal filed in near future is entertained out of turn. There are over 4,000 prisoners in UP jails who are behind bars for more than 14 years.

While hearing pleas of around two dozen such prisoners, some of whom have spent around 17 years in jail, the apex court had earlier directed that they be released. "The Allahabad HC has to do some hard thinking on the issue. The situation in Allahabad HC is troubling us. Bails are being denied on the grounds of heinous offence," the court had earlier said.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Prof. Raj Gopal Saxena
(10th May, 2021)

*A caring family man,
a lifelong educationist and
a committed institution builder
'A life well lived'*

*Fondly remembered by:
Ashा Saxena (wife)
Geetika, Monika, Radhika
(Daughters)
Sons-in-law and Grandchildren
Ph: 011-26107370*

**SH. MAHESH JAIN (Kagzi)**

31.10.1954 - 10.05.2021

On the occasion of your 1st death anniversary we offer our solemn tribute. We shall always cherish your patience, humility and gentle nature. Your life was an inspiration to all of us and it will continue to guide us in our journey.

Fondly Remembered By:
Smt. Sushma Jain (Wife),
Shri Mukesh - Alka Jain, Mohit - Dipika Jain,
Shobhit - Anu Jain, Archit - Sakshi Jain,
Vriddhi, Vivaan, Jivanshi & Yashvi

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FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

**Late. Sh. Om Prakash Sharma**

(05.03.1946 - 10.05.2021)

S/o Late Jai Singh Sharma

It's been one year since you left us but your warmth, compassion, positivity and love continue to guide us every single day.

Fondly Remembered by

Son & Daughter in law
Neeraj Sharma - Reena Sharma
Dheeraj Sharma - Sony Sharma
Chandan Sharma - Ritu Sharma
Kunal Sharma - Ritu Sharma

Great Grand daughters
Samaira Sharma
Saani Sharma

& Entire Sharma Family

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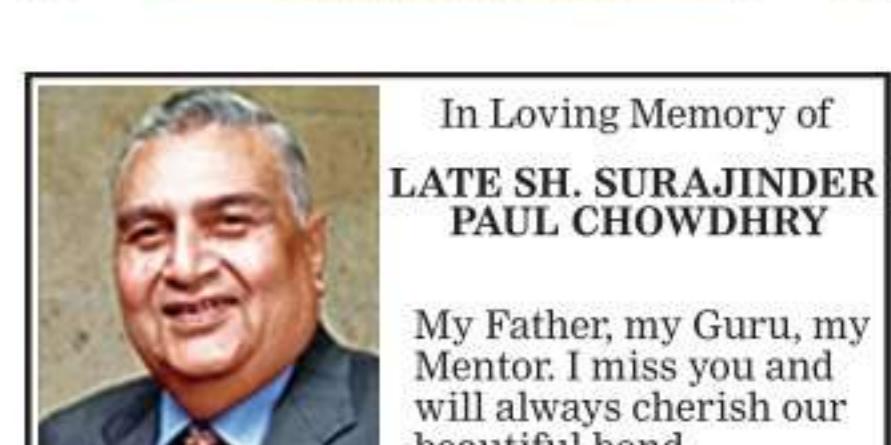
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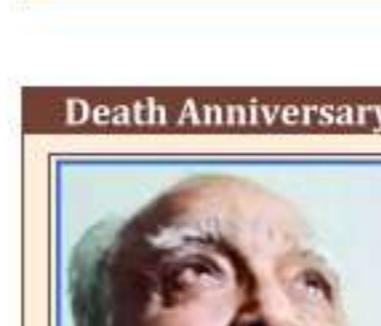
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REMEMBRANCES**REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES**

In Loving Memory of
LATE SH. SURAJINDER PAUL CHOWDHRY

My Father, my Guru, my Mentor. I miss you and will always cherish our beautiful bond.
Paras Chowdhry.

BG2.27: Death is certain for one who has been born, and rebirth is inevitable for one who has died. Therefore, you should not lament over the inevitable.

OBITUARY**DEATH ANNIVERSARY****Death Anniversary**

SANTOSH JAIN
(05-06-1939 TO 10-05-2021)

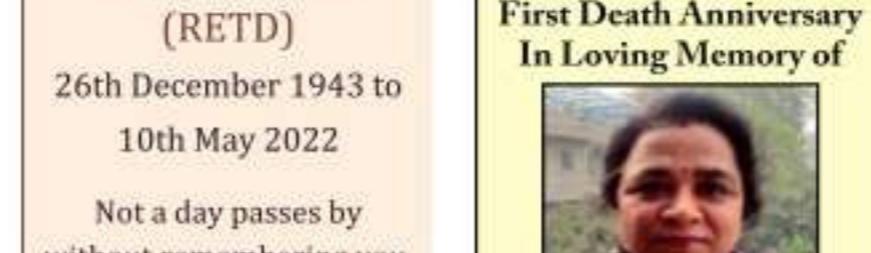
We will never forget you and You will always remain in our hearts.

We miss you

Fondly Remembered by:
B. S. Jain (Husband)
CA. Rajeev Kumar Jain (Son)
Rohit Jain & Aryan Jain (Grand Sons)

First Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of



SANGEETA JAIN
(05-01-1972 TO 10-05-2021)

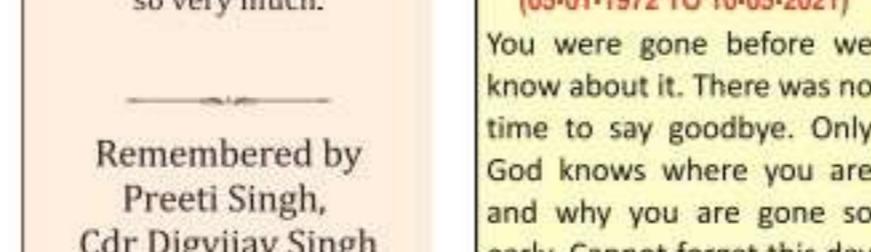
You were gone before we know about it. There was no time to say goodbye. Only God knows where you are and why you are gone so early. Cannot forget this day in whole life.

Remembered by:
Preeti Singh,
Cdr Digvijay Singh
(Retd), Deepika Singh,
Manisha Singh,
Chitrangada Singh,
Yuvraj Singh,
Tavish Singh

Remembered by:
B. S. Jain (Father-in-law)
CA. Rajeev Kumar Jain (Husband)
Rohit Jain & Aryan Jain (Sons)

Heart felt Tribute on 1st Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of



Sh. Rajinder Prasad Mehra
(29.08.1956 - 10.05.2021)

We all miss your presence

but feel your care, affection & blessings around us all the time.

You were gem of our lives will remain forever in our hearts.

Deeply Loved & Missed by:

(Wife) Nandita Mehra

(Children) Dimple Taneja & Nitin Taneja.

Hemant Mehra & Kanika Mehra.

(Grand children) Baani, Mehar, Devansh &

ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

The silent joy of remembering a loved one.

The moments you shared together.

Little moments that make life beautiful.

Share them. With Friends. Relatives. Neighbours.

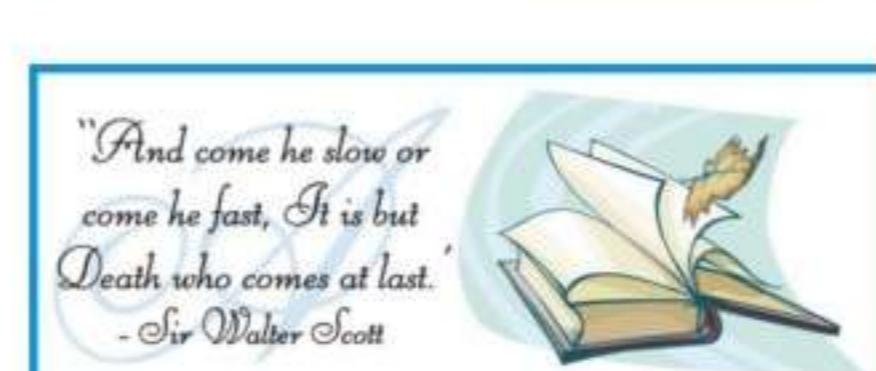
Colleagues. With all those whose lives

the departed Soul has touched. Because while life goes on, when you share memories, they stay on forever.

For more information call

Vinod : 9958992088

Pankaj : 8130604727



"And come he slow or come he fast, It is but Death who comes at last."
- Sir Walter Scott

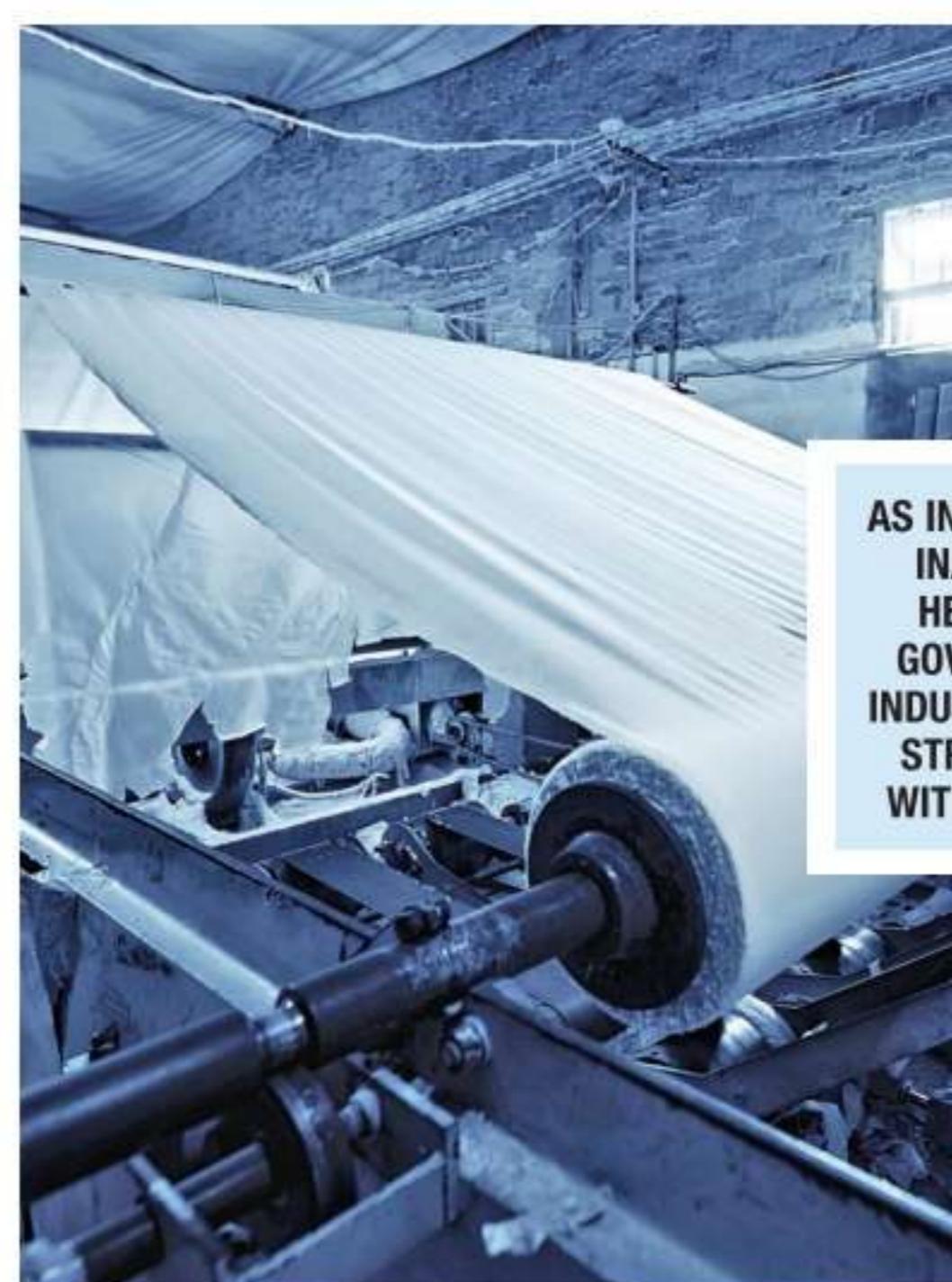
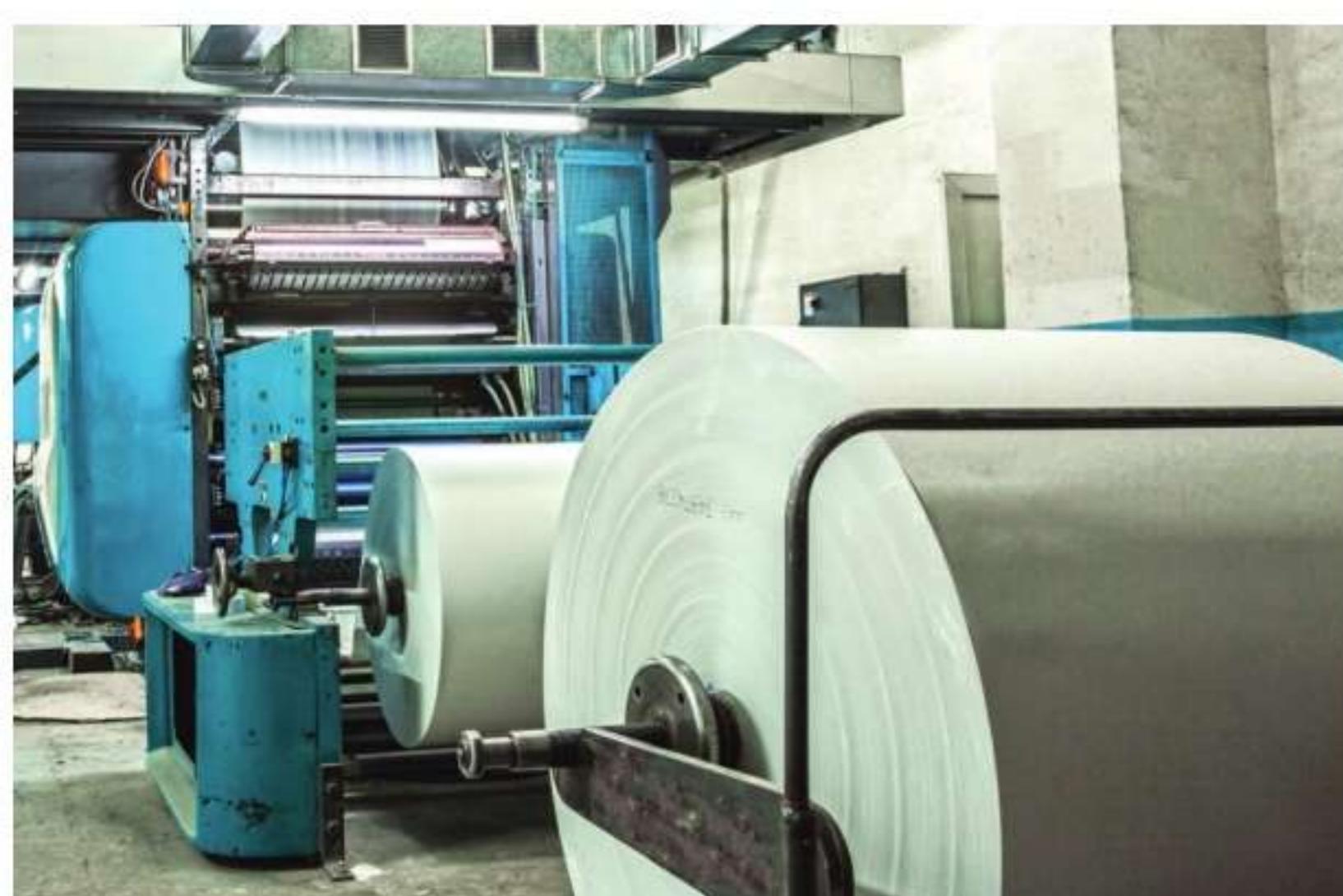
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The growing cost of raw materials and significant cost increase of fuels and other inputs has resulted in a substantial increase in the domestic manufacture of paper and paperboard, making India's paper industry non-competitive. The paper and paperboard (not including newsprint import data) imports into India have been steadily increasing. In the last nine years, imports have risen at a CAGR of 11.34% in value terms.

Imports are growing against the increase in domestic production rate with underutilisation of domestic installed capacity. Therefore, while the domestic industry operates under challenging conditions, substantial quantities of paper

and paperboard are imported at significantly lower costs under the FTAs.

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hanrao Karad, finance minister (state), government of India on Tuesday May 10, 2022 at 1000 Hrs. The inauguration function will be addressed by eminent people from the industry.

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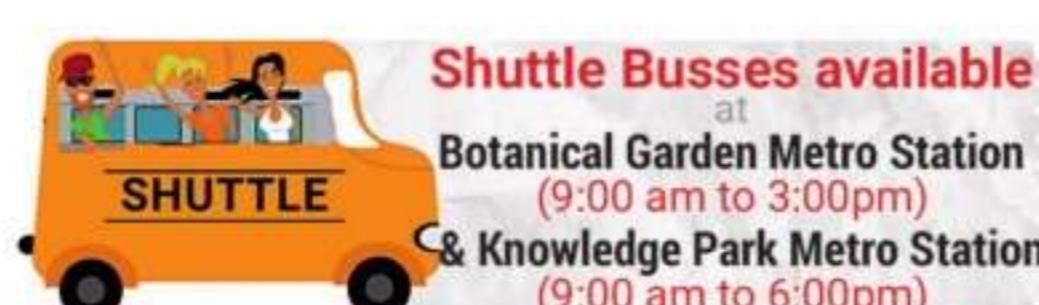
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'China intent is to keep boundary issue alive'

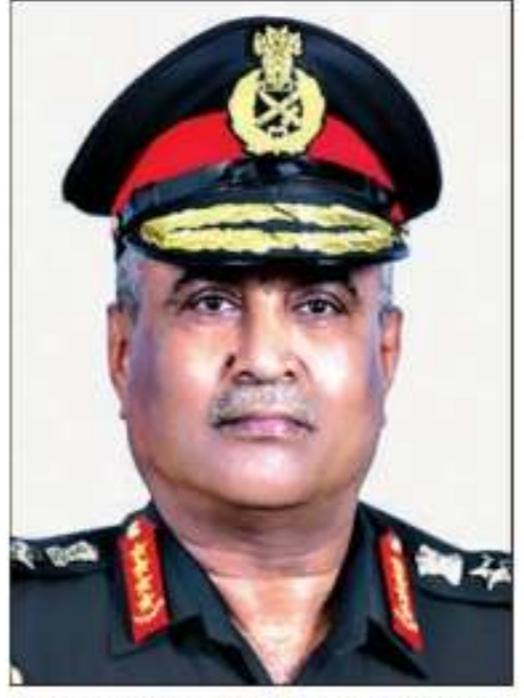
Pande: Army Maintaining Robust Posture

Rajat.Pandit
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: China has not shown any intent to move towards a final settlement of the overall boundary question, Army chief General Manoj Pande said on Monday, while asserting the Army is maintaining a 'robust posture' to tackle any contingency amid the continuing over two-year long military confrontation in eastern Ladakh.

"The basic issue remains the resolution of the border. What we see is that China's intent or attempt has been to keep the boundary issue alive. What we need as a country is a 'whole of nation' approach to address this issue in its entirety," he said.

Asked by TOI about the persisting deadlock in troop disengagement at Patrolling Point-1s in the Hot Springs-Gogra-Kongka La area, Charding Ninglung Nallah track junction at Demchok and Dapsang Plains in east-



Botched Nagaland op: Army chief says probe complete

Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande on Monday said probe into the December 4 firing incident in Nagaland's Mon district has been completed and the report is undergoing legal scrutiny. He also suggested that standard operating procedures and drills could be refined based on the findings of the report. The botched counter-insurgency operation at Oting village in Mon claimed the lives of 14 civilians and triggered a massive public outcry. PTI

Gen Pande expressed hope that the 'remaining friction points' in eastern Ladakh would be resolved through ongoing diplomatic and military dialogue

ern Ladakh, Gen Pande said Indian troops "continue to hold important positions" and there are "adequate forces available to deal with any contingency".

While the Army chief said China has to do more because the process to "establish trust and tranquillity between the two sides can't be a one-way affair", he expressed hope that the "remaining friction points" in eastern Ladakh would also be resolved through the ongoing diplomatic and military dialogue.

"The good thing is we are continuing to talk and engage with each other. It's the only way to resolve it," he said.

"My first and foremost challenge is the current situation along the northern borders. It's important for us to review the threats and come up with capability development plans," Gen Pande said. Towards this end, the Army has gone in for a major upgrade in ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) technologies and border infrastructure along LAC.

Postpone your Char Dham yatra, comorbid pilgrims told

Shivani.Azad@timesgroup.com

Dehradun: Uttarakhand director general of health Shailja Bhatt on Monday appealed to Char Dham pilgrims with comorbidities to postpone their journey. The advisory came a day after TOI reported that 16 deaths were recorded within the first six days of the yatra.

This came even as four more pilgrims died on Monday due to heart-related issues at the high-altitude shrines. The overall toll is now 20. The deaths have pushed the health department to urge people to refrain "if they are of compromised health". "Those who are unable to defer their pilgrimage must bring a proper health certificate and follow Covid protocols," said Bhatt, adding, "I've written to the tourism department and have requested them to come up with an advisory for all pilgrims."

Health minister Dhan Singh Rawat directed the DG (health) to personally monitor the situation. He said that advanced life support ambulances would be stationed in high-altitude areas to tackle emergencies.

Why aren't states following guidelines on hate speech: SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



taken to curb hate speech. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta provided a chart segregating the two groups of cases and added a third group of cases comprising transfer petitions filed by the Centre requesting shifting of the petitions entertained by various HCs relating to the challenge to the new IT Rules and Cable TV Regulations.

The bench issued notices on the transfer petitions and ordered stay on further proceedings before the Supreme Court. It posted the three categories of cases for detailed hearing on May 19.

The other group of petitions was on steps to be

.....

E-scooter battery explodes in Telangana

The battery of an electric scooter blew up in Telangana's Karimnagar district late Sunday, hours after it was plugged to a charger. It was the third such incident within a fortnight in the twin Telugu states. The scooter owner, Odelu, a resident of Ramachandrapur village, escaped unscathed and no one in his family suffered burns. While Odelu didn't lodge a formal complaint, villagers tipped off the Ramadugu police.

"The electric scooter was bought two months ago. Luckily, Odelu and his family were not present in the room when the battery exploded, wrecking the scooter. As no complaint was lodged, police didn't register a case," a police officer said.

In April, an 80-year old man died and three of his family members suffered burns when the battery of an electric scooter exploded at their home in Telangana's Nizamabad district. After a family member lodged a complaint, an FIR was lodged for causing death by negligence and causing hurt by endangering life. Days later, a similar explosion claimed the life of a 40-year-old man in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. TNN



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बिहार राज्य खाद्य निगम, मुख्यालय, पटना

राष्ट्रीय स्तरानि निविदा आमंत्रण

(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

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कार्यालयका अभियंता, दक्षिणी बिहार कार्य प्रमंडल, बिहार राज्य खाद्य निगम, मुख्यालय, पटना (मो 9430676448)

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

In April, an 80-year old man died and three of his family members suffered burns when the battery of an electric scooter exploded at their home in Telangana's Nizamabad district. After a family member lodged a complaint, an FIR was lodged for causing death by negligence and causing hurt by endangering life. Days later, a similar explosion claimed the life of a 40-year-old man in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. TNN

DGCA to probe denial of boarding to kid

Gaurav Pandey | TNN

Ranchi: Aviation regulator DGCA instituted a probe on Monday into IndiGo denying boarding to an anxious 13-year-old boy in a wheelchair at Ranchi airport two days ago after civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia tweeted about "zero tolerance towards such behaviour".

"No human being should have to go through this! Investigating the matter by myself, post which appropriate action will be taken," he said of airline staff treating the teenager as a threat to fellow passengers and barring him from a flight to Hyderabad with his parents.

The boy was "in a state of panic" and hadn't calmed down enough to be allowed

on the flight, IndiGo claimed.

The boy's father, Nirmal Kumar, wrote to Scindia, demanding action against the airline and the staff involved in the episode. He said three IndiGo executives sought to meet him at his house in Hyderabad to "settle" the matter, but he refused.

IndiGo CEO Ronojoy Dutta issued a statement later, saying he stood by the airline's decision at Ranchi airport on Saturday. He offered an electric wheelchair to the child as a "small token". IndiGo arranged to fly out the teenager and his parents to Hyderabad the next morning.

A DGCA official said the regulator received a report from IndiGo, following which a three-member team was formed for an inquiry.

Lodge FIR against airline, says NCPCR; social justice ministry action likely too

Taking a serious view of reports on the manner in which a specially-abled child was handled by IndiGo staff at Ranchi airport, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights on Monday wrote to Jharkhand Police asking them to lodge an FIR against the airline for barring the child from boarding a flight. It has also sought an inquiry by DGCA and action against IndiGo.

The chief commissioner of persons with disabilities under the department of empowerment of persons with disabilities in the ministry of social justice and empowerment is also learnt to be preparing to issue a notice to the authorities concerned to take action in this case and prevent such happenings in future. The notice is expected to be issued on Tuesday. TNN

CRIS Centre for Railway Information Systems

CORRIGENDUM

In reference to the advertisement in Employment news dated 23.04.2022 for Assistant Software Engineer (ASE) & Assistant Data Analyst (ADA) through GATE 2022 Scores, the following amendments are being made:-

1. The minimum age to apply for the post of Assistant Software Engineer (ASE) & Assistant Data Analyst (ADA) through GATE 2022 scores has been revised from 22 years to 21 years.

2. The last date for applications has also been extended from 23.05.2022 to 23.05.2022.

For detailed eligibility conditions, application fee, application process, please continue to refer to CRIS website <https://www.cris.org.in> under the heading 'Careers'.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

E-TENDER NOTICE No. SG-664-02-SIG-2022-23

E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED WORK.

S.I.No. 1. Name of the work : BES-Provision of two additional loop lines & wharf along with yard remodeling at BES station(For Additional One Loop Line Only)

S.I.No. 2. Appox. Cost of the work : ₹ 2,60,21,041.07 (Approx.) S.I.No. 3. Earliest Money : ₹ 2,80,100.00, S.I.No. 4. Date & time for closing of tender : 26/05/2022 at 12:30 Hrs. S.I.No. 5. Any E-Tenders which is sent by Post / Courier / FAX or self, Manual proposals although the letter is on firms letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above E-Tenders, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.reps.gov.in> atleast 10 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum / corrections etc. in response to this E-tender.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer E.C. Railway, Dhanbad PR/0209/DHNS/T/T/22-23/36

STCI FINANCE LIMITED

(Formerly: Securities Trading Corporation of India Limited)

401 & 412, 4th Floor, Prakashdeep Building,

7, Tolstoy Marg, New - 110001

Telephone - 011-23351091/43551091

CIN: U51900MH1994PLC078300, Website: www.stclonline.com

APPENDIX - IV-A

PUBLIC NOTICE E-CALL FOR BIDDING NOTIFICATION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

(Rules 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act, 2002") read with Rule 8 & 9 of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors that the below described immovable residential property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor i.e. STCI Finance Limited, the physical possession of which has been taken on 02.08.

Girl molested, parents face acid attack

Keshav Agarwal | TNN

Pilibhit: Parents of a minor girl were attacked with acid allegedly by five men for refusing to accept an out-of-court settlement in a case in which their daughter was allegedly molested by one of the men. The acid attack took place at a village in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit on Monday. The couple suffered about 80% burns and are critical.

The girl, 16, was allegedly molested by a 20-year-old man on April 23. Her family

said that police were putting pressure on them to settle the molestation case, a proposal that they rejected.

Police said five men have been booked in the acid attack

UP HORROR

case, and four of them have been arrested. The one who had molested the girl is on the run. He was earlier booked under IPC section 354A (assault or use of criminal force against any woman).

The girl's family told se-

nior police officers that cops deployed at the outpost had initially declined to acknowledge their written complaint after the molestation incident. An FIR was lodged only on May 6 after the parents met superintendent of police Dinesh Prabhu with their grievance. The SP also suspended SHO Tejal Singh and the outpost-in-charge Lokesh Kumar.

The acid attack took place on the day the girl was scheduled to appear before a court to get her statement recorded under CrPC section 164.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH V. Ramalingaswami Bhavan, New Delhi

Adv. No. ICMR/Sc-C&E/IIH/2022/2-Pers.

MISSION MODE RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR SCIENTIFIC POSITIONS AT ICMR-CENTRE FOR RESEARCH MANAGEMENT & CONTROL OF HAEMOGLOBINOPATY, CHANDRAPUR, UNDER ICMR-NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY (NIIH), MUMBAI

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an Autonomous Organization under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, invites application(s) up to 5th June, 2022 till 5:30 PM for recruitment to the following vacancies of Scientists with the following specialization:-

Sl. No.	Post/Specialization	Pay Level!	No. of Vacancies
1	Scientist - E (Medical)	Level-13 Rs. 1,23,100-Rs. 2,15,900 (pre-revised Grade pay-Rs. 8700/-)	01
2	Scientist-C (Medical)		03
3	Scientist-C (Non-Medical) Biostatistics-01 Bioinformatics-01 Applied Biology-01	Level-11 Rs. 67,700-Rs. 2,08,700 (pre-revised Grade pay- Rs. 6600/-)	03

For detailed advertisement, please visit ICMR website at <http://recruit.icmr.org.in>

Sd/-
(Jagdish Rakesh)
Assistant Director General (Admn.)
davp 17152/12/0002/2223

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

V.Ramalingaswami Bhavan, New Delhi

Adv. No. ICMR/Sc-C/2022/3-Pers.

MISSION MODE RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR SCIENTIFIC POSITIONS AT ICMR INSTITUTES & CENTRES

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an Autonomous Organization under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, invites application(s) up to 5th June, 2022 till 5:30 PM for recruitment to the following vacancies of Scientist-C (Public Health Entomology) in Pay Level-11 Rs.67,700-Rs.2,08,700 (pre-revised Grade Pay Rs.6600/-) at the following ICMR's Institutes/ Centres:

Sl. No.	Name of the Institute/Centre	No. of Vacancies
1	Regional Medical Research Centre, Gorakhpur (RMRCG)	02
2	Regional Medical Research Centre, Port Blair (RMRCB)	02
3	Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar (RMRCB)	02
4	Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh (RMRCD)	02
5	National Institute of Virology, Pune (NIV)	02
6	Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry (VCRC)	02
7	National Institute of Malaria Research, New Delhi (NIMR)	02
8	National Institute for Research in Tribal Health, Jabalpur (NIRTH)	02
9	Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna (RMRIMS)	02

For detailed advertisement, please visit ICMR website at <https://recruit.icmr.org.in>

Sd/-
(Jagdish Rakesh)
Assistant Director General (Admn.)
davp 17152/12/0004/2223

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

V. Ramalingaswami Bhavan, New Delhi

Adv. No. ICMR/Sc-C/NARFBR/2022/1-Pers.

MISSION MODE RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR SCIENTIFIC POSITIONS AT ICMR-NATIONAL ANIMAL RESOURCE FACILITY FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH (NARFBR), HYDERABAD

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an Autonomous Organization under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, invites application(s) up to 5th June, 2022 till 5:30 PM for recruitment to the following vacancies of Scientist-C (Public Health Entomology) in Pay Level-11 Rs. 67,700-Rs. 2,08,700 (pre-revised Grade pay-Rs. 6600/-) with the following specialization:-

Sl. No.	Post with specialization	No. of vacancies
1	Scientist-C (Rodent breeding and experimentation)	1 (one)
2	Scientist-C (Non-human Primate Breeding and Experimentation)	1 (one)
3	Scientist-C (Equine Breeding and Experimentation)	1 (one)
4	Scientist-C (Sheep, Goat and Porcine Breeding and Experimentation)	1 (one)
5	Scientist-C (Veterinary Pathology)	1 (one)
6	Scientist-C (Veterinary Biochemistry/Biotechnology)	1 (one)

For detailed advertisement, please visit ICMR website at <http://recruit.icmr.org.in>

Sd/-
(Jagdish Rakesh)
Assistant Director General (Admn.)
davp 17152/12/0006/2223

Government of Maharashtra.
Executive Engineer,
Public Works Division No.3,

In front of office of the Superintendent of Police (Rural),
Civil lines, Nagpur-1.

E-mail :- div3nagpur.ee@mahapwd.com

Telephone No. (0712) 2561586

E-Tender Notice No. 02 / 2022-23

Outward No. :- 1702 /Tender, Date :- 02.05.2022

Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.3, Civil lines, Nagpur are invited Online e-tenders in SBD form for following works from Any Capable Persons / Contractor. Tender paper can be download on Govt site <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. Also, Right is reserved to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Conditional tenders will be treated as non responsive.

S.N.	Name of work	Amount put to tender (Rs. In lakhs)	Tender form Rs.	Work Completion period (InMonths)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Constn. of New Court building with electrification at Umred Dist. Nagpur	1892.42	3360	18

E-tender downloading period :- 10.05.2022 to 04.06.2022

Pre tender conference meeting :- 19.05.2022 @ 16.00 hrs at Chief Engineer, P. W. Region, Nagpur

E-tender opened :- 07.06.2022 Place :- Superintending Engineer, P. W. Circle, Nagpur.

Information about E-tender can be available following web site:

- 1) <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
- 2) Notice board of office of the Executive Engineer, P. W. Dn. No.3, Nagpur.
- 3) Terms and conditions binding to all participants. The changes will be available on electronic tendering system of Govt of Maharashtra portal i.e. <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
- 4) Tender will be opened as per mentioned schedule on portal if applicable.

Sd/-
(Dilip Deole)
Executive Engineer

Public Works Division No.3,

Nagpur

DGIPR/2022-2023/521

S. No.	Name of work	Amount Put to Tender / Estimated cost	EMD / Tender Fee	Date of release of tender/procurement Solution I.D.No.	Last date / time of receipt of bid for the e-procurement solution
1.	Providing and laying 350 mm dia MS line to carry discharge of sewage/treatments installed at diversion road of Sector 20 and 21 Rohini in AC-07 Bawana under ACE (M)-3. (Re-invite)	Rs. 46,77,531/-	Rs. 93,600/- Rs. 500/-	06.05.2022 2022_DJB_221722_1	19.05.2022 Upto 3.00 PM
2.	Rehabilitation of Under Ground Reservoir / Booster Pumping Station at A-1, H-18, F-25, Sector 7 and C-8, Sector 8, Rohini under EE(M)-3 in ACE(M)-3. (Re-invite)	Rs. 34,30,551/-	Rs. 88,700/- Rs. 500/-	06.05.2022 2022_DJB_221723_1	19.05.2022 Upto 3.00 PM
3.	Providing & Fixing new water connection in Rohini Constituency in Ward No.57,58,59 & 60 AC-13 under ACE (M)-3	Rs. 47,42,386/-	Rs. 94,900/- Rs. 500/-	06.05.2022 2022_DJB_221724_1	19.05.2022 Upto 3.00 PM

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

ISSUED BY P.O. (WATER)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 90(2022-23)

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

Sd/-
Dy. Superintending Engineer (T) M-3
Press Notice Tender

www.upgov.nic.in

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग

15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना - 800001

बाल विकास परियोजना पदाधिकारी (प्राथमिक) प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा [विसं. 03/2021] के परीक्षार्थियों से संबंधित परीक्षा केन्द्र के लिए

आवश्यक सूचना

दिनांक 15.05.2022 को आयोजित की जाने वाली बाल विकास परियोजना पदाधिकारी (प्राथमिक) प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा [विसं. 03/2021] के सफल, सुव्यवसित एवं कदाचारहित सचालन हेतु निम्नांकित बिन्दुओं का अनुमति लाने सुनिश्चित किया जाना है:-

1. परीक्षार्थियों को परीक्षा केन्द्रों में परीक्षा प्राप्त होने के 1/2 घण्टा पूर्व यथा, 10:30 बजे पूर्वानुसार तक ही प्रवेश की अनुमति दी जायेगी। 11:45 बजे पूर्वानुसार तक परीक्षितों में परीक्षार्थी को परीक्षा केन्द्र में प्रवेश की अनुमति दी जायेगी।

2. परीक्षा केन्द्र परिसर, जहाँ परीक्षा होनी है, में मोबाइल, ब्लूटूथ, कैमरे, वाई-फाई, गैरेज, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक पेन, पेजर, Wrist Watch (सामान्य/Smart) इत्यादि इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सामग्री तथा whitener/blade/eraser आदि सामग्री अथवा जिसी प्रकार के इलेक्ट्रॉनिक संचार उपकरण को लेकर जाना एवं उपयोग पूर्वतः वर्जित है। इसका उल्लंघन करने पर उनके विरुद्ध विवरणकारी कार्रवाई की जायेगी।

3. OMR Answer Sheet में दिखी प्रकार का चिह्न-खेड़कान/अंकन करना वर्जित है। इसकी अवधेन्ना किए जाने पर अनुसारिक/दंडाकान कार्रवाई की जा सकती है। प्रवेश पत्र पर अंकित 'आवश्यक निर्देश' एवं उत्तर पत्र (OMR Answer Sheet) पर अंकित सभी निर्देशों को उम्मीदवार ध्यान से पढ़े और उसका अनुरक्षण करें। OMR Answer Sheet में Question Booklet Series एवं Roll No. निर्दिष्ट रूप से अंकित क

**A thought for today**

We may be on the cusp of a new inflationary era. The forces behind high inflation could persist for some time

AUGUSTIN CARSTENS

Gold Or Deposits?

Household financial behaviour will see big adjustments as inflation rises

After the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee (MPC) increased the repo rate last week, there's ground to make two assumptions. RBI's inflation outlook, which forecast a declining trajectory in the subsequent quarters of the financial year, will be revised. Along with it, more repo rate increases are likely. These two widely held views will catalyse adjustments by all stakeholders in the economy. One way to gauge what lies ahead is to look at how the adjustments will play out through the intertwined savings and investments channels.

Household response to hardening interest rates will hugely influence both savings and investment. Not only are households the most important source of domestic savings, they are now also critical to deployment of bank credit as personal loans are almost on a par with industrial lending. Traditionally, household behaviour shows two features in a phase of high inflation. There's a tilt at the margin towards

saving in the form of gold. It was about 1.6% of household savings a decade ago when inflation was high. As inflation dropped, the saving in gold followed, to about 1.1% of savings. Also, net financial savings of households, which were about 32% of total savings in the high inflation phase, rose to around 40% when inflation fell.

There's a new element which has come into play this time. Beginning October 2019, RBI has pushed the banking system into benchmarking lending rates

to external measures such as repo rate. The system has transitioned fast in the case of loans to MSMEs, trade and home loans. In the process, bank deposit rates also adjust quickly. Therefore, household net financial savings this time may adjust quicker and their proportion to total household savings is likely to fall faster. There's also the simultaneous lure of gold as a hedge against inflation, which has a knock-on effect on India's current account deficit.

Investing in equity shares has emerged as an important avenue for household savings. Incremental growth in this avenue is likely to be influenced by movement in stock market indices. In this context, heightened uncertainty around inflation's course may adversely impact investments by firms. There are also two options that will attract more personal saver attention – bank fixed deposits and insurance policies. These traditionally popular avenues which attract funds from the risk-averse even when interest rates are low, will almost surely see more incremental flows. Banks, flush with more funds, but with lending rates creeping up, will have new challenges.

Friendly Fire

State police forces fighting each other is a dangerous trend that can become worse

The futility of using police to serve as an instrument of political vendetta should dawn on political parties after the unifying confrontation last week between Punjab, Haryana and Delhi police. AAP's resolve to punish Delhi BJP spokesperson Tajinder Bagga for his tweet against CM Arvind Kejriwal and BJP's interest in freeing him played out in full public glare through the actions of the three police forces. But after Bagga's detention in Haryana and repeated judicial setbacks, Punjab police have been left red-faced. Some days ago it was Assam police's ignominious turn over the arrest of Jignesh Mevani from Gujarat.

Also, various state police forces seem to have thrown procedure and mutual organisational courtesy to the wind. Punjab police claim they arrested Bagga in Delhi after his non-response to repeated summons – but it is still the case that they simply drove into another jurisdiction, just as Assam police and UP police have done in the recent past. Criminal Procedure Code has safeguards like police requiring an arrest warrant from magistrates before effecting arrests and securing transit remand from a magistrate after arrests in another jurisdiction. Additional Delhi high court guidelines require cops from other jurisdictions effecting arrests to also intimate local police officers. While these norms allow for exceptions, following the procedures would have saved Punjab police the blushes.

Face-offs between police forces can be good news only for criminals who commit crimes spanning across state borders or escape into another state after committing a crime. Even terrorists stand to benefit if increasing inter-forces fractiousness were to impact coordination and intelligence sharing. Assuming India's hyper-competitive politics and bitter, person-targeted political rhetoric will continue to intensify, and police will be frequently used to settle scores and make points, the near future frankly looks bleak. Worse may yet happen in standoffs between politics-driven state police forces.

Not to the manner born

When you don't know to want a cracker with your crab, or that mince pies are sweet

Bikram Vohra

Have you ever felt out of place like you were a poor relative at a rich man's wedding and your shoes were cheap ripoffs and everyone knew? Like I was sent a car by a client to attend a dinner and it turned out to be a Bentley with buttercream leather and that super luxury sensation in the chassis springs, so you were almost seasick by the motion. And I was thinking can you eat chips in this car or throw back popcorn and put a 'go' coffee in that little circular holder or would it be sacrilege, the dashboard looked like a NASA spaceship and there was no 'trrrk trrrk ting ting' sound from under the bonnet as is customary with my car.

Then we fetched up at his house which actually had a west wing and the main hall was large enough to play basketball in and you wonder who are these people because I went to the toilet and it was the size of most people's apartments and there were real expensive paintings on the wall that I would proudly hang with pride in my living room because my loc has a slightly torn poster of a monkey and it says, give enough monkeys enough typewriters and you will have a Shakespeare.

Dinner was sit-down and it was crab and the steward whispered would you like a cracker and I said, no I am good, no crackers thanks, stick to the crab and he said, that is what I mean sir ('sir' said with liquid disdain), a claw cracker, and I had no idea what he was talking about since when we eat crab we crush it with our teeth. Then I saw others with these steel pliers stylishly twisting their crabs and I pretended I was only joking, hahah. The host asked me if I wanted lemon butter with the escargot and if you had told me they were snails I would have shot myself at the table. Yes, they have a special type of cutlery for pulling out the sliver of meat and it is called a snail tong. I am the sort of guy who once went to a Brit friend's party and said, wo, I didn't know mince pies are sweet, I always thought there was keema in them and everyone looked away in embarrassment as if knowing the contents of a mince pie was the thin red line between elan and gaucheness.

Guess some of us are just not to the manner born. I go into one of those plush, upmarket brands and an assistant hovers suspiciously around me like uh oh, you are not our type, mister, not trustworthy.



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The Pain Of The Consumer

High inflation will first reduce discretionary spending, and may have bigger second-round impact

Sakshi Gupta



Inflation – as measured by the consumer price index – rose to a 16-month high in March 2022 and is widely expected to have climbed north of 7.5% year on year last month. Even the most conservative projections show that inflation could end up averaging significantly above 6% this year – which would be the highest in the last seven years.

It's true that some ugly inflation periods have come our way over the last two years, usually coinciding with pandemic waves and lockdowns. But while the problem then was primarily one of supply-side disruptions due to the pandemic, this time a trifecta of factors has hit inflation, namely higher global commodity prices, supply-chain disruptions, and signs of demand-side pressures beginning to creep in, especially in certain contact-intensive sectors.

The biggest trigger of course has been the sharp rise in commodity prices – driven by geopolitical tensions – making everything from fuel to food more expensive for households. Global oil prices are up by 15% since February, pushing domestic pump prices by Rs 10 per litre for petrol and diesel each, while food inflation rose by more than 7% year on year in March 2022. With no imminent end in sight for the Ukraine-Russia war, these inflation impulses could linger on for much longer than previously anticipated.

The fallout of these inflationary pressures is twofold. For one, it is likely to eat away into households' capacity for discretionary spending – simply put, all expenditures not "essential".

A quick calculation using shares of different items in the households' consumption basket shows that a 5% increase in spending on fuel and transport costs alone could reduce overall consumption levels in the economy (in nominal terms) by almost 0.5% of GDP. Add to this the rise in food bills (40% share in the consumption basket) and the pressure on households' spending on "non-essentials" becomes apparent.



economy opens up. For instance, sectors like recreation, travel and tourism – that were hit most by the pandemic – are beginning to see a return of pricing power with inflation close to 7%.

The worrying bit is that this part of inflation tends to be more sticky in nature and influences household expectations of inflation to a greater extent. If left on its own, core inflation could set off a spiral of higher wages leading to higher costs for producers and in turn higher future inflation – triggering a more aggressive monetary policy response.

The central bank finds itself in a somewhat similar scenario where tight labour markets, high wage growth along with supply disruptions (and commodity prices) have pushed up inflation to a 40-year high of 8.5%, necessitating aggressive monetary action and raising the risk of a hard landing for the economy over the coming months.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. The situation in India does have some reason for hope. The RBI last week lifted its key policy rate to 4.4% from 4% in an off-cycle meeting responding to these inflationary threats. And there is more to come. The central bank is expected to hike three to four more times this year in order to anchor inflation expectations.

This could also provide some cushion for households in terms of return on deposits especially in times when the alternative – the equity market – has turned volatile. Secondly, elevated commodity prices are inherently inconsistent with slowing global growth and demand and as some of these pressures ease, domestic inflation could also get some respite.

The risks to inflation are elevated for now and households' monthly budgets are likely to feel the heat. Only time will tell whether policy action can nip the inflation bud or whether we were too late to the party.

The writer is Principal Economist, HDFC Bank

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

Pluralism Is Both Ancient & Enduring In India

Why the US report on religious intolerance in this country fails the smell test

Rahul Shivshankar



For the third consecutive year, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has designated India as a "Country of Particular Concern". It is listed along with 14 dysfunctional states including China, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The panel believes that the Indian government has "increasingly emboldened Hindu-nationalist groups ... enforced sectarian policies" with the presumed aim of establishing an "overly Hindu state". Like in the past the government is likely to call out USCIRF's "tendentious" report and this reiteration won't be off the mark.

Failing the simplest fact-check

The report devotes significant space to NDA's "continued enforcement of anti-conversion laws against non-Hindus". But a simple fact-check would have revealed that BJP isn't exclusively obsessed with cracking down on forced conversions. Many Hindus, Mahatma Gandhi no less, have considered the activity the "deadliest poison". In the 60s and 70s, under Congress governments, several states passed anti-conversion laws. Even the apex court in a landmark judgment in 1977 upheld the anti-conversion laws.

In terms of the recent strengthening of the anti-conversion laws pertaining to marriage, USCIRF misses the fact that these laws are religion-neutral. They don't punish any single religion and perhaps that's why they haven't been instantly stayed by the courts.

The report's single-minded focus on alleged minority repression is selective. If USCIRF is genuinely concerned about the state of religious freedoms in India, why hasn't it ever advocated unshackling tens of thousands of Hindu temples from the clutches of state control? Hindus have silently suffered state encroachment over their faith for decades in a supposedly secular India.

Similarly, USCIRF's stand against the nullification of Article 370 & Article 35(A) puts it on the wrong side of



Truth is that Indians have rejected exclusivism

the religious freedom argument. The nullification brought deliverance to minorities in Kashmir (embattled Hindus and Dalits) whose rights were so circumscribed by the laws that for years they were even denied recourse to an ombudsman.

The panel's inclination to view the state of religious freedoms through what appears to be a purely Muslim lens has pushed it to even oppose the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Passed by Parliament, the Act guarantees citizenship to minorities fleeing majoritarian tyranny in the Islamic republics of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The "reasonable classification" criteria adopted to frame CAA has legal precedence.

Using different yardsticks for India and US

The US in 1989 resolved to allow Jews and other "religious minorities" from the former Soviet Union to resettle there as refugees. The Lautenberg Amendment, much like CAA, was ratified by the US Congress. The Lautenberg Amendment was eventually extended to include "persecuted minorities" from Iran in 2004 through the Specter Amendment. Did USCIRF ever flag the Specter Amendment as anti-Muslim?

The USCIRF report on India is also problematic

because it hints at widespread public support for the government's presumed project of creating a "Hindu rashtra". This suggests, without evidence, that there's widespread popular support among Hindus for the purported scheme. Attempts to link Hindus as a whole to intolerance are not new. USCIRF's conclusion is indistinguishable from the views of the Modi government's critics here in India.

As the nation witnessed disquieting, but by no means unprecedented, low-intensity clashes during Ram Navami, a section of opinion has hyphenated BJP's Hindu and Hindu faith to herald the birth of a "new Hinduism", a virtual new order co-opting all Hindus into the permanent default setting of "being communal".

Misunderstanding the dharmic edifice

Just like USCIRF wants the US government to believe that India should be bracketed alongside 14 of the world's most notorious autocracies, this ecosystem would have us all believe that Hindus aspire to live in a Hindu Pakistan or Han China or a Hutu Rwanda. This is sophistry at its worst.

The inescapable fact is that India is secular not because of its Constitution or the State but despite it. After Partition, India could have easily declared itself a land for Hindus. The birth of a Muslim Pakistan provided the perfect justification.

Scholars say the edifice of Hindu traditions sits upon the concept of dharma, which is much broader and deeper than the Western concept of a religion rooted in certain beliefs. So long as one shares those beliefs the individual remains within the faith, where a "dharmic" Hindu may even be an atheist.

This is what makes India inherently plural. Western agencies, like USCIRF and the cabal of like-minded influencers, fail to appreciate that a vast number of Muslims choose to live in India because Hindu dharma privileges "sarva dharma samabhav". If even the RSS, thought to be the ideological guiding light of BJP, has pragmatically accepted minorities defining themselves as Bharatiya it's only because Indians have rejected exclusivism.

The writer is Editor-in-Chief, Times Now

Sacredspace

Be Centred In Ram

Sita – to say that she was pure is a blasphemy. She was purity itself embodied – the most beautiful character that ever lived on earth. A bhakta should be like Sita before Ram. He might be thrown into all kinds of difficulties. Sita did not mind her sufferings, she centred herself in Ram.

Swami Vivekananda



Sita's Message: Go Beyond Domination Mentality

Dena Merriam

A number of events in recent years caused one to tune in more deeply to Sita, viewing her as far more than an historical figure, an ideal to uphold, and understanding her as a living presence, very active in the world today, both in our personal and collective lives.

Indeed, one can see her hand everywhere and perceive messages hidden to all but the seeking eye. One also came to understand the transitional era in which she and Ram incarnated to help humanity evolve, as well as the transitional era in which we now live, where an evolution in consciousness is required for the survival not only of humanity but for many life forms on earth.

The message that has come again and again as one tunes in to Mata Sita is the need for humanity to evolve beyond

moments of evolutionary need. And now is such a time. What is Sita's message for us today as a collective humanity?

During the Treta Yug, when she and Ram lived, humanity was emerging from a more collective consciousness into greater awareness of individuality, but it was still a time when people lived in harmony with the natural world, understanding and respecting the abundant life forms, as well as the life energies of the rivers and earth. It was also a time before the need to dominate took over the human mind, leading to numerous forms of oppression, which are still visible in our world today.

The message that has come again and again as one tunes in to Mata Sita is the need for humanity to evolve beyond



THE SPEAKING TREE

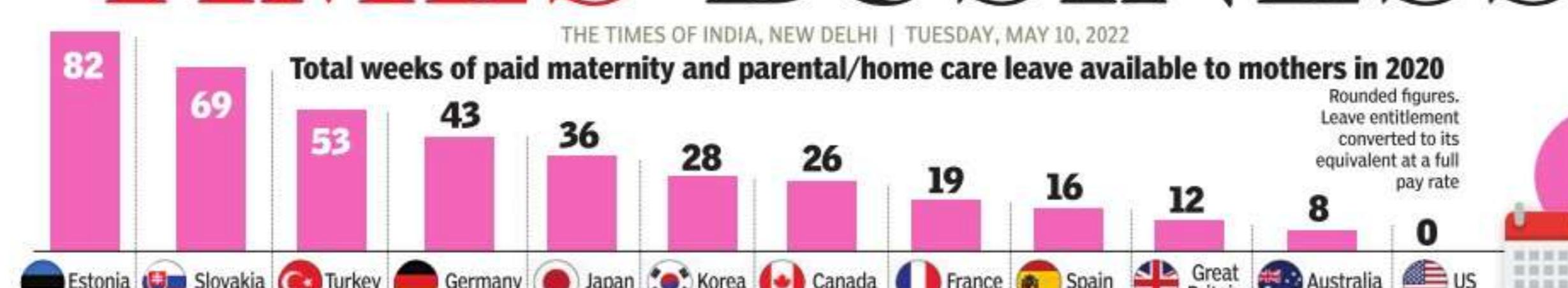
this domination mentality, which is destroying the natural world and harming many human communities. We might call it a domination gene, which must be outgrown and discarded and which manifests in our political, economic, social and religious lives. It has taken over human consciousness. It manifests when one group of people seeks power over another. It manifests as war, as control and authoritarian rule, as a sense of religious or racial superiority, as economic domination, as destruction of life forms and vital ecosystems – all leading to dangerous tensions and conflict and demise.

The only way to overcome this domination mentality, which is destabilising our world today, is through spiritual practice, which facilitates evolution,

coupled with greater mindfulness in the way we treat the natural world and each other. It is a time to look within to find in ourselves remnants of these tendencies. For the personal becomes the collective. Our individual weakness becomes the weaknesses of the collective, and thus the world goes dangerously astray. We each bear some responsibility for the awakening of the world, and it begins with our own awakening.

US Remains Light-Years Behind in Maternity Leave

Estonia offers the most paid full-rate equivalent maternity leave (total length of leave entitlement multiplied by the average wage replacement rate) at 82 weeks – far ahead of advanced economies such as Canada, the UK, and naturally the US. Although the World Health Organization recommends a minimum 16 weeks of maternity leave, the US offers zero.



The US Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) allows new mothers who have worked in an organisation with at least 50 employees to take up to 12 work weeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period. Despite the progress at the state level, there was very little change in the number of US women taking maternity leave over the last 20 years.

Source: Statista

LIC's IPO, India's largest at ₹21k cr, subscribed 3 times

Policyholders, Domestic Cos Support Offer, But FIs Muted

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Rs 21,000-crore initial public offering (IPO) for life insurance behemoth LIC received a huge response from domestic institutions and was oversubscribed nearly three times by the time it closed on Monday. LIC's policyholders, its employees, retail investors, high net worth investors (HNIs) and domestic financial institutions contributed handsomely to the offer. On the other hand, foreign funds – despite initial talk about strong demand from this influential group of investors – turned out to be mostly fence-sitters, according to the final subscription figures.

In the post-issue press conference, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, secretary of the government's divestment arm Dipam that was responsible for taking LIC public, described the offering as an 'Atmanirbhar' issue as it was the domestic investors, especially

WHO BID HOW MUCH	
	No. of times LIC IPO portions subscribed
	No. of shares reserved (in cr*)
Retail investors	2x 7cr
Qualified institutional buyers*	2.8 4
Non-institutional investors*	2.9 3
LIC's policyholders	6.1 2
LIC's employees	4.4 0.2

*QIBs include foreign funds, insurers, MFs; NHIs include corporates, HNIs; *Rounded off

the Indian financial institutions, that saw it through. The issue had opened on May 4 and, unlike other offers in the past, investors were able to bid in the IPO on all the intervening days – including Saturday and Sunday – as the government had made special arrangements to smoothen the usual last-day rush seen in most high-profile offers.

According to data on the BSE, the portion reserved for

LIC's policyholders was subscribed 6.1 times, for eligible employees it was 4.4 times, for retail investors nearly 2 times, for HNIs 2.9 times and for the institutional buyers 2.8 times. The IPO received bids for nearly 48 crore shares against 16.2 crore on offer.

A day before the IPO opened for all investors, the government had placed LIC shares worth about Rs 5,600 crore with a clutch of domestic

listings. LIC is expected to be listed on May 17.

Interestingly, as the mega

IPO drew to a close on Monday, the grey market premium (GMP) in the unofficial market for shares evaporated. At the start of the IPO on May 4, the GMP was at Rs 60-65 per share, which on the second day hit a high of Rs 80. By Monday afternoon, however, the GMP was at a low of Rs 5 and, by evening, it had vanished. GMP for any IPO is an indicator of the premium the shares could command at listing. LIC is expected to be listed on May 17.

and foreign investors. This was the first divestment offer in the history of the Indian capital market that had anchor investors.

Through this IPO, the biggest in India, the government divested 3.5% of its equity in the life insurance major. According to the pricing policy of the offer, LIC's

policyholders will get a Rs 60-per-share discount on the final price, while retail investors get Rs 45.

"We hope India will provide a fair, just, and non-discriminatory environment" to its companies as it reacted guardedly to reports of top executives of Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi facing a probe by ED regarding its remittances abroad.

China is closely following the situation," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here,

responding to a question on top Xiaomi executives' allegation of "physical violence and coercion" by ED in its investigations into its remittances.

"We hope India will provide a fair, just, and non-discriminatory environment" to its companies as it reacted guardedly to reports of top executives of Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi facing a probe by ED regarding its remittances abroad.

He said the Chinese government always asks its companies to abide by laws and regulations while doing business overseas. "But at the same time it firmly supports the Chinese companies in upholding their lawful rights and interests,"

Xiaomi is accused of making illegal remittances abroad "in the guise of royalty" payments.

The ED on Saturday rejected as "baseless" the allegations that the statements of Xiaomi India officials, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Chinese mobile manufacturer Xiaomi, were recorded "under coercion", saying the charges were an afterthought. The ED issued a statement saying it was "a professional agency with strong work ethics and there was no coercion". AGENCIES

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Mishra wrote in a post-market note. "Besides, mixed Q4 earnings are further adding to the negativity."

RIL, after its results on Friday, witnessed heavy selling, closing 4% lower. This was also the stock that contributed the most to the slide. Given that market players here are closely watching the US

markets for cues, with the Dow Jones, Nasdaq Composite and S&P 500 deep in the red in mid-session on Monday, the Indian market too could start on a weak note on Tuesday.

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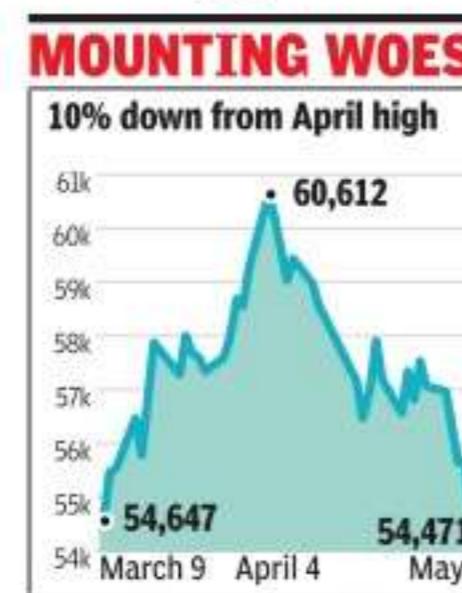
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Sensex swings 877 pts on weak global cues

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



main reasons for the weakness of the rupee in recent months, market players said. At close of the stock market's trade on Monday, data from BSE and CDSL together showed that in 2022, FPIs have net offloaded stocks worth about Rs 1.41 lakh crore, while the total net outflow across all Indian markets was a little over Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

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The fall came even as foreign funds continued to take money off the Indian stock market. At the session's close, investors were poorer by about Rs 3.3 lakh crore with the BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 255.3 lakh crore, official data showed.

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Haaland close to sealing Man City transfer: Reports

Berlin: Borussia Dortmund top striker Erling Haaland is close to sealing a transfer deal with Manchester City and a move to the lucrative Premier League, several German media reported.

Haaland is among the hottest transfer prospects this summer with the Norwegian 21-year-old having scored 61 goals in 66 league games for the Ruhr valley club since joining them in early 2020.

Several top clubs including Real Madrid, Paris St Germain and City, among others, have been linked with the player at times. Sky Germany, which holds the rights to the Bundesliga, reported on Monday the player had informed the club of his wish to leave and that Manchester City had contacted the club over the player's release clause.

Several other media, including *Bild* and *Kicker*, citing unnamed sources, also said a deal could be finalised in the coming days. Dortmund are interested in Salzburg forward Karim Adeyemi. AFP

ERLING HAALAND

EVERYONE SUPPORTS LIVERPOOL: PEP GETS TETCHY

Manchester: Pep Guardiola has become irritated over Liverpool's stature. "Everyone in this country supports Liverpool," Guardiola said after City routed Newcastle 5-0 on Sunday. "The media and everyone." It had been a routine opening question that Guardiola faced about whether he was "ecstatic" with the performance after City's collapse at Real Madrid in the Champions League. "Did you have any doubts?" Guardiola asked the reporter from a British newspaper. "You're a Liverpool fan. Come on."

"Liverpool have an incredible history behind (it) in European competition - not in Premier Leagues, because they've won one in 30 years - but it's not a problem at all," Guardiola said. "The people want Liverpool to win more than us. It's normal."

FIFA orders Brazil, Argentina to play abandoned World Cup qualifier: The FIFA Appeal Committee ruled the abandoned World Cup qualifier between Brazil and Argentina must be replayed after considering the appeals filed by the countries' football associations.

JAMIL RETURNS TO I-LEAGUE ROOTS?

Bengaluru United FC, I-League 2nd Division side, are set to appoint Khalid Jamil as their new head coach, it has emerged. Jamil, I-League winning coach with Aizawl FC, was coach of ISL team Northeast United this season. He was also coach for East Bengal and Mohun Bagan, in their pre-ISL avatar. TNN



“The Supreme Court had stated that the government must act on selection of judges only after proper due diligence. It takes time. Time is also taken when recommendations are (pending) with the SC collegium

want to blame anyone when the decision-making is a collective responsibility."

The minister said on various occasions, there has been disagreement between the government and the SC over suitability of candidates for judgeship, but also stressed that there have also been differences of opinion among the five members of the SC collegium that make recommendations.

On why there has been di-

wrong. But what is the point now? Had the NJAC been in place, things would have been different and more transparent."

Rijiju also asserted that the executive was duty-bound to vet the collegium's recommendations with due diligence, saying the exercise has to be detailed and rigorous given the sheer sensitivity of the task. "The SC, in one of its own judgments, had stated that the government must act on selection of judges only after proper due diligence. It mandates that the onus is on the government to ensure that a person is fit to be a judge. To do a proper background verification, it takes time. Time is also taken when recommendations are (pending) with the SC collegium," the minister added.

vergence of views on candidates for the higher judiciary, the minister said: "I don't want to comment beyond a point on how names are picked up and how processes are being followed. Everybody knows it, and that is why we had proposed NJAC (National Judicial Appointments Commission), which was struck down by the SC. One of the members of that bench later regretted striking it down, saying it was

50% of SC judges from 4 states, Delhi

Dhananjay Mahapatra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala, who took oath as an SC judge on Monday, was appointed permanent judge of the Gujarat HC on January 28, 2013.

In contrast, Punjab and Haryana HC CJ Ravi Shankar Jha was appointed HC judge on October 18, 2005; Allahabad HC CJ Rajesh Bindal on March 22, 2006; Orissa HC CJ S Muralidhar on May 29, 2006; Delhi HC acting CJ Vipin Sanghi on May 29, 2006; Bombay HC CJ Dipankar Datta on June 22, 2006; Madras HC CJ Munishwar Nath Bhandari on July 5, 2007; Patna HC CJ Sanjay Karol on March 8, 2007; Calcutta HC CJ Prakash Srivastava on January 18, 2008, and Andhra Pradesh CJ Prashant Kumar Mishra on December 10, 2009.

Legal circles are aware that seniority is not the sole criteria for selection of SC judges, from among HC CJs and judges. But it is widely acknowledged in judicial circles that the selection dice gets loaded considerably in favour of HC CJs/judges having sufficient seniority.

The selection of Justices Dhulia and Pardiwala as SC judges came as a surprise to many as they felt there were many HC CJs who have been heading the highest court in various states for a long period of time, only to get shunted periodically from one state to another.



Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia (above right) and Justice Jamshed B Pardiwala being administered the oath as SC judges by CJI N V Ramana in New Delhi on Monday

If one takes the other often-professed selection factors — representation to unrepresented regions/states and communities in the Supreme Court — to reflect the composite culture of the country, there too the SC collegium faltered.

Justice Dhulia's selection could pass muster as it accounted for representation to Uttarakhand in the SC. But giving one more judge post to Gujarat in Justice Pardiwala defied logic as the SC already has two from the state — Justices M R Shah and Bela M Trivedi. Many states — Odisha, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and all north-eastern states (excluding Assam) — have been unrepresented for a long time.

Judges, whose parent HCs are either Bombay and Delhi, dominate the SC with

five and four representations, respectively, accounting for over 26% of the present strength. Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh (undivided) also have three judges each in SC. Thus, four states and Delhi account for more than 50% of the judges in the SC, reflecting imbalance in regional representation.

Justices Dhulia and Pardiwala were given oath at the new auditorium in the presence of all its judges, attorney general, solicitor general and lawyers. While Justice Dhulia will have a short tenure of a little over three years, Justice Pardiwala will ride on the seniority ticket and go on to succeed Justice P S Narasimha as CJ on May 3, 2028. He will have a tenure of two years, three months and eight days as CJ and will retire on August 11, 2030.

(With inputs by K Saroj Kumar Sharma from Imphal)



Atletico Taste First Derby Win at Metropolitano, Close In On CL Spot

Marcus.Mergulhao@timesgroup.com

achievement of the other.

Madrid: The crowd saw this before the referee and up they were on their feet — screaming, howling, whistling, abusing. This is the fierce Madrid derby between Atletico and Real at the Wanda Metropolitano on Sunday night and the referee is in no mood to buckle under pressure. Twice in the opening half an hour, he had ignored claims for a penalty, but this time around an overwhelming majority of the 63,874 spectators seemed convinced.

The VAR had some doubts too, so the referee was asked to have a look. He did. It was enough for him to change his mind and award a penalty which Yannick Carrasco converted. The goal turned out to be the winner as Atletico won 1-0 against their eternal rivals for the first time at the Metropolitano, where they moved from Estadio Vicente Calderon in 2017.

Real Madrid came into this clash as La Liga champions, never mind that Atletico did not give them the guard of honour where one team acknowledges the

With the title already wrapped up, coach Carlo Ancelotti made seven changes to the Real Madrid lineup, leaving stars like Karim Benzema, Luka Modric and Vinicius on the bench. Atletico clearly wanted to win this one more than their rivals, not just because they had drawn three and lost one of the previous Madrid derbies at the Metropolitano.

For Atletico, of greater significance was a Champions League spot at stake.

With just three points separating them and fifth-placed Real Betis, this was a must-win game and the players delivered to take last season's champions to the

a delay, they eventually got it.

Carrasco made no mistake from the subsequent penalty, slotting it past Ukrainian goalkeeper Andriy Lunin, playing his first league game for Real Madrid. Atletico pushed for a second, could have scored too, until Ancelotti made changes at the other end, introducing Modric, Vinicius and Valverde.

It was end-to-end stuff.

Madrid were revitalised, had clear looks at the goal too, but unlike their spectacular show in the Champions League, there was no late comeback.

The last time Madrid lost the derby away at Atletico was in October 2015 with Ancelotti as the coach. The 4-0 loss was the beginning of the end of his term, despite having previously won La Decima.

This time around, the loss would spark no such fears. Ancelotti, after all, has the Champions League final later this month to think of Atletico have now taken a huge step towards qualification for next season's Champions League. They are fourth, six points clear of Real Betis, Pawan Rajbhar, Abharan Sudev, Nilam Sanjeev Xess.

Rupinder to lead a young squad

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Defender Rupinder Pal Singh will lead the Indian team at the men's Asia Cup in Jakarta from May 23-June 3. Birendra Lakra is his deputy. India, Japan, Pakistan and hosts Indonesia are in Pool A, while Malaysia, Korea, Oman and Bangladesh are in Pool B in the event, which is a World Cup qualifier. India have already qualified for the World Cup as hosts.

The tournament will mark the return of senior players like Rupinder, Lakra and striker SV Sunil. The two defenders have come out of retirement following the bronze medal feat at the Tokyo Olympics last year.

Besides the seniors, India have named 10 new faces in the 20-member line-up. This includes junior World Cup players — Yashdeep Siwach, Abhishek Lakra, Manjeet, Vishnukant Singh and Uttam Singh. Also set for their senior team debut are Mareeswaraen Sakthivel, Shesha Gowda, Simranjeet Singh; Forwards: Pawan Rajbhar, Abharan Sudev; Midfielders: Vishnukant Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Mareeswaraen Sakthivel, Shesha Gowda, Simranjeet Singh; Defenders: Rupinder Pal Singh, Suraj Karaker; Goalkeepers: Pankaj Kumar Rajak, Suraj Karaker;

BJ Kariappa and former India skipper Sardar Singh. Speaking about the team, Kariappa said, "The team is a good mix of experienced senior players and newcomers, many of whom have played at the international level in different age-group matches but have not made their Senior India debut. This will be a good platform for us to try out this new group and test how these players utilize the opportunity."

ASIA CUP TEAM

Goalkeepers: Pankaj Kumar Rajak, Suraj Karaker; **Defenders:** Rupinder Pal Singh (C), Yashdeep Siwach, Abhishek Lakra, Birendra Lakra (VC), Manjeet, Dipsan Kirley; **Midfielders:** Vishnukant Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Mareeswaraen Sakthivel, Shesha Gowda, Simranjeet Singh; **Forwards:** Pawan Rajbhar, Abharan Sudev; **Replacements:** Maninder Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Xess.

Lahiri settles for tied-sixth place

Indian Golfer Up To No. 74 In Rankings



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A nirban Lahiri settled for a share of sixth place at the Wells Fargo Championship on Sunday as two late bogeys dented his hopes of a maiden PGA Tour victory.

through most of the difficult holes and then had close misses on 13 and 14, and then a poor shot on 15. Just a little disappointed, frustrated," he said.

Still, Lahiri produced a second top-10 of the season on the back of a runner-up finish at The Players Championship in March. He moved up to 44th place on the FedExCup standings and should enhance his bid for a place in the International Team for the Presidents Cup. "All in all, it was a really good week," said Lahiri, who shot up 11 rungs to No. 74 on the Official World Golf Ranking.

Milan inch towards title glory



JOE DONE: Birthday boy Tonali scored a brace

Milan: Birthday boy Sandro Tonali fired AC Milan closer to the Serie A title with a brace in Sunday's 3-1 win at Verona which maintained their two-point lead over Inter Milan at the top of the league.

Italy midfielder Tonali, 23, struck with almost identical goals created by Rafael Leao either side of half-time before Alessandro Florenzi completed the scoring to leave Milan needing four points from their final two games to claim a first Scudetto since 2011.

Their superior record in this season's Milan derbies gives the seven-time European champions an advantage which would keep them ahead of champions Inter should the two local rivals end the season level on

points. "I'm in love with my players," said coach Stefano Pioli to DAZN. "I see the effort they put in every day and I know the journey we've been on."

Manipur cops pick up man from Mum for online post

Sandhya.Nair@timesgroup.com

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



82% of women can say no to husband for sex: Survey

Ambika Pandit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21) shows that majority of women (80%) and men (66%) in India believe that a woman is justified in refusing sex to her husband for any or all of these three reasons — if he has a sexually transmitted disease; he has sex with other women; or because she is tired/not in the mood. Adults who agree that women can refuse sex to their husband for all the three specified reasons has increased by 12 percentage points for women (from 68%) and three percentage points for men (63%) from the NFHS-4 (2015-16) levels.

Times View: That a substantial percentage of women believe it is okay to be beaten up by their husbands shows how deep patriarchy is entrenched in our society. Victims too subconsciously internalise it. Only vigorous propagation of gender rights and raising social awareness among both men and women through progressive education can alter such mindsets.

While 19% of men agree a husband has the right to get angry and reprimand a woman if she refuses to have sex with her husband when he wants her to, the survey also shows that more than four in five women (82%) can say no to their husband if they do not want to have sexual intercourse.

Sadly, 45% of women and 44% of men believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife in at least one of seven specified circumstances — if she goes out without telling him; neglects the house or the children; argues with him; refuses to have sex with him; doesn't cook food properly; suspects her of being unfaithful; or shows disrespect to her in-laws. While women justifying wife beating declined by seven percentage points from 52%, in case of men it is up by two percentage points from 42%.

Need to talk to states first, says Centre on Hindu minority tag

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TN

New Delhi: The Union minority affairs ministry in its fresh affidavit at the Supreme Court said though "the power is vested with the central government to notify minorities, the stand to be formulated by the central government with regard to issues raised in this group of petitions will be finalized after having a wide consultation with the state governments and other stakeholders. This will ensure that the central government is able to place a considered view before the Supreme Court, taking into consideration several sociological and other aspects obviating any unintended complications in future with regard to such a vital issue," it said.

The FIR alleges Pau Lian Kap, from the Paite tribe, wrote in the local language that "if (Dr) Sanga did not clarify (blaming the British instead of the Meitei for the death of Goukhonthang Guite was captured and killed by the British and not by the Meiteis) a general category community" as claimed in history.

The police are on the lookout for another person who had uploaded a post on the same topic on another social media platform.

(With inputs by K Saroj Kumar Sharma from Imphal)

which are in minority in the country or a particular state.

Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay had said that even though followers of Hinduism, Judaism and Bahaism are minorities in the states of J&K, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Manipur and Punjab, the majority communities in these states are treated as 'minority' due to their national population percentage, and they accrue benefits which should accrue to the real minorities.

The Centre had in its earlier affidavit said it was for the concerned state legislature to consider whether these religious groups and communities could be declared minorities to enable them establish and administer educational institutions of their choice in those states as per the fundamental right guaranteed under Article 30 of the Constitution. "The state governments can also declare a religious or linguistic community as 'minority community' within the said state," it had said.



TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022



SWIATEK FEELING REFRESHED 'MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY' AFTER SKIPPING MADRID OPEN

BECKHAM HOPES RONALDO STAYS ON AT MAN UNITED FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR

Playoff Spot Up For Grabs As
Successful Newbies Gujarat Titans &
Lucknow Super Giants Square Off Today

NEW ERA OF IPL DOMINANCE

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When IPL-2022 started, little did one expect the newbies of the tournament, Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants, to be perched on top of the table after 11 matches. Both sides have won eight and lost three with LSG's superior net run-rate pushing it ahead of the Titans. On Tuesday, a win for either of the two teams will not only propel them to 18 points but also help cement a spot in the playoff stage.

It has been a fairytale run for both teams. The Lucknow management fought tooth and nail to get KL Rahul on board as skipper before the auction in February. They flushed out Rs 17 crore for the dynamic opening bat.

Rahul has returned the faith by not only scoring 451 runs in the tournament so far, including two centuries, but has been astute with his captaincy skills.

Then LSG brought in the experience of Gautam Gambhir as team mentor, and it was evident at the auction how much influence the former India opener had in building the squad. The plethora of allrounders Lucknow picked, or the move to opt for pace in the form of Avesh Khan and Dushmantha Chameera, all had Gambhir's stamp.

The allrounders - Deepak Hooda, Krunal Pandya, Marcus Stoinis, Jason Holder, Krishnappa Gowtham - have played their role in the team to perfection. Even spotting a talent like Ayush Badoni and bringing him from Delhi to Lucknow or giving left-arm pacer Moshin Khan an extended run in the team had Gambhir's fair say in it.

Not to forget, getting Quinton de Kock for a steal at the auction was a good move for Lucknow. Ravi Bishnoi was strategically acquired from Punjab Kings, knowing fully that the leg-spinner flourished under Rahul's leadership in the previous season.

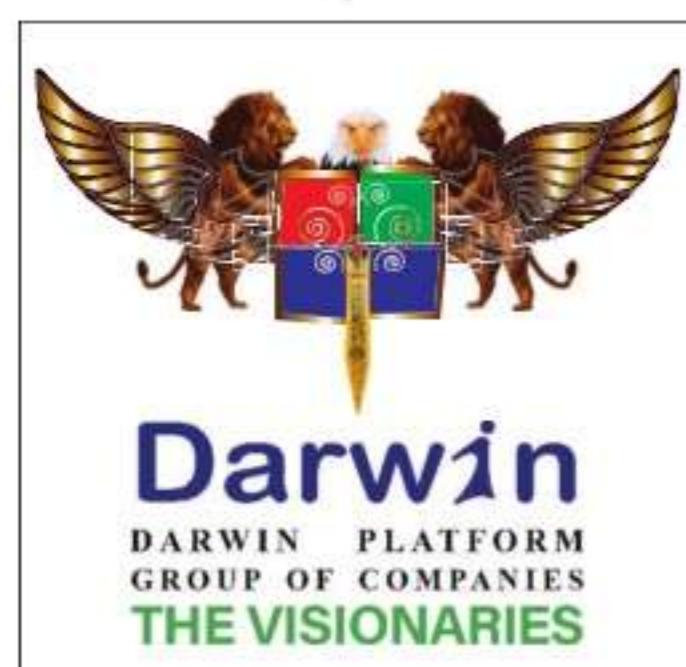
Likewise, Gujarat struck a chord and immediately built a fan base when they went for Hardik Pandya to lead their side. They also managed to woo a young and upcoming batsman like Shubman Gill away from Kolkata Knight Riders, but the absolute heist was securing a match-winner like Rashid Khan from Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Former India fast bowler Ashish Nehra was roped in as the head coach



HOW THEY STAND					
TEAM	M	W	L	N/R	PTS
LSG	11	8	3	0.703	16
GT	11	8	3	0.120	16
RR	11	7	4	0.326	14
RCB	12	7	5	-0.115	14
DC	11	5	6	0.150	10
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 MI vs KKR match)



and that reflected in the decisions Gujarat took at the auction. They focused on bolstering their bowling department, and got the services of top fast bowlers like Mohammed Shami, Lockie Ferguson and Alzarri Joseph. The 'Iceman' Rahul Tewatia, who has won Gujarat at least four matches on his own, was another great investment.

Being new teams, Lucknow or Gujarat didn't have too many choices at the beginning. But they have played their cards brilliantly right from the auction and are showcasing the brand of cricket they want to play. The returns for them have been maximum.

Bumrah five-for not enough for MI

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Mumbai: Jasprit Bumrah bowled one of the finest spells you would have ever seen in the IPL at the DY Patil Stadium on Monday night, but it wasn't enough to beat the mediocrities that the Mumbai Indians have slipped into in IPL-2022.

Bumrah's devastating 5/10 in four overs of high-class pace bowling restricted Kolkata Knight Riders to 165/9 in 20 overs, but KKR came roaring back with the ball as Pat Cummins (3/22), Andre Russell (2/22) and Tim Southee (1/10) returned fire with fire to ensure a 52-run win which keeps their team alive in the race for the playoffs. With 10 points (five wins and seven losses), the Knight Riders climbed from the ninth to the seventh with two games to go.

Badly missing Suryakumar Yadav, who is out of the rest of the IPL due to a left forearm muscle injury, MI crashed to 113 all out in just 17.3 overs, losing their last

SCOREBOARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: V Iyer c Sams b Kartikeya 43, A Rahane b Kartikeya 12, N Rana c Kishan b Bumrah 43, S Iyer c Kishan b Ashwin 6, A Russell c Pollard b Bumrah 9, R Singh not out 23, S Jackson c Sams b Bumrah 5, S Cummins c Varun b Bumrah 0, S Narine c b Bumrah 0, T Southee c Pollard b Sams 0, V Chakrabarty not out 0; **Extras** (lb1, lb7, w2): 10; **Total (17.3 Ov): RR: 64.5;** 113; **FoW:** 1-2, 2-32, 3-69, 4-83, 5-100, 6-102, 7-102, 8-112, 9-113, 10-113; **Bowling:** Southee 3-0-10-1, Cummins 4-0-22-3, Russell 2.3-0-22-2, Narine 4-1-10-5, Meredith 3-0-35-0, Kartikeya 3-0-32-2, Pollard 2-0-26-0.

Mumbai Indians: I Kishan c Singh b Cummins 51, R Sharma c Jackson b Southee 2, T Varma c Rana b Russell 6, R Singh c Rana b Russell 12, T David c Rahane b Varun 13, K Pollard run out 15, D Sams c Jackson b Cummins 1, M Ashwin c Varun b Cummins 0, K Kartikeya run out 3, J Bumrah run out 0, R Meredith not out 0; **Extras** (lb1, lb7, w2): 10; **Total (17.3 Ov): RR: 64.5;** 113; **FoW:** 1-2, 2-32, 3-69, 4-83, 5-100, 6-102, 7-102, 8-112, 9-113, 10-113; **Bowling:** Southee 3-0-10-1, Cummins 4-0-22-3, Russell 2.3-0-22-2, Narine 4-1-10-5, Meredith 3-0-35-0, Kartikeya 3-0-32-2, Pollard 2-0-26-0.

Result: KKR won by 52 runs

eight wickets for 44 runs in merely 42 balls. Fielding like tigers, KKR pulled off three run outs as MI suffered their ninth loss in what has turned out to be a nightmare and embarrassment of a season.

Bumrah, after taking just five wickets in 10 matches in IPL-15, tore into KKR to record his best-ever T20 figures.

Much to KKR's relief, open-

er Venkatesh Iyer made an impressive return to the XI, tonking a quickfire 43 (24b, 3x4, 4x6). Iyer's fireworks ensured that the Knight Riders, asked to bat first by MI, enjoyed their best Powerplay in this IPL, scoring 64-4.

Kolkata made five changes for this game and importantly, Cummins and company rose to the task when it mattered.



SOME CONTROVERSIAL CALLS? DC's Pant (left) with coach Ponting

'Fully back every decision Pant makes on field'

Navi Mumbai: Rishabh Pant's on-field decisions as Delhi Capitals captain in the ongoing IPL might have come under the scanner of former players but the wicketkeeper has got the "full backing" of

head coach Ricky Ponting, who says "it's easy to make judgment from outside".

Under Pant, DC have won just five of 11 matches, but Ponting said, "I fully back every decision he (Pant) takes on the field. You don't have a lot of time to think, especially under extreme pressure. It is easy to make judgments from outside but when you are in the middle it is not easy."

That brings us to the crucial question of whether these match-winning performances for RCB will help the 36-year-old get that finisher's spot in the Indian team for the T20 World Cup.

If, with Covid issues in mind, it's a 20-member squad, Karthik will almost be a certainty. But the real competition starts if it's the normal 15-member squad (or a place in the playing XI).

The Indian team management,

when it comes to T20 cricket, looks to have Nos. 6 and 7 as allrounders, two slots all but reserved for Hardik Pandya (if he bowls) and Ravindra Jadeja.

In that case, Karthik's inclusion only as a batter could be difficult. "Karthik was in the 2019 50-over World Cup team as a back-up wicketkeeper for MS Dhoni. While KL Rahul wasn't considered a keeper at that point, Rishabh Pant was drafted in only after players in the 15 got injured. It's not easy to find a slot for Karthik only as a batter in the 15, even if he is in great form at the moment. But his chances increase manifold if any one of Pant or Rahul is injured," former India opener Devang Gandhi, who was part of the 2019 selection committee, told TOI.

The fact that the T20 World Cup will be played in Australia, where pitches will be significantly different, will also be taken into account.



Carlos Alcaraz entered the tournament fresh from victory in the Barcelona Open. In Madrid, he turned 19 on Thursday and on the next two days beat Rafael Nadal in 2 hours and 28 minutes and Novak Djokovic in 3 hours and 36 minutes

It feels great to be able to beat these players. To beat two of the best players in history and then Zverev, the world No. 3. I would say this is the best week of my life.

—Carlos Alcaraz

long and tough matches in a row. I am feeling great physically," he said

The atmosphere on Sunday did not reach the fervour of the day before, as Alcaraz grabbed control early and cruised to his quickest victory of the week.

Even so, "it was a spectacular

atmosphere," he told the crowd at the end. "This tournament is special for me because it's the first tournament I watched when I was seven or eight," said Alcaraz. "Watching Rafa lift this trophy so often, gave me a lot of power to work hard for this moment."

AGENCIES

Carlos favourite for French Open: Novak

Rome: World No. 1 Novak Djokovic said on Monday that Carlos Alcaraz is a firm favourite for the French Open. "He definitely is special... So far he's the best player in the world, no question,

this year," Djokovic told reporters in Rome. "(At) Roland Garros, he's definitely one of the main favourites, no doubt, even though he has never reached the second week of a Grand Slam. With everything recently that he has achieved, he deserves to be one of the favourites." AGENCIES



Right now you (Alcaraz) are the best player in the world. Even though you are still 5 years old, you are still beating us all, so great to see for tennis that we have such a new superstar who is going to win many Grand Slams, who is going to be No. 1 and is going to win this tournament many times."

—Alexander Zverev

AGENCIES

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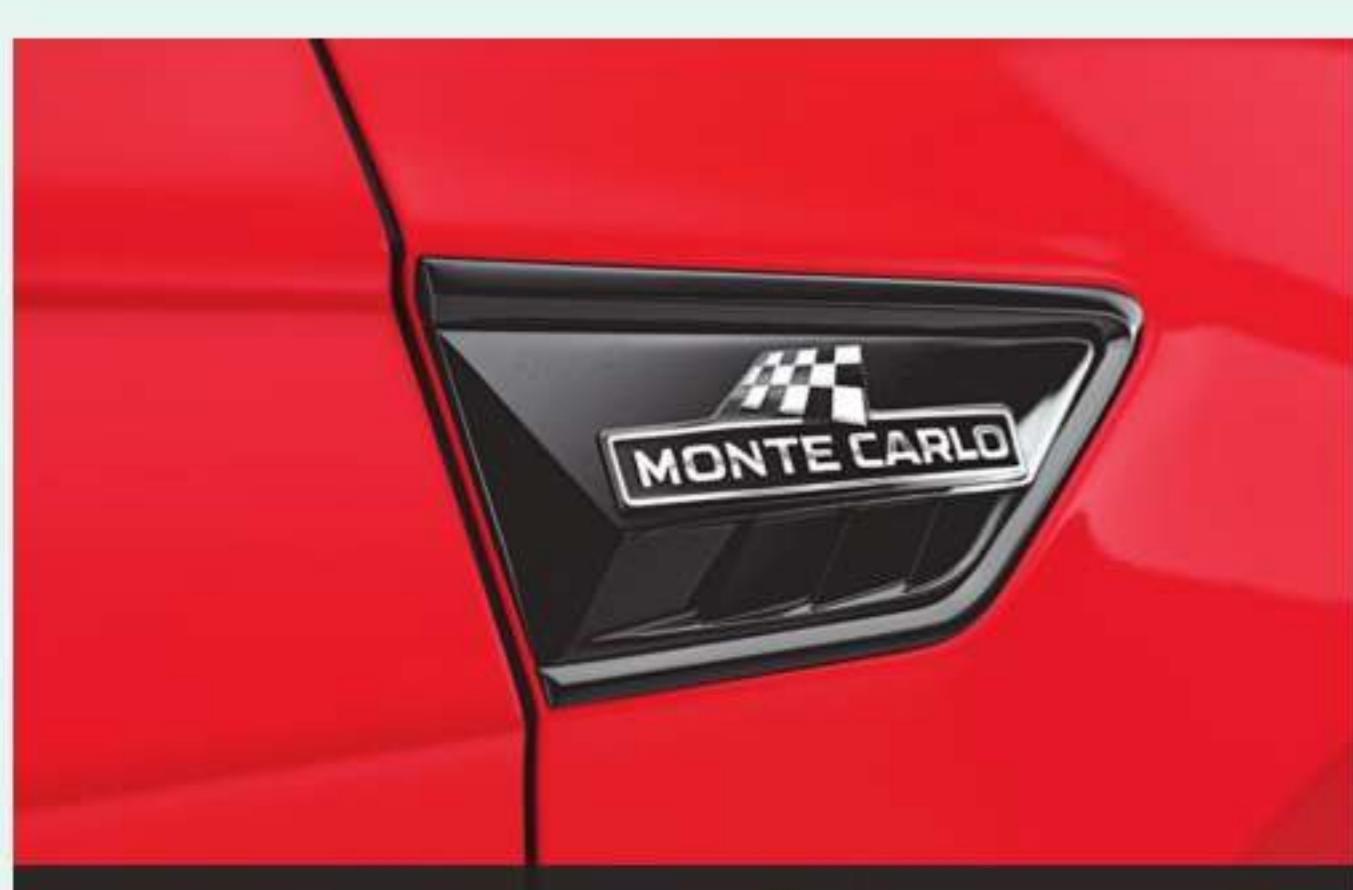
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Showrooms: **New Delhi: Moti Nagar**: Aryaveer Motors: 011-49300000; **Mathura Road: Jai Auto**: 7574066633; **East of Kailash**: Aryaveer Motors: 011-49300000; **East Delhi: Shekhwati Electronics** (Zedex): 9871733311; **Paschim Vihar: Masy Cars** (Ring Road): 011-33678000; **Gurugram: Golf Course Road: Masy Cars** (Ring Road): 0124-4548080; **Sector 15: Jai Auto**: 7574066633; **Noida: Brite Auto Wheels**: 7031680316; **Faridabad: Excel Cars Pvt. Ltd.**: 9899822211; **Dehradun: DPM Automobiles**: 7217013298; **Kanpur: Speedworks Auto**: 8810716975; **Lucknow** (Opposite High Court): Kamal Kishore Autocorp: 7521002386, 1800 1805 322; **Agra: Prem Garages**: 7500777777, 7830441111; **Prayagraj: Ayva Automobiles**: 8188065001; **Bareilly: Commercial Automotives**: 9917575205, 8398809955; **Branches: Ghaziabad: Brite Auto Wheels**: 7031680316; **Noida (Noida Mall facility)**: Brite Auto Wheels: 7031680316; **Kundli: (Ring Road) Masy Cars Pvt. Ltd.**: 0130-6633355; **Gurugram: Jai Auto Vehicles** (Sohna Road): 7574066633; **Meerut: Brite Auto Wheels**: 7031680316; **Lucknow (Rana Pratap Marg): Kamal Kishore Autocorp**: 7570003519, 7521002334, 0522-2207770; **Aligarh: Prem Garages**: 7500777777; **Hardoi: Kamal Kishore Autocorp**: 7521002333; **Moradabad: Commercial Automotives**: 9917575205; **Service Centres: New Delhi: Moti Nagar**: Aryaveer Motors: 011-40844084; **Mathura Road: Jai Auto**: 011-45877777; **Jahangirpur: Masy Cars** (Ring Road): 9289109546; **Gurugram: Sector 18: Masy Cars** (Ring Road): 0124-4851200; **Sector 15: Jai Auto**: 0124-4762700; **Noida: Brite Auto Wheels**: 8188065003; **Kanpur: Speedworks Auto**: 8810719362; **Bareilly: Commercial Automotives**: 9917575205, 8398809955; **Compact Workshop: Kundli: (Ring Road) Masy Cars Pvt. Ltd.**: 0130-6633355; **Hardoi: Kamal Kishore Autocorp**: 1800 1805 322

*Specifications given differ from model to model. Red brake calipers available only with the 1.5 TSI variant. Accessories shown may not be a part of standard equipment. Always insist on genuine ŠKODA AUTO parts and accessories available at the authorised sales and service centres. Information relating to colours, prices, construction, technical details and equipment was valid at the time of issuance and these are subject to changes without any prior notice. All disputes are subject to the courts in Mumbai jurisdiction only. Cost per km mentioned is only an estimate and is towards the cost of periodic maintenance services for the duration of 5 years/75,000 km. Warranty - promotional offer on 3rd and 4th year up to maximum mileage of 1 00,000 km. Roadside Assistance - 4 years or unlimited km. Maintenance Package - 4 years/60,000 km (optional on paid basis) covers four periodic maintenance services each at an interval of 15,000 km or one year (whichever occurs first from date of delivery). T&C apply.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA



INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

36 yrs after his father was ousted in a people's revolution, Marcos Jr edges closer to a triumph in the Philippines prez election, INSIDE JACKET

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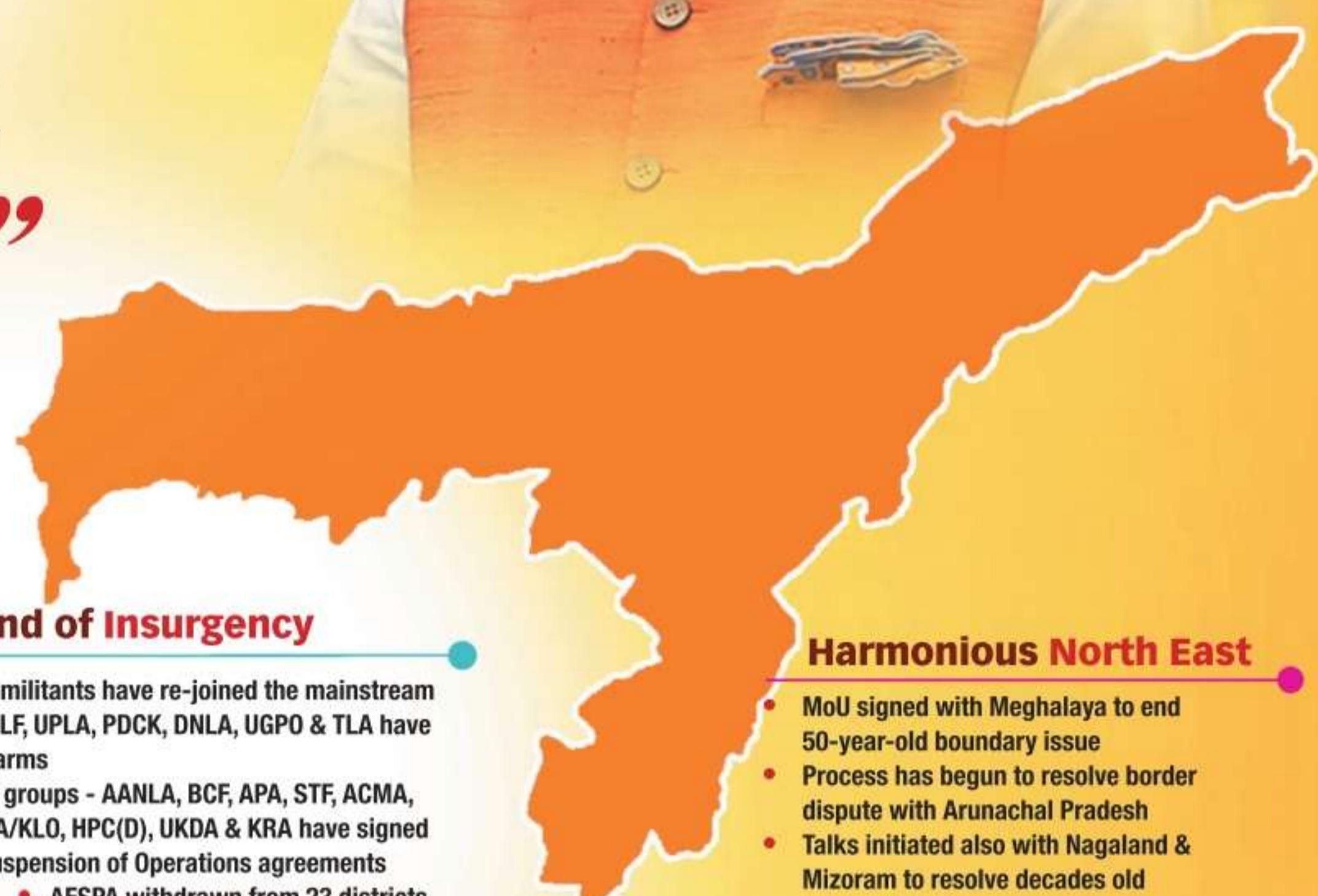
GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM



TRANSFORMING ASSAM THE YEAR THAT WAS

“ Assam is known for its vibrant culture and talented people. Powered by a collective spirit, Assam is scaling new heights of progress in various sectors. The good governance initiatives of the state government have positively impacted several lives. ”

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Empowering One Lakh Youth

- Fulfilling the promise of time-bound recruitment
- Two Recruitment Commissions already set up for Grade - III & Grade - IV posts
- More than 23,000 appointment letters ready for distribution across departments on 14 May 2022
- Remaining appointments to be completed soon

Towards Achieving 24 X 7 Quality Power

- Turnaround of Power Utility companies - APDCL, AEGCL & APGCL - from loss making to profitability
- Distribution network strengthened - new substations installed & capacities of existing substations augmented
- ₹ 10,000 Crore sanctioned under three Externally Aided Projects to augment power generation, transmission & distribution sector
- ₹ 8,727 Crore sanctioned under GOI Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme for improvement of DISCOM

Rising GSDP

- Despite COVID, Assam recorded an impressive 13.89% YOY growth in GSDP during the FY 2021-22
- During 2022-23, Assam GSDP is projected to touch a historic ₹ 5 Lakh Crore, thus contributing significantly to the national growth

Fiscal Health Bolstered

- Adoption of prudent fiscal management practices, meticulous planning of expenditure including large scale procurement reforms: overall budgetary expenditure has seen marked improvement
- During the FY 2021-22, for the first time ever total expenditure crossed ₹ 1 Lakh Crore, a substantial jump from ₹ 42,000 Crore during 2015-16

Healing Touch

- Approx 4.5 Crore COVID vaccine doses administered in the state
- All COVID Victims provided with financial assistance ranging from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 2.5 Lakhs
- 7 state of the art cancer hospitals inaugurated
- 16 new medical colleges, 8 under various stages of construction



End of Insurgency

- 2000 odd militants have re-joined the mainstream
- KPLT, KLNLF, UPLA, PDCK, DNLA, UGPO & TLA have given up arms
- 9 militant groups - AANLA, BCF, APA, STF, ACMA, KLA/KLO, HPC(D), UKDA & KRA have signed Suspension of Operations agreements
- AFSPA withdrawn from 23 districts due to improvement in law and order, which is 66% of Assam's geography

Relief to Women Microfinance Borrowers

- 1st State to introduce Microfinance Incentive and Relief Scheme, 2021 to alleviate distress and sufferings of more than 25 Lakh women borrowers
- Incentive of ₹ 1,600 Crores already extended to 9 Lakh borrowers in Category 1
- In Category 2 & 3, almost 16 lacs borrowers with overdue repayment and NPAs to be provided with full or partial relief making them credit worthy again

Zero Tolerance Against Crime

- Crime rate per lakh population has fallen drastically from 384 to 222
- Case pendency has reduced majorly
- The War Against Drugs rages hard with 2,834 cases, 4,838 Narcos arrested & drugs worth ₹ 550 Crores seized
- Human Trafficking networks hit & 250 Victims rescued
- Anti-Cattle Smuggling Ops continue unabated with 992 arrests & around 10,000 cattle rescued

Assam on the Move

- Substantial investment in capital projects in sectors such as Roads and Bridge, Water Supply and Sewerage, Power sector, Public Health Emergency, Agriculture
- Capital investment during 2021-22 stands at ₹ 20,000 Crore
- Externally Aided Projects worth ₹ 16,843 Crore under implementation for much needed infrastructure thrust

Government with a Difference

- One Cabinet Meeting every month outside the State Capital
- Every six months DCs & SPs Conference outside the State HQ
- One Minister & one senior officer assigned as Guardian Minister & Guardian Secretary to spend sufficient time in the District

Welfare of Farmers & Tea Tribes

- Minimum Support Price assured to farmers at ₹ 1,940 per quintal
- No. of Paddy Procurement Centers, New mills, Godowns, Driers increased manifold
- Steps taken to procure every grain
- Rise in minimum wage for tea garden workers

And the journey continues...

TRANSFORMING ASSAM THE YEAR THAT WAS



BUCKINGHAM PALACE: QUEEN ELIZABETH WILL NOT ATTEND OPENING OF PARLIAMENT AMID ONGOING MOBILITY ISSUES

TIMES GLOBAL

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022

RATHER FAIL WITH HONOUR THAN SUCCEED BY FRAUD — SOPHOCLES



CELINE DION PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE 'COURAGEOUS' MOMS OF UKRAINE ON MOTHER'S DAY: PRAY THAT THEY'LL FIND PEACE

Putin Delivers Defiant Speech, But Stops Short Of Escalation

Hails Army For 'Fighting For Motherland'; In His Address, Ukraine Prez Vows To Defeat Russia, Mark 2 Victory Days

Against a backdrop of armoured vehicles and soldiers in regalia, President Vladimir Putin hailed Russia's army for "fighting for the Motherland," delivering a defiant speech at the start of the annual Victory Day commemorations on Monday that falsely depicted his invasion of Ukraine as an extension of the struggle against Nazism in Europe. Slanders Ukrainian fighters as "Nazis," as he has done throughout the war; Putin did not announce any change in the military campaign, but sought to use the roaring military parade in Moscow's Red Square to channel Russian pride in defeating Nazi Germany into support for his invasion of Ukraine. Significantly, he did not declare "victory" in Ukraine, suggesting no end to a war after more than two months in which his army has repeatedly stumbled and is now locked in an increasingly bloody stalemate. But nor did he renew his implicit threats of nuclear war. And in a speech that appeared aimed at a domestic audience, he insisted again that Russia had been forced into the war and made a rare acknowledgement of the toll of the fighting, promising that his government would do "everything to care for" the families of dead soldiers. He, however, steered clear of battlefield specifics, failing to mention the potentially pivotal battle for the vital southern port of Mariupol and not even uttering the word "Ukraine."

On the ground, meanwhile, intense fighting raged in Ukraine's east, the vital Black Sea port of Odessa in the south came under bombardment again,



Putin attends a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier marking the 77th anniversary of the end of WWII in Moscow.

Russia cancels warplane flyovers across the country, raises suspicions

It was supposed to be the most spectacular part of the Victory Day parade in Moscow — 77 Russian warplanes, from fighter jets to President Putin's airborne nuclear war command center, flying over Red Square. With millions already watching, event organisers announced that the fly-past was cancelled due to bad weather conditions. Yet the weather in Moscow looked clear and no further specifics were given, raising questions about what actually prevented the aerial component of Russia's annual show of strength. Reports that warplane flyovers had also been cancelled in other parts of Russia, from Yekaterinburg in the Urals to Kaliningrad on the Baltics, further fuelled suspicions. "There cannot be hurricanes all across the country," said Yuri Fyodorov, a Russian military analyst. He suggested that Russia might have decided not to exacerbate nuclear tensions by refraining from demonstrating its airborne command center, or Moscow feared acts of sabotage. *vrt*

and Russian forces sought to finish off the Ukrainian defenders making their last stand at a steel plant in Mariupol. Putin has long bristled at Nato's creep eastward into former Soviet republics, and argued on Monday that Russia had to invade Ukraine before an "inevitable" clash. Ukrainian leaders and their Western backers have denied that Kyiv or Nato posed any threat.

As Putin laid a wreath in Moscow, air raid sirens echoed again in the Ukrainian capital. But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky declared in his own Victory Day address that his country would eventually defeat the Russians. "Very soon there will be two Victory Days in Ukraine," he said in a video. He added: "We are fighting for freedom, for our children, and therefore we will win." *AGENCIES*

EU mulling more funds for eastern states in bid for deal on Russia oil ban: Report

Brussels: The European Commission is considering offering landlocked eastern EU states more money to upgrade oil infrastructure in a bid to convince them to agree to an embargo on Russian oil, an EU source said on Monday. The measures are part of a wider package of new sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, but the adoption of the legal text still needs an agreement on the size of the investment, the source said, adding another sticking point was Cyprus's concerns about a proposed ban on the sale of real estate to Russians.

Horse trading after the Commission put forward its original sanctions document last week has delayed approval and the text has already been revised once to try to win over sceptics. A new version, currently being drafted, is likely to drop a ban on EU tankers carrying Russian oil, after pressure from Greece, Cyprus and Malta, the source said, declining to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter. EU companies would, however, be prevented from offering insurance and other financial services for the transport of Russian oil worldwide, the source added, noting that on this point the original proposal would remain unchanged. Whereas most EU states will have to fully implement a Russian oil embargo by



NARROW ESCAPE: European Council President Charles Michel (L), who made a surprise visit to Odessa on Monday, was forced to break off a meeting and take cover when missiles again struck the southern Ukrainian city, an EU official said. The strike took place as he held talks with Ukrainian PM Denys Shmygal

Taliban call meeting of tribal elders, scholars in Af

Islamabad: A formal meeting of the factions of the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan will be held shortly to discuss the political, social and security issues as the troubled country slips into one crisis after another. Confirming this, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said on Monday: "We are trying to hold a gathering among Afghans of tribal elders, Islamic clerics and influential figures. But it is yet to be determined when it will be held. The discussion will cover political, social and security matters."

Since the Taliban's takeover in August 2021, Afghans turned out that there was no lion on the loose but a paper shopping bag with the face of the feline on it. A farmer spotted the bag and mistook it for a wild cat on the loose, and contacted the authorities. After he raised the alarm, wildlife officers and three rangers rushed to the village. "They found out that the shopping bag belonged to a nearby homeowner who had placed it in the bushes so that her avocado seedlings don't dry out in the sun," the Kenya Wildlife Services tweeted. The officers, however, praised the farmer for his quick thinking and reporting the event "in order to mitigate a possible conflict".

NEWS IN PIX



Man mistakes shopping bag for 'lion' in Kenya

Armed wildlife officers responded to reports of a 'stray lion' sighting in the village of Kinyana, which is a kilometre away from Kenya National Park. However, it turned out that there was no lion on the loose but a paper shopping bag with the face of the feline on it. A farmer spotted the bag and mistook it for a wild cat on the loose, and contacted the authorities. After he raised the alarm, wildlife officers and three rangers rushed to the village. "They found out that the shopping bag belonged to a nearby homeowner who had placed it in the bushes so that her avocado seedlings don't dry out in the sun," the Kenya Wildlife Services tweeted. The officers, however, praised the farmer for his quick thinking and reporting the event "in order to mitigate a possible conflict".

Videos of people dragged into quarantine censored in China

Videos of people being dragged from their homes by health workers in hazmat suits caused through Chinese social media on Sunday before being pulled down on some platforms, as Shanghai's lockdown enters its seventh week and Covid restrictions continue to be intensified in Beijing. The videos — which purported to show Covid positive patients and their close contacts tussling with the workers — come as Shanghai tightens some aspects of its intensive lockdown despite a drop in new infections. People living in the same building as confirmed virus cases now also risk being transported to government-run quarantine facilities, according to local residents and widely circulated social media posts. Previously, only people living in the same apartment or the same floor as positive cases would likely be considered close contacts and put in official quarantine. The ramping up of curbs comes even as the city reported its fewest cases in more than six weeks, with 3,947 new infections on Sunday down slightly from 3,975 on Saturday. Social media posts question



ZERO-COVID POLICY FAILING? The legality of forcibly removing people from their homes and taking them to quarantine facilities, or seizing their keys to allow health workers to disinfect apartments, also appear to have been removed in

some cases. One video that is still available to view on some platforms appeared to show two "Big Whites" — as the healthcare workers who enforce Covid regulations are known — dragging away a woman kicking and screaming. Bloomberg was unable to verify when and where it was taken. Another unverified video posted on WeChat shows "Big White" using a loudspeaker to warn residents to stay home, saying if one person living in a building tests positive, everybody living in the same building will be considered close contacts and sent to

government isolation. China's Covid Zero policy was effective early on in the pandemic, but is being challenged by more transmissible variant Omicron. Meanwhile, Beijing has so far avoided a city-wide lockdown, but continues to tighten curbs to keep a lid on new cases, which fell to 49 on Sunday from 62 on Saturday. Beijing had 50 cases in the past 24 hours on Monday. Officials on Sunday told residents in Beijing's district of Chaoyang, home to embassies and offices of multinationals including Apple and Alibaba, to work from home. *BLOOMBERG*

Mahinda says have quit to help form an interim, unity govt

RISE AND FALL OF MAHINDA

MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA, 76, has dominated SL politics for nearly 20 years. His government crushed the Tamil Tigers to bring an end to a long civil war. A look at his political career:



Protesters clash with govt supporters in Colombo

YOUNGEST LEGISLATOR IN 1970 | Mahinda trained as lawyer before becoming youngest legislator at 24

TOOK POWER DURING TUMULTUOUS TIMES | Became PM in 2004, then won first term as president a year later when Sri Lanka was in the middle of a fragile ceasefire with LTTE

PARTNERSHIP WITH BROTHER | After talks with LTTE yielded nothing, Mahinda in 2006 turned to Gotabaya, his brother & defence secy, to draw up a plan to defeat LTTE. The Tigers conceded defeat in 2009

ACCUSED OF WAR CRIMES | Mahinda govt is accused of war crimes during conflict with LTTE. UN believes up to 100k people were killed. He is also accused of nepotism, failing to check abduction, torture, murder of critics. He denies all charges

NO CHECKS ON PREZ POWER | After the war ended, Mahinda won a landslide re-election in 2010. His party won a two-thirds majority in parliament, allowing him to remove some checks on presidential power

DREW LANKA CLOSE TO CHINA | He invited China for heavy investment

POWER LOSS & VICTORY AGAIN | He lost 2015 prez election. But in 2019, bombings that killed 250, saw Rajapaksa sweep back into power on a platform of national security

Colombo: Sri Lankan PM Mahinda Rajapaksa said on Monday he was quitting to help form an interim, unity government.

"Multiple stakeholders have indicated the best solution to the present crisis is the formation of an interim all-party government," his resignation letter said. Nalaka Godahewa, a government spokesman, said all cabinet members had also stepped down. "Now the president will invite other political parties to form a unity government. He will meet with independent and opposition political parties and we expect a new government in the next few days," he said. But it was unclear if the opposition would join any administration with Gotabaya Rajapaksa as president.

On the streets of Colombo, the mood was jubilant but tense. Outside the outgoing PM's residence, Osha De Silva was among the hundreds

of protesters celebrating his resignation but said she also wanted the president to step down. "The Rajapaksa regime is corrupt," Silva said. The PM's departure came during a day of chaos and violence, with pro- and anti-government protesters clashing for the first time since a wave of demonstrations took hold in late March.

Video footage from local media showed the ancestral home of the Rajapaksa family in the southern city of Hambantota ablaze, while multiple attacks on houses and election offices of lawmakers were also reported. Mobs also attacked the controversial Rajapaksa museum in the ruling family's ancestral village of Meda Mula and razed it to the ground, police said. Two wax statues of the Rajapaksa parents were flattened. A court case is pending over the alleged use of state funds to buy the museum. A political office of the Rajapaksa in the northwestern town of Kurunegala was also destroyed, police said. Mobs set fire to a truck used by the security forces to block the main entrance to the PM's official Temple Trees residence.

An AFP report, quoting the police, said that ruling-party lawmaker Amarakeerthi Athukorala shot two people and then took his own life after a mob of anti-government protesters surrounded him outside Colombo. Athukorala's bodyguard was also found dead at the scene. Another ruling party politician who was not named opened fire on protesters in the southern town of Weeraketiya, killing two and wounding five, authorities said. Police reported that dozens of homes of ruling party politicians were attacked by mobs across the island, setting fire to houses and vehicles. *AGENCIES*

Marcos Jr takes huge lead in Philippines polls

MANILA: Ferdinand Marcos Jr. the son and namesake of the ousted dictator, edged closer to a triumph in the presidential election in the Philippines on Monday as early election data shared by the government put him in a commanding lead over Leni Robredo, his closest rival.

LONDON: British defence secretary Ben Wallace accused President Putin and his generals on Monday of mirroring the fascism and tyranny of Nazi Germany and said their invasion of Ukraine was bringing dishonor to Russia's proud military past.

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