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BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY

DECISION 2022

U.P. PHASE I TODAY

58 SEATS

2017 RESULTS

BJP	53
SP*	2
BSP	2
RLD	1

*SP, Cong in alliance

623 candidates in fray

2.27 crore voters

NEXT PHASE: FEBRUARY 14

Government employees in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh collect Electronic Voting Machines and other polling material on Wednesday, a day ahead of the first phase of the Assembly elections. *Praveen Khanna*

KARNATAKA HC HEARING TODAY

Hijab plea goes to three-judge bench including Chief Justice

15 arrested across state, 2-week ban on protests near schools in Bengaluru

Policemen patrol a road in Karnataka's Shivamogga town, where prohibitory orders are in place, on Wednesday. *PTI*

JOHNSON T A & APURVA VISHWANATH
BENGALURU, NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE CHIEF Justice of Karnataka High Court Wednesday constituted a three-judge bench, including himself, to hear a batch of petitions questioning a ban on the use of hijabs in a few pre-university colleges in the state after a single-judge bench of the court had decided to refer the pleas to a larger bench saying the case involved larger Constitutional issues.

Headed by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, the three-judge bench, referred to as a full bench of the High Court, will also include Justice Krishna S Dixit, who referred the matter to a larger bench, and Justice Khazi Jaibunnisa Mohiuddin. Justice Mohiuddin is a woman judge who took oath as an additional judge of the High

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VOICES FROM AN ASSAM SCHOOL

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WORLD

RUSSIA TO BEGIN BELARUS MILITARY DRILLS

SWEDEN ENDS COVID TESTING AS CURBS LIFTED

PAGE 14

ED and CBI free, polls come in between, Govt has no role: PM

Modi reiterates call for one election

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

ONCE AGAIN making a strong pitch for his idea of "one nation, one election", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said such a move would prevent allegations of Central agencies, such as ED and CBI, harassing Opposition leaders during election time.

With voting in five state elections, including UP and Punjab, beginning in phases on Thursday, Modi said: "There is a BJP wave. The BJP will win elections in these five states with a huge majority."

Speaking to *ANI* in an interview, Modi also rejected criticism that he had skirted key issues raised in Parliament, such as the border dispute with China, and said different ministries had already responded to the Opposition's questions.

PM Narendra Modi during the interview with *ANI*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In talks with India on 2 Dornier aircraft: Lanka foreign minister

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

NEW DELHI and Colombo are discussing a proposal for the supply of two Dornier aircraft for the Sri Lankan military.

In an interview to *The Indian Express*, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister G L Peiris, who met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit K Doval in New Delhi, said: "There is a proposal for the purchase of two Dornier aircraft. There is no finality, nothing has been agreed upon. There are proposals and counter proposals, and it is one of the matters under discussion."

He said one of the matters discussed during his visit was the upcoming UN Human Rights Council session, where Sri Lanka has been repeatedly hauled up for falling back on its 2015 commitments to address rights violations towards post-war national reconciliation.

His visit comes weeks after India provided an economic lifeline to Colombo that includes a $500-million revolving credit line from Exim Bank of India, a $1-bn credit line for food and pharmaceuticals, a deferral on the settlement of $515 million with the Asian Clearing Union, and a currency swap facility of $400 million.

There was no discussion about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Sri Lanka Foreign Minister G L Peiris

EXPLAINED

Moving to reset bilateral ties

SRI LANKA and India are looking at "closer integration" of their economies in sectors such as ports, energy, tourism and hospitality, and pharmaceuticals. Also on the table is a plan for a joint working group that will include the foreign ministers and fisheries ministers of both countries, and possibly some representation from Tamil Nadu.

House panel questions officials over ban on Kerala news channel

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

A PARLIAMENTARY panel Wednesday questioned senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the revocation of the broadcast licence of Malayalam news channel MediaOne over security concerns.

It is learned that VSK Kaumudi, Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the MHA, and Apurva Chandra, I&B Secretary, were called by the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, and asked about the MediaOne issue.

On January 31, the I&B Ministry, citing denial of security clearance by the MHA, had revoked the uplink and downlink permission granted to Madhyamam Broadcasting Limited which operates MediaOne channel.

The channel approached the Kerala High Court. On Tuesday, a single-judge bench upheld the Centre's ban on its telecast, saying the MHA decision to deny security clearance to the channel followed intelligence "inputs" and was "justified". The channel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Delhi University to reopen Feb 17, after 2 years of only online classes

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

DELHI UNIVERSITY (DU) will reopen for students on February 17, with offline classes for all undergraduate and postgraduate courses set to resume for the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Since the start of the national lockdown in March 2020, DU students have not attended a single day of offline theory classes. Limited spells of reopening have been restricted to laboratory access for practicals for final-year students.

CITY

FOR OUTSTATION STUDENTS, RUSH HAS BEGUN

TEACHERS LIST PRIORITIES: HOSTELS, CANTEENS

PAGE 6

In an order issued on Wednesday evening, the university said: "Offline classes for all the undergraduate and postgraduate courses shall begin with effect from 17th February, 2022. The outstation students are advised to plan reaching Delhi in such a manner that they are able to complete the isolation period of three days before reporting to their respective colleges/ departments."

It said the libraries, laboratories and canteens of the colleges, departments and centres will also begin functioning from February 17, and advised everyone to follow

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Suicides among unemployed crossed 3,000 in 2020 Covid year: Govt in RS

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE FIRST pandemic year, 2020, saw the highest number of suicides among the unemployed in the recent past, with the toll crossing the 3,000-mark for the first time, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

Citing NCRB data, Minister of State (Home) Nityanand Rai said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that 3,548 people died by suicide due to unemployment in 2020.

The total number of suicides that year was 1.53 lakh, up from 1.39 lakh in 2019.

In his reply, Rai also said that between 2018 and 2020, 16,091 died by suicide due to bankruptcy or indebtedness – 4,970 in 2018; 5,908 in 2019; and 5,213 in 2020.

According to NCRB data, the highest number of suicides among the unemployed in 2020 was reported from Karnataka (720), followed by Maharashtra (625), Tamil Nadu (336), Assam

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MORE REPORTS

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LS: GOYAL REFUSES TO REPLY IN ENGLISH, SPARKS ROW

WAZE SAYS WANTS TO TURN APPROVER IN E.D. CASE AGAINST DESHMUKH

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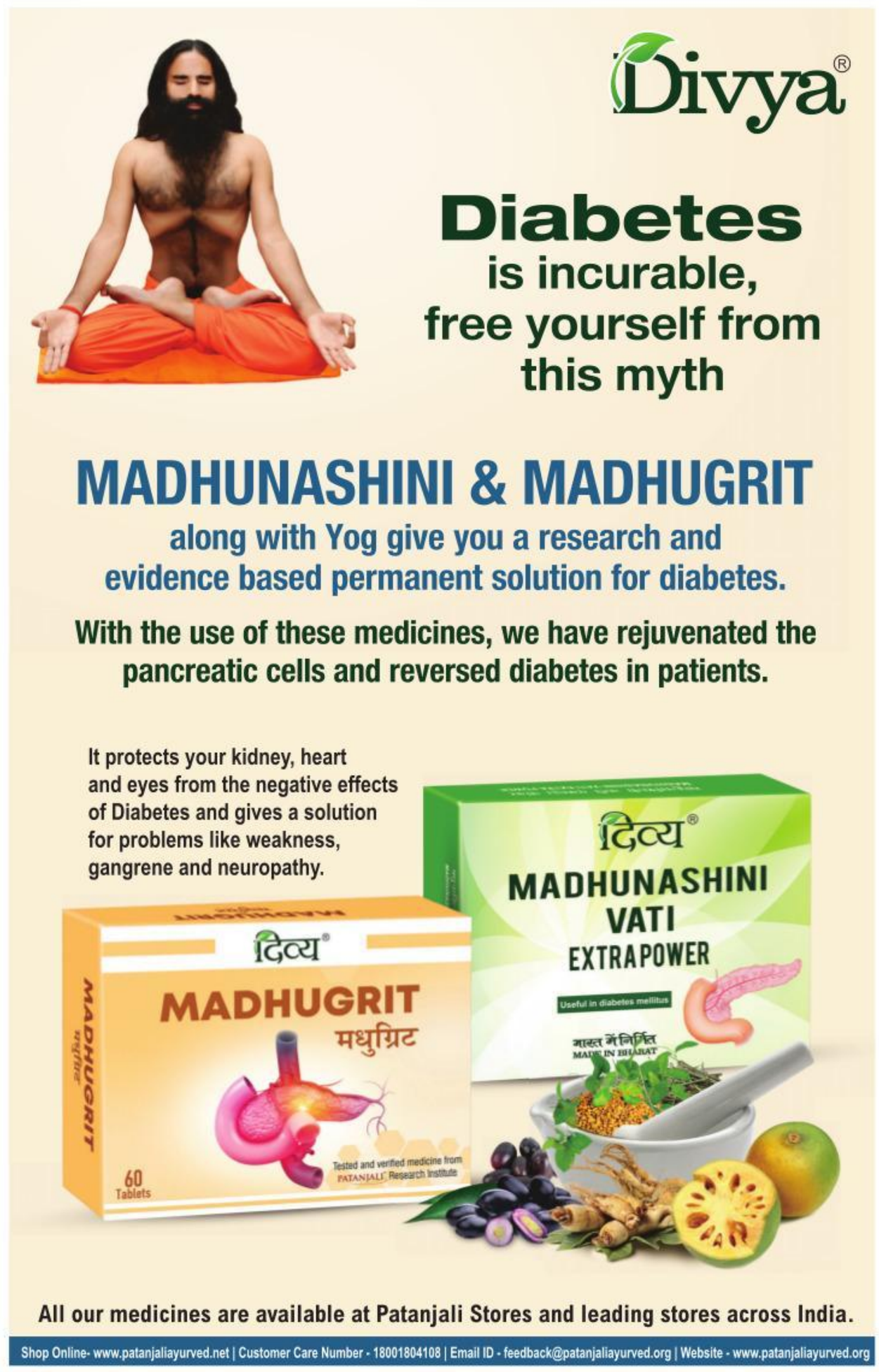

For 45 hours, 23-year-old trapped on a hill has a state on the edge

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 9

BEFORE THE details trickled in, the photo summed up the story. Perched precariously on the edge of a small cavity on the side of a hill was a youth, his knees drawn up, despair on his face.

After a long pause that lasted two nights and a day, there was another photo. This time, he was surrounded by local rescuers and Army commandos. There were smiles and hugs all around.

R Babu perched in a small cavity on the hill in Palakkad district; and after being rescued on Wednesday. *ANI/PTI*

"Thanks to the Indian Army," the youth said in a feeble voice captured on camera.

In the 45 hours between these two frames, the story of R Babu, a 23-year-old newspaper vendor in Kerala's Palakkad, had an entire state on the edge.

It was on Monday that Babu and two of his friends started to climb the 1,000-feet-high Kurumbachi hill near their village of Cheradu in Malampuzha. Not a regular or professional trekker, he did not inform his mother and younger brother at home about this climb.

Around 2 pm, while his exhausted friends took a break and squatted on a rock, Babu trekked

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

FROM PAGE ONE

Hijab plea

Court in March last year.

The special bench will hear Thursday a total of five petitions on the hijab row on behalf of 18 girls from colleges in the Udupi region. Significantly, the constitution of a larger bench is contrary to the Karnataka High Court rules, which prescribe that a reference to a full bench can be made only by a two-judge bench. The larger bench hearing also takes away a layer of intra-court appeal. A ruling by a single-judge bench can be appealed before a two-judge bench of the High Court but a ruling by a full bench can only be challenged before the Supreme Court.

Earlier on Wednesday, the single-judge bench of Justice Dixit, which had started hearing the matter on Tuesday, said in an order: "This court after hearing the matter for some time is of a considered opinion that (given)…the enormous public importance of the questions involved, the batch of these cases may be heard by a larger bench if the Honorable Chief Justice decides, in his discretion."

"Whether wearing of hijab is a part of essential religious practice in Islam is the jugular vein of all these matters. In support of an affirmative claim, petitioners rely upon three decisions of three neighbouring High Courts, (i.e., Bombay, Madras and Kerala), which the respondent-state also seeks to bank upon, and several decisions of the Apex Court. The said question along with others needs to be answered in the light of Constitutional guarantees to religious minorities," Justice Dixit said in his order.

The single-judge bench initially allowed arguments to be placed for an interim order on allowing the students to attend classes for the final two months of the current academic year. But it later decided to refer the question of interim relief as well to a larger bench since the state government and advocates for the petitioners could not arrive at a consensus. The decision came after two days of escalating tension and protests across Karnataka over the issue, leading to the arrests of at least 15 persons across the state for "breaching peace and harmony".

On Wednesday, a day after the state closed all high schools and colleges for three days to defuse the situation, the Bengaluru Police imposed a ban on gatherings and protests around schools and colleges in the city for two weeks.

Prohibitory orders were also in place in parts of Davangere, Shivamogga and Bagalkot where clashes between rival groups were reported on Tuesday. A bandh was observed in the Rabkavi-Banhatti town of Bagalkot where a college teacher was injured in stone-throwing by students on Tuesday.

In the HC on Wednesday, the single-judge bench of Justice Dixit indicated at the outset that it was of the view that the concerns raised on behalf of Muslim girls from a Udupi pre-university college and a PU college in Udupi's Kundapura involved issues that must be addressed by a larger bench. Subsequently, its order noted: "All these matters essentially relate to the proscription of the Hijab (headscarf) while prescribing the uniform for students who profess the Islamic faith. Rule 11 of the extant rules promulgated under the Karnataka Education Act, 1983 authorizes the management of institutions to prescribe uniform, subject to certain conditions. The recent Government Order dated 05.02.2022 which arguably facilitates enforcement of this rule is also challenged."

Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing on behalf of some of the students, argued that the Education Act does not empower the state government to prescribe uniforms in colleges. Hegde said the crux of the issue was about whether the state government has administrative powers to prescribe uniforms. The state advocate general Prabhuling Navadgi argued that the "petitions were misconceived". He said the government order does not prescribe uniforms but leaves it to the discretion of colleges to decide. "Each institution has been given autonomy. Therefore a prima facie case is not made out," he said.

The AG also argued that wearing the hijab does not constitute essential religious practice. He said allowing the girls to go to college wearing the hijab for two months -- until the end of the current academic year -- would virtually amount to deciding the matter in favour of the petitioners.

Senior advocate Sajjan Poovayya, appearing for the Udupi College Development Council which is headed by the local BJP MLA, argued that the uniform had been prescribed in consultation with all stakeholders and that there were no complaints through the current academic year until January. Meanwhile, the protests and clashes that were witnessed on Tuesday triggered a political war of words.

State Congress chief D K Shivakumar alleged that a BJP Minister from the Shivamogga region was involved in procuring and distributing saffron shawls and headgear worn by students during protests to oppose the use of hijab. State Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, who hails from Shivamogga, alleged that "hidden hands" were behind the pro-hijab protests in Udupi. Udupi BJP MLA Udupi Raghupathy Bhat claimed that the girls were "secretly trained by a group to raise the hijab issue since there were no objections earlier".

Sri Lanka FM

the implementation of the 13th Amendment in his meetings, Peiris said. Last month, Sri Lankan Tamil parliamentarians had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking India's assistance in the implementation of this constitutional provision for devolution of powers that was included during India's 1987 intervention.

Peiris, who assumed office in August 2021, said relations between India and Sri Lanka had reached a "high point". India's concerns about China, which he said had no "rational basis", had been "consigned to the past". However, he flagged the fishermen's issue between the two countries as "the one flashpoint", requiring "urgent attention".

He said Sri Lanka and India were now seeking to "transform the character of the relationship, elevating it from a transactional level to strategic partnership". One of the main elements of this, he said, would be through "closer integration of the economy of India with that of Sri Lanka" in sectors such as ports, energy, tourism and hospitality, and pharmaceuticals.

The two sides, he said, were planning a joint working group during the visit by Jaishankar in the second half of March, that would include the two foreign ministers, the two fisheries ministers, and possibly some representation from Tamil Nadu.

Indian official sources confirmed that the two sides were in "very early" stage discussions on the supply of the two Dornier aircraft. The Dornier is a twin-engine multi-purpose aircraft, used by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard for maritime surveillance. It is also used by the Indian Air Force. It is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd under licence from Swiss company RUAG, and is a showpiece of the government's "Make In India" programme. The proposal for India to transfer a maritime surveillance aircraft to Sri Lanka has existed for four years, but with the chill in relations in the recent past, the matter was never seriously discussed.

The Dornier aircraft were among 23 from the IAF fleet that took part in a flypast and aerobatics display during the Sri Lankan Air Force's 70th anniversary in March 2021. At that time, the Indian High Commission said Sri Lanka was "Priority One" for India in the defence sphere.

Peiris said his government and New Delhi were looking to finalise more immediately a memorandum of understanding on an Indian $15-million fund for the refurbishment of Buddhist temples, and another agreement on collaboration between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and the Colombo-based Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute. Another proposal under discussion is for India to supply a 4,000-metric tonne floating dock.

Sri Lanka is "hoping", Peiris said, that Prime Minister Modi will be able to attend in person the BIMSTEC summit which it is hosting this year as the chair of the grouping. The summit is to be held in the hybrid format.

"There's so much that has happened during the last few months that there could be a real substance to that visit," he said.

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EXPRESS AUDIO

All you need to know about Uttarakhand Assembly Polls 2022

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Avaneesh Mishra joins Snigdha Sharma to discuss the upcoming polls in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, the state's political history and major issues

The decision on whether to invite the leader of the Myanmar junta that seized power in a coup last year would have to be "collegial", and Sri Lanka would consult all other members of the regional grouping including Bangladesh and Thailand. Peiris said Sri Lanka was "in close touch" with India on the upcoming UNHRC session, at which Commissioner Michelle Bachelet is scheduled to present a second draft report on Sri Lanka. The first, presented last year, was a searing criticism of Sri Lanka's failure to address post-war issues, and the emergence of new challenges such as the marginalisation of the Muslim minority along with the Tamils.

"India is very much aware of all the progress that has been made in the recent past, particularly with regard to the work which has been done on the ground by the so called local mechanisms, such as the Office on Missing Persons, Office for Reparations, Office for National Unity and Reconciliation, the Sustainable Development Goals 16 Council and the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka," he said.

PM interview

According to the PM, the allegations of investigating agencies targeting Opposition leaders during elections are misplaced. Modi suggested that if agencies like ED and CBI, which he said were doing a "commendable job by recovering national wealth", should not be conspicuous during election time, there should be simultaneous elections.

"In Hindustan, there are always elections, so should the Government stop working? Well, once and for all, you decide on this, that the election will be held once in five years. Everyone will get together and fight elections. Every election -- state and the Centre -- will be held together. We will save on expenses also. Then, ED or CBI won't be conspicuous at all... These offices work independently. The elections come in between... What can they do? The Government has no role in it," he said.

Asked why he had devoted so much time in his House addresses to the Congress, which is not a major poll player in states such as UP, Modi said: "Congress is the mainstream that is responsible for the country's status today. Of all the Prime Ministers, except myself and Atalji (Atal Bihari Vajpayee), every PM was from the Congress school. Because of this, Congress style has become the mainstream of India's politics. What's the basis of Congress ideology -- communalism, casteism, dynasty, corruption, linguism (bhashavaad). So when I say Congress-mukt Bharat, it does not mean its numbers... Like Communism, which is not in power anywhere except in a corner in this country but is a dangerous ideology, this is also not good for the country."

Responding to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's criticism against his attack on his family, Modi said he referred to Jawaharlal Nehru as India's former prime minister not as "anyone's grandfather, or great father". Asked about Gandhi's statement that he did not respond to issues he had raised, Modi said different ministries had given their explanations on those topics. "How do I reply to a person who does not listen, skips Parliament?" he asked, apparently referring to Gandhi's absence during his reply to the motion of thanks debate in the Lok Sabha.

Referring to his remark that Opposition governments in Maharashtra and Delhi had prompted migrant labourers to return to their home states, thereby escalating the spread of Covid, Modi said Congress workers had distributed free tickets for the workers while the AAP in Delhi urged people to leave the city.

Modi blamed the media for ignoring his Government's efforts to take everyone along. Referring to a specific instance in this regard, he claimed that no one had reported at the time that he had provided benefits for Muslim OBCs while heading the Gujarat government. Saying that the media talks about "a particular caste having a particular number of votes", Modi said "this language should be changed".

DU to reopen

Covid-appropriate behaviour.

It noted that "students enrolled in the University of Delhi and its colleges belong to all corners of the country and have been residing in their hometown since the teaching-learning process has continued online. It is difficult for the students in different parts of the country to reach Delhi at short notice in the prevailing pandemic situation. Appropriate time is required for students to arrange for their travel from their respective hometown to Delhi to attend classes in offline mode."

On February 4, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) had eased Covid restrictions for higher education institutions, allowing them to operate entirely in the offline mode with no cap on the number of students in classrooms. But DU issued a notification that online classes would continue. This triggered protests on campus by student groups, who demanded resumption of offline classes.

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी, उत्तर प्रदेश
Chief Electoral Officer, Uttar Pradesh

वोट के लिये तैयार

उत्तर प्रदेश
विधानसभा सामान्य निर्वाचन-2022

समावेशी, सुगम एवं सहभागी निर्वाचन की ओर अग्रसर

अगर आपके पास मतदाता पहचान पत्र नहीं है तो
इन 12 दस्तावेजों में से कोई भी अपने साथ मतदान केंद्र लेकर जाएं
और मतदान कर एक ज़िम्मेदार नागरिक का कर्तव्य निभायें

01 आधार कार्ड
02 मनरेगा जॉब कार्ड
03 पासबुक (फोटो सहित बैंक/डाकघर द्वारा जारी)
04 स्वास्थ्य बीमा स्मार्ट कार्ड (श्रम मंत्रालय की योजना के अंतर्गत जारी)
05 ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस
06 पैन कार्ड
07 स्मार्ट कार्ड (एनपीआर के अंतर्गत आरजीआई द्वारा जारी)
08 भारतीय पासपोर्ट
09 पेंशन दस्तावेज़ (फोटोग्राफ सहित)
10 सेवा पहचान पत्र (केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार/लोक उपक्रम/पब्लिक लिमिटेड कम्पनियों द्वारा जारी किए गए फोटोयुक्त सेवा पहचान-पत्र)
11 सरकारी पहचान पत्र (सांसदों/विधायकों/विधान परिषद् सदस्यों को जारी किए गए)
12 यूडीआईडी कार्ड (सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी)

मतदाता सूची में अपना नाम चेक करें और बनें जागरूक मतदाता

ऑनलाइन
1. वोटर हेल्पलाइन एप का प्रयोग करें।
2. https://voterportal.eci.gov.in या www.nvsp.in अथवा ceouttarpradesh.nic.in पर जाएं।
3. <ECIPS> space <EPIC NO> TO 1950 पर SMS करें।
4. टोल-फ्री नंबर 1950 पर संपर्क करें।

ऑफलाइन
1. अपने बूथ लेवल अधिकारी (बीएलओ) से संपर्क करें या वोटर रजिस्ट्रेशन सेंटर से जानकारी लें।
2. मतदाता सूचना पर्ची आपके घर पर वितरित की गयी है, इसमें अपना नाम ज़रूर देखें।

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मतदान कार्यक्रम	मतदान की तारीख
प्रथम चरण (58 वि.स. क्षेत्र)	10.02.2022
द्वितीय चरण (55 वि.स. क्षेत्र)	14.02.2022
तृतीय चरण (59 वि.स. क्षेत्र)	20.02.2022
चतुर्थ चरण (59 वि.स. क्षेत्र)	23.02.2022
पंचम चरण (61 वि.स. क्षेत्र)	27.02.2022
षष्ठम चरण (57 वि.स. क्षेत्र)	03.03.2022
सप्तम चरण (54 वि.स. क्षेत्र)	07.03.2022

मतदाता हेल्पलाइन 1950

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Police chief awards two officers for 'devotion to duty' during riots

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

DELHI POLICE Commissioner Rakesh Asthana has awarded two police personnel the Asadharan Karya Puraskar (AKP) along with Rs 50,000 each for their "conspicuous role and exceptional devotion" to duty during the February 2020 Northeast Delhi riots.

Asthana has also given appreciation letters to eight police officers, including the current Northeast Delhi DCP Sanjay Kumar Sain, for "improving the quality of investigation in riot cases and for their prosecution".

The appreciation letters have been issued by Asthana and letters to the two police officers by the DCP (headquarter) R P Meena. Inspector Tanvir Ashraf and assistant sub-inspector Arvind Kumar received the AKP.

"The Commissioner of Police, Delhi, is pleased to award AKP with a cash reward of Rs 50,000 to inspector Tanvir Ashraf for his conspicuous role and exceptional devotion to his official duty... On the issue of the decision of the government to bring the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) & National Register of Citizens (NRC), in February 2020, communal violence engulfed Northeast Delhi. During the violence, numbers of anti-social elements were active through social media. A specialised team was formed under the supervision of inspector Ashraf, who started patrolling in the area in a civil dress to collect information," Meena stated.

"It was a daring act of the team to patrol in the area as (general) public, in a civil dress, without any security gadgets, but the team did not care for their lives. The team not only gathered information from the area, but also constituted a mini command room at his own level at Cyber Cell in DCP's office. He not only prepared the database of PCR calls, injured persons, deceased, viral videos, CCTV footage/videos, burnt government/private vehicles, damaged religious places, missing persons, injured police personnel and locals, but also analysed about 10,000 PCR calls."

"He displayed exceptional qualities during the clash situation without caring for his life. Due to his courageous efforts, the police could succeed in controlling communal violence within a few days," he added.

Meena also referred to Ashraf's work in reuniting 756 missing children with their parents, and his performance as an inspector with the legal cell.

On ASI Arvind Kumar, Meena wrote, "To ensure effective and eventless trial of the riot cases, a mechanism was evolved and a dedicated team of 'pairvi officers' was deployed in different courts. ASI Kumar was assigned responsibility to coordinate among pairvi officers, to ensure their presence in court to get updates from them, to compile the daily diary having outcomes of cases, positive and negative orders, and the cases to be listed the next day."

And, in the appreciation letter for the DCP Northeast, Asthana stated, "I want to place on record my appreciation for your commendable efforts in streamlining the investigation of riots cases. I have learned that it is through the efforts of you and your team at Northeast Delhi riot cell that not only has there been a remarkable improvement in the quality of the investigation, but the prosecution of the cases has also seen a paradigm shift in excellence."

Asthana further said, "From achieving the first conviction in riots cases, expedition of framing of charges, submission of supplementary chargesheets to solving of unsolved cases, your presence and leadership has been a constant behind all the successes. Apart from the brilliant work in overseeing the investigation of the riots cases, you have also proved your mettle as a police officer by successfully undertaking every assigned responsibility."

EV charging stations to be built at all govt offices

New Delhi: Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations will be built at all Delhi government offices.

According to a Delhi government statement, the stations will be ready in three months. The idea is to popularise EVs among government officials who can charge their vehicles while at office. "A subsidy of Rs 6,000 per charging point will be provided for setting up an EV charging station through a DISCOM-empanelled vendor. The Transport Department, in collaboration with the Delhi DISCOMs, has established a single point of contact. The single window process can be used to install EV chargers from DISCOM-empanelled vendors at low tariffs," the statement said.

नैनीताल बैंक NAINITAL BANK
उत्तराखण्ड से उद्गमित व अपनी सफलता का 100 वाँ वर्ष
मना रहा निजी क्षेत्र का एक मात्र अनुसूचित वाणिज्यिक बैंक
(प्रधान कार्यालय : नैनीताल)
हमारे संस्थापक
सम्मानित ग्राहकों हेतु आवश्यक सूचना
बैंक अपने वर्तमान C.B.S. Platform को अत्याधुनिक C.B.S. Finacle 10X Platform पर स्थापित कर उन्नत ग्राहक सेवा प्रदान करने हेतु प्रयासरत है, इसी क्रम में :–
1. दिनाँक 11.02.2022 (अपराह्न 2:00 बजे) से दिनाँक 13.02.2022 तक RTGS/NEFT, POS, e-Com, Internet Banking, ATM इत्यादि सेवाऐं प्रभावित रहेंगीं। यद्यपि बैंक निरंतर ग्राहक सेवाऐं बनाये रखने हेतु पूर्णतः प्रयासरत रहेगा, तथापि इन सेवाओं में आगामी कुछ दिनों के लिए आंशिक असर पड़ सकता है।
2. ग्राहक बन्धु विशेषकर इस अवधि में अपना ATM कार्ड संख्या, इंटरनेट PASSWORD, PIN, OTP, USER ID या तत्सम्बन्धी गुप्त जानकारी MOBILE PHONE या अन्य माध्यम से साझा न करें। बैंक इस प्रकार की कोई भी गोपनीय सूचना अपने ग्राहकों से नहीं माँगता है।
3. उपरोक्त अवधि में होने वाली असुविधा, यदि कोई हो, के लिए हमें खेद है, आशा है कि आप अपना सहयोग बनाये रखेंगे।
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सुरक्षित मतदाता सुरक्षित मतदान
भारत निर्वाचन आयोग Election Commission of India
मतदान है कर्त्तव्य महान
UTTAR PRADESH PHASE ONE
February 10, 2022
7.00 am to 6.00 pm, Thursday
58 ACs
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2022
Poll-going Districts
Agra, Aligarh, Baghpat, Bulandshahar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Hapur, Mathura, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli
Don't miss the date, Cast your valuable Vote
davp52101/15/0029/2122
Assured Minimum Facilities at Polling Stations
Mask & Gloves
Thermal Scanning
Sanitiser
Social Distancing
Token System to avoid queues
Ramp & Wheel Chair
EVM with Braille
Sign Language
Transport Facility
Special Volunteers
Signage
Priority Access to PwDs & Senior Citizens
Voter Helpline App
Check your name in the voters' list & know your polling station
Scan to download
Know Your Candidate App
Know Candidate Details
Scan to download
cVIGIL App
Report MCC Violations
Scan to download
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
Helpline 1950 | https://eci.gov.in/ | www.nvsp.in

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
"AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT"
inspiring our continuous success story
MAKE IN INDIA
स्वच्छ भारत
PROUDLY CELEBRATING 17th FOUNDATION DAY
2006-2022
February 10, 2022
Currency Note Press, Nashik
Bank Note Press, Dewas
India Security Press, Nashik
Security Printing Press, Hyderabad
Security Paper Mill, Narmadapuram
India Government Mint, Mumbai
India Government Mint, Kolkata
India Government Mint, Noida
India Government Mint, Hyderabad
GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
- During the year 2020-21 Company achieved revenue of ₹ 4712.57 crores.
- Company paid dividend aggregating to ₹ 240.41 crores in pursuant to guidelines on Capital Restructuring issued by DIPAM.
- Net profit of ₹ 423.81 crores earned.
PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS
- Has the capacity to produce more than 10 billion pieces of Bank Notes & around 7 billion pieces of circulation Coins.
- Self-reliant in meeting requirements of currency paper at its Security Paper Mill, Narmadapuram & JV Paper Mill, Mysuru.
- Ink Factory at Dewas is capable of producing all Security Inks except CSI Ink.
- Looking for expansion towards exports.
DEVELOPMENTS
- Recently, one complete state-of-the-art printing line commissioned each at CNP, Nasik and BNP, Dewas.
- E-passport project with ICAO compliant RFID chip to be started at ISP, Nasik.
- Security Presses in 2020-21 have entered into MOU with the state of Uttarakhand and MP for printing and supply of Excise Adhesive Labels (EALs) to avoid leakage in revenue.
- In Security Paper Mill, Narmadapuram, LPG based gas in Boiler replaced as fuel instead of furnace oil and Zero water discharge system has been implemented as an environment friendly measure.
- Security Printing Press, Hyderabad famous for printing Commemorative Postal Stamps has now added the facility for fragrances, embossing, foiling, printing in different shapes like hexagonal, octagonal etc. to cater to future requirements.
- Chips based Identity cards for Seafarers for Directorate General of Shipping have been started.
cont...
- Ink Factory, Dewas equipped with latest equipment for manufacturing of Inks and to strengthen the quality testing of Inks.
- Two state-of-the-art Medal Stamping Presses installed and commissioned at India Government Mint, Mumbai for enhanced medal production.
- Corporate R&D Center equipped with latest equipment for examination of counterfeited Banknotes and is involved in R&D activities in the field of security features, banknotes, coins and other security products and Partners with various research institutions like NPL, BARC as well as IIT for its various research activities.
OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS
- Spent ₹ 15.56 Crores on various CSR activities in the thrust areas of Health care, Nutrition, etc. specially in COVID time.
- E-Office implemented successfully at SPMCIL Corporate Office, India Government Mint, Hyderabad, India Government Mint, Noida & Security Printing Press, Hyderabad under Digital India initiatives.
- As a continuous effort towards increasing customer outreach, SPMCIL has fully furnished Commemorative Coin Sales counters at the India Government Mint, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Corporate Office, New Delhi for meeting the demands of its customers.
- SPMCIL has a range of products in Gold and Silver of the highest purity and are available at very attractive prices, booking of which can also be done through our website or can be bought directly from our Commemorative Coin Sales counters.
- SPMCIL Mentorship Scheme-2021 notified for entrants at Executive level.
- Covid Vaccination Camps organized at Work Places across SPMCIL.
- Moving towards use of alternative source of energy like solar power across all Units.
SPMCIL
SECURITY PRINTING AND MINTING CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
A Mini Ratna Category-I CPSE (Wholly owned by Govt. of India)
16th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001
Website: www.spmcil.com CIN: U22213DL2006GOI144763
SHARAD
SPMCIL - Manufacturer of Instruments of Faith - An example of Successful Corporation

Delhi Budget
Swaraj Budget

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

For the Financial Year 2022-23
Be a part of the budget making process.
Send your valuable suggestions

Your suggestions should be related to the following topics:
Schemes/programs that:

- Help Delhi's traders and businessmen in growing their businesses
- Attract Buyers from all over the world to purchase from Delhi's markets
- Boost Delhi's economy
- Increase the income of Delhiites
- Create new jobs
- Reduce pollution
- Focus on beautification of Delhi
- Enable women to feel safe
- Provide access to healthcare and education to everyone

"We have initiated the process of preparing the budget for the financial year 2022-23. We want to know your views and suggestions on what new schemes should the government introduce and what improvements should be made to the ongoing schemes using your tax money. These will be included in the next year's budget."

-Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi

You can send your valuable suggestion to the Finance Department through the link available on the following website

https://delhi.gov.in

Last Date: 15th February 2022

Finance Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

DIP/Shabdarth/D/0204/21-22

epaper.indianexpress.com

ADVERTORIAL

Russia
Diplomats' Day 2022

M E S S A G E

ROMAN BABUSHKIN

CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY IN INDIA

Dear friends,

By celebrating the traditional Diplomats' Day on February 10, Russia honours its centuries long traditions of its diplomacy as the most efficient tool to ensure stability and favourable conditions for economic development.

Russia always believed that relations should start with dialogue, which needs to be equal, respectful, trusted and forward-looking. That is something that constitutes a foundation of the Russian special and privileged strategic partnership with India and makes our mutual understanding exceptional.

We are sharing the same values and interests and working together very closely for the establishment of multipolarity to appropriately reflect political, economic and civilisational diversity of the world as well as emerging balance of power and satisfy aspirations for the reform of the global governance.

We are of a similar view of the importance of the central role of the United Nations, its Charter and international law, which provide all necessary instruments to resolve problems and conflicts by peaceful means, respect of each other's interests and promote a unified agenda free from confrontational approaches and unilateral, geopolitically motivated restrictions as well as interference in domestic affairs.

It is a matter of pride to realise that there is no limits in our ties with India. It was clearly manifested during the landmark bilateral Summit in December 2021 in New Delhi, which introduced the new 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue to further expand international coordination. It also set up a new momentum for our unparalleled cooperation in traditional areas such as defence, nuclear power, energy and space as well as promising initiatives in trade, finance, infrastructure, education, culture and, of course, common fight against COVID-19. We expect that the 75th anniversary of the Russian-Indian diplomatic relations in 2022 will become a new milestone in the historically solid friendship between our nations.

All that with a dedicated professional contribution of diplomats from both sides makes the Russian-Indian multifaceted strategic partnership a strong factor for the global and regional peace and stability as well as sustainable development.

Let me join the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov who once said about India that we wish to have the same level of relations with all countries!

An occasion with a long past

Russia marks the Diplomats' Day on February 10 – the date that goes back to the earliest documented mention of the Ambassadorial Prikaz (February 10, 1549), which is the first state body in the Russian history that oversaw foreign affairs. This year the country celebrates two milestone anniversaries in a row – 20 years since this very holiday was established by the executive order of the Russian President on October 31, 2002, and the 220th anniversary of the Russian diplomatic service as such.

The Russian Foreign Ministry is a living organism. New departments are being established, new embassies and consulates general are opening around the world. The Ministry is working on improving its communication with the public, first of all, Russian citizens and compatriots living abroad, developing digital diplomacy. There will be a series of commemorative events on the occasion of this memorable date. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic restrictions, they will be held mostly online or in a hybrid format, so follow the Russian Embassy's accounts on social media and do not forget to give us your precious feedback.

Five years without Kadakin

JANUARY 26th marked five years since the demise of legendary Russian diplomat Ambassador Alexander Kadakin. He was a symbol, embodiment and founding father of the elevating of the Russian-Indian relations to the level of the strategic partnership and upgrading it to the special and privileged status.

He was born in the city of Kishinev, USSR, on July 22, 1949 and graduated with honours from the Moscow State Institute (University) of International Relations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR in 1972. The same year he joined the diplomatic service.

1971, 1972-1978 – probationer, attaché, third secretary of the Embassy of the USSR in India, New Delhi.

1978-1983 – second, first secretary, counsellor of the Secretariat of the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR. (Concurrently, 1979-1985 – Asst. Professor of the Department of Indian Studies, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations).

1983-1989 – Assistant, Senior Assistant (Chef du Cabinet) to the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

1989-1991 – Minister-Counsellor (DCM) of the Embassy of the USSR in India, New Delhi.

June - September 1991 – First Deputy Head of the Foreign Minister's Secretariat.

1991-1993 – Minister-Counsellor (DCM) of the Embassy of the USSR/Russia in India, New Delhi.

1993-1997 – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom of Nepal.

1997-1999 – Member of the Collegium, Director of the Linguistic Support Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

1999-2004 – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India.

2004-2005 – Ambassador-at-Large, Secretary of the Council of the Heads of Entities of the Russian Federation, MFA.

2005-2009 – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom of Sweden.

2009-2017 – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India.

Alexander Kadakin was an academician of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and was fluent in English, Hindi, Urdu, French and Romanian. He accompanied Chairman Leonid I.Brezhnev, President Mikhail S.Gorbachev, President Boris N.Yeltsin on a number of official visits abroad including India, the USA, Britain, the UN, as consultant, as well as participated in the work of the Soviet delegations at five sessions of the UN General Assembly as an expert. He authored and translated several books from English and Hindi, published over 50 articles in scientific journals and press in Russia and India.

Regrettably, on January 26, 2017, Alexander Kadakin passed away. He had a number of Government decorations. In 2018, he was posthumously awarded with India's third highest civilian award – the Padma Bhushan. The name of Russian Ambassador to India, Alexander M. Kadakin, was given to a street in the central part of New Delhi, India's capital city. This decision was announced during the annual Russian-Indian summit in St. Petersburg in 2017 by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.

Alexander M. Kadakin used to say that there is a deep-rooted national consensus in India on the friendship with Russia: "Russia differs from all other states in one but fundamentally important aspect – honesty and sincerity of intentions. There is no double bottom in our affairs. Russia has always been, is and will be sincerely interested in strengthening global positions of India as a powerful, independent and friendly state."

The Embassy will surely continue its efforts to preserve and develop his invaluable legacy. To pay tribute to Alexander Kadakin on January 26, 2022, H.E. Nikolay Kudashev, Russian Ambassador to India, together with the Embassy's staff laid flowers at the Alexander Kadakin memorial plaque on the Alexander Kadakin Street in New Delhi.

Russia raising a vital question on global security

RUSSIA IS one of the key guarantors of the UN-centric global architecture and a permanent member of the UN Security Council. It is making a big contribution to the maintenance of global security and strategic stability. President Vladimir Putin's proposal for a summit of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council is designed to promote honest discussions on key issues. A Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear-Weapon States on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arm Races, published on January 3 this year, is aimed at reducing international tensions. It was drafted at Russia's initiative, which shows once again that Moscow stands not for confrontation but for dialogue that must be completely equitable, mutually respectful and designed to facilitate a search for a fair balance of interests.

However, the countries of the historical West are not ready to accept the realities of the multipolar world that is taking shape. Washington and its allies persistently impose their own vision of the world, speaking about the need to establish "a rules-based order". Recently, the United States and its European partners have been doubling their efforts against Russia's legitimate interests. In addition to unilateral sanctions, they are bringing increasingly more pressure to bear on Russia by provocative military manoeuvres near its borders, attempts to draw the Kiev regime into NATO, supplying lethal weapons to Ukraine.

Sergey Lavrov: *Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation*

In his written message on Indivisibility of Security addressed to the Heads of Foreign/External Affairs Ministers/Secretaries of the US, Canada and several European countries, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov made it clear that under these circumstances Russia will not sit on our hands as this situation counters the principle of equal and indivisible security:

"You are well aware that Russia is seriously concerned about increasing politico-military tensions in the immediate vicinity of its western borders.

SCAN TO READ

With a view to avoiding any further escalation, the Russian side presented on 15 December 2021 the drafts of two interconnected international legal documents – a Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Security Guarantees and an Agreement on Measures to Ensure the Security of the Russian Federation and Member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The U.S. and NATO responses to our proposals received on January 26, 2022, demonstrate serious differences in the understanding of the principle of equal and indivisible security that is fundamental to the entire European security architecture. We believe it is necessary to immediately clarify this issue, as it will determine the prospects for future dialogue.

The Charter for European Security signed at the OSCE Summit in Istanbul in November 1999 formulated key rights and obligations of the OSCE participating States with respect to indivisibility of security. It underscored the right of each participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements including treaties of alliances, as they evolve, as well as the right of each State to neutrality. The same paragraph of the Charter directly conditions those rights on the obligation of each State not to strengthen its security at the expense of the security of other States. It says further that no State, group of States or Organisation can have any pre-eminent responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in the OSCE area or can consider any part of the OSCE area as its sphere of influence. At the OSCE Summit in Astana in December 2010, the leaders of our nations approved a declaration that reaffirmed this comprehensive package of interconnected obligations.

However, the Western countries continue to pick up out of it only those elements that suit them, and namely – the right of States to be free to choose alliances for ensuring exclusively their own security".

"It will not work that way. The very essence of the agreements on indivisible security is that either there is security for all or there is no security for anyone. The Istanbul Charter provides that each OSCE participating State has equal right to security, and not only NATO countries that interpret this right as an exceptional privilege of membership in the 'exclusive' North Atlantic club".

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS 97,260

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 800
OXYGEN SUPPORT 189
VENTILATOR SUPPORT 70

DELHI: TOTAL CASES 18,47,515

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	15,416	14,655
ICU BEDS	4,476	4,169

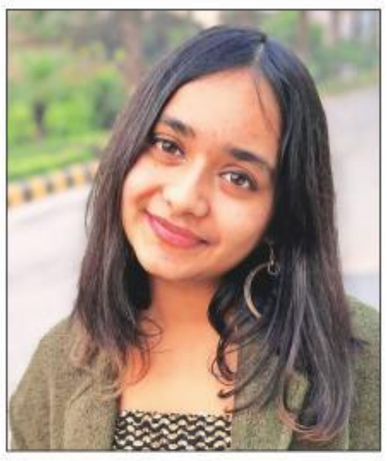
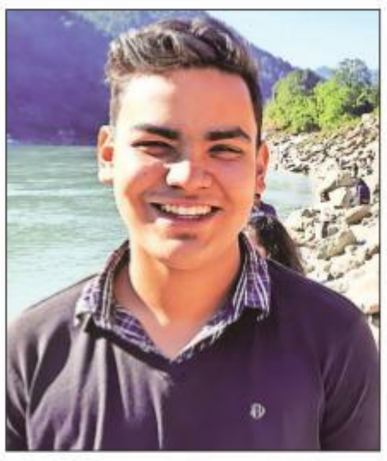
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Feb 8	1,114	2,079	12	48,792
Feb 9	1,317	1,908	13	62,556
Total	6.304	18,15,188	26,023	3,54,09,018

*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA	Feb 8	Feb 9
Cases	138	117
Deaths	0	0
GURGAON		
Cases	425	510
Deaths	2	2

Agla station: Vishwavidyalaya

Two years after it stopped offline classes, Delhi University is welcoming students to campus. What does it mean for those heading to college for the first time?

(From left) Akash Dhiman, Arja Dileep K, Niharika Aggarwal, Adhiraj Hazarika

ANONNA DUTT & ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

FOR ALMOST two years, Delhi University students from different parts of the country have been waiting for college to reopen. On Wednesday, after two days of continuous protests by student activists, the varsity's administration announced that colleges will reopen on February 17.

All outstation students have been "advised" to plan arrival in Delhi so they can complete a three days of isolation before reporting to their college or department.

The Indian Express spoke to students about the resumption of classes, and how they will manage to find accommodation in a week.

NIHARIKA AGGARWAL, 19
Second-year English (Hons), Hansraj College

Hailing from neighbouring Meerut, Aggarwal has visited her college only once after admission, when she came to collect her library card. A seven-day deadline is not enough, she feels. "I have been waiting for college to reopen, but the decision was very sudden. Seven days is too less a time to move to Delhi and find accommodation. I have started calling brokers," she said.

Over the past few months, she has seen her friends join offline classes in different institutions across the country.

"I see my friends, who have joined private colleges, posting photos on social media. We did everything right and ended up in the prestigious Delhi University, but we have missed out on the experiences," she said.

So far, online classes have meant that she is constantly in front of a screen. "Not only do we attend classes online, but we also have to do a lot of reading online. Staying constantly in front of the screen for hours has led to persistent headaches. My attention span has also reduced," she said.

She said that even though her teachers try to make the classes as interactive as possible, she is missing out on real-life discussions. "I had expected a lot more from DU," she said.

ARJA DILEEP K, 22
First-year MA English

The student from Ernakulam, Kerala, suddenly has a host of problems to worry about, right from the cost of flights to accommodation.

"I was excited for classes to begin, but now that it is a reality, it seems like a lot of effort. I have to make arrangements for travel and accommodation. And ensure that I have three days of isolation before joining college. The flights are expensive already."

She added, "The exams in March may be held online, so not only do I have to find accommodation, I have to look for one with good internet connectivity. I might have to travel home for the exams." She is travelling light since she still does not know how long college will remain open for.

SANIYA RAAHATH, 19
Second-year Journalism (Hons), Delhi College of Arts and Commerce

With the decision to reopen becoming a reality, Raahath too is now figuring out her travel plans. "I have not made any plans for accommodation as of now," she said.

The 19-year-old has felt repeatedly over the past year that she made a mistake by joining DU. She had joined the journalism graduate programme at Symbiosis University, Pune before she got through to DU. "I thought of joining DU instead because Delhi is the hub of journalism. But DU remained closed for all of 2021. Symbiosis was open for a few months towards the end of 2021. So did other private colleges I had applied to. Sometimes I feel like I made a mistake," said Raahath, who is currently based in Kollam, Kerala.

She said online education is not helping her much. "There is no participation in online classes, the assignments are mostly theoretical in nature, and the open book exams feel futile. I feel like if I graduate like this, I will be incompetent," she said.

On the flipside, she says, online classes gave her ample time to intern at a news organisation and a marketing organisation.

AKASH DHIMAN, 20
Bachelors in Journalism, Delhi School of Journalism

Dhiman is excited about returning to college as he believes the learning process was being affected.

"Online learning is very limited in comparison to how much I would have grasped had I gone to college. There is less interaction, and everyone just wants to get through with the syllabus."

Originally from Raigarh, Dhiman has been staying in a paying guest accommodation for the past few months and will not be up to his neck.

"For me, accommodation won't be a problem as I am already staying in a paying guest accommodation in Delhi, but for my friends who came back last year in October and went back in December, it will be a challenge."

Although many PGs and flats are vacant, they won't be capable of accommodating students since they were shut for last 2 years, he said.

ADHIRAJ HAZARIKA, 20
BCom programme, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce

The cost of flights, more than a place to live, is what has got Hazarika worried since he only has four days to make arrangements. While managing accommodation would not be an issue for him as he was staying in a PG which he had booked early last year itself, tickets could pose an issue, said the Dibrugarh resident. "To include the three day isolation period, I will have to book tickets in a short period, which will be expensive," he said. However, he is happy that colleges are finally reopening.

"The course work has been managed but the question is how much I have learnt. Interaction with teachers and classmates has largely been missing and that also has an impact on the learning process," he said.

Before rush, DU has task cut out, from hostels to PGs to canteens

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

WITH A week to prepare for reopening, colleges are rushing to get their essential services that have been lying dormant for almost two years in place.

According to the university's order issued Wednesday, offline classes will resume from February 17 for all courses. Administrators across colleges said with this, they will stop online classes since it is untenable to sustain hybrid teaching-learning with their large classroom sizes.

"It was as much an announcement for us as it was for students," said a principal, who did not want to be named, adding that principals of colleges were attending a university meeting on how and when colleges should be reopened when the announcement was made.

Kirori Mal College principal Vibha Chauhan said the first thing the college will be working on is allotting hostel seats.

"We need to quickly conduct a meeting of the hostel committee, decide how many hostel seats will be offered, allot seats as per merit and put up their names on the websites. The second thing we'll have to do is issue a tender for our canteen which has been closed as there was no point in keeping it running. Since it will take around two weeks to get it running, we can set up a kiosk with tea, coffee and snacks in the meantime. We'll also have to rush up a few things we were in the midst of, such as renovating the library and issuing new smart college ID cards," she said.

The college authorities will also collect information on how many students are vaccinated and will try to utilise some of its larger rooms — seminar rooms, auditorium, common rooms — for classes. Several DU colleges do not have any hostel at all. At Aryabhatta College, principal Manoj Sinha said that teachers have been tasked with helping students out.

"We have 2,400 students in the college and we've divided them in a way that around 40 students have one teacher mentor each. I have asked these teachers to begin contacting students and ask them about their problems. I have also asked staff to get in touch with PGs nearby and encourage them to start full services, including meals," he said.

Some administrators also raised the possibility of new expenses. "We have 7,000 students in our college. Even if 3,000-5,000 students come, our expenditure for sanitisation will be high and it is an expense for which there was no provision earlier. Frequently refilling sanitiser stands will cost and it's not a planned expenditure. We can manage it for a few months but it is something we will have to keep doing for the foreseeable future, so we and funding agencies need to plan accordingly," said Ramjas College principal Manoj Khanna.

During protests at North Campus on Wednesday. *Amit Mehra*

KARNATAKA ECHO

A protest organised by AIMIM in Shaheen Bagh, against the backdrop of the hijab row in Karnataka. *Tashi Tobgyal*

10 days and no arrest in teen's rape, car footage is police's only clue

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

AS PART of its probe into the rape of a 19-year-old student inside a park in Dwarka, allegedly by a man posing as a policeman, investigators are checking around 400 Ertiga cars currently being used by Delhi Police personnel. This, since CCTV from outside the park suggests the accused left in a white Ertiga.

Meanwhile, the teenager has recorded her statement under CrPC section 164 before a magistrate, wherein she corroborated the allegations made in her police complaint.

When contacted, DCP (Dwarka) Shankar Choudhary said, "We have not made any arrest so far and our investigation is still on."

A senior police officer said that since it was dark at the time, she and her friend, who was assaulted by the accused, have been unable to share a detailed description of the man, who was dressed in khaki pants and a khaki woolen cap.

Sources also told *The Indian Express* the woman and her friend participated in a 'test identification parade' wherein they saw all personnel posted with the police station closest to the park, and asked whether any of them was the accused. "They saw all the policemen, but did not identify any of them as the accused. Several teams have been formed to crack the case, and they are now trying to establish the route taken by the accused," said an officer.

The alleged incident took place on January 28 when the woman and her friend were at a park in Dwarka. The woman alleged they were approached by a man in khaki uniform who claimed they were indulging in obscenity and threatened to file a complaint against them. The accused assaulted her friend before sending him away and allegedly raping her.

Police said the woman told her mother about the incident on January 29, who then informed her husband. "I am still depressed and traumatised. I have this question – why are women treated as objects," the woman wrote in her complaint.

Delhi regularises 700 contractual Jal Board employees

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

CM Arvind Kejriwal

THE DELHI Jal Board (DJB) Wednesday regularised 700 contractual workers, claiming it was the biggest such exercise in the country.

Contractual workers across departments, from teachers to Delhi Transport Corporation and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation workers, have raised the demand for regularisation periodically over the past several years. While the move is expected to see the demand raising its head in other departments as well, it will also earn goodwill in an election year for the Aam Aadmi Party. The municipal corporation polls in Delhi are scheduled for April.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday handed over the regularisation certificates to DJB employees.

"I believe the step that we are going to take today is going to be historic. I have been informed that never has any of the past Delhi governments regularised contractual workers on such a large scale. This is the first time such mass regularisation has taken place in the entire country. Our nation is headed in the opposite direction where the number of regular employees is decreasing, and the number of non-regular employees is increasing," he said. Drawing a distinction between the DJB and other departments, Kejriwal said the move was possible as the utility is controlled only by the state government. In Delhi, which is not a full state but a Union Territory with special character, the services department does not come under the elected government but the Lieutenant-Governor. "The power and control that the Delhi Government can exercise is very limited. The central government has the final word over the state government. We were able to regularise you becauseDJB is an autonomous body with its own separate board calling the shots, and there is no interference from the Centre. We will make consistent efforts and negotiate with the central government to ensure more employees in other Delhi government departments are regularised," he added.

Multi-crore heist case: ASJ recuses himself

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 9

MORE THAN two weeks after absconding IPS officer Dheeraj Setia, who is an accused in a multi-crore heist case in Gurgaon, had filed applications before the Sessions Judge seeking a transfer of the case from the court of Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) to another, ASJ Jasbir Singh has recused himself from hearing the case.

When the matter came for hearing before the Sessions Judge Gurgaon, Surya Partap Singh, Monday, the court in an order said, "File put up before me in view of the reference dated 07.02.2022, preferred by Shri Jasbir Singh, learned Additional Sessions Judge, Gurugram. The reference has been made on the ground that in order to avoid any wrong impression, the learned Additional Sessions Judge does not want to hear this case."

The court said the reference has been accepted and both the bail application and trial in the case have been transferred to the court of Additional Sessions Judge Gurgaon Amit Sahrawat.

In January 2022, Setia had filed two transfer applications — one for transfer of case and another for transfer of his bail application. Both applications were dismissed by Sessions Judge Gurgaon on February 4. In a common order, while disposing of the applications on February 4, the court had said in the 'first transfer application' as per the allegations of the applicant, the presiding officer [ASJ Jasbir Singh] and Dr Sachinder Kumar Nawal, an accused, are "Facebook friends since long and the exchange of messages too had been taken place between them".

The court had sought comments from ASJ Jasbir Singh after these remarks against him in the 'first transfer application' dated January 19. According to the order, the court said the ASJ, while refuting the allegations of any prejudice or bias against the applicant, admitted that Nawal was his Facebook friend. In his comments ASJ Jasbir Singh stated that he has been performing his duty prescribed under the law and that merely on the asking of a party, who has been nursing an apprehension, the transfer of a case to another court can be detrimental to the administration of justice.

At park where rape took place, no CCTVs, inadequate lighting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

800 METRES. That's roughly the distance between a park in Dwarka where a 19-year-old was allegedly raped by a man claiming to be a police officer, and the police station where she filed her complaint. Ten days after the incident, during which her friend was also assaulted, police are yet to make an arrest.

As reported by *The Indian Express*, the incident took place around 7.30 pm January 28, when the woman and her friend were at the park. She alleged they were approached by a man in khaki uniform who claimed they were indulging in obscenity and threatened to file a complaint against them. The man proceeded to intimidate the two, assault her friend, and rape her after forcing him to leave.

The Indian Express visited the park on Wednesday, and found several residents who say they have raised safety issues in the past.

The park is spread over five acres, and has a seating area, a small open gymnasium and a children's playground.

It has three entry/exit points, and around three working streetlights in the 800-900 metre walking stretch.

Pankaj Kumar, a senior official at Nokia who lives near the park, said, "We have been complaining to the officials to get better streetlights. I often go for a night walk and it feels unsafe. We see young men drinking, and we've approached the police, but there's no action. There's a big market in front, two societies here and two schools nearby. Still, there are inadequate security."

The park also lacks CCTVs. An RWA member from a residential society nearby said: "We have complained several times about this; we have to depend on cameras installed at society gates. We don't send our children there at night; it's very unsafe."

Suchitra Sharma, a homemaker, said, "I have two daughters and I make sure that we leave the park before 5 pm. We don't have any other space but we can't stay there for long because there are many hooligans who drink and commit snatching. Two days back, two of my friends were targeted and their phone was snatched. There's hardly any police presence here."

A small office inside the park was locked during the visit. There was no guard, and the few staffers who look after the park's upkeep leave at 5 pm.

The office is used as a nursery and also for contractors and other officers to check maintenance/gardening work.

A senior police officer in Dwarka denied the allegations regarding inadequate deployment: "We have policemen who patrol in shifts. Duty officers talk to residents and also help senior citizens. The allegations are untrue. The incident is unfortunate and our teams are looking for the criminal."

Kamaljeet Sehrawat, the Dwarka councillor, also denied the allegations and said: "We have installed high-mast lighting at the centre of the park along with streetlights in the area. It's a big park and lighting can be an issue but we have installed enough lights on the footpath. We hold several meetings there with senior citizens and other residents. It's a well-maintained space. We don't have the provision of CCTVs in parks. We have deployed a guard there. There's always one person manning such big parks. We will look into the incident and the allegations."

No Covid test before routine procedures at AIIMS

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE ALL India Institute of Medical Sciences Wednesday discontinued routine testing of patients for Covid before hospitalisation and surgeries. "In accordance with current ICMR national guidelines, it has been decided to discontinue with routine Covid-19 testing prior to inpatient hospitalisation (regular as well as day care) and also prior to any minor or major surgical, interventional, and non-interventional procedures and imagings in clinically asymptomatic people," read the communication from the medical superintendent of the hospital Dr D K Sharma.

The new guidelines were released by ICMR a month ago and did away with testing asymptomatic patients in need of other procedures. "Fewer Covid cases are being reported, so hospital can do away with testing everyone. Patients can be tested if they are symptomatic. Most doctors and healthcare workers have had the infection and recovered without hospitalisations and severe disease. Hence, the decision was taken," said a doctor from AIIMS.

Shahdara snatching: Cops question 50 men, block entry and exit points

New Delhi: To clamp down on criminals in the area, two days after a 40-year-old woman was severely injured by two-bike borne snatchers at Shahdara, police restricted entry/exit points of localities and barricaded several roads in Anand Vihar.

DCP (Shahdara) R Sathiyasundaram said, "We registered a case of robbery on the complaint of witnesses. We have apprehended around eight men who are involved in the crime. They were identified after scanning CCTVs. They are being interrogated, arrests will be made soon." The victim's family said she continues to be on ventilator support and is critical.

A senior police officer said, "In last 48 hours, we have detained and questioned over 50 men. Many have been released. We are zeroing in on the accused. They were wearing helmets but we have recovered footage and are matching it with suspects." **ENS**

DECISION 2022

UTTAR PRADESH • UTTARAKHAND • PUNJAB • GOA • MANIPUR

'People may have feelings for me... I am a factor'

THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW WITH HARISH RAWAT
FORMER UTTARAKHAND CM, CONG LEADER

THE CONGRESS'S tallest leader in Uttarakhand, **HARISH RAWAT** has had to fight his way to the top in the party. Now, five years after a rebellion briefly deposed him as Chief Minister in 2016, the 73-year-old is firmly ensconced as the head of the Congress campaign in the state, with his men around, and detractors like Harak Rawat acknowledging his supremacy. Facing the onerous task of reviving the Congress from the big 2017 defeat, when he himself lost from two seats, Rawat speaks to **AVANEESH MISHRA** at a party worker's home in Haldwani:

As the Congress campaign head, how much pressure is there on you?

There is mental pressure... After polls in these five states there will be elections where the BJP and Congress are main contenders, so these elections will have an impact on that. We can see this in the past. Before 2002, the Congress lost state after state, just like today. But we won in Uttarakhand, and it turned things around... Therefore, we do have the pressure to win, not just for ourselves and the state, but also for the Congress. Rahul Gandhi must also come back (as party president), but that should be through party elections. We want him to take charge as soon as possible.

The Congress had its worst performance in the last Assembly elections (11 of 70), and the BJP has started calling you Haar-da instead of Har-da... They are claiming they will get more than 60 seats.

Last time they said 57 seats and they got 57. This can happen only when things are predetermined... This is how Shakuni used to work in Mahabharat. The dice would show the same number he asked for. People should vote for a strong government, Uttarakhand needs stability.

The Congress is constantly accused of Muslim appeasement... The BJP says that as CM you declared Friday as holiday.

Their IT department is creating fake information and propagating it... For five years, I have been asking them to show me the government order (on Friday holiday). It is so impractical, no one will even consider this. There was never even a demand...

Similarly, there is talk of a 'Muslim University' in Uttarakhand. I came to know about this only through a journalist. I only remembered opening a Sanskrit University in Haridwar... They (the BJP) posted morphed photos of me with a fake beard. The Election Commission made them remove the beard. I would suggest BJP leaders use that beard on themselves. Some of their leaders already have a similar look.

Did you have a role in the return of Harak Singh Rawat to the Congress? You said he should issue an apology before joining.

You cannot be very rigid in politics. What I did in 2016 was the requirement of that time, and what we do now is the requirement of today. We managed to break away a person (Harak Rawat) from the BJP. His return reconfirmed that what happened in 2016 was wrong. We will now try to turn him into a big asset for the party.

You have given subtle indicators that this might be your last election. Are you considering retirement?

All this depends on the political circumstances. If we return to power at the Centre in 2024, I will be the happiest. I will leave for nirvana. If the circumstances need me to keep fighting, how can I leave the fight? In Mahabharat Bhishm Pitamah was the eldest but led the battle for 10 days. Those much younger yielded early.

Should the Congress have named a CM candidate?

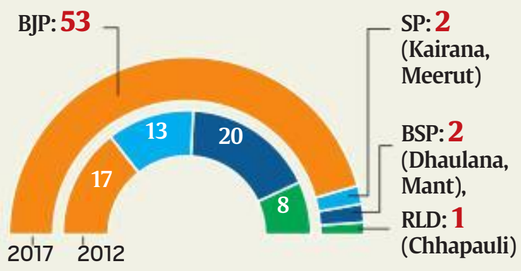
This is a very complicated question, and an orthodox one. However, there is a saying that '*dulhan wahi jo piya man bhaye* (the bride is one who pleases the groom)'. Suggestions of the public cannot be ignored, cognizance has to be taken. As far as I am concerned, I will follow the party tradition of deciding the CM later on.

Are people going to vote for Harish Rawat?

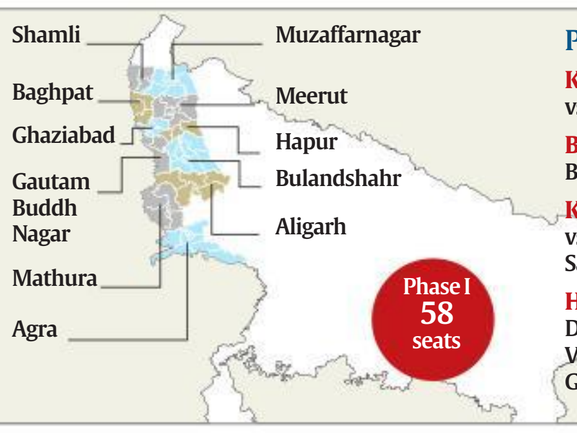
To a certain extent. It is possible people have feelings for me. I am a factor, I can say. People also compare my government with this government.

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

FIRST PHASE OF POLLING IN U.P. TODAY



RUNNERS-UP (2017): BJP 4, BSP 32, SP 17, RLD 3



PROMINENT CONTESTS

KAIRANA: SP's Nahid Hassan vs BJP's Mriganka Singh

BUDHANA: BJP's Rajpal Baliyan vs SP's Umesh Malik

KHATAULI: BJP's Vikram Saini vs RLD's Rajpal Singh Saini

HASTINAPUR (SC): BJP's Dinesh Khatik vs SP's Yogesh Verma vs Congress's Archana Gautam

PROMINENT CANDIDATES

Shrikant Sharma (Mathura)
Suresh Rana (Thana Bhawan)
Sandeep Singh (Atrauli)
Kapil Dev Agarwal (Muzaffarnagar)
Atul Garg (Ghaziabad)
Baby Rani Maurya (Agra Rural)
Sangeet Som (Sardhana)
Nahid Hasan (Kairana)

In Maya backyard, a different statue story fuels Gurjar anger

SHIVNARAYAN RAJPUROHIT
DADRI, FEBRUARY 9

IN THIS constituency that borders the national capital and includes the native village of BSP chief Mayawati, a missing word on a statue of a 9th-century icon looks set to dictate who the people vote for on Thursday, which marks the start of elections in Uttar Pradesh.

On Tuesday, the last day of campaigning, BSP candidate Manbir Singh was hoisted onto the pedestal of the same statue, at PG College here, to slogans of "Gurjar Samrat Mihir Bhoj, amar rahein" and benevolent showers of rose petals. "We will not allow anyone to humiliate our Gurjar icon. We will ensure that this stops," he declared.

The "humiliation" he is referring to, and repeated by all non-BJP parties in Dadri seat, is that the initial plaque for Bhoj's statue, put up by the Yogi Adityanath government in September last year, did not have the prefix 'Gurjar'. The government later corrected that, but for the around 2 lakh Gurjar voters of the total 6 lakh in the constituency, it was too little, too late.

Plus, it reinforced what many believe: about the Adityanath government being a pro-Thakur government. Thakurs also lay claim to the legacy of Bhoj. Now, with all the four main parties (the BJP, BSP, SP and Congress) fielding Gurjar candidates, the icon has become the poll issue.

While the BSP won Dadri in 2007 and 2012, the BJP had wrested the seat in 2017 amidst the Modi wave by a margin of over 80,000, getting more than half the votes. Apart from Gurjars, the other big chunk of voters are the Thakurs (around 1.2 lakh) and Muslims and Jatavs (80,000-odd each). With Thakurs seen as BJP voters, Muslims as the SP's and Jatavs with the BSP, the Gurjar vote can make the difference.

Jagan Singh Nagar, a former employee of All India Radio, says: "The incident with the statue means the BJP favours a particular community... Even when Amit Shah recently visited Ghaziabad, he did not use the word 'Gurjar' while talking about Mihir Bhoj."

A few kilometres from the college, SP candidate and its veteran leader Rajkumar Bhati has reached his last campaign stop for the day, at Milakh village. Hoping to get fifth time lucky after four failed attempts at the seat, Bhati is also talking about Bhoj.

"I was the first person to raise the issue (of the plaque) and even went to jail. Akhilesh Yadav ji also took it up. We worship Mihir Bhoj," Bhati says, while declaring that should the SP win, it would install another statue of Bhoj, at the entrance to Greater Noida.

Sitting Dadri MLA Tejpal Singh Nagar, who has been fielded by the BJP again, calls it "nothing but politics". "They have nothing else to offer."

Many in the Gurjar community say the call between the three candidates above and the Congress's Deepak Kumar Bhati 'Chotiwala' is tough. "How do you decide between your children?" quips a youth from Sadopur.

Another youngster, Ankit Nagar of Accheja village, a BCom graduate preparing for government jobs, says the SP "might benefit the most" from the anger against the BJP. However, he adds, "most Gurjars in my village favour Yogi on account of free ration and removal of the mafia".

In Badalpur village, the birthplace of Mayawati, the anger against the BJP is more palpable. "For us, the biggest issue is Mihir Bhoj," says a youth.

Beyond the statue din, the promises that pop up are employment, better law and order, and housing and regularisation of colonies. Parts of Greater Noida, landscaped with luxurious buildings and convulsed by dug-up roads, also fall in the Assembly seat.

The SP's Bhati, who got just 10,366 votes in 2017, and finished fourth, says the Adityanath government's claims on law and order are false. "Look at the NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) data, the picture will be clear... We have promised to provide jobs, improve law and order, bring down the power bill, regularise colonies and address issues related to flat buyers."

Fighting his first Assembly election, the BSP's Singh demands in his speech, at the statue, that the degree college where it is located be upgraded to a university. "Shouldn't it happen?" he asks, to a loud response of yes.

In Badalpur village, residents say Nagar has neglected them. "The MLA has not shown his face in five years. Had the BJP fielded someone else, they may have had a better chance," says Bheem Singh, a three-time pradhan of the village, adding that most of the 3,500 votes in Badalpur will go to the BSP, like in previous elections.

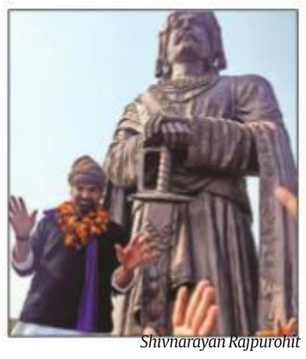
Bheem Singh credits Mayawati for giving the area "four colleges and four-five schools". "She has given us everything without asking. She is our daughter and sister."

While the Jatavs are still behind Mayawati, there are muted murmurs of the need for organisational changes. Most of the 19 MLAs who won on BSP ticket in the state in 2017 are now in other parties, a cause for instrospection. Some call for inducting "orators like Ravan (Chandhrashekhar Azad) or former JNU president Kanhaiya Kumar" to re-energise the party. Youths stress that the BSP should focus more on social media.

Vikram Singh, a BSP worker and nurse who lives at Mayawati's ancestral house, regrets that the Bhim Army chose a separate path. "If Chandrashekhar Azad wants to grow, he should grow with the BSP. We supported his non-political Bhim Army. But he tried to enter politics separately. This was not acceptable to the Jatavs. He has to work more," he says.

The BJP's Nagar is confident he still has the backing of a majority, and says he has been with the people through "their happiness and sorrow". Among his "achievements", he lists three educational institutes. "As far as jobs are concerned, it is mandatory for industries to recruit 40% of their workforce from here. At least 600 companies are coming up here. It will benefit the youth."

However, for now, work, as Salim in Dadri's Raza Colony says, remains scarce. A construction worker, he adds: "Nowadays, I lug bricks for 12 hours for the same pay as for eight hours earlier... I will stamp the bicycle (SP symbol). Any other alternative? You suggest."



Shivnarayan Rajpurohit

BSP candidate Manbir Singh near the statue in Dadri.

SEAT WATCH

PAST RESULTS

2017
Tejpal Singh Nagar (BJP) Winner, 53.57% votes
Satveer Singh Gurjar (BSP) 23.16% votes

2012
Satveer Singh Gurjar (BSP) 40.68% votes
Nawab Singh Nagar (BJP) 21.98% votes

Both Congress, SP manifestos make mention of pension. *PTI*

A 12 lakh vote bank: why old, new pension talk in UP

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 9

A SCHEME that keeps coming up in the Uttar Pradesh election discourse, and has found mention in the manifestos of both the Samajwadi Party and Congress, is the pension for government employees.

Akhilesh Yadav announced last month that if the SP formed the government, it would restore a pre-2005 "old pension scheme" (the SP was in power at the time, led by Mulayam Singh Yadav). Six days later, UP Chief Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra held a review with officials and issued a statement specifying how the "new pension scheme" was more beneficial. CM Yogi Adityanath then attacked Akhilesh, saying the "new pension scheme" had actually got clearance in 2005 under Mulayam, and remained in cold storage.

On Wednesday, the Congress got into the game, with its manifesto promising a "mid-way" solution.

Whichever scheme is finally enforced, the beneficiaries would be those retiring around 2030-35, since it would apply to those hired after 2004. However, in the short term, all parties have eyes on the 12 lakh government employees and their families:

EXPLAINED

The New Pension Scheme

The scheme, now referred to as the National Pension System (NPS), was introduced by the Centre for all appointments after January 1, 2004.

Under the NPS, every government employee is allotted a Permanent Retirement Account Number, and has to mandatorily contribute 10% of pay and dearness allowance to the pension fund, which is matched by the government. This money can then be invested by fund managers. After the latest amendment, in 2019, the government share of the contribution has been raised to 14% from 10%.

At superannuation, the employee can withdraw 60% of the corpus but is required to invest at least 40% to purchase an annuity from an insurance firm regulated and registered by government authorities. The interest on the annuity is to be provided as a monthly pension to the employee.

Difference with old system

The basic difference is the NPS is a contribution-based pension system. Under the old system, pension was fixed as 50% of the last basic salary drawn, along with other benefits. Hence, the benefit due was defined beforehand. However, in case of NPS, the pension benefit is determined by factors such as the amount of contribution made, the age of joining, type of investment, and income drawn from that investment.

Government stand

Additional Chief Secretary, Information, Navneet Sehgal told *The Indian Express* it was "practically not possible" for the government to go back to the old structure. First, any state withdrawing from the scheme needs the Centre's approval. Second, he said, Rs 20,000 crore of the funds drawn from contributions of employees and the government were invested in the market for a specific term.

Employees' concern

Hari Kishore Tiwari of the Rajya Karamchari Sanyukta Parishad says the formula worked out with the SP is that the government would form a separate fund on its own, with contribution of employees, and employees would be given pension benefits from the same.

However, not all unions agree with reverting to the old scheme. "The NPS is no doubt market-driven, but like any other market-driven plan, in the long run, it has higher benefits," says Yadvendra Mishra, President of the Uttar Pradesh Secretariat Employees Union.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

TRACKING COVID IN ELECTION-BOUND STATES

	UTTAR PRADESH	PUNJAB	UTTARAKHAND	GOA	MANIPUR
Deaths	23,359	17,524	7,633	3,760	2,074
Deaths Today	16	29	5	6	2
Cases (Jan 31)	6,226	2,347	1,200	500	346
Cases (Feb 9)	2,056	665	713	259	188

I HEREBY DECLARE

CHANDRASHEKHAR
Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram), Gorakhpur Urban

TOTAL ASSETS: ₹29 LAKH
MOVABLE ASSETS: Self: ₹2.4 lakh
Wife: ₹23 lakh
IMMOVABLE ASSETS: Total: ₹3 lakh
LOANS FROM BANKS OR OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS: NIL
CRIMINAL CASES: (Annexure related to cases not uploaded on ECI site)
PROFESSION: Advocate
EDUCATION: LLB (2012)

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI
CM, BJP Khatima candidate

TOTAL ASSETS: ₹3.3 crore
MOVABLE ASSETS: Self: ₹1.3 crore (includes a revolver and a rifle)
Wife: ₹48 lakh
2 Children: ₹4.7 lakh
IMMOVABLE ASSETS: Self: ₹1.4 crore
LOANS FROM BANKS OR OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS: Self: ₹49.6 lakh
CRIMINAL CASE: Nil
SOURCES OF EARNING: MLA salary
EDUCATION: Masters in HRM and Industrial Relations (1999)

PROFILE

Is ladki mein ka ba: The million mutinies in Neha Singh Rathore's songs

YASHEE
VARANASI, FEBRUARY 9

"IF A girl like me is speaking out in public, she has already overcome the two most difficult challenges, of *parivesh* (environment) and *parivaar* (family). Random strangers can't shut me up," says Neha Singh Rathore.

The Bhojpuri artiste's videos listing problems of her state Bihar and neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, amidst elections there, rattled the state governments enough to issue counter videos. It also made Rathore the subject of vicious trolling, which has got worse in the run-up to the bitter UP polls.

Friends have been urging Rathore to not step out alone, or to keep her face covered with a mask. But, the 24-year-old — who grew up in village Jandaha in Kaimur district, who has built a following of millions for her YouTube videos shot on phone, who writes and sets to music her songs, who has fans now in even faraway Punjab, who hopes to free Bhojpuri songs' image from "blouse hooks and lehnga strings", and who now stays away from home in a hostel in Varanasi for better Internet connectivity, and for her expanding work – says she is done being afraid.

"*Aise hi humko daba lenge* (Can they suppress me just like that)?" she grins, sitting in a cafe in Varanasi's Lanka area. In a shirt, jeans and glasses, Rathore is a far cry from her videos, where she appears in sari, bindi and covered head, but many of the visitors stop short, recognising her.

In person, she has the same anger, confidence and wit. But behind that camera-perfected demeanour are glimpses of a girl who is still very young, and often very hurt.

Rathore first caught attention during the Bihar Assembly elections of 2020 with her song *Bihar mein ka ba* (what does Bihar have). Since then, Rathore has released "around 200 songs", dealing with unemployment, farmers and the migration during lockdown.

After the BJP wielded Bhojpuri film star and MP Ravi Kishan to release *UP mein sab ba* for the coming polls, Rathore released the first '*UP mein ka ba*' song on January 16. She has since brought out part 2 and 3, talking about among other things the Hathras rape case, the Lakhimpuri farmers' deaths, and bodies found in the Ganga during Covid. The BJP has come out with multiple songs to counter hers. Comments have been directed at her questioning her 'character'.

This is not the trajectory a girl like her is supposed to have, Rathore admits. Her father is a private firm employee in Lucknow, and the family owns a small farm. Her sister is married, a brother just joined the CRPF.

Rathore started with Bhojpuri folk songs, the kind sung at family functions. As these got appreciation, she moved on to own songs, "issues I cared about". Being argumentative from childhood always got her reactions like, "Marry her off quickly so she is someone else's problem". "*Bachpan se suniyega aap dikkat hain, tou boli mein dhar aa hi jayega* (If you grow up hearing you are a problem, your words automatically get an edge)," she says.

Rathore says it is surprising that "*hum jaison se ladne sarkaar utar jaati hai* (the government takes on someone as small as me)". However, it says more about the government, she believes. "That it has nothing to counter the content in my songs... The abusers attack my looks, my short hair, my 'character'. People take screenshots and tell my parents, 'See what is being said about your daughter'."

Thankfully, Rathore says, some of it doesn't reach home.

Jandaha is a village located just 85 km east of Varanasi on the map. But down an unpaved 2-km road, past the Karmnasha river, the most helpful direction to it is by a motorcyclist: "*Taar ke sath mudte rahiyega* (Just turn as the overhead electric wires do)."

At the village though, everyone knows Rathore's one-storey house, down a waterlogged lane. "There is a drain right outside the house. These are the things which drive her to write," smiles a proud Champa Devi.

It took a while but Champa Devi now understands why her daughter had to find her way out of there. "We had no idea she could write so powerfully," she says.

Champa Devi says they are fully behind Rathore, and "don't care what abusers say". "She is doing nothing wrong." Still, about her future career, she is clear. "What she does after her marriage is for her in-laws to decide. If they allow her, she can continue writing and singing."

That is not how Rathore sees it, nor her fiance Himanshu, whom she met while in college. "Neha has done everything on her own, I am sure she can continue. My job is to be there for her," he says on the phone. "*Baaki woh ladki hai, lad sakti hai* (she is a girl, she can fight)."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

At a café in Varanasi. *Express*

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR

RAJYA SABHA

"I request all members to keep their questions short and the ministers to keep their replies brief — this is so that more questions can be asked and you can get more replies and information, especially if a minister has to provide data."

HARIVANSH NARAYAN SINGH, DY CHAIRMAN OF RAJYA SABHA

LOK SABHA

"You are a lawyer. I do not know who told you what. You had nine minutes, and there's one minute left."

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB, asks BJP MP P P Chaudhary to conclude his speech in time.

5 QUESTIONS

REACTING TO THE UNION BUDGET, BJD RAJYA SABHA MP **DR AMAR PATNAIK** TOLD **ESHA ROY** THAT HE WELCOMED THE FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE, BUT SAID THAT MORE NEEDED TO BE DONE.

You said in your speech that this focus on climate change was needed in the Budget. Why is this so?

Very often we here about action taken regarding climate change and programmes relating to it, but this is usually lip service and has never been brought to the centre of the Budget, which has been done this time, and we welcome it. This is an extremely important step as it shows the government's intent on climate action, not just for the current year but for the next 25 years. The trajectory of growth has been linked to energy transition, which was also very important... Nobel-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz talks of three existential crises facing the modern age — inequity, the climate crisis and the crisis of confidence in democracy.

What are the drawbacks you see in the environment budget?

There are a number of good measures announced such as use of 5-7% biomass, swapping batteries, green bonds, low carbon strategy, green energy and mobility systems being called the sunrise sector and a focus on the circular economy. Yet, on the other hand, the budget announced for the Environment Ministry is... still a meagre 0.012% of India's GDP. The commitment that the government has announced has to be matched in budgetary allocations... The Odisha government announced a separate climate budget for the first time last year, and this is something the Central government needs to do as well.

What is the climate budget that has been introduced in Odisha?

What has been done in Odisha is that a separate climate budget has been prepared, in which outcomes and investments across sectors have been earmarked for climate action and will be closely monitored. This mandatory climate action element for all departments will mainstream climate action and help governments as well as the people internalise it, and is therefore extremely important.

How important is it for climate resilience measures to be a part of the budget?

No state knows better than Odisha... the importance of creating climate resilience infrastructure. Our chief minister has created a pathway for this whereby he has said it is important to consider long term investment in climate resilient development... For instance, when we were hit by Fani supercyclone — it had a Rs 34,000 crore impact on the state's economy. Over one lakh electric poles were uprooted... So, we decided to have underground power cabling... We will also be creating surge walls to prevent tidal wave water, or surge water, created by cyclones, from entering fields and ruining crops...

What is the relation between climate change and inequity?

...On one hand it is the most vulnerable in society that is affected by climate change the most. On the other it is these (extreme weather) events that increase the gap and inequity between the rich and the poor and other vulnerable groups like women and children. Climate-related economic loss has been $1.5 trillion. What is good for the top 1% may not be good for the bottom 50%.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

No unemployment, only prince of Cong jobless: Surya

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

COUNTERING RAHUL Gandhi's assertion that unemployment is rising in the country, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Wednesday said the Congress leader's claim was completely baseless and that there are enough opportunities for the talented and hardworking. Taking a dig at Rahul, he said the "only unemployed person is the prince of Congress party".

Days after Rahul spoke of two Indias, one of the extremely rich and the other of the poor, Surya said the two Indias are actually India before Modi and India after Modi.

"Before Modi there was double-digit inflation. Now we have single-digit inflation. Before the size of India's GDP was Rs 110 lakh crore. After Modi, the size of the GDP is Rs 230 lakh crore. Before Modi, India's exports were Rs 2.85 lakh crore. After Modi, it is Rs 4.7 lakh crore," Surya said, participating in the discussion on the Budget in Lok Sabha.

He said Congress's "mindless obsession" with socialism had kept India poor.

"If the GDP has increased multiple times, if FDI has increased multiple times, if the number of unicorns have increased multiple times, how can there be no employment generation. The Congress party and their dynastic leaders are confusing their political unemployment as unemployment in the country. The hardworking and talented people have all the opportunities. The only unemployed person is the prince of the Congress party," the MP from Bangalore South said.

According to Surya, the country witnessed an economic miracle in the past seven years under the leadership of Narendra Modi. "The progress and the pace of reforms is unprecedented. The 1991 reforms are talked about often. But the 1991 Budget was out of compulsion, not conviction," he said.

Surya's speech was countered by NCP's Supriya Sule, who said that his accusations against Congress of being dynastic were hypocritical since the BJP was full of dynasts.

She asked if Surya could answer who is Ravi Subramnium, a BJP MLA from Karnataka, and if Surya is related to him.

"I am very proud of whose daughter I am. Pritam Munde, Poonam Mahajan, Heena Gavit, Raksha Khadse, Sujoy Vikhe Patil, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Piyush Goyal, Dhamendra Pradhan… the common thing we have is we were all born in political families," she said.

On the Budget, Sule raised the issue of fiscal deficit targets set during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee era at 3% being revised to 6.9% in the current budget. "Will the Rs 1 lakh crore given to the state to implement central schemes really help them," she asked. She also raised the issue of pending Rs 28,365 crore GST compensation of her state Maharashtra.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who was present in the House, chose to reply immediately. "The Rs 1 lakh crore given to states is over and above their borrowing limits. So it is not going affect their borrowing limits. There is no interest on this amount. The Centre is giving it for 50 years. The intention behind this is the states can use this amount to complete several of the projects that they want to. We are being supportive to the states," she said.

"As far as 6.9% deficit is concerned, after one and half years of the pandemic, the only calls I would get from everybody is spend, spend. Fine, I am spending. It will show the results. And naturally you will breach the 3% target. So 6.9% is a responsible target," she said.

Deputy Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab conducts proceedings in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. *PTI*

(*Left*) BJP MP Tejasvi Surya speaks in the Lok Sabha. *PTI*

Congress's Pradyot Bordoloi reminded the House of the lakhs of diyas lit by the Uttar Pradesh government in Ayodhya and how after the function, people were collecting mustard oil from them. Referring to Yogi Adityanath, he said, "When Swamyji became CM, mustard oil was Rs 70 a litre, it is now Rs 250 a litre. Under the façade of pomp and gaiety around monumental structures and statues, actually lies the human cost of economic devastation in India."

He said the Modi government brought down GDP growth from 8% during the UPA era to 3.5% even before the pandemic hit.

JDU member Mahabali Singh praised the government Budget but asked for special status for Bihar.

JMM's Vijay Kumar Hansdak said the House should apologise for what happened to migrants during the Covid lockdown.

TMC's Sougata Ray said the Finance Minister mentioned about ease of doing business in her Budget speech despite the fact that World Bank had announced to discontinue the ease of doing business ranking.

BJP's Sanjay Jaiswal described the Budget as "future oriented" and said that it paves way for developing India as a developed country by 2047.

Only for corporates, nothing for the poor, farmers: Opp in RS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

OPPOSITION MEMBERS in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday slammed Budget 2022-23 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, claiming it has nothing in it for the poor and the farmers, and is meant only to benefit top corporates of the country. Countering the claim, the BJP said the Budget focuses on job-oriented growth and that it is far better than any Budget presented by Congress leader P Chidambaram during the previous UPA government.

A day after Chidambaram opened the debate on the Budget for the Opposition, his party colleague Kapil Sibal on Wednesday said the government was not looking at ground realities.

Sibal said he was "taken in by key words" that the Finance Minister used in her speech: "digital, green, climate, Atmanirbhar, made in India, capital expenditure, ease of doing business, tax avenues, GST collection, futuristic economy driven by technology, clean fuel, smart cities."

But, he said, certain words were missing: "unemployment, poverty, food security, informal sector, migrants, daily wagers, health for all, welfare, social protection, women, youth".

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for calling Congress part of the "Tukde Tukde Gang", he said that "those who do tukde tukde of civilization, history, Constitution, brotherhood" are the leaders of the Tukde Tukde Gang.

Sibal said the BJP talks of "Amrit Kaal", but all he can see is "Rahoo Kaal". He said the focus of the Budget was on infrastructure, but it does not provide relief to the sector where maximum jobs had been shelved – 9.8 million in manufacturing, 5 million in hotel and tourism, 4 million in education among others.

India, he said, has a worse unemployment rate compared to Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. He also said the government's health expenditure – at US$ 172 per capita – was along the world's lowest.

CPI leader Binoy Viswam called the Budget a "failure" and said it was intended to benefit only "big corporate houses such as Tata, Birla, Ambani and Adani". He said the Budget was "not for the poor but the rich at the top", and added that it did not help the farmers, women and health sector, with reduced allocation and slashed subsidies.

TRS member K R Suresh Reddy said, "With the heavy heart, I must tell the Finance Minister that a 90-minute (Budget) speech has left 90 crore Indians out of a Budget. This so-called progressive Budget has alienated the majority of the poor people."

DMK's M Mohamed Abdulla said raised the issue of cryptocurrency, saying that it is unprecedented to tax something which is illegal in the country. "The government has levied 30% tax on cryptocurrency, but cryptocurrency is illegal in the country and we can only tax that which is a legal system. Does the taxation make cryptocurrency legal?"

Countering the Opposition's claims, BJP's Sushil Modi said each page of the Budget had the focus on "jobs, jobs, jobs". He said it is "job-oriented" and stressed on "growth with job creation". He said it was "100 times" better than any Budget that Chidambaram presented when he was the Finance Minister.

India, he said, will send Rs 20 lakh crore in capital expenditure till 2023, calling it the biggest ever. Capital expenditure, he said, has a "multiplier effect" and stated that if revenue expenditure is increased by Rs 100, only Rs 98 is added to the economy, but if Rs 100 is spent as capital expenditure, Rs 245 is added to the economy in the first year and Rs 480 in the subsequent years.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Piyush Goyal refuses to answer DMK MP's question in English, triggers protests in Lok Sabha

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE FACE-OFF between the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government regarding a number of issues, including NEET and IAS cadre rules, has manifested in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday when Union minister Piyush Goyal refused to reply in English to a question posed by a DMK MP.

Despite protests by MPs from Tamil Nadu, Goyal urged Speaker Om Birla to give a ruling in the House that ministers can choose to reply in either Hindi or English and that there is no "rule that questions in English should be replied to in English only".

Since the beginning of the Budget Session, the Lok Sabha has witnessed a number of such instances where the Treasury benches and Opposition members argued over the language used during question hour. While ministers like Ashwini Vaishnaw have obliged requests of MPs to reply in English, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had insisted last week that he would reply only in Hindi.

On Wednesday, Goyal's refusal to oblige the demand triggered protests by MPs from Tamil Nadu.

When DMK MP from Erode, A Ganeshamurthi, asked a supplementary question in Tamil on FDI inflow, Goyal apparently missed the translation initially. He requested the member to repeat the question, but Ganeshamurthi asked the minister to speak in English. He said he had given notice to speak in Tamil. Any MP who wants to speak in languages other than English or Hindi must give prior notice to the table office so that the translator is present and a translation both in Hindi and English is available on the headphones placed at every seat.

Goyal replied: "I can speak in the language I desire. You can get the translation on your headphones. I can answer in any language."

The Opposition protested this.

Goyal, however, continued to insist that he would answer only in Hindi. "You asked the question in Tamil... I will answer in Hindi."

However, later, in his replies to BJD's Bhartruhari Mahtab and DMK's M Dhanush Kumar, Goyal spoke in English.

Criticising Goyal, Congress's S Jothi Mani said ministers in the BJP government have been "taking such an arrogant attitude towards Tamil Nadu".

Later, speaking to *The Indian Express*, Ganeshamurthi said: "I am a third-term MP and earlier it has been the practice that when a member asks a question in English, the ministers, if they are fluent with the language, reply in the same. But this government does not believe in it. It wants 'one nation one language', and it wants to impose Hindi on us."

Govt: More than 600 properties of Kashmiri Pandits restored in last 5 yrs

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE JAMMU and Kashmir administration has restored land belonging to 610 pandit migrants in the past five years, the government told Parliament on Wednesday.

"As per the information provided by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the land of 610 applicants (migrants) has been restored in the last five years," MoS Home Nityanand Rai said in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha.

"Under the J&K Migrant Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection & Restraint on Distress Sales) Act, 1997, District Magistrates (DMs) of concerned Districts in Jammu & Kashmir are the legal custodians of the immoveable properties of migrants. The DMs are further empowered to take all steps for the preservation and protection of such properties," he added. Rai's reply was to a question on number of properties restored to Kashmiri pandits in the last five years. "The government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched a portal on 07.09.2021 to address the grievances of Kashmiri migrants related to immovable properties and community assets. An amount of Rs. 753.89 crores has been released during the last five years in this regard," Rai said.

Sule raises hijab issue, rape remarks by Karnataka MLA

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

NCP MEMBER Supriya Sule on Wednesday raised the Karnataka hijab controversy in Lok Sabha, suggesting that the ruling BJP wanted to decide what everyone must wear or eat and if anyone protested they would be called anti-national.

Participating in the debate on Budget, Sule began her speech seeking the Chair's permission to deviate from the subject. She then switched to Marathi and said, "What one should wear, they will decide. What one should eat, they will decide. What time and where one should go, they will decide. What should be spoken and what not, they will decide. What should be shared and forwarded, they will decide. And if you criticise them, you will be accused of being anti-national. And if I protest, I will be branded as andolanjeevi."

She made the comments in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's presence in the House.

Sule again brought up the issue while talking about the statement of a Karnataka MLA who allegedly said that rapes happen because of what women wear.

"Nirmala Sitharaman is a dignified lady and we are both women. We both have daughters and I am sure she is very proud of her daughter. What has happened unfortunately in Karnataka... A BJP MLA from Karnataka has said rapes are increasing because of women's clothing. If you wear a hijab, the BJP has problem. If you wear other clothes, then also they have a problem. You will do moral policing also and thought policing also?" Sule said.

NCP MP Supriya Sule speaks in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. *PTI*

She said that because Sitharam is elected from Karnataka, she was asking her for justice. "The Finance Minister looked so dignified in a Sambalpuri saree when presented the Budget. We don't judge each other based on clothing. I hope she will intervene. The House must condemn this... if any man says women get raped because of their clothes," Sule said.

The remark that Sule was referring to came from Karnataka BJP MLA Renukacharya. The MLA made the statement as a response to Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi defending the right to wear hijab with a comment that a woman could even wear bikini.

India lost most of Galwan in Nehru time, not an inch more since: BJP Ladakh MP

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

BJP'S LADAKH MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal Thursday claimed that most of the Galwan valley had been ceded to China under the Jawaharlal Nehru government and that the boundary has been the same ever since, with not an "inch" more lost in all these years.

Namgyal made the claims during a discussion on the Budget in Lok Sabha. He also asked the Congress why it did not include bringing the Aksai Chin region back to India in its election manifestos from 1962 to 2019.

Namgyal praised the budget as "historic" and said it had a focus on strengthening border areas.

"I come from a border area, Ladakh, which borders Tibet, China and Pakistan and where tension is ever present. Also, the Opposition asked what had been done for the border areas. Therefore, I want to focus on the border in my speech," Namgyal said.

Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal

Accusing the Congress of keeping such areas "backward", Namgyal said it did not provide people with even basic facilities.

"Nehru ji talked about the forward policy but a backward policy was implemented at the borders. Our borders became uninhibited. People were not given any facilities," he said.

"For the first time, in this budget, provisions have been made for the vibrant village programme that is aimed at strengthening villages in the northern sector bordering China and Tibet."

"Today, the leaders of the same party are shamefully asking the government what is on the border, what is on Galwan? What is on Pangong and Chushul," he said.

Namgyal listed out infrastructure developed by China in the region. "The hydel dam ahead of Demchok, 6-8 airports surrounding the entire Ladakh region. All this happened during the Congress regime," Namgyal said.

"PP-14 and Galwan Valley came up during the discussion repeatedly. I want to tell you that Galwan valley is a very big area. Galwan valley had already been ceded to Aksai Chin during Nehru ji's time. What is left with us is only PP-14, the entry point of Galwan. Even now, we are in the same place where we were. Not a single inch area has been ceded," he claimed.

"I want to ask one more question. Why did the Congress not include, even once, bringing back Aksai Chin to India in its election manifesto between 1962 to 2019? Why was it not done? Are you afraid of China? Are you afraid about Nehru ji's image being maligned," he said.

Jaishankar to visit Australia, Philippines in six-day tour

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar will begin a six-day visit to Australia and the Philippines Thursday. His visit to the two countries till February 15 will be his first as External Affairs Minister.

The visit to the Philippines from February 13 to 15 comes over two weeks after the Southeast Asian country signed a $375 million deal with India to buy three batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile.

Announcing the two-nation visit by Jaishankar, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said he will participate in the fourth Quad foreign ministers' meeting on February 11 in Melbourne along with his counterparts from Australia, Japan and the US.

The MEA said it will be an opportunity for the ministers to follow up on their virtual meeting held in February last year and exchange views on regional strategic issues given their shared vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

"The ministers will review the ongoing Quad cooperation and build on the positive and constructive agenda announced by the leaders at the two summits in 2021 to address contemporary challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic, supply chains, critical technologies, climate change, infrastructure etc," the MEA said in a statement.

Besides attending the Quad meeting, Jaishankar will also co-chair with his Australian counterpart Marise Payne the 12th India-Australia foreign ministers' framework dialogue on February 12.

After the Australian tour, Jaishankar will travel to the Philippines on a three-day visit. "The external affairs minister will hold talks with his counterpart, Teodoro L Locsin Jr, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines," the MEA said.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

HEALTH MATTERS

UNION HEALTH Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, a cycle enthusiast, is very particular about fitness and healthy lifestyle. After taking over the ministry, he wanted to roll out a canteen that serves nutritious and healthy food options. Following his orders, the Health Ministry on Tuesday started the canteen with a special menu. On the first day, the canteen served moong dal cheela with peas. Significantly, an additional secretary will oversee the daily menu.

COURT RAP

HEARING A case against a group accused of duping people who invested in gold savings schemes, Justice S K Kaul of Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed concern over WhatsApp messages about the case being sent by the affected to groups of which he was part of. "I don't want to receive WhatsApp messages concerning the case. Someone sneaks into my groups and leaves messages," he said. The bench also comprising Justice M M Sundresh added, "We express concern over the investors sending WhatsApp messages to us seeking justice. We appreciate the endeavour but this is not the way to seek justice." It called upon them to refrain from such acts.

ON YOUR MARX

IT IS not usual for someone to use the names the Pope and Communist philosopher Karl Marx to push the same argument. But that is what CPI member Binoy Viswam did in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday while criticising the Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Viswam first quoted Pope Francis about neoliberalism and limits of believing in the markets. Immediately after, he began to quote Karl Marx, but his time was exhausted. As he still tried to make his final point, using Marx, Sitharaman stood up and said, "I just want to make it sure that I heard it right." She asked if Viswam first quoted Pope Francis and "immediately after that he is quoting Marx? I just want to be sure". There was some laughter, but Viswam managed to quote Marx before the next speaker began his speech.

HIJAB CONTROVERSY

Voices from Assam school: 'Good that girls have spoken their mind'

TORA AGARWALA
NAGAON, FEBRUARY 9

EVERY MORNING, before entering her school, 15-year-old Mahmouda Begum takes off her hijab, folds it neatly, before stowing it in her school bag. After school, when she steps out, the hijab is fished out of the bag, wrapped around her head, before she heads home, a few kilometres away.

Begum, a Class 9 student, says it would be "much less hassle" if the hijab was allowed in school, but adds: "Rules are rules, our teachers have a point too."

In Juria Higher Secondary School in Assam's Nagaon district, several Muslim girls find themselves in a similar quandary, caught between the duty to their families and religious beliefs to wear the hijab. The rules of the school established in 1948 that say that nothing apart from uniform – white kurta and green dupatta for girls, white shirt and green trousers for boys – must be worn.

Asfiya Sultan,15, Begum's friend and classmate, says that she "feels bad" since the hijab is a "part of her identity".

Students at the Juria Higher Secondary School in Assam's Nagaon district. *Tora Agarwala*

"It is something I wear at home, a part of my identity. Our families want us to wear it, elders on the road chide us if we don't. Then when we come to school, we are not allowed to," she says.

More than 3,000 km away from Karnataka, where a controversy over the hijab is playing out, girls like Sultan and Begum find an echo. "I do not know the details but it is good that the girls have spoken their mind," says Sultan, on the Karnataka issue.

Juria is home to a sizeable Bengali Muslim population of migrant origin, with several Assamese Hindu pockets. Given Assam's sensitive identity battles between those considered "indigenous" and those perceived as "outsiders", locals are only too aware of these differences, and are conscious about maintaining inter-community peace.

This applies to Juria High School too, with its 1,000-odd students, out of whom about 483 are girls. "Everyone is sensitive to the historical faultlines here," says principal Rupalim Sarma, who has taught in the school for three decades.

"Our rules strictly say that a dress code should be followed, and it is an unwritten rule that hijabs, burqas or any other outside attire... jeans for that matter... will not be allowed," she says. So if students are ever seen wearing the hijab, members of the faculty gently tell them not to, says Sarma.

Class 9 student Tonu Saha, 15, agrees. "In school everyone is the same, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian…That is why we have a uniform," she says, adding that her two best friends, Farzin and Narzin, are Muslims. Narzin, 15, adds that she wears hijab at home, but not at school, and has no problem with it.

But Nurjahnnur Huda, 17, points out: "My simple argument is that if all of us are equal, if we are secular, if we respect each other's religions, why should a cloth on our heads, even if we do wear it, be a problem?"

Mridul Nath, Inspector of Schools, Nagaon, says that while there are minority-dominated areas in the district, students usually follow the set uniform in the school. "They may wear their traditional attire at home, but do not wear it to school, and follow the dress code," he says.

Karnataka tension ebbs with closure; 15 arrested

Minister targets CFI for trouble, outfit says leading protests legally

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 9

With schools and colleges shut for three days in Karnataka, tension that arose on Tuesday following a face-off between girl students from the Muslim community demanding their right to wear hijab to classrooms and a competing demand from Hindu youth to wear saffron shawls eased around colleges on Wednesday.

The police have arrested 15 people across the state on charges of breaching peace and harmony, mainly from Shivamogga and Bagalkot districts.

Although tension eased in the coastal district of Udupi, where the protests have been most acute, restrictions under CrPC Section 144 were imposed in Shivamogga district, where a saffron flag was hoisted at a college on Tuesday.

Starting that the government will initiate action against those behind the hijab row, state Education Minister B C Nagesh accused the SDPI-backed Campus Front of India (CFI) of being responsible for the controversy. He said investigation is under way to initiate action against the outfit.

Hours after his statement, the CFI addressed the media in Udupi and they said they are supporting the hijab movement. Athavulla Punjalkatte, state president of Campus Front of India, said: "The Education Minister is making baseless allegations about CFI. It is highly condemnable," Punjalkatte said. "The Sangh Parivar and ABVP atrocities are being covered up by the minister."

According to sources in the state Home Department, confrontation and violent incidents broke out in seven colleges of five districts in the state on Tuesday. Protests were staged in 55 colleges in 19 districts.

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said there is an attempt to foment trouble in the state through the hijab row. Besides students, some outsiders are also involved and action will be taken against them, he said.

A protest by students in Kolkata, Thursday. *Partha Paul*

PAK SUMMONS TOP INDIAN DIPLOMAT

New Delhi: The Pakistan Foreign Ministry Wednesday summoned the Indian Charge d' Affaires in Islamabad and conveyed the Pakistan government's "grave concern and condemnation" on the "deeply reprehensible act" of banning Muslim girl students from wearing hijab in Karnataka. "It was also emphasised that the Government of India must fulfill its responsibility to hold the perpetrators of harassment against women in Karnataka to account and take adequate measures to ensure safety... of Muslim women," it said in a statement. **ENS**

MP backtracks a day later, says no proposal to ban hijab

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 9

THE MADHYA Pradesh government Wednesday said no proposal is being considered to ban hijab in educational institutions of the state, a day after School Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar stated that hijab is not a part of uniform and that a state uniform code will be implemented in the next academic session.

On Wednesday, Parmar also issued a statement, saying that his remarks were "wrongly interpreted".

State Home Minister Narottam Mishra clarified that there was no proposal under consideration regarding hijab ban in Madhya Pradesh. "There is no controversy over hijab in Madhya Pradesh. So there should be no confusion in this regard," Mishra told reporters. When asked about the Karnataka protests, he said the matter was related to that state and is pending before the High Court there.

Senior BJP leader Uma Bharati, meanwhile, tweeted, "The Karnataka hijab row has taken a political and communal turn. In a bid to stop this, leaders of opposition must stop their comments on the issue whereas the state government should soon reach a solution while considering the independence of educational institutes and rights of common citizens."

BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya also tweeted on the issue: "The attempt being made to spread religious hysteria in Karnataka schools by insisting on wearing hijab is inappropriate. A school has its own dress code and it should be strictly followed."

Meanwhile, Parmar issued a video statement, saying his remarks about the school uniform was related to "uniformity, discipline and identity of schools".

"Some people wrongly interpreted my remarks and presented it with a wrong reference. I am denying it. We are not going to implement a new uniform code. There is no work underway in this direction. Present arrangement in schools regarding the uniform will continue," he said.

Students should stick to prescribed uniforms, says Aaditya Thackeray

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

MAHARASHTRA TOURISM and Environment Minister and Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray, speaking on the hijab issue, on Wednesday said students need to adhere to rules related to uniform, wherever prescribed.

"Where there is a prescribed uniform in schools/colleges, it should be followed. There should be no conflict on religion in schools and colleges. Only education should be the focus at centers of education. Religious or political issues should not be brought to schools/colleges," Thackeray said when asked about the Sena's stand on the hijab issue.

Top court commutes death sentence of man convicted in minor's rape, murder case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday commuted the death sentence of a man, convicted of the rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl, to life imprisonment, with the rider that he shall not be entitled to "premature release or remission before undergoing actual imprisonment" for a period of 30 years.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud, Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar found nothing wrong with the August 2016 trial court ruling holding the man guilty or the October 2017 Allahabad High Court order upholding the conviction.

The court noted that the accused was 33-34 years old at the time of commission of offence in 2015, and said, "Looking to the overall facts and circumstances... it would be just and proper to award the punishment of imprisonment for life to the appellant for the offence under section 302 IPC while providing for actual imprisonment for a minimum period of 30 years."

The bench further said, "In an overall view of the matter, it is proved beyond doubt in this case that the hapless child, seven-year-old daughter of the complainant, met with her gruesome end after having been treated inhumanely and having been subjected to sexual assault... The appellant was rightly convicted by the Trial Court and his conviction has rightly been maintained by the High Court".

However, on the question of the death sentence, the court said, "... the principles of penology have evolved to balance the other obligations of the society, i.e., of preserving the human life, be it of accused, unless termination thereof is inevitable and is to serve the other societal causes and collective conscience of society. "...it is noticeable that the appellant has no criminal antecedents...and has unblemished jail conduct. When all these factors are added together and it is also visualised that there is nothing on record to rule out the probability of reformation and rehabilitation of the appellant..."

UP elections: Cong promises farm loan waiver, 20 lakh jobs

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 9

PROMISING TO waive farm loans within 10 days of coming to power in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress in its manifesto, released here on Wednesday, assured 20 lakh jobs to youths. The party also outlined a few caste-based initiatives focusing mainly on Dalits, Most Backward Class, Brahmins and Muslims. The party has promised to appoint a Dalit Home Minister in the state, and give sub-caste reservation to people belonging to the Most Backward Class.

Releasing the manifesto, titled "Unnati Vidhan", Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the document was prepared after discussions with all the stakeholders, and called the document -- "Jan Ghoshna Patra" (people's manifesto).

AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra releases the party manifesto in Lucknow on Wednesday. *PTI*

The party had earlier released two manifestos -- "Shakti Vidhan" for women and "Bharti Vidhan" for youths.

"Our government will provide 20 lakh government jobs. While 12 lakh jobs will be given for filling vacant posts, 8 lakh new jobs will be created," she said, adding 40 per cent of these would be earmarked for women.

Besides loan waiver, the party has promised to reduce electricity bills of farmers by half and waive their pending power bills during the pandemic.

PUNE

Day after joining, 18-yr-old NDA cadet collapses on campus, dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

AN 18-YEAR-OLD cadet, who had joined the National Defence Academy (NDA) on Monday, died after he fainted and collapsed on the academy campus on Tuesday, the police said. The circumstances leading to his death are yet to be ascertained, police said.

NDA authorities have ordered a Court of Inquiry into the incident.

In a press statement, the NDA said, "Cadet G Pratyush, a native of Bengaluru, had joined National Defence Academy on February 7 as part of 147th Course. The cadet, on the next day, February 8, collapsed in his room, and despite best efforts he could not be revived. A post-mortem is being conducted to ascertain the cause of death. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the incident. The parents of the deceased cadet have been informed, and a report of the incident has been initiated with the appropriate Police Authority. A ceremony for the deceased cadet with full military honour was conducted on February 9."

"As per the information received by the Uttamnagar police station, which has jurisdiction over the NDA, the 18-year-old cadet, G Pratyush, hailed from Bangalore and had joined the academy on February 7. On the evening of February 8, the cadet is said to have fainted and collapsed in his room. He was later pronounced dead. As of now, the circumstances leading to his fall and death are yet to be ascertained." said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 3) Pornima Gaikwad.

DCP Gaikwad added, "After the death was reported to us, a senior police officer of inspector rank was deputed and an inquest examination was conducted in presence of a magistrate."

In September last year, a 22-year-old cadet from Maldives, who was undergoing training at the NDA, had collapsed during a training activity and died. The academy had said at the time that a Court of Inquiry had been ordered to investigate the incident. In 2013, a 19-year-old cadet who hailed from Uttarakhand had collapsed and died during night navigation activity at the NDA.

Nagaon SP shifted after comments on former student leader shooting

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 9

THE ASSAM government on Wednesday transferred Nagaon's SP, Anand Mishra, following the officer's comments in connection with last month's encounter of former student leader Kirti Kamal Bora. Bora was left injured in the encounter and is currently recuperating at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital.

Mishra has been attached with Assam Police Headquarters in Guwahati, according to a government statement late Wednesday. His replacement is yet to be announced.

Nagaon SP Anand Mishra

The transfer comes a day after the state government asked the DGP to suspend sub-inspector Pradeep Bania in connection with the same case.

Bora (22) was shot in legs by Nagaon police during an anti-drugs operation on January 22, leading to a state-wide furore. While police alleged that Bora was involved in the drug racket and attacked policemen, his family said he was "wrongly framed".

The suspension is the first instance where the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led BJP government, under fire over increased police action on alleged criminals, took action against an officer over an encounter. Meanwhile, Assam on Tuesday filed a detailed affidavit on police encounters, as ordered by Gauhati High Court on January 11. The government informed the court that 28 people have been killed and 73 others injured in police action from May 10 last year (when Sarma took office) till January 28.

Covid-19 widened learning gap in West Bengal: ASER

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE BASIC reading and numerical abilities of school children in West Bengal have substantially reduced as Covid-19 brought classroom learning to a halt for a prolonged period, according to a survey carried out among 11,189 children across 17 districts of the state.

The survey, carried out by the Pratham Education Foundation and West Bengal-based Liver Foundation in December 2021, found that only 27.7 per cent of children in class 3 could read class 2 level text, as against 36.6 per cent in 2018 and 32.9 per cent in 2014.

About 48 per cent of students in class 5 can read class 2 level text, down from 50.5 per cent in 2018, 50.2 per cent in 2016 and 51.8 per cent in 2014. The findings once again underlined the role of the Covid-induced disruptions in causing erosion of steady gains in learning levels made over the last decade.

Speaking at the virtual launch of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER, West Bengal) on Wednesday, Nobel laureate economist Professor Abhijit Banerjee said that the findings of the report should serve as a reminder that as schools reopen, teaching should be focused primarily on the existing learning abilities of children rather than grade-level curriculum.

"When schools reopen, the focus should not be on grade-level teaching only. Children will make quick progress if they are made to start from where they are in terms of foundational learning," Banerjee said.

His observations were echoed by Pratham Education Foundation CEO Rukmini Banerji who shared the highlights of the report.

"Before moving into teaching-learning activities at grade level, it is essential that children are given time and opportunity to develop appropriate physical, socio-emotional, cognitive, pre-math and language skills," she said.

She said that while the survey has captured a jump in the enrollment of children in government schools in Bengal from 88.1 per cent in 2018 to 91.5 per cent in 2021, the real measure will be the number of enrolled students who return to schools after they reopen for in-person classes.

The survey found that the percentage of children in class 2 who can at least read words has dropped from 66.2 per cent in 2018 to 53 per cent in 2021. Alarmingly, it has gone below 2014 levels of 54.8 per cent.

The survey also found a decline in arithmetic levels with the percentage of children in class 1 who can at least recognise single-digit numbers reducing from 77.8 per cent in 2018 to 68.5 per cent in 2021, going far below the 2014 levels of 74 per cent. The Chhattisgarh survey had found that 12.3 per cent students in class III were able to read class II level text, down from 29.8 per cent in 2018.

EXPLAINED

Need to check widening gap

FIRST KARNATAKA, then Chhatisgarh, and now West Bengal. The findings of the Pratham Foundation-led field surveys in these states have established the need for urgent interventions to address the widening learning gaps among children. As schools reopen, focus should be on helping children who have fallen behind to catch up to minimise the risk of dropouts.

FROM PAGE ONE

Suicides

(234), and Uttar Pradesh (227).

In suicides due to bankruptcy or indebtedness, Maharashtra, which reports the highest number of farmer suicides each year, topped the list in 2020 with 1,341 deaths, followed by Karnataka (1,025), Telangana (947), Andhra Pradesh (782) and Tamil Nadu (524). Barring Tamil Nadu, the other states usually account for the most farmer suicides.

According to NCRB data, suicides among the unemployed has been increasing over the last few years – the toll was 2,851 in 2019; 2,741 in 2018; 2,404 in 2017; 2,298 in 2016; 2,723 in 2015; and 2,207 in 2014. The total number of suicides among the unemployed during the BJP-led government at the Centre (2014-2020) was 18,772, an average of 2,681 deaths per year.

In the last seven years of the UPA government, the number stood at 15,322 – 2,090 in 2013; 1,731 in 2012; 2,333 in 2011; 2,222 in 2010; 2,472 in 2009; 2,080 in 2008; and 2,394 in 2007 – at an average of 2,188 deaths per year.

In the ongoing Budget Session, the issue of unemployment has been raised multiple times by Opposition MPs, who have alleged that the Budget has not dealt with the issue. In his speech in Lok Sabha last week, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the country was facing the highest unemployment in the past 50 years.

Rai said the government was looking to address the issue by focusing on mental health and creating employment opportunities.

"To address the burden of mental disorders, the government is implementing the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) and is supporting implementation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) under NMHP in 692 districts of the country," he said.

Rai said the government had launched a number of programmes for employment and income generation through the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY), National Career Service (NCS) project for job seekers and employers for job-matching, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana with substantial outlays.

He said the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in key sectors for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities and exports would also generate employment opportunities.

Earlier this week, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor told Lok Sabha that "India's unemployment rate has grown faster than Bangladesh and Vietnam".

House panel

has now approached a division bench of the High Court.

Details of House panel proceedings are not disclosed on the ground that it's privileged information. The committee has 29 members -- 20 from Lok Sabha and 9 from Rajya Sabha.

The agenda of the meeting Wednesday, according to the Lok Sabha website, was on evidence from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Home Affairs representatives on the subject 'Safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms including special emphasis on women security in the digital space'. It also included a briefing by I&B Ministry officials and evidence of MHA on the subject 'Review of functioning and outreach of Doordarshan Channels'.

Officials in the ministries of Home and I&B declined to comment on the MediaOne issue, saying the matter is sub judice since an appeal has been filed. They pointed out that even the single-judge bench, in its ruling, did not disclose the reasons for denial of security clearance.

Man trapped

up. But while coming back down, he faltered and slid down the steep hillside until he got stuck in the cavity. And so began a survival drama that rivalled any movie script.

Babu's distraught friends watched helplessly for a while. He was about 400m down, way beyond their reach. Then, they ran to their village, screaming for help. Within hours, the police, district officials, and fire and rescue teams stepped in.

Babu had managed to keep his smartphone in the fall, and sent his Google location to rescuers through WhatsApp. He also called his mother Rasheeda, informing her for the first time about what he had been up to and where he was.

He was quickly located using a drone, and the rescue team, including local residents, trekked up the hill on Monday night. But they quickly realised that the rescue was far from over. They could not reach near Babu, who shouted out to them and flashed the torch in his phone. As the hours ticked over, and campfires were set up to keep wild animals away, the tension mounted as Babu's voice faded.

On Tuesday, District Collector Mrunmai Joshi and Superintendent of Police R Vishwanath reached the village. By then, they had called the NDRF, which sent a rescue team. The Coast Guard sent a Chetak helicopter, which returned after a few sorties due to bad weather.

Meanwhile, the health of Babu, stuck without water or food since Monday noon, became a concern. Local authorities tried to deliver food and water using the available drone but the machine could not handle the load.

By now, the crisis had reached the office of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who called in the Army on Tuesday evening.

Soon, two Army officers, two JCOs and five other personnel reached the spot from Wellington in Tamil Nadu even as a mountaineering team was ferried by the IAF from Bengaluru to Sulur near Coimbatore, about two hours away. The Kerala Police soon cleared the road for them to reach Malampuzha without delay.

Around Tuesday midnight, District Collector Joshi said the Army team on recee was able to talk to Babu, Overnight, a 20-member NDRF team remained on the hill.

On Wednesday morning, the rescue teams managed to pass on water. Around 10 am, the Army mountaineering team, using ropes and climbing gear, reached the cavity. By 11 am, they lifted Babu with safety belts and ropes to the top of the hill, from where a chopper airlifted him to the district hospital.

District Medical Officer Dr R Ramadevi described the youth's health as "satisfactory" but said he was under ICU observation.

A Defence spokesman said the Army had deployed two teams from Parachute Regimental Centre in Bengaluru and Madras Regimental Centre Wellington, with one team stationed at the base of the hill to coordinate the rescue.

"The most difficult part of the rescue was reaching the spot. Babu was trapped around 400 metres down from the top of the rock. Our climbing ropes have a maximum length of 200 metres. Hence, we tied three ropes to reach the youth, who weighs about 80 kg, and lift him up," Starmon R Pillai, assistant commandant of Kerala Police's high-altitude rescue team, who was part of the mission, said.

"It is a single rock with a height of 1,000 feet to 1,500 feet with a very sharp surface making climbing very difficult and dangerous. The youth was trapped on the hill around 6 km away from the base village. Due to the hot climate, it was difficult to climb during the day. Everyone in the rescue team had ropes or other equipment weighing 30 kg to carry. Even the Army men took five hours to reach the top of the hill," he said.

"It was sheer luck that Babu got trapped in the cavity. A fall from there would have been fatal," Pillai said.

"This rescue was the wish of a state," said Chief Minister Vijayan, who thanked the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard.

By late Wednesday, Babu's mother, who had been waiting below the hill for a day and night, stepped up to "thank all who struggled to get my son back". "He did not inform me about this journey, and I was so tense after I could not contact him on his phone. This incident should be a lesson for all," Rasheeda said.

FULL REPORTS ON
www.indianexpress.com

ED's money-laundering case: Waze offers to turn approver

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

Dismissed cop Sachin Waze

DISMISSED COP Sachin Waze, who is former state home minister Anil Deshmukh's co-accused in the case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on allegations of money-laundering, has sought to become an approver.

Waze is facing a separate case for his alleged involvement in the Antilia terror scare case as the main accused.

In a letter to the assistant director and investigating officer of the ED last week from jail, Waze has said that he wants to make a voluntary and truthful disclosure of the facts of the case known to him before a magistrate. The February 4 letter states that it should be treated as an application for granting him pardon.

Waze is one of the 26 accused in the case filed by the ED where it claims that money was collected by him from bars, orchestra bars and restaurants on Deshmukh's instructions and the proceeds were layered through various shell companies to a trust controlled by the minister's family.

The ED's chargesheets case have multiple statements by Waze where he claims that Deshmukh instructed him to collect money which was handed over to his staff. Waze also claimed Deshmukh's role in police transfers. His letter states that he wants to seek pardon under section 306 and 307 of the Criminal Procedure Court. The sections have provisions for an accomplice in a case to be pardoned on the condition that he makes a full and true disclosure of the whole circumstances of an offence in his knowledge against others accused in the case.

If the ED gives its no-objection to Waze becoming a witness in favour of the agency, the court will have to approve his formal plea for pardon. If granted pardon, Waze will not have to face trial in the case. His testimony can then be used as evidence against the other accused, including Deshmukh.

On Wednesday, the ED opposed Waze's bail plea, claiming he had been involved in the facilitation of the crime.

AFTER HC ORDER

Probe into murder of DMK leader's brother shifted from CBI to SIT

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 9

FOLLOWING A direction from Madras High Court on Wednesday, the Tamil Nadu government has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the murder of K N Ramajeyam, brother of state minister and senior DMK leader K N Nehru.

Ramajeyam was killed in 2012. After local police failed to make progress in the probe, the case was handed over to the state CB-CID. Later, in 2018, Madras HC transferred the case to CBI, as CB-CID's probe did not make any headway.

The CBI probe, based on a case registered under Sections 365 (kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine person) and 302 (murder), is now back with police — the SIT —following a petition filed by K N Ravichandran, the victim's brother.

Ravichandran pleaded the court to transfer the probe since there was no progress nearly a decade since his brother's murder.

Justice V Bharathidasan of HC ordered Thoothukudi Superintendent of Police S Jeyakumar to head the SIT, along with Ariyalur deputy SP Madan and CBI deputy SP R Ravi. The court ordered CBI to depute Ravi exclusively for the murder investigation and to not transfer him without the court's orders. The court also directed the investigators to launch the probe immediately and file a status report by March 21.

Pakistan arrests over 50 Gujarat fishermen

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 9

THE PAKISTANI Maritime Security Agency has apprehended 9-10 Indian fishing boats and captured 50-60 fishermen from Gujarat from the international maritime border, sources said on Wednesday.

"These fishermen who set sail eight days ago are from Porbandar, Okha and Mangrol. The exact number of fishermen will be known once they land in Pakistan," said Manish Lodhari, an activist and head of Porbandar based Marine Fisheries Cooperative Society.

This is second such incident within a week. Couple of days ago, two Indian boats and 13 fishermen from Gujarat were captured by PMSA from the high-seas near the maritime border.

When asked if the fishing boats were not fitted with GPS devices, Lodhari said, "Yes they do. But sometimes, the fishermen while fishing too close to the boundary, accidentally cross over."

ED running criminal syndicate on behalf of BJP leaders: Raut

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

CONTINUING WITH his criticism of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Wednesday said the agency was running a criminal syndicate on behalf of BJP leaders.

On Tuesday, Raut had written a letter to Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu claiming that law enforcement agencies like the ED have been "let loose" against leaders of his party since it ended its alliance with the BJP.

"I can understand their pain since the MVA government came to power in Maharashtra. They should fight political battles. They (BJP) run criminal syndicates now. The ED and other agencies have become part of the BJP or its master's criminal syndicate. The letter is not even a trailer, which is yet to come. This letter is to show how the ED people run the syndicate… like how they are conducting their own financial fraud such as money laundering, blackmail and threats. I will prove this with evidence," Raut said.

He also claimed that ED was harassing vendors who had provided services during his daughter's wedding and were pressuring them to incriminate him.

"The florist and decorator from my daughter's wedding were picked up by ED officials. Is this their job? The decorator replied to them that he did not take any money because he had a good relationship with my family. But he was threatened with a gun," Raut said.

Raut, in his letter to Naidu, had claimed that the ED and other agencies personnel are summoning, intimidating and threatening the decorators and other vendors of the wedding of his daughter.

"The ED and other agencies have unlawfully picked up 28 people so far. They have made them attend the ED office and sit in a cabin where the threats are administered…In fact, some of the ED and other agencies personnel even confessed to the very people they are summoning that they have been asked by their 'bosses' to 'fix' me," Raut wrote.

"Enforcement Directorate personnel are leaving no stone unturned to intimidate/harass our legislators, MPs, political leaders as well as their relatives, friends and acquaintances," he added.

AHMEDABAD BLASTS: QUANTUM OF SENTENCE HEARING STARTS FEB 11

Ahmedabad: A day after the conviction of 49 of 77 accused in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts case, a special court in Ahmedabad on Wednesday posted hearing on quantum of punishment for those convicted, for February 11. Public prosecutor Amit Patel said, "Today the defence side supplied an application under CrPC section 354(3) before the court seeking three weeks' time to adduce necessary documents (for consideration of mitigating circumstances) with respect to quantum of punishment. The court has kept the matter for hearing for February 11.." ENS

Mamata's poll agent granted pre-arrest bail in murder case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted anticipatory bail to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's election agent and Trinamool Congress leader S K Supiyan in connection with a murder case of a BJP worker, which is being probed by the CBI.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and Abhay S. Oka said, "Considering the peculiar facts of the case, we are of the view that the appellant deserves to be granted pre-arrest bail".

The bench, however, said that Supiyan "will have to fully cooperate with the respondent (CBI) for investigation and will have to remain present for investigation as and when called upon by the investigating officer" and added "we make it clear that the pre-arrest bail granted is liable to be cancelled if it is found that the appellant is not cooperating for the investigation".

The case relates to the alleged murder of BJP worker Debabrata Maity in Nandigram in May last year during the violence that flared up across the state after the assembly elections. ENS

As govt sits on collegium proposal, lawyer withdraws nod to be judge

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

AS THE government continues to sit on recommendations made by the Supreme Court collegium — on three occasions — Bengaluru-based senior advocate Aditya Sondhi has withdrawn his consent for being appointed a judge of Karnataka High Court.

"It has been a year since the SC collegium first recommended my name, and over five months since it was last reiterated. So, as a matter of principle, I withdrew my consent for the process," Sondhi told *The Indian Express*.

It is learnt that Sondhi has written to Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, who heads the Supreme Court collegium, withdrawing his consent.

Sondhi, a graduate of National Law School of India University, in Bengaluru, was the Additional Advocate General under the Congress-led Karnataka government in 2016.

He was first recommended by the collegium on February 4 last year; his name was reiterated on August 24, 2021. The second reiteration was made on September 1, 2021.

Along with Sondhi, the recommendation of advocate Nagendra Ramachandra Naik is also pending, despite reiteration by the collegium. Naik, a senior advocate originally from Bhatkal in Karnataka, was a CBI counsel appointed by the UPA government at the Centre. The collegium first recommended him on October 3, 2019, along with eight other advocates. While the government appointed seven from the list, Naik's recommendation is still pending.

The collegium then reiterated its recommendation on March 2, 2021 and again on September 1, 2021.

Conventionally, the government is bound to accept the collegium's recommendation if the decision has been reiterated.

While the MoP does not specifically talk about reiteration of the collegium recommendations, it says that "the Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, would then put up as early as possible, preferably, within 3 weeks, the recommendation or the Chief Justice of India to the Prime Minister who will advise the President in the matter of appointment."

The 1998 ruling, popularly referred to as the Third Judges case, held that the court will have the final say in judicial appointments.

Instagram handle of Chinar Corps restored

New Delhi: Blocked for 10 days, the Instagram account of Indian Army's Srinagar-based XV Corps, also known as the Chinar Corps, was restored on Wednesday morning. The Facebook handle of the Corps, however, continues to remain blocked, but is expected to be restored soon.

Officials believe both the accounts of the Chinar Corps were barred on January 28 because of a "coordinated campaign". While there were no specific posts that Facebook or Instagram had objected to in their communication, both had mentioned that the accounts were in violation of "coordinated inauthentic behaviour".

The companies define inauthentic behaviour "as the use of Facebook or Instagram assets (accounts, pages, groups or events), to mislead people". However, officials said the Army wrote to both the companies and stated why the two accounts had not violated any of those terms. Instagram and Facebook are owned by the same company, Meta Platforms.

The Facebook handle @ChinarCorpsIA had over 24,000 followers, and over 23,000 likes, and was even tagged as a "government organisation". The Instagram account has around 43,300 followers, and was named 'ChinarCorpsIA'. There were 2619 posts on the handle. It clearly identified itself, saying, "Welcome to the Official Account of Chinar Corps, Indian Army". ENS

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Martyr on 10th February
Lt Colonel Paras Mehra (17 Sep 68-10 Feb 07)
The gallant and fearless officer led a two directional advance on 10 Feb 2007 and flushed out the dreaded militants hiding in a village in Manipur (OP HIFAZAT), where he laid down his life in true traditions of the Indian Army.
Deeply remembered by entire family of 14 MAHAR Regiment

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

S.N.	N.I.T. No.	17-2021-22-W-V
1	Name of work with its location	Outsourcing of labour for day to day maintenance in the section SSEWETKD SSEWFDB SSEWHNZM and SSEWDEE under ADENTKDHNZM and DEE
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 12661796.45/-
3	Earnest Money Deposit	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 201025//CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) Rs. 2,53,236.00/-
4	Completion period of Work	6 Months
5	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 04.03.2022 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 04.03.2022.
6	Website particularsnotice board location complete details of tender canbe seenand address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e.www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 128-W/280/OET/2021-22/W-V/NIT-17 Dated: 09.02.2022 295/22
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MAHARASHTRA JEEVAN PRADHIKARAN
DIVISION PARBHANI
e-Tender Notice (05) (06) (07) for 2021-2022
Executive Engineer, MJP Division Parbhani invites e-Tender Notice for the following (Civil & Mechanical) works-
1) Kawthe & 9 Vill W.S.S., Tq. Sengaon, Dist. Hingoli, Rs. 17,93,57,224/-
2) Balsond W.S.S., Tq. & Dist. Hingoli, Rs. 8,19,35,464/-
3) Goregaon W.S.S., Tq. Sengaon, Dist. Hingoli, Rs. 6,33,00,048/-
Under Jal Jeevan Mission Programme in the State of Maharashtra. The e-Tender details are available on www.mahatenders.gov.in from dated 08/02/2022.
All relevant dates will be as per the tender published in web portal www.mahatenders.gov.in
Date 09/02/2022
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MJP, Dn. Parbhani
(dgipr/2021-2022/4221)

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found Unconscious Condition near Kabristan Jagatpuri, Delhi. He was admitted in Hedgewar Hospital MLC No. 199/22. During the treatment he was declared dead by their by doctor on dt. 05.02.2022 . In this regard a case DD No. 90A, dated 05.02.2022 has been registered at P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o-Unknown, Age: 61 years, Complexion-Dark, Height: 5'4", Face: Oval, Built: Normal, Hair-White, Wearing-Creamish Blazer and Cream pant and bare feet.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.
SHO
P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi
DP/731/SHD/2022 Ph. : 011-22420364, 22420362, 7065036023

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering
(E-Procurement System)
Sr.DMM, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	93225103	Asynchronous Traction Motor type 6FRA 7059 for WAP-5 three phase locomotives as per RDSO Specn. No 4TMS. 097.001 Alt-5	04 Nos.	10.03.2022

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www. ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No manual offer will be entertained.
Sr. DMM/NS/LP/93225103/2022 Date : 08.02.2022 283/2022
Serving Customers With A Smile

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RCD, ROAD DIVISION, JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND
Very Short-Term e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding
Very Short-Term e-Tender Notice No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/178
Date- 08.02.2022

1.	Name of the work	IRQP Work in Patamda Link Road (MDR-164) (Length- 6.615 K.M.)
2.	Estimated Cost of Work (in INR)	Rs 4,62,82,920/- (Rupees Four Crore Sixty Two Lakh Eighty Two thousand Nine Hundred Twenty).
3.	Initial Bid Security (Rs In Lacs)	Rs 4.63 Lacs (Rupees four Lakh sixty Three Thousand).
4.	Initial Bid Security in the shape of	Bank Guarantee valid for minimum 45 days beyond the Bid validity period of 120 days in the shape of 5 Yr NSC/ 3 or 5 Yr FD issued by any Indian Post offices/ 3 or 5 Yr FD issued by any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank situated within Jharkhand.
5.	Time of Completion	75 (Seventy five) days.
6.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	17.02.2022 at 10.30 A.M.
7.	Start date of bidding	17.02.2022 from 10.30 AM.
8.	Last date & Time for online bidding	23.02.02.2022 up to 02.00 P.M.
9.	Type of Bid	Two envelope mode (Technical and Financial Bid)
10.	Last date & time for receipt of Bid Security and other documents in hard	24.02.2022 upto 12.00 noon either by Speed post or by hand.
11	Place of depositing the receipt of Bid Security, Cost of Bid and other documents in hard form	a) Office of the Chairman, e-Procurement Cell, Room No. 330A, 3rd floor, Road Construction Department, Jharkhand Mantralaya , Dhurwa , Ranchi. (b) e-Procurement cell, Office of The Chief Engineer (Comm), RCD, Jharkhand, 1st Floor, Engineer's Hostel No. 2, Near Dhurwa Golchakkar, Ranchi (c) Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Division, Jamshedpur in Road No. 1, CH Area.
12	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	25.02.2022 at 3.30 PM by e-Procurement cell, Office of The Chief Engineer (Comm), RCD, Jharkhand, 1st Floor, Engineer's Hostel No. 2, Near Dhurwa Golchakkar, Ranchi
13.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur, Road No.- 1, CH Area.
14.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	7979945893
15.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Above informations are only indicative. Detail NIT & SBD publised on Tender portal shall be final and mandatory. Details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Executive Engineer
RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur
PR 263474 Road(21-22)D

TENDER NOTICE
STATION HEADQUARTERS POKARAN, DISTRICT-JAISALMER (RAJ) TENDER FOR COLLECTION OF METAL SCRAP FROM POKARAN FIELD FIRING RANGES
1. Online bids (E-tenders) are invited by Station Commander, Station Headquarters Pokaran, Pin-900164 c/o 56 APO on behalf of the President of India from Government approved contractors of the appropriate class on the prescribed tender forms for a contract for retrieving, collection and disposal of metal scrap of fired ammunition and used targets from Pokaran Field Firing Ranges (Sectors 'A, 'B' and 'C' Sectors only) Pokaran, District Jailsalmer on as is where is basis for the period from 01 May 2022 to 30 Apr 2023. The tender can be viewed in Defence Procurement Portal https://defproc.gov.in
2. Details

(a)	Reference No	0605/6/GT (2022-2023)
(b)	Title	Retrieving, Collection and Disposal of Metal Scrap.
(c)	Tender ID	2022_ARMY_506787_1
(d)	Bid Submission start	09 Feb 2022 at 1500 hrs
(e)	Last date of Bid submission	02 Mar 2022 at 1800 hrs
(f)	Last date of depositing physical docu	02 Mar 2022 at 1800hrs
(g)	Bid opening	03 Mar 2022 at 1000hrs
(h)	Tender fee	Rs 5,000/-
(j)	EMD	Rs 25,00,000/-

3. For further details log on to https://defproc.gov.in
Administrative Commandant

Massive power outage leaves Pune in dark

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS & SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

IN ONE of the worst power outages in many years, almost the whole of Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad had to go without electricity for several hours on Wednesday, resulting in major disruptions in industrial and office work, water supply and traffic management.

Industry associations said the financial impact of the outage could be in the range of Rs 300-400 crore.

The outage was caused by a technical fault in the transmission lines, which electricity officials blamed on unexpectedly cold weather and fog. "The power line supplying electricity to 400 KV high-pressure sub-stations of Lonikand and Chakan of the Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (MSETCL) tripped at five places around 4.30 am," an official statement issued by the power utility said.

Due to fault, power supply was disrupted across Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Pune rural areas like Chakan, Wagholi and Lonikand. Full power supply could be restored only by 3.15 pm in these areas.

Due to the glitch, electricity supply to 189 sub-stations was disrupted and more than 24.18 lakh consumers were impacted.

Jayant Weekey, chief engineer of Pune zone of MSETCL, told *The Indian Express* that the problem was most probably caused by unexpected fog. "Due to heavy fog, the creepage distance of the insulator gets reduced beyond a certain level," said Weekey. Creepage distance is the shortest separation that needs to be maintained between two conductive parts in an electrical device.

"The attendance in online classes was badly affected, as students faced network issues," a school principal said.

BRIEFLY

ODISHA

Man killed in IED blast; Maoist link suspected

Bhubaneswar: A man died in an IED blast allegedly triggered by Maoists in Kiamunda village under Phiringia police station limits of Kandhamal district on Wednesday. The deceased, Pariyaranjan Kanhar, was a resident of Kiamunda. The blast took place 200 metres from a spot where on Monday suspected Maoists had set ablaze two JCB vehicles engaged in road construction. Police suspect that the IED was planted by members of the Kalahandi-Kandhamal-Boudh-Nayagarh division of the banned CPI (Maoist). **ENS**

KARNATAKA

MLA blames clothes for sexual assaults

Bengaluru: A BJP MLA of Karnataka on Wednesday triggered a controversy after he claimed that cases of sexual assault on women tend to increase due to the clothes worn by them. The BJP MLA from the Honnali region, M P Renukacharya, while reacting to a social media post by Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on the right of women to wear clothes of their choice, said, "A lot of incidents of sexual assault occur due to the clothes that women wear. Men tend to get provoked by the clothes worn by women." Later, he told the media that his intention was to state that women should dress modestly. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH

In debt, couple tries suicide; wife dead: police

New Delhi: A shoe trader and his wife attempted to end their lives in Baghpat allegedly due to financial problems on Tuesday. According to police, the victims, Rajiv Tomar, and his wife Poonam, decided to end their lives due to sustained debts and monetary issues. While the wife is dead, Tomar is currently undergoing treatment at a local hospital, police said. Tomar attempted suicide during a Facebook live while blaming the government's policies in the video for the extreme step. **ENS**

PUNJAB

Two packets dropped by Pak drone recovered

New Delhi, Amritsar: The BSF on Wednesday recovered over 4 kg of RDX, a pistol and bomb-making items dropped in two packets by a drone that flew from Pakistan into an Indian farm along the Punjab border. A spokesperson said troops fired after they heard a "buzzing sound of a suspected flying object coming from the Pakistani side to the Indian side" around 1 am in the Panjgrain area of Gurdaspur sector. A search was later conducted in the wheat farms of Ghaggar and Singhoke villages along the border and the BSF recovered two yellow-coloured packets. **ENS**

Bahadur Chand Investments Private Limited
CIN: U65921DL1979PTC331322; PAN: AAACB6706F
Registered office:- The Grand Plaza, Plot No.2, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj- Phase-II, New Delhi- 110070
Correspondence Address: 37, Community Center, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi – 110 057
Fax: 011-26152453, Tel. No: 011-46044110, Website: www.bahadurchandinvestments.com
e-mail: info.bcipl@gmail.com

STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

(All amount in Rupees lakhs, unless otherwise stated)

S. No	Particulars	Quarter ended		Period ended		Year Ended
		December 31, 2021	December 2020	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020	March 31, 2021
		Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Audited
1	Total income	1,806.88	1,607.61	19,566.00	16,160.18	43,220.53
2	Net Profit/ (loss) for the period before tax (before Exceptional items)	(6,569.95)	(7,056.13)	(5,847.02)	(11,379.64)	6,970.11
3	Net Profit/ (loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	(6,569.95)	(7,056.13)	(5,847.02)	(11,379.64)	6,970.11
4	Net Profit/ (loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	(7,439.12)	(7,978.76)	(9,579.26)	(14,069.64)	(1,908.16)
5	Total Comprehensive Income/ (Loss) for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(7,439.12)	(7,978.76)	(9,579.26)	(14,069.64)	(1,908.16)
6	Equity Share Capital (face value Rs. 100/- per share)	17.06	17.06	17.06	17.06	17.06
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	-	-	306,204.31
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-	-	133,995.94
9	Net worth	-	-	-	-	306,221.37
10	Paid up debt capital / outstanding debt	-	-	-	-	-
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt equity ratio	2.33	2.43	2.33	2.43	2.33
13	Earnings/ (loss) per share on net profit after tax - face value Rs. 100/- each (In Rupees)					
	a) Basic	(43,600.52)	(49,594.48)	(56,143.83)	(87,454.25)	(11,685.71)
	b) Diluted	(43,600.52)	(49,594.48)	(56,143.83)	(87,454.25)	(11,685.71)
14	Capital redemption reserve	-	-	-	-	94.00
15	Debenture redemption reserve	-	-	-	-	-
16	Debt service coverage ratio	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
17	Interest service coverage ratio	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Notes:-
1. The above is an extract of detailed format of the unaudited financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the websites of the stock exchange at www.nseindia.com and the Company at www.bahadurchandinvestments.com.
2. The above results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2021 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors at its meeting held on February 9, 2022.
3. The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards ('Ind AS') notified under the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as amended by the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2016, prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 ('the Act') read with relevant rules issued thereunder and the other accounting principles generally accepted in India. Any application guidance/ clarifications/ directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India or other regulators are implemented as and when they are issued/ applicable.
4. For the other items referred in Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange and can be accessed at www.nseindia.com and at the Company's website at www.bahadurchandinvestments.com.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of
Bahadur Chand Investments Private Limited
Sd/- Pawan Munjal, Director
Sd/- Suman Kant Munjal, Director

Place: New Delhi
Date: February 9, 2022

TATA
TATA POWER
The Tata Power Company Limited
Registered Office : Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001. Website: www.tatapower.com, CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567

EXTRACT OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2021

₹ crore

Sr. No.	Consolidated	Quarter ended			Nine months ended		Year ended
		31-Dec-21	30-Sep-21	31-Dec-20	31-Dec-21	31-Dec-20	31-Mar-21
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)*	(Unaudited)*	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)*	(Audited)*
a.	Total Income from Operations	10,913.14	9,810.22	7,597.91	30,855.71	22,340.71	32,703.31
b.	Profit / (Loss) before Exceptional items and tax	788.49	637.74	445.34	2,464.44	1,633.37	2,096.02
c.	Profit / (Loss) before Tax	788.49	637.74	336.05	2,464.44	1,524.08	1,986.73
d.	Profit / (Loss) for the period/year	551.89	505.66	318.41	1,523.24	957.44	1,438.65
e.	Total Comprehensive Income	570.80	164.68	250.61	1,779.48	503.61	1,058.99
f.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value: ₹ 1/- per share)	319.56	319.56	319.56	319.56	319.56	319.56
g.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	21,040.13	20,595.30	19,674.17	21,040.13	19,674.17	20,140.36
h.	Securities Premium Account	8,198.74	8,198.74	8,198.74	8,198.74	8,198.74	8,198.74
i.	Net worth	21,707.36	21,150.30	19,975.28	21,707.36	19,975.28	20,733.32
j.	Outstanding Debt	51,820.96	49,938.03	46,821.38	51,820.96	46,821.38	47,547.53
k.	Debt Equity Ratio (in times)	2.07	2.04	1.92	2.07	1.92	1.88
l.	Earnings Per Equity Share (of ₹ 1/- each) (not annualised) Basic and Diluted: (In ₹)						
	(i) From Continuing Operations before net movement in regulatory deferral balances	1.23	1.60	0.21	4.20	3.66	2.43
	(ii) From Continuing Operations after net movement in regulatory deferral balances	1.33	1.32	0.38	3.78	1.90	3.32
	(iii) From Discontinued Operations	-	-	0.27	-	0.15	(0.15)
	(iv) Total Operations after net movement in regulatory deferral balances	1.33	1.32	0.65	3.78	2.05	3.17
m.	Capital Redemption Reserve	515.76	515.76	515.76	515.76	515.76	515.76
n.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	645.06	645.06	638.20	645.06	638.20	625.06
o.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (in times) (not annualised)	1.26	0.98	1.10	1.21	1.13	1.10
p.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (in times) (not annualised)	1.87	1.71	1.45	1.91	1.51	1.48

* Restated
Notes:
1. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 9th February, 2022.
2. Financial Information of the standalone financial results of the Company is as follows:

₹ crore

Sr. No.	Standalone	Quarter ended			Nine months ended		Year ended
		31-Dec-21	30-Sep-21	31-Dec-20	31-Dec-21	31-Dec-20	31-Mar-21
		(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
a.	Total Income from Operations	2,147.20	1,838.74	1,657.59	5,804.33	4,620.29	6,180.59
b.	Profit / (Loss) before Exceptional items and tax	98.48	576.31	662.11	1,076.28	999.34	1,177.90
c.	Profit / (Loss) before Tax	98.48	2,095.24	552.82	2,595.21	890.05	1,068.61
d.	Profit / (Loss) for the period/year	48.67	1,875.12	574.52	2,121.83	764.45	921.45
e.	Total Comprehensive Income	48.66	1,760.39	643.88	2,394.13	851.29	1,106.83
f.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value: ₹ 1/- per share)	319.56	319.56	319.56	319.56	319.56	319.56
g.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	18,135.28	18,086.62	16,081.15	18,135.28	16,081.15	16,336.69
h.	Securities Premium Account	8,185.92	8,185.92	8,185.92	8,185.92	8,185.92	8,185.92
i.	Net worth	17,327.42	17,278.75	15,630.85	17,327.42	15,630.85	15,804.27
j.	Outstanding Debt	19,679.74	20,132.56	20,839.04	19,679.74	20,839.04	21,077.78
k.	Debt Equity Ratio (in times)	1.05	1.08	1.15	1.05	1.15	1.15
l.	Earnings Per Equity Share (of ₹ 1/- each) (not annualised) Basic and Diluted: (In ₹)						
	(i) From Continuing Operations before net movement in regulatory deferral balances	0.13	5.72	1.40	6.45	1.66	1.99
	(ii) From Continuing Operations after net movement in regulatory deferral balances	0.15	5.86	1.39	6.54	2.00	2.64
	(iii) From Discontinued Operations	-	-	0.27	-	0.15	(0.15)
	(iv) Total Operations after net movement in regulatory deferral balances	0.15	5.86	1.66	6.54	2.15	2.49
m.	Capital Redemption Reserve	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.85
n.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	296.95	296.95	296.95	296.95	296.95	296.95
o.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (in times) (not annualised)	0.67	0.95	1.18	0.99	0.94	0.99
p.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (in times) (not annualised)	1.27	2.62	2.74	1.97	1.78	1.72

3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange websites www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.tatapower.com.

For and on behalf of the Board of
THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED
PRAVEER SINHA
CEO & Managing Director
DIN 01785164

Date : 9th February, 2022
Place : Mumbai

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India
Regional Office, Mauryalok Complex, Patna-1

POSSESSION NOTICE [UNDER RULE 8 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002]

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of (Security) Interest Act. 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the power conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002. The Authorized Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against account as mentioned herein after, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec. 13(4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against account. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Central Bank of India for the amount and interest thereon mentioned against account herein below.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section (13) of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch	Name of the Accounts/Borrowers/ Guaranter	Name of the owner & Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of Demand Notice	Amount outstanding as on date of Possession Notice
Boring Road Branch	**Borrowers: M/s Abyudai Agro Foods Private Limited,** Rep. by Director- Shri Sunil Kumar Sinha, 217, Abhinandan, Panchu Chak, Ram Nagar Colony, Danapur, Patna-801503 2) Shri Sunil Kumar Sinha, S/o Shri Mithilesh Prasad, 3) Smt. Savita Sinha, W/o Shri Sunil Kumar Sinha, Both are residing at 217, Abhinandan, Panchu Chak, Ram Nagar Colony, Danapur, Patna-801503 and 4) Guaranter Shri Sanjay Kumar S/o Harinarayan Yadav, 17 Gola Road, Gajadhar Chak, Devi Asthan, Danapur, Patna, also at Q No.2159/B Railway Colony Aihar, Dalmau, Rae Bareli, UP-229121	**Name of the Mortgagor:** Shri Sunil Kumar Sinha S/o Shri Mithilesh Prasad. **Address of the Mortgagor:** 217, Abhinandan, Panchu Chak, Ram Nagar Colony, Danapur, Patna-801503. **Full particulars of Mortgaged Property:** All that part and parcel of property, Deed No.-24, Dtd.-03.01.1995, Area-01 Kattha & 03 Dhur of Land including house building with all improvements thereon. **Location:** Mauza-Danapur, Sahjadpur, Thana-Danapur, Dist.-Patna, Registration Dist.- Patna. Property details: Tauzi No.5138, Thana No.21, Khata No.87, Survey Plot No.301, SRO-Danapur, Dist- Patna. Boundary (as per deed): North-8 feet wide Road, South- Shri Virendra Singh, East-Smt. Manju Devi, West- Shri Vishwanath Singh. Boundary (as per actual): North- Rasta, South- Shri Dharamnath Singh, East-Shri Akshyawarnath Shukla, West-Shri Anil Singh.	25.02.2021	05.02.2022	**Rs. 47,15,674.00** (Rupees Forty seven lakh fifteen thousand six hundred and seventy four only) with future Interest and incidental charges w.e.f 25.02.2021	**Rs. 47,15,674.00** (Rupees Forty seven lakh fifteen thousand six hundred and seventy four only) and interest & incidental charges thereon.

Date : 05.02.2022
Place : Patna
Authorised officer
CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक ...भरोसे का प्रतीक !
punjab national bank ...the name you can BANK upon !

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
CIRCLE SASTRA PATNA SOUTH (8298), Patna
Chandrapura Palace, 2nd Floor, Bank Road, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable/Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgager(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Punjab National Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the **Punjab National Bank**, Secured Creditor from the respective Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgager(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Lot. No.	Name of the Branch / Name of the Account / Name & addresses of the Borrower/ Guarantors Account	A) Dt. of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 / B) Outstanding Amount / C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 / D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/ Constructive	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/Owner's Name (Mortgagers of Property(ies))	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) / B) EMD (Last date of submitting KYC for depositing EMD) / C) Bid Increase Amount	Date/ Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1.	BRANCH: MODANGANJ (108900) **M/s. Vaishnavi Poultry Feeds, Prop.: Beauty Kumari, W/o Ranjan Kumar, Guarantor:** 1. Ranjan Kumar, S/o. Kamta Sharma,2. Ashutosh Kumar, S/o. Kamta Sharma,3. Kamta Sharma, S/o. Rameshwar Singh Sharma, Vill.+ Post- Pitambarpur, Anchal-Modanganj, PS- Ghoshi, District-Jehanabad, Pin- 804432 **A/c No. 108900SG00000053**	A) 24.05.2021 B) ₹ 21,50,081.96 plus upto date interest and other charges. C) 28.09.2021 D) Symbolic	**Description of Immovable Property:-** Property- All that part and parcel of the commercial property consisting of land and building in the name of **Kamta Sharma, Ranjan Kumar and Ashutosh Kumar both S/o. Kamta Sharma** vide Mortgage Deed No. 1540 dated 09.03.2017 situated at Vill & Mouza-Pitambarpur, Rev. P.S. No. 528, Khata No.55, Plot NO.1160, **Area 23 Decimal. Bounded as:-** North- Ram ashish Sharma, South-Jatan Singh, East- Shiv Ratan Singh, West- Road.	A) ₹ 12.03 Lakh B) ₹ 1.21 Lakh (24.02.2022) C) ₹ 50,000/-	28.02.2022 10.00 AM to 11.00 AM	Nil
2.	BRANCH: MODANGANJ (108900) **M/s. Vaishnavi Rice Mill, Prop.: Ashutosh Kumar, S/o. Kamta Sharma, Guarantor:** 1. Ranjan Kumar, S/o. Kamta Sharma, 2. Kamta Sharma, S/o. Rameshwar Singh Sharma, Vill.+ Post- Pitambarpur, Anchal-Modanganj, PS- Ghoshi, District-Jehanabad, Pin- 804432 **A/c No. 108900SK00000024 1089008700001402**	A) 21.05.2021 B) ₹ 21,47,671.84 plus upto date interest and other charges. C) 28.09.2021 D) Symbolic	**Description of Immovable Property:-** Property- All that part and parcel of the commercial property consisting of land and building in the name of **Kamta Sharma, Ranjan Kumar and Ashutosh Kumar both S/o. Kamta Sharma** vide Mortgage Deed No. 104 dated 06.01.2018 situated at Vill & Mouza-Pitambarpur, Rev. P.S. No. 528, Khata No.55, Plot No.1155, **Area 18 Decimal. Bounded as:-** North- Moti Ram, South-Shiv Ratan Singh, East- Chandrav Singh, West- Nij & 08 feet wide rasta in plot No.1160.	A) ₹ 8.35 Lakh B) ₹ 0.84 Lakh (24.02.2022) C) ₹ 10,000/-	28.02.2022 11.00 AM to 12.00 AM	Nil
3.	BRANCH: RATNI (163300) **Shashi Ranjan Sharma** S/o. Satish Sharma, Kall Nagar, West of Court Station Jehanabad, Saidabad, Algana, District- Jehanabad, Pin-804417. **A/c No. 163300NC00000055**	A) 31.05.2021 B) ₹ 10,67,928.00 plus upto date interest and other charges. C) 21.08.2021 D) Symbolic	**Description of Immovable Property:-** Property- All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land and building in the name of **Shashi Ranjan Sharma S/o. Satish Sharma** vide Deed No. 242 dated 16.01.2017 situated at Mauza- Irki, Distt.-Jehanabad, bearing Ward No. 27 (New), 14 (Old), Thana No.346, Khata No. 259 (Old), 981 (New), Plot No. 20 (Old), 295 (New), **Area- 1.7823 Decimal. Bounded as:** North- 3 ft. Rasta, South- Navin Sharma, East- Atiullah Mallik Marhum. West- Hasbunisha Marhuma.	A) ₹ 41.69 Lakh B) ₹ 4.17 Lakh (24.02.2022) C) ₹ 50,000/-	28.02.2022 12.00 PM to 01.00 PM	Nil

1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:
2. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS."
3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
4. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.mstcecommerce.com on on the date as mention in the table here in above.
5. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, www.tenders.gov.in, www.mstcecommerce.com, https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app

STATUTORY 15 DAYS NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Date : 09.02.2022
Place : Patna
(Authorised Officer)
Punjab National Bank

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by **Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway** for the following works : **Sl No. 1. Tender No. : Civil-2382-2022 (Open), Name of Work :** Through Fittings renewal in sharp curves of 4 degree & above (CIBP of only inner Rail of curves) in between Mahanayak Uttam Kumar and Kavi Subhash Station in Up & DN Line of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value :** Rs. 1,03,07,066/-. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,01,500/-. **Sl No. 2. Tender No. : Civil-2383-2022 (Open), Name of Work :** Improvement of Ballasted track and BLT on UP & DN Line from km.16/18 to km. 16/06 including points & Crossings along with improvement of drainage system in connection with removal of "PSR" under SSE/PWay/O&M/South of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value :** Rs. 1,04,36,173/-. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,02,200/-. **Sl No. 3. Tender No. : Civil-2384-2022 (Open), Name of Work :** Through G.R. Pad renewal in between Mahanayak Uttam Kumar and Kavi Subhash Station in UP & DN Line of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value :** Rs. 1,68,12,087/-. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,34,100/-. **Completion Period :** For Sl. No. 1 - 12 months and for Sl. No. 2 & 3 - 6 months each. **Date of Closing :** 16.03.2022 at 12.00 hrs. for Sl. No. 1 to 3. For full details visit **www.ireps.gov.in** Amendments/ Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

CRS Inspection of Newly Electrified UP/DN Main Line From Shamli (Excl.) OHE Location: 88/05 (CH: 88/197.50) to Tapri (Exc.) OHE Location: 150/06 (CH: 150/205.50) in Delhi Division.

Newly electrified Shamli (Excl.)-Tapri (Excl.) line in Delhi Shahdara-Shamli-Tapri Section (63 RKM, 72 TKM) of Delhi Division will be inspected by Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety. High Speed trial of the section by special train will be conducted by chief commissioner of Railway Safety on 11.02.2022 after trolley inspection.

General Public is informed to stay away from Railway lines in above section. Track should not be crossed. Trespassing of track is a punishable offence and liable for prosecution under Railway Act.

284/22

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email : recruit@ictmumbai.edu.in, mis@ictmumbai.edu.in
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FACULTY RECRUITMENT

Applications are invited for **21 faculty positions** to be filled on permanent basis at **ICT-IOC Odisha Campus, Bhubaneswar.** The online applications shall be available **from February 14, 2022 to February 28, 2022** on institute website. The interested candidates are required to submit the online application along with supporting documents **on or before February 28, 2022.** For further details please visit institute website **www.ictmumbai.edu.in.** **REGISTRAR**

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

DOCUMENTARIES SHOULDN'T JUST REFLECT THE WORLD: THEY SHOULD TRY AND EXPLAIN WHY REALITY IS LIKE IT IS. — ADAM CURTIS

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

DIALOGUE IN SECRECY

By upholding ban on Media One, on basis of material in sealed envelope, Kerala HC has gone against Supreme Court verdicts

THE KERALA HIGH Court's verdict dismissing Media One TV's petition challenging the Union government's order barring its transmission, after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) refused the Malayalam channel security clearance for renewing its licence, is deeply troubling. The court's decision is entirely based on an assessment of the "material" submitted by the government in a sealed envelope.

The reasoning in the 18-page verdict appears to be a dialogue between the state and the judiciary in secrecy even as a petitioner stood before the court alleging violation of fundamental rights. "Once the State is of the stand that the issue involves national security, the court shall not disclose the reasons to the affected party," the verdict states, justifying perusal of the ministry files in a secret envelope. While it is worrying that the government flatly refuses to justify its actions before the court, it is even more disquieting when the judiciary does not ask questions of the executive. The few reasons to justify the denial of security clearance without giving the channel an opportunity to be heard are vague and do not give any indication about the communication between the judiciary and the executive. The court seems to have gone by the "conclusions of the Committee of Officers and other responsible officers of the MHA" to rule that "Information and Broadcasting is a sensitive sector". However, the idea that the judiciary and state can exclude the citizens from democratic spaces, when their rights are at stake, goes against the fundamental precepts of the rule of law.

In a recent string of verdicts, the Supreme Court has insisted that the government follow the raised bar in bringing evidence to the Court while invoking the national security argument. In the 2020 decision in *Anuradha Bhasin v Union of India*, the SC held that no absolute immunity for national security grounds has been carved out. In the 2021 interim order, directing an investigation into the alleged use of Pegasus spyware on citizens, the Supreme Court said that the "mere invocation of national security won't render the Court a mute spectator". Ignoring such precedents, the Kerala High Court has held that "that in a situation of national security, a party cannot insist for strict observance of the principles of natural justice". Indeed, a substantive examination of issues when national security is involved is often beyond judicial competence and is the domain of the executive. But a procedural test, checking whether the action was taken under powers granted by Parliament and whether the state has used its powers proportional to the risk envisaged, is very much within the ambit of the Constitution. Constitutional courts, as the watchful guardians of the fundamental rights, must ask questions of the state, especially in cases of national security.

PLAY BY RULEBOOK

Tamil Nadu governor must not delay assent to anti-NEET bill. Doing so will invite suspicions of overreach

THE TAMIL NADU government is standing its ground on the promise to scrap the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). Less than a week after the governor returned the bill that frees the state's medical colleges from the compulsion of admitting students through NEET, a special session of the Tamil Nadu assembly has re-adopted the bill — a first for the legislature. That's as strong a signal as the elected government can send to the governor about its intent. In returning the bill, Governor R N Ravi had flagged several concerns, and said it was "against the interests of students, especially (those from) rural and economically poor students of the state". But the Constitution is unambiguous about what the governor must do now — according to Article 200, once the bill is sent to him for the second time, he must give his assent, and send it onwards to the President.

There is much that is questionable about Tamil Nadu's position on breaking away from the NEET. The all-India test was conceived as a way out of longstanding problems with the medical admission system, from multiple entrance examinations to corruption. The fear that a section of Tamil Nadu's students might not perform well can be addressed if the state government invests resources and attention to modernising the curriculum. But while those may be grounds for the governor's reservations, constitutional propriety demands that he must act on the advice of the council of ministers of an elected government. It must be remembered that scrapping the NEET was a part of the election manifesto of the DMK, and that the bill enjoys support from other major parties of the state, including the AIADMK. Seen in this light, the Tamil Nadu government's displeasure at what it considers the governor's uncalled-for critique and his "big brother" attitude is not entirely without basis. Given the long history of governors being used by strong central governments to chip away at the federal compact and the more recent Centre-state tussles over several issues, from the jurisdiction of the BSP to IAS service rules, Ravi's action might invite suspicions of overreach, when he should be acting as a bridge between the state and the Centre.

The future of the NEET exemption bill is, of course, uncertain. It sets up the state government on a path of confrontation with the Centre. The bill needs the President's assent for it to become law. But while those contestations and debates will take their own course, the Tamil Nadu governor must play by the rulebook.

KHABAR LAHARIYA'S STORY

Rural women speaking their mind on camera: This is a compelling story that needs a wider audience

A FILM ABOUT the grassroots news organisation Khabar Lahariya has become the first from India to be nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Documentary Feature category. This alone is worth celebrating, considering the challenges of this filmmaking format, especially in India — few resources, low return on investment and, outside of a handful of international platforms, very little recognition. But an additional reason for celebrating the nomination of *Writing with Fire* is its subject: Directed by Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, the film offers a window into the life and work of the Dalit women who run *Khabar Lahariya*, and the obstacles they overcome — from unhappy husbands and unfriendly crowds to lack of funds and inexperience with technology — as they report on issues that matter the most to the communities they serve.

Twenty years after it was born as a newspaper, first published in Uttar Pradesh's Bundelkhand region, *Khabar Lahariya* continues to challenge popular notions about what journalism in India could and should be and for whom it is meant. The women who work at the organisation— which made a successful digital-first pivot in 2016 — have to wage a constant battle with the prejudices of caste and gender to pursue and bring to light stories of administrative neglect, crimes against women. In doing so, they frequently put their lives on the line — not just for asking tough questions or being out at all hours, often in hostile environments, but also simply for being Dalit women.

At a time when even a section of journalists working under relatively easier and more privileged circumstances have turned away from the stories that matter, it is heartening to know that the women of *Khabar Lahariya* carry on undaunted. Since 2002, they've worked hard to spotlight issues and stories that rarely get attention. That the world should now watch and honour *Khabar Lahariya's* own story is only right.

Not so uniform

Education institutions must not impose homogeneity on students in garb of dress code

PARINITHA SHETTY

I WRITE AS a teacher who for many years has taught students in Mangalore, a sharply polarised region in Karnataka that is seeing bitter clashes over a dress code in educational institutions. My students have come from different religions, castes and nations. They spoke different mother tongues, ate different kinds of food and wore different kinds of clothes and ornaments. Some wore the markers of their married status, some wore the habit of their religious order, some wore the clothes that denoted their geo-cultural location, some wore the symbols of their religion and caste, and all conformed to the protocols of gender. These differences in appearance and beliefs and practices of thinking and speaking and eating and appearance, never ever disturbed our sense of belonging to a classroom community.

In many ways, the classroom of a government educational institution is truly representative of the society within which it is instituted, since it provides democratic access to students from all sections of society. Moreover, it acknowledges that our society is hierarchically organised and that children from marginalised communities need to be given additional support and provided privileged access to the classroom and the social capital of education. The coming together of many social worlds within these classrooms makes it a location of perpetual epistemological disruption. Here, learning takes place not only through the protocols of institutionalised pedagogy but also through the many ways in which we go astray of ourselves, as we dialogue with that stranger who is a classmate, a student, a teacher and who slowly becomes a member of a classroom community that we build together. And how we structure and inhabit this community will inform all our future possibilities of living together as social groups.

This inclusive nature of the classroom space is one of its greatest contributions to the process of learning. It is this accommodation of the variety of social locations from which our students come that has contributed to the civil discussions and debates and conversations through which the process of thinking is initiated. It is these conversations that take place across the lines of gender and caste and religion and nationality that inaugurate the process of critical questioning. Learning, as an inherently disruptive process, always goes astray of the etiquettes of academia. Classroom conversations can reposition the participants in a radically egalitarian practice of speech. Such a conversation demands a difficult translation of social ontologies, a disorientation of knowing, a process of becoming unfamiliar to oneself. It is through such conversations that education becomes a radically transformative process of recognising the common vulnerability of all human beings and the mutual care and support that we owe each other if we have to survive as a species.

> When the uniformity of the classroom is shaped by political considerations and implemented through the authority of political power, then teaching is replaced by indoctrination, and learning is replaced by unthinking parroting of political ideologies. When the classroom is used to catalogue, classify and exclude, it inaugurates a future of insane hate and mindless cruelty. Such classrooms become the laboratories of those who have lost the sanity that is required to sustain human existence through the mutuality of kindness and love.

When the classroom becomes a space where students are disciplined into a narrow uniformity, then learning becomes a means of straitjacketing the body and the mind. When the uniformity of the classroom is shaped by political considerations and implemented through the authority of political power, then teaching is replaced by indoctrination and learning is replaced by unthinking parroting of political ideologies. When education becomes the handmaiden of hate, the creativity and joy that sustain the great variety of life are destroyed. When teachers become the gatekeepers of bigotry and parochial political interests, they forfeit their right to the trust and responsibility that a community places on them to guide and shape its future possibilities.

When the classroom is used to catalogue, classify and exclude, it inaugurates a future of insane hate and mindless cruelty. Such classrooms become the laboratories of those who have lost the sanity that is required to sustain human existence through the mutuality of kindness and love. In such classrooms, students are instrumentalised into votes and reduced to the colour of the shawls they drape across their shoulders or the scarves they wear over their heads. They are taught the mistrust of hate and trained in the violence of anger. Then, educational institutions will shut their gates to students who fail to display the uniformity of the uniformised body. And in the classrooms, teachers will close up the processes of thinking, wondering and questioning. And educational institutions will shut down the processes of learning and teaching and experimenting with the many ways in which we can build an equal, inclusive, compassionate and intelligent society.

Hence, it has become incumbent on us to initiate classroom dialogues and listen to the faltering, almost illegible, voices that speak from the shadowy social margins, that are in a constant struggle against invisibilisation. I have struggled for a friendship with my students that could only be achieved by disrupting the classroom hierarchisation of knowing and learning. I have tried to listen to the polyphonic social rhythms of their voices. I have tried to understand their speech through the grammar of their speech, and not mine. My students have shown me great generosity by bringing their worlds to the classroom. They have listened and spoken and argued with a civility that was disinterested and without rancour. They have constantly pushed me to the precarity of uncertainty.

Together we have maintained the dissonance of knowing and being. We have wrestled with texts that have shaken us and made us forever uncomfortable. We have together unpacked the orders of meaning and the canons of knowledge. And we have done this as companions, as friends, as equals. We have translated the multiple social worlds to which we belong, to each other. We have initiated a process of difficult listening and faltering speech. We have experimented at shaping enabling, egalitarian spatialisations of the classroom. Sometimes it has been an exhilarating process and sometimes a frustrating one. I thank the generations of students who have shared with me this process of learning the order of the world, excavating the genealogy of its making and interrogating the politics of its being. Without your companionship and your speech, this could never have been done. Let us protect this classroom, that we shaped together, from all onslaughts and guard it even as the world which should sustain it seems to be falling apart.

The writer is professor, department of English, Mangalore University

DON'T DIVIDE THE CLASSROOM

Hijab issue in Karnataka cries out for constitutionalism

FIROZ BAKHT AHMED

WHERE WAS THE "hijab issue" just a few months ago? Why has it suddenly erupted? These are important questions that we need to address as it's unfortunate and of great concern that young men and women are being divided along religious lines. A dispute over uniforms has been blown out of proportion by being politicised and communalised. A matter between the administrators of educational institutions and the community should not be turned into a mandir-masjid kind of a wrangle. We have seen enough of them and they have sapped a lot of the nation's energy.

Justice Krishna S Dixit of the Karnataka High Court has rightly emphasised that the court will have to decide the issue early as it is not a happy scene to see students marching on the roads every day. He has underlined the primacy of the Constitution over hot-headed emotions. Voices of sanity and reason must get primacy over those advocating an impassioned approach.

The protesting young women in Karnataka say that wearing "hijab" is their personal choice and key to their religious practice. That matter is also being contested in the court but in an educational institution, it's rule, and not just personal choice, that has to be followed. Interestingly, regarding the dress code, a cleric of Hyderabad once issued a "fatwa" (Islamic decree) that it was un-Islamic on the part of Sania Mirza to play tennis in skirts and she must use a "naqab" and cover her legs. A judge was a pious Muslim at home where she covered her face with a "hijab" but while on duty on the bench, she didn't. There are several examples like her. Many Muslim women are working in hospitals, with the government, as players and pilots. It's not possible to work in a hijab. These Karnataka girls, too, will be our future doctors, justices, teachers, pilots.

> In the Udupi controversy, the girls are being crushed in a grip between the college administration as well as the custodians of Islam who, in the name of secularism and Constitution, are fanning the flames. On the other hand, are ministers like Giriraj Singh, who too have not left a stone unturned by calling the deteriorating law and order situation 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' (capturing of India by Muslims).

In the Udupi controversy, the girls are being crushed between the college administration and the custodians of Islam who, in the name of secularism and Constitution, are fanning the flames. On the other hand, are ministers like Giriraj Singh, who too have not left a stone unturned by calling the deteriorating law and order situation "Ghazwa-e-Hind" (capturing of India by Muslims). Both sides are using these hapless and helpless girls as fodder for their political ambitions.

Each institution has a set of rules and regulations, norms and values. In a school or college, religious identity should not be the defining identity. An important question to ask is: Where are the other girls who are comfortable entering the classroom without the hijab and who wear it once they leave the school? The protesters are few, the silent students are many.

All those drawing and deepening the dividing lines over "hijab," chanting Jai Shri Ram and Allah-u-Akbar as a rallying cry, must know that this country will not be ruled either by "Sharia" or "Sanatan Dharma" but by the Constitution of India as drafted by Bhim Rao Ambedkar. The strain of radicalism among Hindus and Muslims — wearing religion on their sleeves — will cause further schisms in society and expand the influence of those indulging in the politics of religion.

It's high time that the government steps in and calms the waters lest the Opposition put the BJP government in the dock for fanning the Hindu-Muslim divide. As always, that has been a plank for the Opposition and it's time to wake up if this government wants India to make the "Vishwa Guru."

The writer is former chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad

FEBRUARY 10, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

INDIAN EXPRESS

Snap poll likely in Andhra, Karnataka

SNAP POLLS

THE CONGRESS-I HIGH command is thinking in terms of snap polls for the Andhra Pradesh Assembly. In the normal course, the state is due to go for polls in February next year, along with Karnataka. However, the high command seems to favour early polls in both states along with West Bengal, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. Kerala may also be clubbed if the high command feels the Karunakaran ministry will survive. Though the idea of early polls was considered, a decision was not taken by the high command as it was awaiting the decision of the Election Commission on the allegedly inflated voters' list in West Bengal.

KERALA SPEAKER

KERALA ASSEMBLY SPEAKER A C Jose exercised his casting vote seven times to enable the Karunakaran Ministry in surviving its second trial of strength in the assembly on Tuesday. The ruling side and opposition were tied at 70 votes each when the motion of thanks to the governor's address and the opposition's amendments were put to a vote. The Speaker gave his casting vote on each occasion to the government, amidst shouts of "shame" by the opposition and the thumping of desks by members of the ruling parties, before the amendments were rejected. The motion of thanks was finally adopted and the House adjourned to meet again on March 25. The line-up was the same as on the previous occasion when the House rejected the opposition's no-confidence motion against the Government.

DUTT WITH ANTULAY

FORMER MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister A R Antulay on Tuesday declared in Bombay that the Pratibha Pratisthan would continue to function "because of its laudable objectives to help creative artistes in all fields". Talking to journalists, Antulay said that two more trustees — Daji Bhatavadekar, a well-known Marathi stage actor and Sunil Dutt, Bombay Sheriff — have been inducted into the trust.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Whether or not the world warms to these Games, even the IOC may one day come to wonder if they were really worth it. And though Beijing wanted the Olympics, and still considers them useful, they do not look like the Olympics that it wanted."

— THE GUARDIAN

Possibilities Down Under

Jaishankar's visit to Australia provides opportunity to strengthen Quad and boost New Delhi's ties with Canberra

AMITABH MATTOO

C R Sasikumar

AS INDIA'S EXTERNAL Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar enters the "old" Quad of the University of Melbourne on Friday morning, he will be greeted with what some may find to be an intriguing jugalbandi of the tabla and the aboriginal wind instrument, the didgeridoo. And even before he begins his conversation with academics on the future of the Indo-Pacific at the University's Australia-India Institute, he will have — in keeping with cultural protocol — acknowledged the Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of the land, an overture that signifies contemporary Australia's many parallel realities.

It is this new Australia — coming to terms with its difficult past, almost confident of its future in Asia and yet bound to the Anglo-Saxon world — that offers New Delhi the possibilities of the most enduring partnership in the region; friendship based on the very first principles that mould relationships, a convergence of values and of interests. While the relationship has all but transformed in the last decade and a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has been forged, it still requires leadership and political navigation if the vast promise has to translate into a sustainable reality. This ambition must be the centrepiece of Jaishankar's agenda.

But Jaishankar's visit is beyond the bilateral; what draws him for his first visit to Melbourne, in his current role, is the meeting of the Quad Foreign Ministers from Australia, Japan, United States and India, in person after more than two years. As the foreign ministers of this new, still-unblemished alloy arrive in Australia, a region that geographers of the old Empire had once described as the Antipodes — so distant and different as it was to their world — they do so in the realisation that this is the new centre of gravity and gravitas of international politics and the quest for balance and resilience in the face of strategic competition; of economics, markets and supply chains; of the battle against common challenges, including climate change, cyber security and Covid; and of ideas and innovation for a more habitable planet.

Understandably, Melbourne, voted consistently as one of the most liveable cities on the planet, recovering its joie de vivre after the pandemic — with a robust multiculturalism that includes a China Town and a Little India — is the natural setting this week for the critical discussions about these challenges to our planet and to the future of our region and beyond.

Bilateralism and multilateralism have not come easy for India. It is tempting to forget history, even be amnesiac about recent times, in the flood of affection that prevails today between New Delhi and Canberra. But it was just over a decade ago, in February 2010 that a prominent Indian news magazine ran a cover story on "Why the Aussies Hate Us" as attacks on Indian students in Melbourne led to a nadir in bilateral relations already at a low after Canberra's ferocious response to India's nuclear tests in 1998.

Today, however, it is difficult to find a single significant issue on which India and Australia have positions dramatically different from each other, and this convergence transcends the partisan divide in Canberra.

The Indian diaspora is finally coming of age in Australia; the population of Indian-born people has doubled in the last decade, and for the last five years, India remains the top source of skilled migration. The tourist and student traffic from India, which had been impacted by the sealing of Australia's borders because of Covid, should revive after the full opening of borders later this month.

The one bridge that is still to be built is of a robust bilateral economic relationship. Corporate Australia still finds it difficult to do business with India and the "champions" for the business relationship (identified by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) need to really position themselves in the vanguard of the relationship.

However, niggardly bureaucrats from both sides have prevented an even "early harvest" minimal free trade agreement (termed in bureaucratese as CECA — Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement) from being signed despite political will and many deadlines. This agreement must be concluded at the earliest.

The bilateralism merges seamlessly into the multilateral agenda for the Quad, which formally or on the sidelines, will spend much of its time devoted to Beijing, its belligerence, its revisionism and its revanchism across the region. India and Australia have both been victims of the persistent wolf-warrior diplomacy of Xi Jinping's China.

The concern about China has been aggravated by the increased levels of economic dependence on China. Recall that India, Australia and Japan had agreed to reduce their dependence on China and diverse supply chains through Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).

> But Jaishankar's visit is beyond the bilateral; what draws him for his first visit to Melbourne, in his current role, is the meeting of the Quad Foreign Ministers from Australia, Japan, United States and India, in person after more than two years. As the foreign ministers of this new, still-unblemished alloy arrive in Australia, a region that geographers of the old Empire had once described as the Antipodes — so distant and different as it was to their world — they do so in the realisation that this is the new centre of gravity and gravitas of international politics and the quest for balance and resilience in the face of strategic competition; of economics, markets and supply chains; of the battle against common challenges, including climate change, cyber security and Covid; and of ideas and innovation for a more habitable planet.

The three countries had met in September 2021 to set into place mechanisms for trade diversification, to reduce their dependence on Chinese markets for medical supplies and other finished goods during the pandemic. While the jury is still out on the long-term success of SCRI, prima facie the dependence on China has not reduced in any significant manner even while the overall trade deficit has increased.

While the agenda of the Quad is broad, the challenge is to remain focussed on the Indo-Pacific, its stability, and not be distracted, for instance, by the shenanigans of Vladimir Putin's Russia in Ukraine or prematurely anticipate a military alliance being forged because of the flirtations of Xi and Putin, two of the most unlikely candidates for a serious relationship or even a tempestuous affair.

Regions are markers of geography but also constructions of a cartographic imagination. You imagine your neighbourhood as much as by where you are positioned, as by where you want to be. Your geographical compass, in sum, reflects your threats and your opportunities, your ambitions and your vulnerabilities — a distinct weltanschauung. On his first visit to Australia as India's External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, will have the opportunity to put a real imprimatur on two relationships that he has helped to craft: The Quad and bilateral ties with the government in Canberra. What is now vital is to demonstrate that these partnerships can truly deliver on transforming the reality on the ground by giving the Quad real substance and the Indo-Pacific a fighting chance at stability despite now predictable Chinese subversiveness.

The writer is Professor at JNU and University of Melbourne and former Founder-Director of the Australia India Institute

Ambitious, yet measured

Budget will spur growth, while taking care of equity aspects and remaining well within the available fiscal space

RAJIV KUMAR

THE UNION budget for 2022-23 is a landmark budget. It lays the foundation for taking the country towards a technologically frontline economy with world-class infrastructure that is seamlessly integrated and connects the farthest corners of the country with a multimodal logistics network. This is its unifying framework as the government attempts to lift the economy to a higher growth trajectory of 8-8.5 per cent in the coming decades.

There is unanimity across all shades of economic opinion that the current policy imperative is to generate employment at a massive scale. This must translate to the objective of fostering a higher growth rate that is shared across all geographic regions and by all income classes. The budget's underlying philosophical premise is that the higher growth will be triggered only by an upswing of private investment, especially in employment-intensive areas. The government's role is a supportive one, to facilitate such private investment growth through world-class infrastructure, green energy and adequate supply of required skills. The budget has also attempted to catalyse private investment by a massive increase in public capital expenditure. Moreover, states have also been encouraged to allocate greater resources to infrastructure development by making Rs 1 lakh crore available in interest-free 50-year loans to those that undertake such outlays.

This large dose of public capital expenditure is expected to "crowd in" private investment, thereby setting up a virtuous cycle of investment-enhanced employment, incomes and consumption leading once again to another bout of private investment as capacities are fully utilised. Let me add that better quality and expansion of infrastructure, including access to energy, ensures that the benefits of rapid growth percolate faster to lower-income segments. It reduces inequities and improves opportunities. Plus, the employment intensity of the infrastructure and construction sectors is on average five times that of other sectors. So, such public capex triggers private investment, helps generate employment and spread the benefits of growth over a wider set of beneficiaries.

This growth orientation of the budget was essential to pull the economy decisively out of the shadows of the pandemic-induced shock. In pursuit of this higher growth objective, the finance minister has not hesitated to let the fiscal deficit rise marginally to 6.9 per cent of the GDP in 2021-22 and keep it at 6.4 per cent in 2022-23. The fiscal hawks should note that as growth takes hold and is sustained above 8 per cent, all ratios that are relevant to the rating agencies will improve and will pose no risk of a credit ratings downgrade. Those who, sometimes mistakenly, simplistically correlate fiscal deficit with higher inflationary pressures would do well to recognise that the present inflation, still within RBI's tolerance range, is not demand-driven. It is a result of supply-side bottlenecks and constraints. As these constraints are addressed by improvements in logistics and rebuilding of supply chains, inflationary pressures will soften. Therefore, the budget's laser-like focus on growth and as a corollary on employment generation is just what was required.

The budget, however, is not single-mindedly growth-oriented. It does pay sufficient attention to improving the lives of those at the bottom of the pyramid and the MSMEs. By allocating Rs 60,000 crore for the Jal Jeevan Mission it will ensure that another 3.8 crore households will receive tap water to add to the 5.5 crore who have already been benefited. With Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, this will transform the lives of crores of citizens who received scant attention during previous regimes. The affordable housing programmes will further improve ease of living. It has several other allocations that will contribute to improving lives. These include an increase of 12 per cent in the education sector budget, which has received more than Rs 1 lakh crore for the first time. People in the arid and relatively poor Bundelkhand region, spread across UP and MP, will see a glimmer of hope of sustained growth as the Ken-Betwa link finally takes off. Five more such river links have been identified and will hopefully spur interstate cooperation to bring them to fruition.

For MSMEs in the contact-intensive hospitality sector, the budget has earmarked Rs 50,000 crore of the emergency credit link guarantee scheme. The scheme's allocation has been raised to Rs 5 lakh crore and the period extended to March 2023. These collateral-free funds will greatly help MSMEs access cheap credit. The sector will also receive an additional boost with the revamping of the CGTMSE scheme, which will ensure additional credit of Rs 2 lakh crore for micro and small enterprises. These measures will broad-base the growth impulse and ensure that employment generation activity is spread across the country.

The budget takes bold steps to usher in an era of chemical-free, ecologically-friendly natural farming in the country. A start will be made by encouraging natural farming on a five kilometre-wide corridor along the Ganges. This will generate income and employment along its entire course while sustaining the environment.

It is worth pointing out that the budget has once again adopted a conservative approach towards resource mobilisation possibilities by keeping tax buoyancy to just about one. This is normally higher especially during the upswing of an investment cycle. Such conservatism gives us the fiscal space to respond effectively to any emergency which may have to be faced in these uncertain times. It is always better to have some firepower in store rather than be strapped for resources. The budget does well to spur growth while taking care of equity aspects and remaining well within the available fiscal space.

The writer is Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. Views are personal

The litigation labyrinth

Archaic laws, cases that drag on, unclear verdicts bedevil legal system

BIBEK DEBROY

THIS COLUMN is about three cases from January 2022.

The Supreme Court (SC) decided a case in January 2022 and the judgment made it to the headlines. If a Hindu man dies intestate (without a will), the daughter can inherit her father's self-acquired property. Gurunatha Gounder (I) had two sons, Marappa Gounder and Ramaswamy Gounder. Ramaswamy Gounder died before his elder brother, Marappa, who also died a long time ago, in 1949. A minor point was raised about whether Marappa Gounder died in 1949, or in 1957.

Why is that timeline important? Because the Hindu Succession Act was passed in 1956 and it governs intestate succession among Hindus. This bit, about the year of Marappa's death, was examined by a trial court (judgment of 1994) and the Madras High Court (judgment of 2009) and both courts decided Marappa died in 1949, not 1957. The SC saw no reason to question that established fact. Nor was another fact questioned: In 1938, Marappa bought the property through his own resources. It wasn't joint family property. He could have dealt with it as he chose, had he left a will. Unfortunately, he died intestate. Marappa Gounder had only one daughter, Kupayee Ammal, and no sons. She died in 1967 and left no children. Ramaswamy Gounder had one son and four daughters. The son was Gurunatha Gounder (II). The daughters were Thangammal (dead now), Ramayeeammal (dead now), Elayammal and Nallammal. Thangammal, dead now, was the original plaintiff, who applied for partition.

When Marappa Gounder died, who should inherit his property? Should it be Kupayee Ammal, the only daughter? Or, since she was a woman, should it be Ramaswamy Gounder's son, Gurunatha Gounder (II)? When Kupayee Ammal died, who should inherit the property? Should it be Gurunatha Gounder (II) and his heirs, or should his four sisters also have a share?

The SC decided: "Applying the above settled legal proposition to the facts of the case at hands, since the succession of the suit properties opened in 1967 upon the death of Kupayee Ammal, the 1956 Act shall apply and thereby Ramasamy Gounder's daughters being Class-I heirs of their father too shall also be heirs and entitled to 1/5th share in each of the suit properties." Incidentally, Gurunatha Gounder (II) is also dead. Most of the original parties are dead, including not just the one who first asked for the partition, but the original appellant.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrates 75 years of India's Independence and we are setting out a template for India in 2047. Does it seem right that an issue of inheritance that should have been settled in 1949, or in 1967, is being settled in 2022? Imagine the mess in enforcing what the SC has decided. Lawsuits of fathers (or mothers) devolve on sons and daughters, up to the third or fourth generation.

Part of the mess is because of the complicated nature of inheritance and succession laws, even more so if the individual dies intestate. There are constitutional issues, one part of the Constitution vis-à-vis another. Despite the issue being controversial, we can't possibly deny we don't have a framework for personal laws suitable for a 21st century India. Add to that long delays in settling disputes, overload in the admission of cases and even the language of judgments.

Consider another recent case from Mumbai, the one where the metropolitan magistrate acquitted Shilpa Shetty of obscenity and indecency charges. In 2007, at a promotional event, Richard Gere kissed her and FIRs were filed in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Those FIRs were primarily under the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act and Sections 292, 293 and 294 of IPC (Indian Penal Code). I think anyone who reads those statutes and sections should agree, (a) those FIRs shouldn't have been lodged; (b) even if there was an FIR, the case shouldn't have been admitted in court; (c) it shouldn't have taken 15 years to decide. Police and courts should have better things to do. Shouldn't we be more discriminating about what cases are admitted in courts?

On language and plain English, I am repeating myself. (I have written about it in the past.) I am repeating myself because such incidents recur, especially in Himachal Pradesh, though Justice Sureshwar Thakur has now moved elsewhere, to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

In January 2022, two judges of the SC couldn't understand a judgment authored by Thakur in 2017 and had to ask whether it was written in Latin. January 2022 wasn't the first time. (He was incomprehensible in the past too.) There were similar examples for the Himachal Pradesh High Court in April 2017, December 2018 and March 2021.

In most organisations, people learn from past mistakes. But there is the need to be careful about the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971. When we hear "contempt of court", we tend to think of civil contempt, where a court's judgment or direction is not complied with. But that 1971 statute also has provisions on criminal contempt. Any act that "scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court" is criminal contempt. "Scandalising" is neither contempt by interference, nor contempt by disobedience. We inherited this expression from Britain. In 2013, following a Law Commission Report (2012), the UK's Crime and Courts Act, said, "Scandalising the judiciary (also referred to as scandalising the court or scandalising judges) is abolished as a form of contempt of court under the common law of England and Wales."

The writer is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POLITICAL GAME

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Motion of attack' (IE, February 9). The contemporary Indian political scenario is governed by realpolitik, unlike real, issued-based politics that marked parliamentary debates during Jawaharlal Nehru's era. As noticed in Rahul Gandhi's observations on the President's address and the prime minister's reply, confrontation and one-upmanship are employed, in which the key issues get blurred. Opinions are treated as facts, facts are treated as unproven allegations and arguments have displaced logic and understanding. Content-wise, both Gandhi and Modi excelled in using rhetoric, selective data and misplaced self-assertions. What made the difference was in presentation skills. As long as this gap of articulation will persist between the PM and the opposition, the PM will win.

Y G Chouksey, *Pune*

POOR ARGUMENT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Controlling women's bodies' (IE, February 9). The people who put forth the argument that criminalisation of marital rape may result in false accusations have failed to understand one of the basic principles of our criminal justice system — 1,000 culprits may escape but one innocent person should not be punished. Another flaw in the argument is the assumption about "false accusations". They are a phenomenon that can occur in all kinds of crime. Should we de-criminalise fraud, theft etc, for the fear of false cases? All the actions that are morally incorrect should certainly be made legally punishable. Though categorised under the "offences affecting the human body", rape not only breaches the dignity of a woman but also soils the social fabric of our community.

Aerika Singh, *Chandigarh*

REGULATION NEEDED

THIS REFERS TO the article 'Undermining polls' (IE, February 9). The influence of the outcome of various opinion polls on the electoral process has been a subject of popular debate. The credibility of the procedure employed by the surveying organisations and the role of the commissioning media house in shaping the outcome of the opinion polls needs to be regulated. In the absence of necessary statutes to regulate the opinion polls, the ECI can very well step into this legal vacuum left unattended.

Sudip Kumar Dey, *Barasat*

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● LATA MANGESHKAR, HEROINE OFF-SCREEN: AAKSHI MAGAZINE

MEANWHILE

MUSK HELPS RESTORE TONGAN INTERNET

Entrepreneur Elon Musk is helping reconnect Tonga to the internet after a volcanic eruption and tsunami cut off the South Pacific nation more than three weeks ago, according to officials, while repairs on an undersea cable are proving more difficult than first thought. The tsunami severed the sole fiber-optic cable that connects Tonga to the rest of the world. With Musk's involvement, there was hope that better connectivity would be restored soon.

TOP OF THE WORLD

Kamala Harris. *Reuters*

USA

Kamala Harris to attend Munich Conference

Washington: Kamala Harris will hold a series of in-person meetings with US allies and partners at the Munich Security Conference next week seeking to deter Russian aggression in Ukraine, a trip that serves as a major diplomatic test of her vice presidency. A senior administration official said Harris will deliver a speech, articulate US policy at a number of public engagements and assert America's commitment to its NATO allies. Leaders of Germany, the EU and NATO will attend and Harris is not expected to meet leaders from Russia and China. The conference is expected to take place on February 18-20 in Munich, amid a high-stakes conflict over Ukraine between Western nations and Russia. **REUTERS**

IRAN

New wider range missile unveiled

Tehran: Iran unveiled a new missile on Wednesday with a reported range that would allow it to reach both US bases in the region and targets inside its archfoe Israel. State TV reported that the missile has solid fuel and a range of 1,450 km. It is called the Khaibar-buster, a reference to a Jewish castle overrun by Muslim warriors in the early days of Islam. It said the missile has high accuracy, is manufactured completely domestically, and can defeat missile shield systems. The information has not been independently verified. **AP**

MADAGASCAR

Report: Toll from cyclone Batsirai rises to 80

Antananarivo: The death toll from Cyclone Batsirai in Madagascar rose to 80 from a previously reported 29, the state disaster relief agency said on Wednesday. The cyclone slammed into the large Indian Ocean island late on Saturday, knocking down houses and electricity lines as it battered the southeastern coast until it moved away late on Sunday, leaving 91,000 people with destroyed or damaged homes. The disaster relief agency said that 60 of the deaths had occurred in a single area. **REUTERS**

Under dark war clouds, Russia today will begin Belarus military drills

TOM BALMFORTH
MOSCOW, FEBRUARY 9

RUSSIA LAUNCHES the active phase of vast military exercises in Belarus on Thursday, a display of strength that shows how Moscow's tightening grip on Minsk has given it enhanced capabilities in its standoff with the West over Ukraine.

The joint Allied Resolve drills that NATO has described as Russia's biggest deployment to ex-Soviet Belarus since the Cold War run until February 20 and are part of a Russian troop buildup near Ukraine that has stirred fears of a looming invasion.

Russia, which denies any invasion plans, has not disclosed how many troops will be involved. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said last week that Russia was expected to have 30,000 troops and Spetsnaz special operations forces, SU-35 fighter jets, S-400 air defence systems and nuclear-capable Iskander missiles

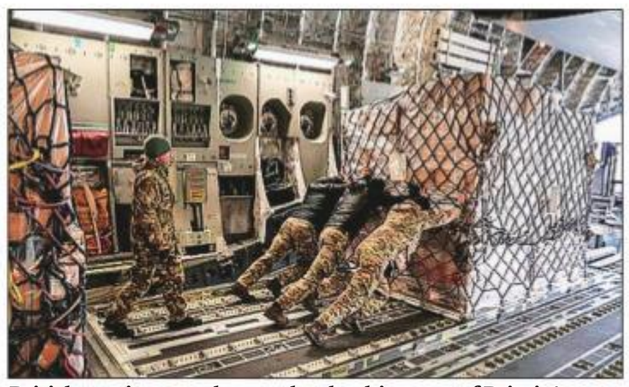
In military terms, the deployments create a new front for Ukraine to worry about and stretch Kyiv's forces thinner around its long defensive perimeter, said Neil Melvin, director of International Security Studies at the RUSI think-tank in London.

The deployments to the north of Ukraine put Russian troops much closer to Ukraine's capital Kyiv, which lies just over 90 km (56 miles) from the border at its closest point.

With the deployment of fighters and air defence systems, Russia has much more effective defensive cover for its Kaliningrad exclave in Europe, and electronic jamming systems in Belarus make Western intelligence gathering harder, said Melvin.

For years, Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko played off East against West for political gain and resisted the idea of hosting a permanent Russian military base. "I think he finally decided that in order to stay in power he should rely on his strategic alliance with Moscow and of course these joint military exercises are yet another kind of manifestation of this new closeness," said Andrey Kortunov, head of the Russian International Affairs Council.

The Kremlin has said the Russian troops will return to their permanent garrisons once the drills are over. But the beleaguered Belarusian opposition-in-exile fears Russia's troops may not leave entirely. "Lukashenko has opened Pandora's Box. He thinks he's still in control, but we're not sure. Is he able to make sure these troops are going home, or not?" said Franak Viacorka, an adviser to Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya.



British service members unload a shipment of Britain's security support package for Ukraine at the Boryspil International Airport outside Kyiv on Wednesday. *Reuters*

February 10-20: A critical phase

EXPLAINED

RUSSIA HAS begun joint military drills with its close ally at the doorstep of Kyiv as the clouds of war in eastern Europe swirl ever lower. Some 30,000 Russian soldiers, two battalions of S-400 surface-to-air missile systems, and a very large swarm of warjets are in Belarus for the exercises. Whether they go back after the exercises conclude on February 20 could give some idea of President Vladimir Putin's mind. About 100,000 to 130,000 Russian troops along with vast amounts of military hardware and medical support supplies are already stationed on three sides of Ukraine, and they cannot be kept primed indefinitely in a state of intense wartime readiness. February 20 is also the date the Winter Olympics in Beijing are scheduled to close, and many analysts believe that while Putin is unlikely to invade while the Games are on, there is no saying what he may decide once they are over.

In signal of growing confidence, Sweden ends Covid-19 testing

DAVID KEYTON
STOCKHOLM, FEBRUARY 9

SWEDEN HAS halted wide-scale testing for Covid-19 even among people showing symptoms of an infection, putting an end to the mobile city-square tent sites, drive-in swab centres and home-delivered tests that became ubiquitous during the pandemic and provided essential data for tracking its spread.

The move puts the Scandinavian nation at odds with most of Europe, but some experts say it could become the norm as costly testing yields fewer benefits with the easily transmissible but milder Omicron variant and as governments begin to consider treating Covid like they do other endemic illnesses.

"We have reached a point where the cost and relevance of the testing is no longer justifiable." Swedish Public Health Agency chief Karin Tegmark Wisell told the national broadcast SVT this week.

"If we were to have extensive testing adapted to everyone who has Covid-19, that would mean half a billion kronor a week (about $55 million) and 2 billion a month ($220 million)," Tegmark Wisell added.

Starting Wednesday, only healthcare and elderly care workers and the most vulnerable will be entitled to free PCR testing if they are symptomatic, while the rest of the population will simply be asked to stay home if they show symptoms that could be Covid-19.

Antigen tests are readily available for purchase in supermarkets and pharmacies, but those results aren't reported to health authorities. Private health care providers can also perform tests and offer certificates for international travel.

Dr. Bharat Pankhania, a senior clinical lecturer at the University of Exeter Medical School in Britain, said that with a substantial percentage of people vaccinated, "an informed, educated and knowledgeable population" can be trusted to isolate if they show symptoms without the need for "wholesale testing that is not going to be value for money." "Sweden is leading the way, and other nations will inevitably follow," he said. **AP**

Possibility of new variants high, warns WHO

Geneva: Describing the new Covid-19 variants as the "wild card", a top World Health Organisation official has warned that the Omicron will not be the last one and the possibility of other new variants is really high.

During a question and answer session live streamed on WHO's social media platforms on Tuesday, the WHO Covid-19 Technical Lead Maria Van Kerkhove said that the global health agency is tracking four different versions of Omicron.

"We know a lot about this virus, but we don't know everything. And quite frankly, the variants are the wild card. So we are tracking this virus in real time as it mutates as it changes. But this virus has a lot of room to move," she said. "With the level of intensity of spread, the possibility that we will have other variants is really high. So we need to ensure we again, not only increase vaccination coverage, but we also take measures to reduce the spread," she added. **PTI**

WORLD CASELOAD SURPASSES 400 MN

THE WORLD surpassed 400 million known coronavirus cases on Tuesday, according to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, just one month after reaching 300 million. It took more than a year for the world to reach 100 million confirmed infections and the 100 millionth in January 2021. It took only seven months to double that number, and now six months to double it again. **NYT**

UK PLANS TO END SELF-ISOLATION RULE

PEOPLE IN England with Covid-19 will from late February no longer be legally required to self-isolate to stem the spread of Covid-19, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Wednesday, proposing to speed up existing plans to live with the virus. He has said he wishes to go further as part of the shift towards learning to live with Covid. **REUTERS**

Vehicles block the route leading from the Ambassador Bridge, linking Detroit and Windsor, as truckers and their supporters continue protest against the vaccine mandates, in Windsor, Ontario on Wednesday. *Reuters*

Canada scrambles to end anti-vaccine mandate protests

Ottawa: Canadian authorities are scrambling to find ways to end the 12-day-long occupation of the national capital's downtown, hoping a combination of criminal charges, traffic tickets and the prospect of losing access to fuel will end the blockades.

While police say the number of protesters in Ottawa is dropping, a blockade that start Monday at the vital Ambassador Bridge linking Canada and the United States is disrupting trade.

While tougher policing has dissuaded some demonstrators, Deputy Police Chief Steve Bell has said many of those remaining in Ottawa were highly "determined and volatile." Police have made 23 arrests so far. They have also asked for reinforcements suggesting intentions to pursue enforcement through commercial vehicle licences. **REUTERS**

Quad must stop driving differences between regional nations: China

K J M VARMA
BEIJING, FEBRUARY 9

AHEAD OF Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting on Friday, China said on Wednesday that it was opposed to "exclusive blocs" to create bloc confrontation and the four-nation alliance should stop driving wedges between regional countries.

In November 2017, the US, Australia, India and Japan gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence, amidst China's growing military presence in the strategic region.

"We oppose exclusive blocs to create bloc confrontation," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing while answering a question on the Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Quad - the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprising the US, India, Japan and Australia in Melbourne on Friday.

"We hope that the US and relevant countries can get a clear picture of the situation, feel relaxed, abandon the Cold War mentality, stop driving wedges between regional countries and contribute to regional peace, stability and prosperity," he said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will participate in the fourth Quad foreign ministers' meeting on February 11 in Melbourne along with his counterparts from Australia, Japan and the US.

Asked about the reported remarks by US Assistant Secretary Daniel J Kritenbrink that Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting in Melbourne will discuss ways to counter challenges posed by China to democratic values , Zhao attacked the US, questioning its democratic credentials. "Democracy is a common value of humanity, not a patent claimed by a few countries. Whether a country is democratic or not should be judged by its own people. " he said. **PTI**

Blinken lands in Australia ahead of Indo-Pacific meeting

Antony Blinken

Melbourne: Secretary of State Antony Blinken and key allies are "voting with their feet" by flying to Australia to focus on challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, Australia's foreign minister said Wednesday. Blinken landed in Melbourne ahead of a meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne as well as their Indian and Japanese counterparts who form the so-called "Quad."

With the Quad, Blinken is expected to highlight the benefits of Indo-Pacific nations aligning themselves with democracies and democratic values, officials said. "That part of that discussion will relate to the challenges that China poses to those values and to the rules-based order," said Daniel Kritenbrink, the top US diplomat for Asia. **AP**

Pak keen to play 'instrumental role' in bringing US, China closer, says Imran

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 9

Pakistan PM Imran Khan

PAKISTAN ENJOYS good relations with both China and the US and wants to play the same "instrumental role of the 1970s" that had brought Washington and Beijing closer to avoid "another Cold War", Prime Minister Imran Khan has said.

The relations between the US and China are at an all-time low. The two countries are engaged in a bitter confrontation over various issues, including trade, Beijing's aggressive military moves in the disputed South China Sea and human rights in Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang region.

In an interview to China's state-run news channel CGTN, Khan said the world should not go through a situation where it is divided into two camps as it will not benefit anyone, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported on Tuesday.

Khan, who was recently in Beijing to attend the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics, was replying to a question on whether Pakistan could face challenges due to the rising tension between China and the US. "I hope that this (the tension between the US and China) does not escalate into another Cold War where we have to choose sides," he said. **PTI**

$500 MN MCC DEAL

Nepal ruling coalition votes against US deal

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, FEBRUARY 9

PRIME MINISTER Sher Bahadur Deuba has not concealed his wish to have the $500 million dollar Millennium Challenge Corporation Nepal compact approved by Parliament by February-end , but two prominent partners of the ruling coalition have said the chapter was now over, at least for a year.

The Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Centre and the Unified Socialists on Wednesday said now that the elections for the local bodies have been called for May 13, which will be followed by elections to the provincial and federal parliament, the deal can not be tabled and ratified by the Parliament in the election year, Jhalanath Khanal, a former Prime Minister and leader of the Unified Socialists said.

Narayankaji Shrestha, vice-chairman of the Maoist centre also said MCC cannot be approved in the current form as it undermines "country's sovereignty ."

Deuba, who had made a commitment in writing to the MCC board that he would have the deal passed, has been given deadline of February 28 by the donor board stating that the failure to do so could lead to termination of the grant.

Timely help by US airport officials save Indian woman

YOSHITA SINGH
NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 9

A 54-YEAR-OLD Indian woman, found unresponsive in a wheelchair near the baggage belt at Washington Dulles International Airport, has been saved with the timely intervention of emergency medical personnel, according to US authorities who described the situation as "harrowing".

The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on Tuesday said the woman arrived at the airport on Sunday evening after a 15-hour flight from Doha, Qatar.

"For a harrowing 10 minutes, US Customs and Border Protection emergency medical technicians administered extraordinary life saving efforts" on the unresponsive female traveller at the airport, the federal agency said in a statement.

Later, airport paramedics regained a pulse on the woman, who has not been identified. The statement added that as per news from the hospital, the woman was breathing on her own. **PTI**

CONVENIENCE, FINANCES, POST-BREAKUP FRIENDSHIPS ARE A FEW REASONS FOR STREAMING TIES: EXPERTS

Love and logins: Who gets custody of passwords in a breakup?

LEANNE ITALIE
NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 9

EMILY TAFFEL didn't pull the password plug when she divorced her first husband, and she didn't cut off the boyfriend who followed. Now remarried with four stepchildren, she continues as a model of civility when it comes to exes and logins.

The 41-year-old in Coral Springs, Florida, and her first husband didn't have kids, much money or own a house when they divorced. What they did have were subscriptions to Netflix and Hulu.

"We each paid for one of them and share. That was literally our divorce agreement," Taffel said. "It was written right in there. We're still doing it."

When boyfriend Sam came along but the romance ended three years later, they maintained close ties and joint custody of additional services, sharing logins and the cost to this day among themselves and Taffel's ex-husband. "I know it seems crazy," she said. "The ex-boyfriend and the ex-husband aren't friends, but through me everybody is very amicable."

In this era of cybersecurity concerns and calls for multifactor lockdown of all things digital, that approach points to a thorny issue when love goes wrong: What to do about the logins?

Nearly 8 in 10 Americans who are in a relationship share passwords across nearly every digital platform, ranging from social media to email and cell phone to mobile wallets, said Harold Li, vice-president of the encryption service ExpressVPN.

A Facebook login page appears on a computer. *AP*

"In the digital era, sharing passwords is a sign of trust and affection akin to the gift of a letterman jacket or an exchange of school locker combinations," he said. "However, while it may seem like a romantic gesture at the moment, it poses serious risks to your personal privacy, which even the closest of relationships need." And when relationships end, whether romantic or of the friendship variety, he recommends a thorough "digital divorce."

Nick Leighton of the etiquette podcast "Were You Raised by Wolves" equates the changing of shared passwords after a breakup to returning the sweater left behind by the ex.

"Be mindful of the fact that when a person discovers their login no longer works, it'll be a clear reminder that the relationship is indeed over, which may cause hurt feelings," he said.

Researchers have found a variety of reasons people maintain streaming ties after a breakup — convenience, finances and post-breakup friendships among them. A downside: When a vindictive ex deliberately wreaks havoc with algorithms to mess up ads and suggested viewing, or creates a profile to rile up a current love interest. One sharer said the parents of an ex stayed logged into one of his sites for two years after they broke up and sent him a gift card out of the blue as thanks. **AP**

Indian-origin organ donor in Singapore awarded for saving one-year-old

GURDIP SINGH
SINGAPORE, FEBRUARY 9

AN INDIAN-ORIGIN senior sales executive in Singapore, Sakthibalan Balathandautham, has received the "The Straits Times Singaporean of the Year 2021" award for donating a part of his liver to a one-year old girl he had never met before, a media report said on Wednesday.

The 28-year-old, who received the award from President Halimah Yacob on Wednesday, donated 23 per cent of his liver to baby Rheya on September 30, 2020, responding to a plea on social media in July 2020 by a young Indian couple looking for a liver donor for their one-year-old child, *The Straits Times* newspaper reported

Balathandautham's generous gesture has given a new lease of life to Rheya, who was diagnosed with biliary atresia a few weeks after her birth in 2019. The rare disease causes bile ducts in the liver to be inflamed, blocking bile flow to the gallbladder. The condition can eventually lead to liver failure.

After a successful recovery by both donor and recipient, Balathandautham is now an advocate for organ donation, encouraging more people to step up and help patients in need, the report said. **PTI**

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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to **explained@indianexpress.com**

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

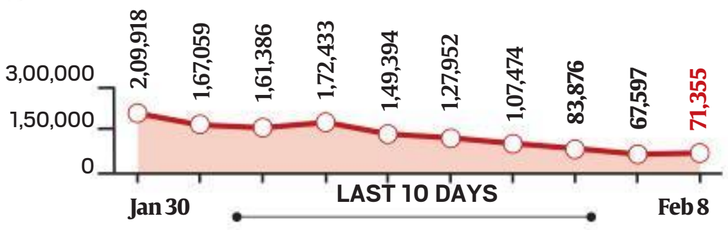
DASHBOARD, AS ON FEB 9

709 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

New cases	Active cases	Deaths
71,355	8,92,818	1,217

Weekly CFR: 0.33% | Overall CFR: 1.26% | Total deaths: 5,05,279

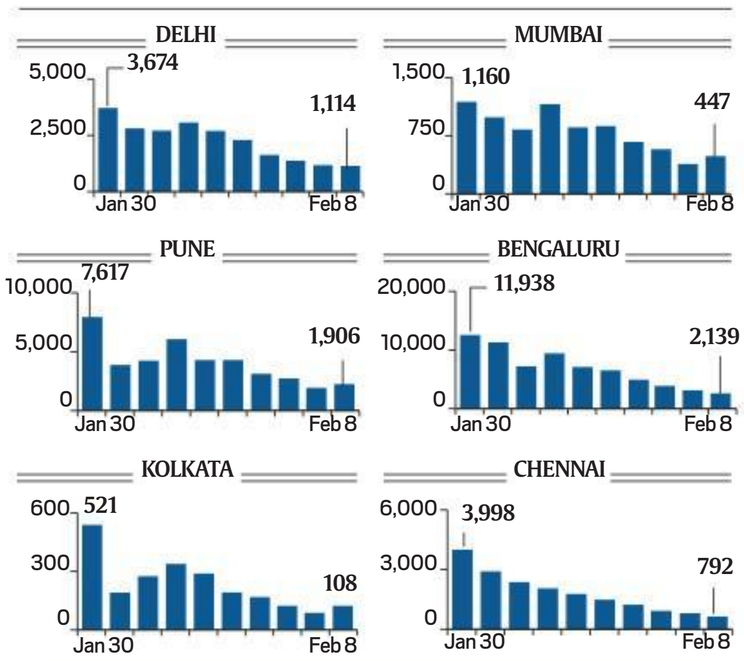
NEW CASES, DAILY



SURGE IN THE STATES

State	ON FEBRUARY 7			Weekly positivity
	New cases	Active cases	Deaths	
Kerala	29471	2,84,437	824	33.92%
Maharashtra	6107	96069	62	8.19%
Tamil Nadu	4519	90137	37	6.77%
Karnataka	4452	72448	51	9.26%
Rajasthan	3411	37278	16	11.95%

CASES IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS

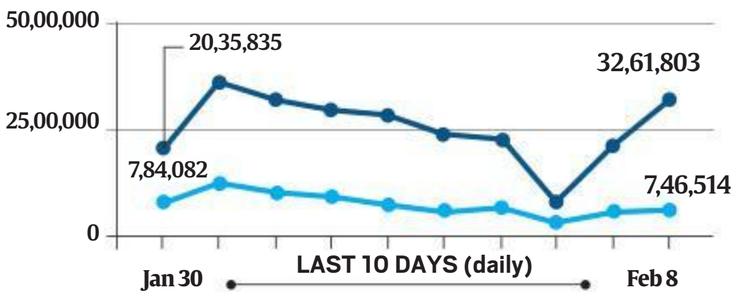


TOTAL TESTS 74,46,84,750

TESTS ON FEB 8	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	OVERALL POSITIVITY
17,76,629	6.37%	5.70%

INDIA TOTAL DOSES 170,87,06,705

(Adults 1st dose: 90,16,70,652; 2nd: 73,16,05,796; 15-18 age group 1st dose: 5,04,94,313; 2nd: 92,19,707; precautionary: 1,57,16,237)



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SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Unemployment report card

Government has said more than 25,000 died by suicide due to unemployment or debt during 2018-20. A look at the state of employment in poll-bound states, and trends among youth, the educated, and women.

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

ON WEDNESDAY, during the debate on Budget 2022-23, the government informed Rajya Sabha that more than 25,000 Indians died by suicide due to either unemployment or indebtedness between 2018 and 2020. According to the data, suicides among the unemployed have been increasing and touched a high (3,548) in 2020. The growing stress due to unemployment is in line with the persistently high levels of unemployment — acknowledged even by the government's own annual surveys, known as the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).

However, unemployment is not evenly distributed across the population. Data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) show that unemployment in India:

- is highest among the youth;
- rises with educational attainment; and
- is higher among women.

So where do the poll-bound states stand on these metrics?

Instead of looking at just the unemployment rate (number of unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force), which fails to take into account the shifts in labour force participation rate (number of people demanding work expressed as a percentage of the total working-age population), this analysis will look at the employment rate in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. In other words, the tables detail the total population belonging to the concerned category and the total number among those who have a job. The ratio is calculated as the employment rate (i.e. total employed expressed as a percentage of the total population in that category) to help us compare the state with each other as well as the national average.

The data have been compiled for three time periods:

- September-December 2016 (as it provides the picture just before the start of the Assembly term
- Sept-Dec 2019 (as it provides a comparable picture before the Covid pandemic)
- Sept-Dec 2021 (as it is the latest available data and provides a clear 5 years of trend)

Of the five states going to polls, CMIE has not compiled data for Manipur.

UTTAR PRADESH: On all three counts — employment levels among the youth, among the educated and among women — Uttar Pradesh is not only far behind the national average but has also seen a sharp decline over the past five years.

For instance, in December 2016, 15.39 million youth had a job. Five years later, even though the total youth population had swelled by 9 million (or 90 lakh), the total employed had shrunk by over 3 million (or 30 lakh).

This should put in perspective the claims of job creation by the ruling government. It also shows that UP's youth have been suffering the worst fate because the state failed to create new jobs.

The employment rate among those educated up to the level of graduation or higher moved up marginally between 2016 and 2019, but has fallen sharply since then.

As far as women are concerned, UP has always been behind. In the last five years, this situation has become even worse. While the population of working-age women went up by 12 million, the number of women with a job halved from the already paltry number of December 2016. Less than 2% of all women belonging to the working-age population (15 years and above) have a job.

PUNJAB: Youth employment rates in Punjab are much better than the national average but the fact remains that they have been coming down over the past five years. While the total youth population has gone up by 10 million (or 1 crore), the number with jobs has come down by 5 million.

Similarly, the employment rates both among graduates (and above), as well as women, have fallen sharply. Much like UP, the employment rate among women in Punjab was also quite low five years ago, but it has fallen below even UP's level.

GOA: Past analysis of RBI data has shown that Goa is one state where per capita incomes have contracted (instead of growing) over the past five years. As such, it is not a surprise to find a rather precipitous decline in the youth employment rate.

In December 2016, the youth population was 4.05 lakh. Of these, 1.71 lakh had a job. But over the last five years, even though the youth population has shrunk by a lakh, the number of young people with a job has shrunk to just 30,000. In percentage terms, the fall in employment rate — from 42% to 10% — is the steepest in the four states considered here.

The situation is much better if one looks at graduates and those with a higher education. But the employment rate in 2021 (49%) is far lower than what it was in 2016 (62%) and is now below the national average.

The proportion of working-age women with jobs, too, has plummeted in Goa — from 27% to 3%.

UTTARAKHAND: This is yet another state where the youth employment rate has taken a massive hit. The employment rate among youth, which was already quite low (22%), has gone down to one-fourth (just 5%) over the past five years.

However, the employment rate among the highly educated has increased — from 46% to 50% — and, in this regard, Uttarakhand is an outlier.

But employment for women again follows the broader trend of a collapse — from 8% to 2%.

Why does youth unemployment matter?

In the recently released Global Risks Report, the World Economic Forum pointed out "Widespread youth disillusionment" as one of the main risks for India.

By "widespread youth disillusionment", WEF refers to " youth disengagement, lack of confidence and/or loss of trust of existing economic, political and social structures at a global scale, negatively impacting social stability, individual well-being and economic productivity."

Scenes of young people demanding jobs in UP, the most populous state in India, are a pointer that unemployment may well be a key deciding factor for many voters, especially the young, the educated, and women.

UTTAR PRADESH (SEPT-DEC EACH GIVEN YEAR)

TABLE 1
AMONG THE YOUTH (AGE 15-29)

	Total population (mn)	Total employed (mn)	Emp rate (%)
2016	62.07	15.39	24.79
2019	66.22	13.57	20.49
2021	70.99	12.17	17.14
India 2021	375.31	73.11	19.48

TABLE 2
AMONG THE EDUCATED (GRADUATE+)

	Total population (mn)	Total employed (mn)	Emp rate (%)
2016	18.97	9.30	49.02
2019	19.83	9.92	50.03
2021	18.09	7.91	43.73
2021	99.95	49.31	49.33

TABLE 3
AMONG WOMEN (AGE 15+)

	Total population (mn)	Total employed (mn)	Emp rate (%)
2016	68.91	2.65	3.85
2019	77.37	2.15	2.78
2021	80.47	1.51	1.88
India 2021	502.55	41.15	8.19

PUNJAB (SEPT-DEC EACH GIVEN YEAR)

TABLE 4
AMONG THE YOUTH (AGE 15-29)

	Total population (mn)	Total employed (mn)	Emp rate (%)
2016	76.67	25.02	32.63
2019	81.96	23.6	28.79
2021	86.99	20.08	23.08

TABLE 5
AMONG THE EDUCATED (GRADUATE+)

	Total population (mn)	Total employed (mn)	Emp Rate (%)
2016	30.20	14.5	48.01
2019	33.10	14.60	44.11
2021	31.94	13.63	42.67

TABLE 6
AMONG WOMEN (AGE 15+)

	Total population (mn)	Total employed (mn)	Emp rate (%)
2016	10.66	0.59	5.53
2019	11.13	0.34	3.05
2021	11.36	0.13	1.14

Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt Ltd & Express Research

Geomagnetic storm that killed Starlink sats

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, FEBRUARY 9

ELON MUSK'S Starlink has lost dozens of satellites that were caught in a geomagnetic storm a day after they were launched on February 3. Up to 40 of the 49 satellites were impacted, Starlink said, causing them to fall from orbit before they could be commissioned.

"(Rocket) Falcon 9's second stage deployed the satellites into their intended orbit, with a perigee of approximately 210 km above Earth, and each satellite achieved controlled flight. Unfortunately, the satellites deployed on Thursday (February 3) were significantly impacted by a geomagnetic storm on February 4," Starlink said in a statement on Tuesday.

The satellites were designed to burn up on reentry into the Earth's atmosphere, and did not create debris in space. However, the loss of 40 satellites — most of a launch batch — in a single solar event has been described as "unheard of" and "huge".

Solar storms/flares

Solar storms are magnetic plasma ejected at great speed from the solar surface. They occur during the release of magnetic energy associated with sunspots ('dark' regions on the Sun that are cooler than the surrounding photosphere), and can last for a few minutes or hours. The solar storm that deorbited the satellites occurred on February 1 and 2, and its powerful trails were observed on February 3.

"The emerging data suggest that the passing of the latter part of the storm, with its high density core, possessed speeds higher than what was recorded during the storm's arrival — something we did not expect," said physicist Prof Dibyendu Nandi, head of the Centre of Excellence in Space Sciences India (CESSI) at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Kolkata.

The storm was unusual, unexpectedly massive, and of a kind not seen in the recent past, Prof Nandi said.

Effect on Earth

Not all solar flares reach Earth, but solar flares/storms, solar energetic particles (SEPs), high-speed solar winds, and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) that come close can impact space weather in near-Earth space and the upper atmosphere.

Solar storms can hit operations of space-dependent services like global positioning systems (GPS), radio, and satellite communications. Geomagnetic storms interfere with high-frequency radio communications and GPS navigation systems. Aircraft flights, power grids, and space exploration programmes are vulnerable.

CMEs, with ejectiles loaded with matter travelling at millions of miles an hour, can potentially create disturbances in the magnetosphere, the protective shield surrounding the Earth. Astronauts on spacewalks face health risks from possible exposure to solar radiation outside the Earth's protective atmosphere.

Predicting solar storms

Solar physicists and other scientists use computer models to predict solar storms and solar activities in general. The February 1-2 phenomenon that knocked out Starlink's satellites was predicted on January 29.

"Current models are capable of predicting a storm's time of arrival and its speed. But the storm's structure or orientation still cannot be predicted," Prof Nandi said.

Certain orientations of the magnetic field can produce a more intense response from the magnetosphere, and trigger more intense magnetic storms.

With the increasing global dependence on satellites for almost every activity, there is a need for better space weather forecasts and more effective ways to protect satellites.

Governor's powers, friction with states, and why this happens often

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

LAST WEEK, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee blocked Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Twitter. She said she was "forced" to do so because of his "unethical and unconstitutional" statements and accused him of treating government officials like "his servants". Dhankhar responded with a series of tweets on the "essence and spirit of democracy" and saying the CM's move was "against constitutional norms".

Days earlier, the Tamil Nadu government had taken exception to Governor R N Ravi's Republic Day speech articulating the benefits of NEET, the medical entrance exam. Tamil Nadu has passed a Bill to exempt the state from NEET; Ravi has sent it back to the state.

These are two of many examples of bitterness between states and Governors.

What is the law on Governor-state relations?

Although envisaged as an apolitical head who must act on the advice of the council of ministers, the Governor enjoys certain powers granted under the Constitution, such as giving or withholding assent to a Bill passed by the state legislature, or determining the time needed for a party to prove its majority, or which party must be called first do so, generally after a hung verdict in an election.

There are, however, no provisions laid down for the manner in which the Governor and the state must engage publicly when there is a difference of opinion. The management of differences has traditionally been guided by respect for each other's boundaries.

What have been the friction points?

In recent years, these have been largely about the selection of the party to form a government, deadline for proving majority, sitting on Bills, and passing negative remarks on the state administration.

In November 2018, then J&K Governor Satyapal Malik dissolved the Assembly amid indications that various parties were coming together to form the government. This paved the way for the Centre to later bifurcate state into two Union territories, by considering the Governor as the government.

In November 2019, after a hung verdict in Maharashtra, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari quietly invited BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis and administered him oath as CM. This government lasted just 80 hours. Six months later, Koshiyari refused to nominate CM Uddhav Thackeray to the Legislative Council, leading Thackeray to meet PM Narendra Modi to resolve the issue.

In West Bengal, Dhankhar has often commented on law and order and political violence. Ravi, in his previous stint as Nagaland Governor, had criticised affairs of the state and allegedly interfered in administration.

In December 2020, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan turned down a request to summon a special sitting of the Assembly to debate the three central farm laws.

Following the Karnataka polls in 2018, Governor Vajubhai Vala invited the BJP to form the government and gave B S Yeddyurappa 15 days to prove majority. Challenged by Congress and JDS in the Supreme Court, it was reduced to three days.

Is such friction recent?

Allegations of the Centre using the Governor's position to destabilise state governments have been made since the 1950s. In 1959, Kerala's E M S Namboodiripad government was dismissed based on a report by the Governor. Several state governments have been dismissed since then, including 63 through President's Rule orders issued by Governors between 1971 and 1990. These have include the Birender Singh government in Haryana (1967); Virendra Patil government in Karnataka (1971); M Karunanidhi government in Tamil Nadu (1976); B S Shekhawat government in Rajasthan and SAD government in Punjab (1980); Janata Party governments in UP, Odisha, Gujarat and Bihar (1980); N T Rama Rao government in Andhra in (1984); and Kalyan Singh governments in UP (1992, 1998). These became less frequent during the coalition era at the Centre and the emergence of strong regional parties.

Why does this happen?

"Because Governors have become political appointees," said NALSAR chancellor and constitutional expert Faizan Mustafa. "The Constituent Assembly envisaged governor to be apolitical. But politicians become Governors and then resign to fight elections."

Constitutional expert Alok Prasanna of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy said: "The CM is answerable to the people. But the Governor is answerable to no one except the Centre. You can sugercoat it with ideas of constitutional morality and values, but the truth is there is a fundamental defect in the Constitution."

There is no provision for impeaching the Governor, who is appointed by the President on the Centre's advice. While the Governor has 5-year a tenure, he can remain in office only until the pleasure of the President.

In 2001, the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, headed by retired CJI M N Venkachaliah and set up by the Atal Behari Vajpayee, said, "... because the Governor owes his appointment and his continuation in the office to the Union Council of Ministers, in matters where the Central Government and the State Government do not see eye to eye, there is the apprehension that he is likely to act in accordance with the instructions, if any, received from the Union Council of Ministers... Indeed, the Governors today are being pejoratively called the 'agents of the Centre'."

In the Constitution, there are no guidelines for exercise of the Governor's powers, including for appointing a CM or dissolving the Assembly. There is no limit set for how long a Governor can withhold assent to a Bill.

What reforms have been suggested?

From the Administrative Reforms Commission of 1968 to Sarkaria Commission of 1988 and the one mentioned above, several panels have recommended reforms, such as selection of the Governor through a panel comprising the PM, Home Minister, Lok Sabha Speaker and the CM, apart from fixing his tenure for five years. Recommendations have also been made for a provision to impeach the Governor by the Assembly.

No government has implemented any of these recommendations.

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GIST OF Fresh e-Tender Notice No. 56 of 2022 Dated: 07.02.2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-tender is invited from interested parties/persons for **Outsourcing of Entry Ticketing System of Mughal Garden Achabal, Anantnag** of Floriculture Department Kashmir as per details given below:

The participants have to quote their bid amount in the concerned BOQ:

S. No.	Period of contract	Reserve Bid (Rs. in Lakhs)	Value of security deposit	Cost of tender document
1.	01 year from the date of award of contract	23,83,000.00	2,38,300.00	1000/- in the shape of e-challan

The bidding document (s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website www.dirflorikmr.in / www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	08.02.2022 from 03:00 PM to 28.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	08.02.2022 from 03:30 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	28.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	03.03.2022 at 02:00 PM

The security deposit money exceeding 2% shall be adjustable towards approved bid amount in favour of the successful bidder. The CDR's of the bidders who offer below the reserve bid shall be forfeited.

In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
Member Secretary

DIPK-17795

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR
Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 – email: - kashflori@rediffmail.com

GIST OF Fresh e- Tender Notice No. 57 of 2022

Dated: - 07/02/2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, e-tender is invited from interested parties/persons for **Outsourcing of Entry Ticketing System of Club Park, Pahalgam** of Floriculture Department Kashmir as per details given below: -

The participants have to quote their bid amount in the concerned BOQ: -

S. No.	Period of contract	Reserve Bid (Rs. in Lakhs)	Value of security deposit	Cost of tender document
1.	01 year from the date of award of contract	11,89,000.00	1,18,900.00	500/- in the shape of e-challan

The bidding document (s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the Departmental website www.dirflorikmr.in / www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	08.02.2022 from 04:15 PM to 28.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	08.02.2022 from 04:30 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	28.02.2022 up to 02:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	03.03.2022 at 02:00 PM

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In case of any eventuality, the date of opening will be considered on any other convenient working day.

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
Member Secretary

DIPK-17825

CANTONMENT BOARD BAREILLY
54, Serpentine Road, Bareilly Cantt.

E-Tender Notice
Corrigendum/ Addendum

Reference E-Tender Notice dated 18.01.2022 and E-Tender ID 2022_DGDE_502660_1 dated 20.01.2022 published in news papers Hindustan and Indian Express and published on website at **www..defproc.gov.in**

That considering request of service providers, agencies and keeping administrative reasons this corrigendum/addendum is issued for placement of (CoWs) at various locations/sites in bareilly Cantonment.

The revised schedule of acivites/dates being extended for e-tendering is as follow:-

Sl. No.	Activity	Date & Time
1	Publishing date & time of E-Tender	20.01.2022 at 1700 hrs.
2	Document Download start date & time	20.01.2022 at 1700 his.
3	Document Download end date & time	26.02.2022 at 1700 hrs.
4	Bid submission start date & time (cover-1 & 2)	20.01.2022 at 1700 hrs.
5	Bid submission end date & time (cover-1 & 2)	26.02.2022 at 1700 hrs.
6	Technical bid opening date & time (cover-1)	28.02.2022 at 1200 hrs.
7	Financial bid opening date & time (cover-2)	After evaluation of technical bids, date will be intimated online.

For further details of Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) please log on to website at **www.defproc.gov.in** and website of Cantonment Board Bareilly (**www.bareilly.cantt.gov.in**).

Sd/-
(Vivek Singh)
Chief Executive Officer
Cantonment Board Bareilly

Letter No. CBB/CoWs/Eng/xx
Dated: 09 Feb, 2022

SECTION 1

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, HP.PWD. NERCHOWK DIVISION
(NAME OF AUTHORITY INVITING BIDS)
"NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)"

The Superintending Engineer1st Circle HPPWD Mandi on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate/Item rate bids, **2nd Call** in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under RIDF for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HP.PWD. and HP Jal Shakti Vibhag (Contractors of HP Jal Shakti Vibhag are eligible to participate for the works having amount put to tender above Rs.100 Lacs). Non registered contractors may submit the bids; however successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD*.

District	RIDF	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)		Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Period of Completion	Bid Security (Rs. Lakh) *The bid security is two percent of the total cost, rounded to the nearest thousand*
			Construction	Maintenance			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Mandi	XXVII	Construction of Balance work of Bag Rathol, Mohtla Karrehari and Pairi Dhanwhan road Under NABARD RIDF XXVII Distt. Mandi HP. (SH: Construction of Retaining walls, Breast walls, Cross-Drainage work, Metalling and Tarring, V-Shape road side Drain, Parapets and Logo Board etc. on Mohtla Karehri road Km. 0/0 to 2/400).	1,61,72,802	14,67,648	1,76,40,450	One Year	3,53,000
		Construction of Balance work of Bag Rathol, Mohtla Karrehari and Pairi Dhanwhan road Under NABARD RIDF XXVII Distt. Mandi HP. (SH: Construction of Retaining walls, Breast walls, Metalling and Tarring, V-Shape Drain, Parapets and Logo Board etc. on Bag Rathol road Km. 0/0 to 2/640).	1,52,48,626	16,14,412	1,68,63,038	One Year	3,37,000

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 17.02.2022.
3. Cost of Bid Form: Rs. 5000 per package/job (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer, HP.PWD. Nerchowk Division.
4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.hptenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). *Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering may obtain the same from the website: www. hptenders.gov.in.
   Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.
   Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
5. Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer 1st. Circle, HPPWD., Mandi (address and details of office where to be submitted) , on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.
6. **Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering**: 25-02-2022 up-to 11.00 Hours (time).

Key dates:-

1	Date of online publication	17-02-2022 at 11:30 A.M.
2	Document download start and end date	17-02-2022 at 11:30 A.M. up to 25-02-2022 at 10:30: A.M.
3	Bid submission start and end date	17-02-2022 at 11:30 A.M. up to 25-02-2022 at 11:00 A.M.
4	Date of technical bid opening	25-02-2022 at 11:30 A.M.
5	Physical submission of original documents i/c original EMD & Cost of Tender documents etc.	25-02-2022 at 10:30 A.M.

7. The site for the work is available.
8. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.hptenders.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 11.30 Hours (time) on 25-02-2022 (date) in the office of Superintending Engineer, 1st.Circle HP.PWD. Mandi by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.
9. The payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.
10. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than Seventy Five (75) days after the deadline date for bid submission.
11. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.
12. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.
13. As per Govt. Notification No.PBW (B)A(3)1/2020-I dated 07.10.2021, in case the tendered amount of the lowest bidder comes more than 5% in 1st call the negotiation can be conducted with him but the negotiated amount should remain within 5% of the amount put to tender (on market rate) and tendered amount below 30% of the estimated cost will be summarily rejected.

Executive Engineer,
HP.PWD. Division, Nerchowk.
For Superintending Engineer HPPWD 1st Circle Mandi.

6791/HP

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED

e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of **(a)** 8.0 Mts/140 Kgs PSCC Poles to Siddipet **(b)** 8.0 Mts/140 Kgs PSCC Poles to Nalgonda & Yadadri **(c)** 9.1 Mts/280 Kgs PSCC Poles to Siddipet **(d)** MS Rod 16 mm, **(e)** MS Rod 20 mm & **(f)** 5 MVA Power Transformers to the consumers of TSSPDCL on e-procurement platform. For further details of each item above, please visit www.tssouthernpower.com, www.tender.telangana.gov.in.

Phone: 040-23431319, 1035, 1033, 1026, 1360

Sd/- (U. BALA SWAMY)
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM)

R.O. No. : 2664-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 Date: 09-02-2022

ESSAR POWER

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Essar Power Transmission Co. Ltd. invites tender for Rerouting work of Mahan Bilaspur 400 kV Double Circuit Transmission line with Quad Moose Conductor at Jatga and Sasin Villages due to new upcoming East-West Rail Corridor in the State of Chhattisgarh as a 'Special Railway Project'.

Date of Tender: 21-Jan-2022
Mode of tender: Online and submission of hard copies.
Tender no.: EPTCL/HAZ/760-PTX/0122-04/376700
Tender URL: https://sourcing.essar.com/E_Tender/USER/Tender_Download_maindetail.aspx?id=239519

Interested Contractors are requested to submit the offer as per Tender guidelines given in above link.

Please also read the Tender documents carefully before submission of technical and commercial bids.

It is compulsory for all the Contractors to visit the site locations to assess the actual ground condition before submission of their offers.

Last date of submission: 02-Mar-2022

Procurement Cell
Essar Power Transmission Co. Ltd.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Additional Chief Executive Officer
Jammu Metropolitan Region Development Authority (Divisional Commissioner, Jammu)

(Rail Head Complex, Jammu) Contact No. 9796489785
(e-mail: additionalceojmdra@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

JMRDA/e-NIT/2021-22/01 Dated: 04.02.2022

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, the **Additional Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Metropolitan Region Development Authority, (JMRDA)** invites **Expression of Interest (EOI)** from the eligible reputed **Consultancy firms/Institutions** for providing services for the **"Formulation of a Comprehensive Regional Planning Framework for Holistic & Sustainable Development of Jammu Metropolitan Region (JMR)".** The details of the assignment & format for the submission of the expression of the interest can be downloaded from the website. http://jktenders.gov.in The important dates are as under:-

Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04.02.2022.
Date of Publishing	05.02.2022 at 10.00 AM.
Period of downloading of documents	05.02.2022 at 10.00 AM to 25.02.2022 at 4:30 PM.
EOI submission start date	05.02.2022 at 10.00 AM.
EOI submission end date	25.02.2022 at 4:30 PM.
Opening date	26.02.2022 at 3:00 PM.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Executive Officer
JMRDA, Jammu

DIPJ-6087

प्रतिभूति कागज कारखाना, होशंगाबाद–461005 (म.प्र.)

(भारत प्रतिभूति मुद्रन तथा मुद्रा निर्माण लिमिटेड की इकाई)
भारत सरकार के पूर्ण स्वामित्वाधीन
मिनीरत्न श्रेणी–1 सी.पी.एस.ई एवं आई.एस.ओ. 9001: 2015 एवं आई.एस.ओ. 14001:2015 प्रमाणित

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

SECURITY PAPER MILL, HOSHANGABAD-461005 (M.P.)

(A Unit of Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Limited)
Wholly Owned by Government of India
Miniratna Category-I CPSE & ISO 9001 : 2015 & ISO 14001 : 2015 Certified
Tel. No.: 07574-286847, 286776, Fax No. : 07574-255170,
Email : purchase.spm@spmcil.com, Website : http://spmhoshangabad.spmcil.com

Advt. No. 116 **TENDER INVITING NOTICE** **Dt. 10.02.2022**

The Chief General Manager, Security Paper Mill, Hoshangbad (M.P.) invites sealed tenders for supply of following material/work. Interested Manufactures/Tender For detailed tender specifications/terms and conditions may please visit/downolads on our website http://spmhoshagbad.spmci.com or http://eprocure.gove.in./ http://gem.gov.in

Tender No.	Material Description	Qty.	Last date and time of receipt of Tenders
6000017107/ PM-5/ Prodn	Procurement of Machine Fabrics i.e. Press Felts & Dryer Screens for one year	As per tender enquiry	04.03.2022 Up to 11:00 A.M.
GeM/2022/ B/1902314	Bleached Cotton Comber Pulp in Sheet Form (BCCP)(*)		04.03.2022 Up to 11:00 A.M.
GeM/2022/ B/1912043	Procurement of Knife Gate Valves for PM-5 and NPP Through GeM(*)		03.03.2022 Up to 05:00 P.M.

(*) Please visit GeM portal http://gem.gov.in for details & submission of bid.

Any updates, Corrigendum, etc. against the above tenders shall be published on said website only. Those shall not be published in any other newspaper or media.

M (Material)
For Chief General Manager

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग खण्ड गौरेला पेण्ड्रा मरवाही
जिला-गौरेला पेण्ड्रा मरवाही (छ.ग.)

Email id- eegpm-phe@cg.gov.in

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र- ए में प्रतिशत दर अनुबंध हेतु नीचे उल्लेखित कार्यो के लिये जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था में सक्षम श्रेणी पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों मे आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का विवरण- जिला गौरेला पेण्ड्रा मरवाही के विकास खण्ड मरवाही के ग्राम सेमरदर्री (भगतीयाटोला, भाठाटिकरी, चुकतीपानी, जमुनाहीटोला, पनिकाटोला, सिंगारबहरा, धोडीचुहा) में जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत मिनि नल जल योजना कार्य।

क्र.	निविदा सूचना क्र./ दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	ग्राम का नाम	विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	15/04.02.2022	92034	सेमरदर्री	मरवाही	108.29

बिड सबमिशन की अंतिम तिथि- 04.03.2022

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यो की निविदा सामान्य शर्ते धरोहर राशि विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल **http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in** में दिनांक 04.02.2022 से देखे जा सकते है।

हस्ता/-
कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
जिला गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही (छ.ग.)

67590

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele),
South Zone, Jayanagar, BBMP, Bengaluru

No.: BBMP/EE/ELE/South/TEND/16/2021-22 **Date: 09.02.2022**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Short Term Tender / Two Cover System)
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Executive Engineer (Elect.), South Zone, invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any other equivalent Central / State Government Organizations for Electrical works as detailed in the table.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	EST Cost (In Lakhs)	EMD (In Rs.)
1	Providing missing street light fittings to Vijaynagar Constituency in **Ward No. 122, 123, 124, 134, 132, 133, 157, 158. (2nd Call)**	133.55	2,00,400/-

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal from **10.02.2022. (2)** Pre-bid meeting will be held on: **14.02.2022. (3)** Bids must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **17.02.2022** by **4:00 p.m. (4)** The Technical bids will be opened on **18.02.2022** at **5:00 p.m. (5)** The Financial bids will be opened on **23.02.2022** at **4:00 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elec.) South Zone, BBMP

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

महाराष्ट्र रेल इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
MAHARASHTRA RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

-महा रेल- MRIDC

(महाराष्ट्र शासन आणि रेल्वे मंत्रालय यांचा संयुक्त उपक्रम)
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways)

Notice Inviting E-Tender
MRIDC/PROJ/e-TENDER/LHS/2022/158

MRIDC is inviting E-bids from the eligible bidders for the work mentioned below:

a. Name of Work: Construction of Limited Height Subways (LHS) at various locations across Railway Lines in Maharashtra area. **b. Estimated Cost:** ₹ 85,41,47,842/-. **c. Completion Period:** 400 Days. **d. Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid:** 03/03/2022 upto 15:00 Hrs.

Interested bidders who wish to participate should visit MRIDC's official **website www.maharail.com** or e-bidding portal **www.tenderwizard.in/MAHARAIL** to bid their offer.

Any Addendum / Corrigendum to this notice will be uploaded on the above-mentioned websites only.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY "Notice for Inviting Applications'

(No. NWR-HQ-Comm(CATG)/63/2020 dt. 08.02.2022)

Applications are invited by Principal Chief Commercial Manager/North Western Railway on behalf of President of India from reputed manufacturers/suppliers of PAD items (as described in form) who are willing to supply PAD items on mobile & static catering units over North Western Railway. The interested Manufacturer Firms/Suppliers should send their applications on prescribed application form. The application form may be obtained from the office of Principal Chief Commercial Manager, North Western Railway/Jaipur by hand on deposition of Rs. 5500/- (Five Thousand Five Hundred only) at any railway station over NWR producing original Money Receipt (MR) to this office on any working day during office hours i.e. 9.30 hrs to 18.00 hrs upto 22.03.2022 and on 23.03.2022 upto 12.00 hrs. Applicable GST is required to be deposited with GST authorities. Last date for submission of application form is 23.03.2022 upto 15.00 hrs and opening of applications on the same day i.e. 23.03.2022 at 15.30 hrs. The application form can also be downloaded from NWR's website "www.nwr.indianrailways.gov.in" after publication of this notice.

All details of terms & conditions as well as application form are available on NWR's website.

Address: Principal Chief Commercial Manager, North Western Railway, HQ Office, Jawahar Circle, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur-302017. 36-AN/22

Please join us on /NWRailways

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.

(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara-691 583, Kollam, Kerala, India
Phone: 91476-2686722 to 733 (12 Lines),
Fax: 91-476-2680101. E-mail: contact@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com
CIN-U14109KL1972SGC002394

TENDER NOTICE

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** or **www.kmml.com.**

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2022_KMML_472773_1	For supply and application of castables in Spray Roaster(1R101) in our Acid Regeneration Plant at our TP Unit
2	2022_KMML_473107_1	For replacement of existing effluent line with PVC pipe 315 mm dia from MS Gate inside KMML premises up to road crossing point near MS Unit
3	2022_KMML_471999_1	Global tender for Design, Manufacturing, Supply & Commissioning support of fully automatic arm turning TiO2 Pigment Stretch Wrapping Machine at U-400 of KMML, Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam, Kerala, India

Chavara 09.02.2022 s/d HOU(TP/TSP) For the Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

4	2022_KMML_472084_1	For Fabrication and supply of Bottom Shell segment for Chlorinator D203
5	2022_KMML_471508_1	For the Supply of CS PIPE
6	2022_KMML_471268_1	For the Supply of PLATE INCONNEL
7	2022_KMML_472077_1	For fabrication and Supply of Condensate Coolant Cooler E336
8	2022_KMML_472825_1	For the supply of STRETCH WRAPPING FILM

Chavara 09.02.2022 s/d DGM(Mtls) For the Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Sillimanite

Jharkhand Tribal Development Society

IFAD

(A unit of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department, Government of Jharkhand)
Training Centre, Kalyan Complex Balihar Road, Morabadi, Ranchi 834008,
Phone + Fax No. : 0651-2552088,
E-mail : spd.jtds@gmail.com Website: www.jtdsjharkhand.com

Advertisement No: JTDS/44/2021-22
Advertisement for Engagement of Agency/ Firm for implementation of Different Activities under SCA to TSS and CCD Schemes

Jharkhand Tribal Development Society (JTDS) is mandated and actively involved for the development of Tribal (ST) and indigenous specially PVTG people in the state of Jharkhand through various income generation activities. The society is implementing various Activities under SCA to TSS and CCD Scheme in 14 Tribal Sub Plan Districts of Jharkhand.

The State Project Management Unit (SPMU), JTDS invites sealed bids including separate technical and financial bids as per schedule specified in the bid documents from eligible bidders/agencies for different work/assignments:

1. Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of solar power-based lift irrigation system.
2. Vermi compost production unit.
3. Apiculture.
4. Oyester Mushroom production unit.
5. Implementation of targeting hard core poor program.

The details can be seen and downloaded from websites i.e. www.jtdsjharkhand.com from 12th Feb 2022.

Last date of receipt of applications by hand/speed post/ courier only is 15:00 hours on 1st March, 2022 to the address mentioned below:

State Project Director,
Jharkhand Tribal Development Society,
Training Centre,Kalyan Complex Balihar Road
Morabadi, Ranchi-834008
Phone + Fax No.:0651 - 2552088

State Project Director, JTDS reserves the right of accepting or rejecting any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- State Project Director
Jharkhand Tribal Development Society

MANUFACTURE & SUPPLY OF TRACK FITTINGS

E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: TRACK/08 of 2021. Tenders through E-Procurement System are invited by the undersigned for Manufacture & Supply of the following Track fittings: **SN. 1. Tender No.: Track-E-08012021;** Brief description: **(i)** CGRSP for CMS Crossing 52 kg 1 in 12, T-4734; Qty.: 1000 Nos.; Tender Value: ₹33,50,880/-, **(ii)** GR Pad for SEJ, T-4159; Qty.: 8473 Nos., Tender Value: ₹26,88,737/-; Earnest Money: ₹1,20,800/-; Delivery period: 03 Months. **Date & Time of Closing and Opening of e-tender:** 11:00 hrs. on 01-03-2022. The Complete information along with the tender document of above e-procurement Tender is available from 17.00 hrs. of 07-02-2022 in website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

General Manager (W)/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

e-tender Notice No. 69 of 2021-22 (Open)-Engg/DDU On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings:- **Tender No.60-DDU-SRDEN-II-21-22 (i) Name of work with its location:** Minor repair of Bridges repair of ballast wall & inspection steps etc. in GC section under ADEN/Gaya. **(ii) Advertised Value:** ₹ 16486118.83 **(iii) Earnest Money:** ₹ 232400.00 **(iv) Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender**: 28.02.2022, Up-to 12:00 hrs. **(v) Website particulars** of e-tendering: **www.ireps. gov.in.**

Divisional Railway Manager
East Central Railway, DDU
PR/01644/DDU/ENGG/T/21-22/28

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tendering Tender Notice No. 08/2022

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) N.E. Railways Izatnagar, For and behalf of President of India invites **"OPEN"** e-tender through on Line (E-tendering) for the following work: **S.N.: 1, Description of works:** TBR of loop lines in RMU (Ex)-KGM & MB (Ex)-RMR section (Total-15.245 Km) (Under sanctioned work. 1- Rampur-Kathgodam Section- TBR of loop line (9.06 Kms) 2- Moradabad-Ramnagar section TBR of loop line (6.185 Kms.), **Approx Value:** ₹ 1,19,03,747.39, **E.M.D. Money:** ₹ 2,09,500/-, **Cost of Tender Forms:** ₹ 0.00, **Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter:** 05 Months, **S.N.:** 2, **Description of works:** TBSR work of Bridge No. 92 between LKU-KPV section by H-Beam Sleeper (Total 140 Nos. sleepers), **Approx Value:** ₹ 38,07,735.91, **E.M.D. Money:** ₹ 76,200/-, **Cost of Tender Forms:** ₹ 0.00, **Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter:** 03 Months, **S.N.:** 3, **Description of works:** Construction of one room with 1.5 meter wide verandha at Rudrapur city station, **Approx Value:** ₹ 7,08,143.32, **E.M.D. Money:** ₹ 14,200/-, **Cost of Tender Forms:** ₹ 0.00, **Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter:** 04 Months. **Note: (1)** On line e-tender can be submitted up to **15:00** hrs of dated **03.03.2022 (2)** For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways **IREPS** website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)
CPRO/W-376 **Izatnagar**

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

e-tender Notice No. 70 of 2021-22 (Open)-Engg/DDU On line (through e-tendering) for the following work invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings:- **Tender No.04-DDU-XEN-BR-21-22 (i) Name of work with its location:** Strengthening of bridge No.524 by replacement of trough plate, ballast guard, railing, rivets etc under Dy. CE/BRL/HJP at DDU Division. **(ii) Advertised Value:** ₹ 20702886.27 **(iii) Earnest Money:** 253500.00 **Tender No.05-DDU-XEN-BR-21-22 (i) Name of work with its location:** Provision of side pathway and changing of corroded rivets in open web girder of bridge Nos 528F, 18A, etc under Dy. CE/BRL/HJP of DDU division, E.C Railway. **(ii) Advertised Value:** ₹ 16631243.07 **(iii) Earnest Money:** 233200.00 **Tender No.06-DDU-XEN-BR-21-22 (iv) Name of work with its location**: Provision of inspection pathway for inspection of top chord of open web grider of bridge nos 528 F, 4F, 18A, 4A, etc and provision of inspection platform for inspection of bearing of bridge no 533UP, 611UP, 676UP, 695UP, 171UP, 155UP, 143DN,142DN, 109UP etc (PSC & Composite girder) under Dy CE/Brl/HJP of DDU division, E.C. Railway. **(v) Advertised Value:** ₹ 14364582.72 **(vi) Earnest Money:** ₹ 221800.00 **(vii) Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender:** 02.03.2022, Up-to 12:00 hrs. **(viii) Website particulars of e-tendering: www.ireps. gov.in.**

Divisional Railway Manager
East Central Railway, DDU
PR/01643/DDU/ENGG/T/21-22/52

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (PROJECT) W-VI
CHANDRAWAL W.W.-II, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-110054
PH: 011-23814133, E-mail: eepw6.djb@nic.in

SHORT NIT No. 08 (2021-22)
Tender ID - 2022_DJB_216377_1

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Tender fee (Rs.)	Last date/Time of receipt of Tender through e-procurement solution
1	P/L/J D.I. feeder main of dia ranging from 100 to 700 mm for Tube well water from Coronation WWTP to Jahangirpuri C-D Block UGR.	9,59,98,955/-	19,20,000/-	09.02.2022 05:15 PM onward	1500/-	23.02.2022, upto 3:00 PM

The complete details can be seen on website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in. The tender has been uploaded on wbesite.

Sd/- **(S.P. Singh)**
Dy. S.E. (Project)W-VI
9650291594

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1112(2021-22)

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

DELHI JAL BOARD
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (M) -11
TENDER DIVISION (M)-11
ROOM NO. 110, JAL SADAN, SHIV MANDIR MARG, LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI- 110024
EMAIL: aeetdjm11@gmail.com PH-011-29810956

PRESS N.I.T No. 62 (2021-22)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Replacement of water line for removing contamination through 300, 200, 150 & 100 mm dia DI water line at Block No. 5 (Upper portion) Dakshinpuri Extn. under EE(M)-47. (re-invited)	57,38,003/-	2022_DJB_216363_10 08.02.2022	21.02.2022 up to 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard may be seen at **(https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in)**

Sd/-
(Arif Hussain)
AEE(T)M-11

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1108(2021-22)

"STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹48,403	₹74.84	$91.79	₹62,417

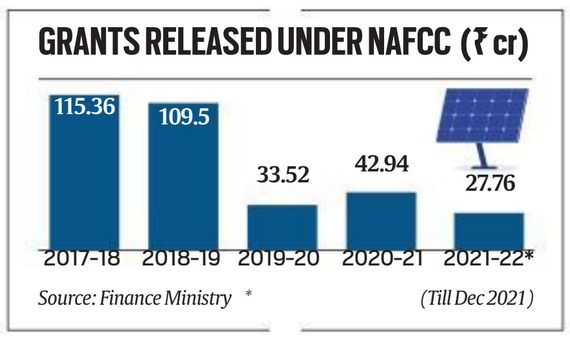
Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of February 8

SENSEX: 58,465.97 ▲ 657.39 (1.14%) **NIFTY:** 17,463.80 ▲ 197.05 (1.14%) **NIKKEI:** 27,579.87 ▲ 295.35 **HANG SENG:** 24,829.99 ▲ 500.50 **FTSE:** 7,624.00 ▲ 56.93 **DAX:** 15,469.54 ▲ 227.16

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
CLIMATE FINANCE

Despite climate push, how grants to key fund have been falling over 5 years



SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

EVEN AS the Union Budget has brought the focus on climate finance, fresh data shows Central government grants released under the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change (NAFCC) have declined steadily for last five years. Grants released under NAFCC fell from Rs 115.36 crore in 2017-18 to Rs 27.76 crore (till December 2021) in the current year, and Rs 42.94 crore in 2020-21, according to data presented by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in Parliament on Monday.

Along with the Climate Change Action Program, NAFCC is one of the two key central sector schemes run by the Union government. Under the NAFCC, 30 projects with allocation of Rs. 847.5 crores were sanctioned during 2015-19.

What did the Budget say on climate finance?

The FY23 Budget emphasised sovereign green bonds and thematic funds for blended finance in areas including climate action. Green bonds, issued through the Reserve Bank of India, will be part of the government's overall borrowing programme and used for projects leading to a less carbon economy. Finance Ministry officials expect to raise a 'substantial sum' via these bonds in current year. Blended financing will be done through several agencies such as NABARD, with part contribution from government and private sector.

EXPLAINED

What has been the progress so far?

India's climate actions have so far been largely financed from domestic resources. Chaudhary said the government is implementing the National Action Plan on Climate Change, which is the overarching policy framework. It comprises national missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, Himalayan eco-system, sustainable habitat, among others. States have prepared their plans in line with this.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

UP FROM ₹6K-8K CR IN FY21; NOW, TAPERING MAY WEIGH: REVENUE SECY

'Capital gains tax from shares: ₹60K-80K crore mop-up likely'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

IN AN almost 10-fold increase in tax collections from stock markets, the government is expecting to collect Rs 60,000-80,000 crore this year as tax on "capital gains in the stock markets" as against Rs 6,000-8,000 crore in the previous fiscal.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj on Wednesday said the government is estimating a "good amount" from the tax levy on capital gains despite a low tax rate for long and short terms, adding the government is open to 'some tinkering' in the varied rates and holding period for computation of capital gains tax on shares, debt and immovable property.

"We are going to get a good amount of revenue from capital gains tax despite the fact that capital gains tax rates are much lower at 10 per cent and 15 per cent on the stock markets for long-term and short-term (respectively). We are making an estimate, it should be between Rs 60,000-80,000 crore. Last year, it was about Rs 6,000-8000 crore. That has made a huge difference. Now, with the tapering happening and rates likely to go up in the US and (with) money moving out, one does not know how the market is going to play," Bajaj said.

At an estimate of Rs 80,000 crore for capital gains tax levy, this would imply almost 6.4 per cent of the total direct tax collections of Rs 12.5 lakh crore estimated in the revised estimates for 2021-22.

Bajaj said the current capital gains tax structure is "too complicated" in terms of varied rates and period of holding across the assets and hence needs a relook. "We need to rework the capital gains structure for rates, holding periods. We would be open to some tinkering in it, the next time we get an opportunity," Bajaj said at a Confederation of Indian Industry event.

"Number one is rate and number two is the period for which it is. I think it is too complicated... that we have created. For real estate, we have made it 24 months, for shares 12 months, for debt it is 36 months. We need to work on that," Bajaj added.

Whenever any such tinkering is brought about, there would be a segment of taxpayers who would stand as gainers while there would be a segment who would lose out, compared to their present tax provision and "that becomes the most difficult part", he said.

Under the Income Tax Act, gains from sale of capital assets, both movable and immovable, are subject to 'capital gains tax'. The Act, however, excludes movable personal assets such as cars, apparels, furniture from this tax. Short-term capital gains are chargeable to tax at normal slab rates applicable to the taxpayer, except where such gain is arising from sale of equity shares in a company or units of equity oriented mutual fund or unit of a business trust (where STT has been paid), which is chargeable to tax at the rate of 15 per cent, while long-term capital gains in excess of Rs 1 lakh for equity is taxed at 10 per cent.

Pointing to the gap between current revenue neutral rate under the GST at 11.6 per cent against 15.3 per cent earlier, Bajaj said a rate rejig will take place where rates will go down and other side as well, hinting at a rate hike. He also said that with the compensation regime coming to an end in June this year, states will face a massive shortfall of funds, around Rs 1 lakh crore overall.

ITR updation only once in AY

New Delhi: A taxpayer would be permitted to file only one updated return for an assessment year, Central Board of Direct Taxes Chairman J B Mohapatra has said. **PTI**

LANDS SAFELY IN BHUJ FROM MUMBAI

Alliance Air plane takes off sans engine cowl, probe initiated

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

AN ATR72-600 turboprop plane operated by Alliance Air flew from Mumbai to Bhuj on Wednesday after having lost the cowl, or covering of one of its engine, while taking off. There were 70 people on board the aircraft including four crew members and one aircraft maintenance engineer.

According to an official at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the aviation safety regulator is investigating the incident. Shortly after the plane took off from Mumbai around 6.30am on Wednesday, the airport's air traffic control reported that the aircraft's engine cowl was found on the side of the runway. The aircraft continued its flight and landed safely at Bhuj.

"The separation of engine cowling may have aerodynamic effect leading to marginal aircraft performance deterioration. Engine components exposed to airflow may have been impacted. However in the present case, the aircraft has landed safely at destination," the DGCA official said.

As per another source, aspects like maintenance records and flying conditions will be studied as part of the investigation. However, the source said that on the basis of the condition of the recovered engine cowl, the cause for it to come off is unlikely to be a foreign object colliding with the engine.

In a statement acknowledging the "unfortunate incident", Alliance Air said, "While we follow laid down policies/procedures as per the regulatory authorities and have strict checks in place — both pre and post flight operations in order to ensure complete safety of our passengers & crew, we regret the unfortunate incident. We have taken strict note of the incident and a thorough investigation has been initiated. The findings of the same shall be shared with the regulatory authorities and we shall ensure that all required corrective actions are put in place."

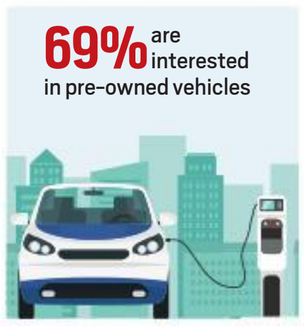
The ATR72-600 Alliance Air turboprop aircraft, which lost the cowl of one of its engines, Wednesday. *Credit: Govt sources*

'Shift in mobility trends with focus on EVs, hybrid vehicles'

India is seeing a shift in mobility trends with more and more consumers expressing interest in electrified and hybrid vehicles, as per a Deloitte study

>33% of Indian consumers interested in electrified and hybrid vehicles, as the segment sets steam with India's focus on environment friendly, self-manufactured and sustainable solutions, according to Deloitte's Global Automotive Consumer Study 2022

59% concerned about climate change, pollution levels and gasoline/diesel vehicles emissions



Source: Deloitte/PTI

EPFO may invest in pvt corporate bonds

SURYA SARATHI RAY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

LOOKING TO maximise yields, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is likely to start investing again in corporate bonds issued by private sector companies, after a gap of over two years.

As per the current investment pattern, the EPFO can invest up to 20 per cent of its annual incremental deposits — around Rs 36,000 crore at present — in corporate bonds. But the investments have in recent years been restricted to bonds of public sector companies.

Options like when to invest in private-sector bonds and when and how to exit from such investments were discussed at the retirement fund body's Finance Investment and Audit Committee (FIAC) meeting on Wednesday.

"No concrete decision has been taken today. We have been discussing the issue since last couple of meetings and today, we extended that discussion and deliberated from various angles of risk versus gain and on aspects of such investments," said K E Raghunathan, a FIAC member and also a member of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the highest decision-making body of the EPFO and headed by the Union Labour Minister. **FE**

Drone import banned; defence, R&D exceptions

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE GOVERNMENT on Wednesday banned the import of drones other than for defence, security and research purposes. The aim is to promote 'Made in India' drones, according to a notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). The ban will not apply to the import of drone parts.

The government has taken a series of steps to boost domestic manufacturing of drones and drone components including announcing a Rs 120-crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and liberalising drone operation rules. "Import policy for drones in CBU (Completely Built Up) /CKD (Completely Knocked Down)/SKD (Semi Knocked Down) form... is prohibited with exceptions provided for R&D, defence and security purposes," the DGFT said. Even the import of drones for these purposes will require government clearances.

The new Drone Rules, 2021 reduced compliances and fees required to be paid to operate drones. The Civil Aviation Ministry also launched an airspace map of India, demarcating areas where drones can be used without permission and areas in which drones cannot be operated without obtaining prior permission from authorities.

The ban will not apply on import of drone parts. *File*

Volatility no dampener, SIPs hit record high

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

DESPITE HUGE volatility in the stock markets, equity schemes of mutual funds attracted a net inflow of Rs 14,887.77 crore in January, making it the 11th consecutive monthly net inflow. However, this was much lower than the net inflow of Rs 25,077 crore witnessed in December, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed.

The Sensex had crashed 3,294 points from the January peak of 61,308.91, registered on January 17, to 58,014.17 on January 31 amid huge FPI selling. Investment through systematic investment plan (SIP) amounted to an all-time high of Rs 11,516.62 crore in January as against Rs 11,305.34 crore in December. SIP assets under management (AUM) at the end of January 2022 was Rs 5,76,588 crore, AMFI said.

Overall, the industry registered a net inflow of Rs 35,252 crore during the period compared to a net outflow of Rs 4,350 crore in December. Debt funds, which saw an outflow of Rs 49,037 crore in December, got Rs 5,087 crore in January, it said. *Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

Equity schemes get ₹14,887 cr in January

Sensex gains 1%

Mumbai: Ignoring rising oil prices and rate hike worries, markets rose 1.14 per cent Wednesday, with Sensex up 657 points to 58,465.97 and the Nifty rose 197 points to 17,463.80. Meanwhile, the rupee declined by 10 paise to close at 74.84 against the US dollar on foreign fund outflows. **ENS**

Sensodyne, Naaptol ads ordered to be discontinued

New Delhi: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has passed an order against GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Consumer Healthcare Ltd, directing it to discontinue advertisements of Sensodyne products in India for flouting norms. It has also passed an order against Naaptol Online Shopping Ltd for misleading advertisements, and asked it pay a penalty of Rs 10 lakh.

As per the order, the CCPA has directed GSK Consumer Healthcare to discontinue ads as they showed dentists practicing outside India endorsing products.

Taking up another suo-moto case, the CCPA passed an order against Naaptol Online Shopping asking it to discontinue misleading ads of "Set of 2 Gold Jewelry", "Magnetic Knee Support," among others. **ENS, WITH PTI**

BRIEFLY

Kashmir posts

New Delhi: Domino's and Honda apologised for hurting Indian sentiments by social media posts of their Pakistan associates supporting separatists in Kashmir.

Aus FTA talks

New Delhi: Australian Trade Minister Dan Tehan is in India to advance talks for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA), a statement said.

Notice to Future

New Delhi: The Supreme Court sought Future group's reply on Amazon's plea against Delhi HC's January 5 order staying arbitration proceedings over Future Retail's deal with Reliance. **PTI**

BASIC tie-up

Mumbai: Fintech firm BASIC Home Loan and proptech platform ApnaComplex have tied up to give home loans advisory services to residents using their services.

Milma on NDDB

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation, which owns Milma, has opposed Centre's move to bring in private representation in National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). **ENS**

Nvidia-Arm deal nixed: Rivals, regulators raised competition concerns

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

THE $66-BILLION deal between Softbank and Nvidia for the latter to acquire semiconductor design company Arm Ltd from the Japanese investment major was called off after backlash from various competition authorities, including in the US, Europe and the UK. Had it gone through, the deal would have created a behemoth in the semiconductors and chip design space, with concerns being that it would have skewed the competitive landscape.

Contours of the deal

In September 2020, Nvidia had announced it will purchase Arm from SoftBank. This became the largest ever deal in the semiconductor industry. The deal was looked at giving the US a leg-up in its so-called trade wars with China. The deal saw protests from other quarters like South Korea and Taiwan, where major players expected a hit on competition.

Opposition

Rivals of the two companies feared potential locking out of smaller players if Nvidia decided to put brakes on Arm's open-licensing business model, which is based on customer neutrality.

Regulators' concern

In addition to the impact Nvidia's acquisition of Arm could have on its rivals, regulators looked at the impact of a deal this size on the strategic interests of their respective jurisdictions. *Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

Galaxy S22 Ultra, Tab S8 series by Samsung out

ANUJ BHATIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

SAMSUNG WEDNESDAY announced the Galaxy S22 Ultra, its latest flagship Android smartphone with a built-in S-Pen stylus. With this, Samsung is folding the iconic Note line with the Galaxy S-series, bringin an end to the Note franchise as we know it.

Further, Samsung is challenging Apple with three new tablets in its Galaxy Tab S8 series: the Galaxy Tab S8, S8 Plus, and S8 Ultra. The Galaxy S8 Ultra has a huge 14.6-inch screen with a 2960 x 1848 resolution. *Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

Smart City

AURANGABAD SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (ASCDCL)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ASCDCL invites firms possessing relevant capabilities to respond to this RFP for following

Sr.No.	Name of Work	Tender ID No.	Bid Due Date
1.	Providing and installing RGBW Facade Lighting on various heritage Gates AND Shahgunj Clock Tower in Aurangabad.	2021_ASCDC_748321_2	22/02/2022 by 4.00 PM
2.	Supplying Services for Driving and Conducting in Smart City Buses for ASCDCL.	2022_ASCDC_766086_1	02/03/2022 by 5.00 PM
3.	Sant Tukaram Natyagruh Stage Craft, Stage Light and Sound System Work.	2022_ASCDC_765935_1	04/03/2022 by 4.00 PM
4.	Establishment of Aurangabad Zoological Park-Construction of Infrastructure Work.	2022_ASCDC_765946_1	04/03/2022 by 4.00 PM
5.	Sant Tukaram Natyagruh-Electrical Works.	2022_ASCDC_765911_1	04/03/2022 by 4.00 PM
6.	Sant Tukaram Natyagruh-HVAC Works.	2022_ASCDC_765902_1	04/03/2022 by 4.00 PM

The tender document can be downloaded from **https://www.mahatenders.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Aurangabad Smart City Development Corporation Limited

"SCHEDULED BANK"
THE HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE COOPERATIVE BANK LTD.
Head Office The Mall Shimla-171001
Ph. 0177-2804490,91,92 Fax: 2804491,93 E-Mail:info@hpscb.com

Expression of Interest (EOI)

The HP State Cooperative Bank is looking for eligible bidders for "Expression of Interest (EOI) **for BULK SMS GATEWAY SERVICES".** Interested Companies/Vendors may submit their technical and commercial bid proposal on or before 25.02.2022. Expression of Interest (EOI) document is available on our Website www.hpscb.com. for download.

Dr. RP Nainta
General Manager

GOA SHIPYARD LIMITED
CIN No. U63032GA1967GOI000077
(ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015, 45001:2018 Certified Company)
(A Govt. of India Undertaking-Ministry of Defence)
Vasco-Da-Gama, Goa - 403802, India

E-Tender Notice on GeM portal (Corrigendum)

Reference: GSL/OS/1267-68/H/01 dated 28-12-2021

GSL invites on-line offers in two bid system on the website http://gem.gov.in from the eligible bidders for **Hull construction up to 01 deck, installation of outfit items, shot blasting & pre-launch painting of CG PCVs, GSL Yard 1267 & 1268.** (GeM Bid Number: GEM/2021/B/1807768)

The Pre-bid Queries and the Corrigendum are published on GeM Portal. Last date of submission of Bid is extended to 16th February 2022 15.00 Hrs IST.

Tenders will be accepted through GeM portal only. For further details contact Senior Manager (OS); Ph.+91- 832-2517295; Email: mandarmahambre@goashipyard.com

'हर काम देश के नाम'

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-कोटा

क्रमांक-3788 दिनांकः-01.02.2022

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 27/2021-22

इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में कार्यरत बून्दी, बारां एवं झालावाड जिला स्तरीय गुण नियंत्रण प्रयोगशाला को एन.ए.बी.एल. प्रमाणीकरण (राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण एवं अंशशोधन प्रयोगशाला प्रत्यायन बोर्ड) कार्य की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 03.03.2022 सांय 06.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन पर अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा व उक्त निविदाऐं दिनांक 04.03.2022 को दोपहर 3.00 बजे ऑनलाईन खोली जावेगी। उक्त निविदा से संबंधित अन्य विवरण राज्य के प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) व विभाग की वेबसाईट http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं।

हस्ता./-
(जी.सी. मीणा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सानिवि संभाग कोटा

UBN No. PWD2122WSOB14690
DIPR/C/1426/2022

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,NAGESH KUMAR GOYAL S/O RAM SAROOP GOYAL, R/O HNO.2380,SBI WALI GALI, MANDI EXTENSION, NARELA, DELHI-110040. CHANGED MY NAME TO NAGESH KUMAR.

0040602088-4

I,MONIKA TYAGI,W/O.KAPIL TYAGI, ADD-429 PREHLAD GADI-3, VASUNDHARA GHAZIABAD UTTAR PRADESH-201012. Changed my name to PRIYA TYAGI, permanantly.

0040602085-4

I,**Vijay** Katyal S/o R. K. Katyal R/o F-2/23 Third-Floor Sector-15, Rohini Delhi - 110089,Have Changed My Name To Vijay Kumar Katyal. 0040602108-9

I,**VINOD** AGGARWAL/VINOD KUMAR S/O OM PRAKASH R/O D-127,D-BLOCK, MAHENDRU ENCLAVE, DELHI-110009.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VINOD KUMAR AGGARWAL.

0040602085-6

I,**Surinder** Paul Joshi S/o Balwant Rai Sharma,R/o H.no.72, Pkt-3, Sector-23, Rohini,Delhi-110085,changed my name to Surinder Paul Sharma. 0040602087-2

I,**Shivani** Soni W/o Niren Soni R/o-S-378, Panchshila Park, Delhi-17,have changed my name,from Shivani Soni to Shivani Modi. 0040602088-2

I,**Poonam** Garg@Santosh Kumari, W/o Rajiv Garg,R/o.H-11, Vijay-Vihar Phase-2,Rohini, Delhi-110085,is also known as Santosh Kumari both Names are of one person i.e the same person. 0040602085-7

I,**Parmod** Kumar AND Kamod Lal,R/O House No-10,Village-Hastsal,Uttam Nagar,New-Delhi-110059,Are One and Same Person. 0040602108-8

I,**Numaan,S/o** Shakeel Ahmed, R/o-H.No.862 Sheesh Mahal, Bahadur Garh Road, Sadar Bazar, Delhi-110006,have changed my name to Nauman Ahmed,for future.

0040602108-2

I,**Nirmala** Joshi W/o Surinder Paul Sharma R/o H.no.72,Pkt-3, Sector-23, Rohini, Delhi-110085,changed my name to Nirmala Devi. 0040602087-3

I,**Neeraja** Pahari W/o Ramesh Kumar Pahari,R/o A-2/79, Prateek Appt. Block A-2, Paschim-Vihar,Delhi-110063 have changed my name to Neerja Pahari. 0040602085-3

I,**Nancy** D/o Sunil Jain,R/o RZC-35A, West Sagarpur,New Delhi-110046,have changed my name to Nancy Jain, permanently

0040602108-10

I,**Nakhraji** W/o Late Ram Bali R/o I-77, Vijay-Vihar Phase-1,Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Lakh Rani. 0040602088-3

I,**NARINDER,** S/O-KARTAR SINGH, H.NO.13/191.GEETA-COLONY GANDHI-NAGAR EAST DELHI-110031,Changed my name to NARINDER SINGH, Permanantly. 0040602085-5

I,**Mohammad** Younous S/o Ayyub Ali R/o G-1/194, 2nd-Floor Sector-16,Rohini Delhi-110089,have changed my name to Mohd Yunus. 0040602087-1

I, Sanjay Devi w/o Late Kalyan Singh r/o C- 1/127A, Gali No. 6, Rama Vihar, Mohammadpur Majri, N. Delhi-110081 declare that my name is recorded as Sanjya Devi in my plot documents but in other documents it is Sanjay Devi. I declare that Sanjay Devi & Sanjya Devi both are one and the same person for all intent and purposes. 0040602044-1

I,**Manvendra** Pratap,S/o Krishnapal Singh Negi,R/o H1/111,Multistorey Govt. Qtrs.,Dev-Nagar, Karol-Bagh,Delhi-110005,have changed my name to Manavendra Pratap.

0040602087-5

I, Nitin Sharma S/o Subhash Chand R/o 391-A, Chirag Delhi, Delhi-110017 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Subhash Sharma in my all educational documents. The actual and correct name of my father is Subhash Chand which may be amended accordingly. 0070772083-1

I, Lalita Kataria W/o Dheeraj Kataria R/o- 306 Double Storey, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060, That my name has been mentioned as Sneha Kataria in my daughter Manya Kataria, School Record. That the Sneha Kataria & Lalita Kataria both names belongs to the same person.

0040602040-1

I Vijay Kumar Son of Sh. Ghanshyam Dass Residing at 2666/198. Onkar Nagar-A, Tri Nagar, North West Delhi-35 declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as Vandana Devi in my minor son's namely Sparsh Kumar aged 13+ years in his school records. The actual name of my wife is Gayatri Devi respectively which may be amended accordingly.

0040602072-1

I Ashok Kumar Sharma alias Ashok Sharma S/o Late Sh. Ram Niwas Sharma R/o H.No.150-G, Sector-41, Police Station- Sector-49, Noida, Tehsil- Dadri, District- Gautam Buddha Nagar-201301 have changed my name to Ashok Sharma for all purposes.

0040602032-5

I,**JOGINDER** S/O MAHENDER SINGH R/O 286,MAIN QUTAB ROAD,LAD PUR,DELHI-110081. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JOGINDER SINGH. 40602087-6

I, Divyanchal Thakur S/o Sakal Deo Thakur, R/o JA-24 B, First-Floor Left Side, Khirki Extn., Malviya Nagar, South-Delhi, Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Divyansh Thakur for all future purposes.

0040601283-7

I,**Raj** Kumar S/o,Late Ram Chander R/o-Flat-No.B-905, Mahavir-Apartment, Plot.No. 5A, Sector-22, Dwarka,New Delhi-77,have changed my name to Raj Kumar Sharma.

0040602087-8

I,**Jaismeen** Kaur,W/o Sh.Daljeet Singh, R/o-H.No.203, Street No 4,Durga-Puri Extn,Nand-Nagri, Delhi-110093,have changed my minor son name,from Gurpal Singh Kalsi to Gurpal Singh.

0040602085-9

I,**Ipsa** Singh W/o-Veeral Satija, R/o-E-18/227,Sector-3,Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Ipsa Singh Satija for all purposes. 0040602085-8

I,**GRACE** LALHMANGI BIETE,D/O Lalmalsawm Biete,R/O 981, LIG-Flats, Hastsal, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-59,Change My Name GRACE LALHMANGI.

0040602087-4

I,**Dhanvati** No.6305769Ex. SIGMN Prem Chand R/o 44/B-2/9, Kishangarh,Vasant Kunj,Delhi-70 have changed my name to Dhanvati Devi. 0040602087-7

I,**Balvinder** Singh,S/O-Late Jawant Singh,R/O-A-77/114 J J Colony Khyala New Delhi-110018.Balvinder singh and Balwinder singh.Both are same person. 0040602088-1

I,**Anita** W/o Raj Kumar R/o-Flat-No.B-905, Mahavir-Apartment, Plot-No.5A, Sector-22, Dwarka, New Delhi-77,have changed my name to Anita Sharma.

0040602087-9

I,**AVNEET** KAUR SALUJA W/O GURNEET SINGH R/O 35, PRIYADARSHANI VIHAR PART-2,NEAR NANAK-PIAO,DELHI-110009. CHANGED MY NAME TO AVNEET KAUR. 0040602085-1

I, Vishal S/o Ram Parkash Goel R/o 429/18, Gali No.4, Model Town, Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana, have changed my name to Vishal Goel, for all future purposes. 0040601962-2

I, Vikas S/o Hari Prasad Yadav R/o H-16/1760, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080 have changed my name to Vikas Yadav for all future purposes.

0070772082-1

I, Sachin Kumar, Son of Gulab Singh, Resident of A-98, Najafgarh Park, Najafgarh, Delhi-43, have changed my Father's name in my Passport from Chulhai Mahto to Gulab Singh for all purposes.

0070772028-1

I, Ram Parkash S/o Mukandi Lal R/o 429/18, Gali No.4, Model Town, Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana, have changed my name to Ram Parkash Goel, for all future purposes.

0040601962-1

I, Preeti Verma W/O Manoj Kumar Verma, R/o 117/805, M Block, Kakadeo Rawatpur Gaon, Rawatpur, Kanpur Nagar, U.P.-208019, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Priyanka Verma. 0070772100-1

I, Geetu W/o Ravi Saraswat R/o F-305, Ace Platinum, Sector-Zeta-1, Greater Noida U.P., have changed my name to Himanshi Saraswat for all future purposes. 0070772079-1

I, Dheeraj Kataria S/o B M Kataria R/o- 306 Double Storey, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060, That my name has been mentioned as Dheeraj in my daughter Manya Kataria, School Record. That the Dheeraj & Dheeraj Kataria both names belongs to the same person. 0040602040-2

I, DIVYANI SINGH YADAV D/O PAWAN KUMAR YADAV R/o-BADA-DARWAZA, DHARUHERA, REWARI,PIN-123106,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DIVYANI SINGH FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040602062-1

I, Avanish Pal S/o Jai Prakash Pal R/o Pradhanpur, Mau, UttarPradesh 276403 have changed my name to Avanish Shashwat for all future purposes. 0070772024-1

I,SATYA BHAMA GOYAL,W/O NAGESH KUMAR R/O HNO.2380, SBI WALI GALI,MANDI-EXTENSION, NARELA,DELHI-110040.CHANGED MY NAME TO SATYA BHAMA. 0040602108-1

I Sukhdev Mehta S/O, Kuldip Kumar Mehta R/o Exb 29 Street No 1 Hari Nagar New Delhi 110064 have changed my name to Sukhdev Kumar Mehta for all purposes. 0040602076-1

I, Preeti Verma, W/o Ravi, R/o CD 35 C, LIG FLATS, HARI NAGAR, DELHI- 110064, have changed my name to Preeti.

0070772027-1

I Dinesh Sati S/o Sh. Bhola Dutt Sati R/o H.No.294, Kh.No.30/13 & 30/14, Ground Floor, Uttarakhand Enclave, Street No.8A, Blk-C, Shastri Park Extn., Nathupura, Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Diinesh Sati for all purposes.

0040602032-6

I Mannan Dev S/o Sh. Jitender Dev R/o 4139, Gali No.66, Jagjiwan Niwas, Reghar Pura, Karol Bagh S.O.,Central Delhi, Delhi-110005 have changed my name to Ashmit Dev for all purposes. 0040602032-4

I, Ajay Kumar Gupta S/o Ashok Kumar Gupta R/o 2 Suvidha Kunj Pitampura Delhi have changed my name as Ajay Gupta permanently.

0040602078-1

It is for general information that, I NANDINI GOUCHWAL D/O SUKHBIR SINGH GOUCHWAL & SANTOSH GOUCHWAL residing at HO. NO. 23, HAUZ KHAS VILLAGE, NEW DELHI 110016 declare that name of my mother & father has been wrongly written as SUKHBIR GOUCHWAL & SANTOSH in my all educational documents.The actual name are of my father /my mother SUKHBIR SINGH GOUCHWAL & SANTOSH GOUCHWAL respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

0040602145-1

I Satya Pal S/o Sh. Naresh Kumar R/o H.No.121, Pole No.MDKW-449-A, Village Tikri Kalan, New Delhi-110041 is also known as Satya Pal Siddhartha. Both names are of one and the same person. 0040602032-7

I Prasann S/O, Shri Suresh Kumar R/o H.no-46, Near Balaji Mandir, Gurugram, Haryana-122004 have changed my name to Prasann Kumar Dubran for all future purposes

0040602085-2

I Pradeep M Lal S/O, Munna Lal R/o A-1 332 Jj Colony Madan Pur Khadar Sarita Vihar, Delhi 110076 have changed my name to Pradeep for all purposes.

0040602054-1

I Manoj Kumar Jain S/O, Gulshan Rai Jain R/o 221, New Gandhi Nagar, Ghaziabad 201001 have changed my name to Manoj Jain for all purposes.

0070772025-1

I Amit Jha S/O, Laxmi Kant Jha R/o House No 22 & 23, Block 2, Trilok Puri, Trilok Puri, East Delhi, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to Amit Kumar Jha for all purposes.

0040602074-1

I, Chander Prakash S/O Late. Sh. Balwant Singh R/O 514, Type-2, Sec-2, Sadiq Nagar, New Delhi - 110049. I hereby declare that i have changed my name/ surname from Chander Prakash to Chitransh Singh Rana for all future purposes.

0040602070-1

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LOST & FOUND

I Sudeep Rastogi holder of Indian Second Mate CoC IF18979 had lost my CoC revalidation sticker issued by MMD Mumbai, issued on 04/02/2021. If found, please reach me at 9997002014.

0050191737-1

Lost(1)Original-Release Deed dated-29-01-2019,vide-registration.No.-12124 executed by Smt.Monika and Smt.Deepika in favour of Mr.Rakesh and Mr.Rajesh (2)Original Transfer-Deed dated-02-09-2009 vide-registration No.4047 executed by Mr.Sri Chand in favour Mr.Tara Chand Founder may inform,Ajay Agarwal,S/o SS Agarwal,D-133,Anand-Vihar,Delhi-110092.

0040602085-10

LOST & FOUND

I, for and on behalf of my client SHRI ANIL ARYA S/O LATE SHRI MURARI LAL VAIDAYA R/O H-1/2, MODEL TOWN, DELHI-110009, hereby inform to the General Public at large that the original Will Regd. as Document No.6283, in book No.III, Vol. No.431, on pages 160 to 164, Regd. on 24.7.1986, duly Regd. in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Delhi, which was executed by late Shri Murari Lal Vaidaya regarding his properties, alongwith some other documents, have been lost/misplaced on 01.2.2022 at L.S.C., Gujranwala Town-I, Delhi, for which FIR/NCR (online) has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi, Bearing LR No.90492/2022, Date 01.2.2022. Anybody found the same anywhere, **Please Contact At 9891234252.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Pradeep Bhatia S/o Sh. Mohan Singh Bhatia Resident of House No. 8/255, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, Kalkaji VTC: Alaknanda, Delhi-110019 hereby disowned his son Vedant Bhatia bearing Aadhar No. 6868-1213-7625 for his misconduct and alleged threat to my life, and Vedant Bhatia will not participate his funeral rites in the event of his demise & he shall not inherit any of his properties and shall not be entitled to the grant of probate to his will. Anybody transacting any business with Vedant Bhatia in respect to my client is doing that in his or her own risk, general public take note.

Dilip Gupta (Advocate)
Ch. No.125, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my client Bideshwar Jha S/o Late Liladhar Jha, R/O- Village + Post Vijay SalemPur, Dist. Madhubani, Bihar-847404 has Debarred/ Disowned his son Namely **JAY PRAKASH JHA** S/o Sh. Bideshwar Jha, Daughter-in-Law Namely **MRS. RUPAM KUMARI** and his Grand-Daughter Namely Kiva Jha D/o Shri Jay Prakash Jha Age About 2 Years, from his all movable and immovable properties and has severed all relations due to his ill-behavior and out of control. Any Person Dealing with him in any manner whatsoever shall do so at his own risks, cost and consequences and my client or his representative shall not be held responsible for any act and deeds whatsoever from today.

Sd/- **KAMALA KANT JHA** ADVOCATE
Chamber No. 539 Lawyers Chamber Block, Dwarka Court Complex, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that:

(i) **Mr. Rajiv Mohindru** son of LATE SHRI K.L. Mohindru, RESIDENT OF 1326, SECTOR-37, Faridabad, Haryana,

(ii) **Mr. Rohit Mohindru** son of LATE SHRI K.L. Mohindru, RESIDENT OF 135, Green Valley Apartments, Dhakoli, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar (Mohali). Punjab-160104,

(iii) **Mr. Chander Kishore Mohindru** son of LATE SHRI Nanak Chand Mohindru, RESIDENT OF, 1313, Sector 37, Faridabad, Haryana,

(iv) **Mr. B.B.Mohindru** son of LATE SHRI Nanak Chand Mohindru RESIDENT OF M-58, Kalkaji, NEW DELHI 110019,

(v) **Mr. Ashwani Mohindru** son of LATE SHRI Nanak Chand Mohindru, RESIDENT OF M-58, Kalkaji New Delhi-1 10019,

(vi) **Late Mrs. Nirmala Mohindru** wife of LATE SHRI M.L. Mohindru. RESIDENT OF H.NO. 602. Antriksh Apartment, Dwarka, New Delhi,

(vii) **Ms. Neelima mohindru** daughter of LATE SHRI M.L. Mohindru, RESIDENT OF H.NO. 602. Antriksh. Apartment, Dwarka, New Deihi,

(viii) **Mrs. Bimla Mohindru** wife OF LATE SHRI R.C. Mohindru, RESIDENT OF M-58. Kalkaji, NEW DELHI- 110019.

That all the above mentioned are the joint owners in lawful possession of the RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY BEARING NO.M-58, AREA MEASURING 200 SQUARE YARDS, IN BLOCK-M, SITUATED AT KALKAJ1, NEW DELHI-110019, hereinafter called the Property,

And whereas,- the above mentioned joint owners/ executants had given special power of attorney to the Builder - Shri Narender Sobti, S/O Shri L.C. Sobti, R/O-B-1/77, Pashim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, to reconstruct the above said entire Property,

(The Expression of the joint owners/executants and Builder Shall mean and include, their respective heirs, Successors, Executors. Administrators, Legal representatives,agents and assignees).

Now that , the above mentioned joint owners/executants has cancelled all previous special power of attorney's, given to the above said builder -Vide:

1. Cancellation of special power of attorney duly registered at sub registrar office V,-New Delhi, REGD.NO.-2, BOOK NO.4, VOL NO.4700, ON PAGE NO.-08 TO 13 dated -05.01.2022.

2. Cancellation of special power of attorney duly registered at sub registrar office V,-Delhi, REGD.NO.-3, BOOK NO.4, VOL NO.4700, ON PAGE NO.-14 TO 18 dated -05.01.2022.

3. Cancellation of special power of attorney duly registered at sub registrar office V,-Delhi, REGD.NO.-3, BOOK NO.4, VOL NO.4700, ON PAGE NO.-19 TO 22 dated -05.01.2022.

Further, be it known to all that by these Cancellation's of power of attorney's, the joint owner's/ executants hereby cancel all previous authorizations, absolutely and completely, and revoke all power or authority thereby and thereunder given to the attorney holder/Builder, before this revocation either expressly or impliedly to do all acts, deeds, intents and purposes regarding the said property, and this shall be in force until rescinded and a written notice sent to the Sub-Registrar office.

All persons having or claiming any right, title, claim, demand or estate interest in respect of the said property or to any part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, let, lease, lien, charge, maintenance, license, gift, inheritance, share, possession, easement, trust, bequest, possession, assignment or encumbrance or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the above said property, or otherwise are hereby requested to intimate to the undersigned in writing at the address mentioned below of any such claim accompanied with all necessary and supporting documents within 30 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which it shall be presumed that there are no claims and that claims, if any, have been waived off .

-Sd-
SANJEEV KOHLI (ADVOCATE)
CHAMBER NO.-393, PATIALA HOUSE COURT, NEW DELHI-110001.
PH-9968253668

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे मुवक्किल श्री डॉक्टर (श्रीमति) मालती सिंह निवासी चन्द्रीका भवन, तुलसी सागर, गाजीपुर द्वारा 02 फ्लैट संख्या–2523, 2020 टावर फेरेरा प्रोजेक्ट महागुन मजेरिया स्थित सैक्टर –78, नोएडा, उत्तर प्रदेश ने बुक कराया था लेकिन दुर्भाग्यवश डॉक्टर (श्रीमति) मालती सिंह की दिनांक 26.04.2021 को मृत्यु हो गई। मृतक डॉक्टर (श्रीमति) मालती सिंह की दो पुत्रियाँ श्रीमति सुजाता सिंह पत्नी श्री अजय कुमार सिंह एवं श्रीमति सीमा सिंह पत्नी श्री अरबिन्द माधव सिंह विधिक प्रतिनिधि है तथा आपसी सहमति से श्रीमति सीमा सिंह, निवासी बी–16, डोना प्रसीडेन्सी गोहाटी ने बतौर स्वर्गवासी डॉक्टर (श्रीमति) मालती सिंह फ्लैट संख्या 2523 में अपना नाम दर्ज कराने हेतु और श्रीमति सुजाता सिंह ने फ्लैट संख्या 2020 में अपना नाम दर्ज कराने का आवेदन महागुन मजेरिया में दिया है। यदि सुजाता सिंह एवं श्रीमति सीमा सिंह के अलावा अन्य कोई व्यक्ति मृतक डॉक्टर (श्रीमति) मालती सिंह का विधिक प्रतिनिधि हो तो वह अपनी आपत्ति महागुन ग्रुप ए–19, सैक्टर –63, नोएडा–201301 के कार्यालय में लिखित रूप में विज्ञापन प्रकासित करने की तिथि से 15 दिन के अन्दर दर्ज करा सकता है। अन्यथा कि स्थिति में श्रीमति सुजाता सिंह का नाम बतौर वारिश फ्लैट संख्या –2020, फरेरा टावर और श्रीमति सीमा सिंह का नाम बतौर वारिश फ्लैट संख्या 2523 फरेरा टावर में दर्ज करा दिया जायेगा एवं नियत तिथि के बाद किसी भी व्यक्ति की कोई आपत्ति स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी।

ANAND KUMAR SINGH
ADVOCATE, M. : 9871943348
Ch. No. 192. Civil Wing.
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Know all men by these presents that my client SMT. SUSHILA DEVI W/O SH. SOHAN RAM R/O 219, BLOCK K-3 MOHAN GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110059 was owner of BUILT UP PROPERTY BUILT ON LEASE HOLD PLOT NO. A-145, AREA MEASURING 25 SQ. YDS, IN BLOCK-A, PHASE-II, SITUATED AT MANGLA PURI (PALAM), RE SETTLEMENT COLONY, NEW DELHI whose original Allotment Letter vide No. D/Allot/Mn.P/A.Z.O/WZ/84 dated 17/11/1984 issued by Delhi Development Authority. Slum and JJ Wing, West Zone, Khyala, New Delhi has been lost/misplaced somewhere near Mohan Garden, New Delhi on 01/02/2022 and lodge online FIR vide LR No. 98460/2022 dated 04/02/2022 in the Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person found then inform me the lost Sale Deeds within one week, will be suitable rewarded. If the above said documents misused by any person's then he/she/they will be liable for the same. **B.B.N. DEO(Advocate)**
S.R.IInd B coumpus,Janak Puri,ND-58.

"IMPORTANT"

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER THROUGH E-TENDERING 2021-22

CWM/Carriage & Wagon Workshop North Western Railway, Bikaner acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender No. **MECH-BKNW-TP-2021** Dated 07.02.2022. **1. Name of work and its location :** Retrofitment of Twin Pipe Air Brake System in wagons at Carriage & Wagon Workshop, NWR, Bikaner (As per scope of work). **2. Estimated cost of work :** Rs. 914455.80; **3. Earnest Money :** Rs. 18300.00; **4. Last Date and time for submission and opening of E-tender :** 04.03.2022 upto 14:30 Hrs. E-Tender will be opened at 15:00 Hrs. on same day. **5. Website particular where complete details of e-tender can be seen :** www.ireps.gov.in. **35-AN/22**

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OPEN e-TENDER

TENDER NOTICE No.: KR-PD-JK-SST-ANJI-02-2022 **Dtd.** 08.02.2022

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. invites "Open e-Tender" in "Two Packet System" from experienced agencies for **"Slope Stabilization at Katra end of Anji Khad Bridge on Katra - Dharam section of Udhampur - Srinagar- Baramulla Rail Link Project, Jammu & Kashmir."**

Approx. Cost of the Work : Rs. 58.18 Crore, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 30,59,000/. **Completion Period of Contract :** 5 Months. **Submission of Tender :** 04.03.2022 up to 15.00 hrs. **Opening of Tender :** 04.03.2022 @ 15.30 hrs. **Cost of Tender Form :** Nil.

For further details and updates please visit **www.ireps.gov.in** Amendments/ Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the above website only.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. Pc.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sagar Jatav, S/o Late Hukam Singh, R/o 213, 3rd Floor Gurhai Mohalla, Shahdera, Delhi** is involved in **case FIR No.782/2020, U/s 381 IPC, at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Sagar Jatav** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sagar Jatav** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sagar Jatav FIR No.782/2020, U/s 381 IPC, at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **21.03.2022.**

By Order
MS. PRIGYA GUPTA
Metropolitan Magistrate-08
Room No. 272
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1949/N/2022-(Court Matter).

सार्वजनिक सूचना

मेरी मुवक्किला उमा चोपड़ा पत्नी स्वर्गीय देवेन्द्र चोपड़ा निवासी 17-B ब्लॉक D गली नम्बर 9 नांगलोई रोड निर्मल विहार नजफगढ़ नई दिल्ली–110043 ने अपनी पुत्री भावना पुत्री देवेन्द्र चोपड़ा पत्नी जसवंत सिंह व पूजा पुत्री देवेन्द्र चोपड़ा पत्नी मनीष तनेजा जो कहने से बाहर है और दोनों अलग रहती है इनसे जानमाल का खतरा है, उन दोनों को सामाजिक रूपसे व अपनी चल–अचल सम्पत्ति से कतई बेदखल कर दिया है जो कोई भी इन दोनों से व्यवहार करेगा या लेन देन करेगा वह स्वयं जिम्मेदार होगा, मेरी मुवक्किला उमा चोपड़ा की कोई भी जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी।

पंकज कुमार, एडवोकेट
Z–17, श्याम विहार, गली न. 2
फेज–1, नई दिल्ली–43
Enrl. No. D/918/11

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Mr. Deepak Kumar issued by ICICI Bank ltd. having ID card no. 2165629 has been found missing and/or lost on 02/01/2022. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, ICICI BANK LTD Plot no. 7, Community center S.D. Tower, 1st floor, Sector B, Rohini New Delhi- 110085. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no 2165629. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment. **For ICICI Bank Limited**
Place: New Delhi -Sd-

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U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
PARICHHA THERMAL POWER PROJECT, PARICHHA JHANSI

E-Tender Notice

1. E-Tender- ET-06/CMD-I /PTPP/21-22 "M and R of doors and windows inside power house plant area, PTPP, Parichha". Estimated Cost **Rs. 9,06,378.00,** EMD **Rs. 18,200.00** e-bid Submission dt.: **28-02-2022 up to 12:00 Hrs.**

2. E-Tender- ET-07/CMD-I /PTPP/21-22 "Cleaning of jungle and grass cutting inside power house plant area, PTPP, Parichha". Estimated Cost **Rs. 19,69,981.00,** EMD **Rs. 39,500.00** e-bid Submission dt.: **01-03-2022 up to 12:00 Hrs.**

3. E-Tender- T-14/SE(HQ)/FFS&TD/PTPP/21-22 "Deployment of 01 No. Eicher/Tata/Swaraj mazda/Mini bus (22 Seater) for conveyance of shift duty staff/employees from Parichha Colony to Parichha Project and back, on hire charges basis". Estimated Cost **Rs. 6,02,980.00,** EMD **Rs. 12,000.00** e-bid Submission dt.: **09-03-2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.**

4. E-Tender- T-02/PD-I/CTPS/PTPP/2022 "Supply of Tri Sodium Phosphate for PTPP Parichha". Estimated Cost **Rs. 3,50,000.00,** EMD **Rs. 4,000.00** e-bid Submission dt.: **22-02-2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.**

5. E-Tender- T-03/PD-I/CTPS/PTPP /2022 "Supply of Spares of LOP System of Mill XRP 903 of 2x250MW, PTPP Parichha". Estimated Cost **Rs. 7,69,000.00,** EMD **Rs. 8,000.00** e-bid Submission dt.: **02-03-2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.**

6. E-Tender- T-04/PD-I/CTPS/PTPP /2022 "Supply of ERW MS Pipes for CAMD of 2x250MW, PTPP Parichha". Estimated Cost **Rs. 1,55,000.00,** EMD **Rs. 2,000.00** e-bid Submission dt.: **02-03-2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.**

7. E-Tender- ST-15/CHD-II/O&MC-V/PTPP/21-22 "Round the clock operation and monitoring of fuel pump house system of PTPP, Parichha". Estimated Cost **Rs. 17,70,615.00,** EMD **Rs. 35,000.00** e-bid Submission dt.: **21-02-2022 up to 13:00 Hrs.**

8. E-Tender- T-07/BMD-I/O&MC-II/BTPS/21-22 "Upkeeping and cleaning of Boiler and its auxiliary of Unit No. 3&4, 2x210MW, BTPS, Parichha". Estimated Cost **Rs. 14,80,256.00,** EMD **Rs. 30,000.00** e-bid Submission dt.: **21-02-2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.**

9. E-Tender- ET-14/CMD-IV /PTPP/21-22 "Annual M&R of Residential Buildings in colony area at PTPP, Parichha". Estimated Cost **Rs. 18,50,000.00,** EMD **Rs. 37,000.00** e-bid Submission dt.: **23-02-2022 up to 16:00 Hrs.**

NOTE:- Total Quality of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal, undersigned reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on website **www.etender.up.nic.in** & **uprvunl.org.** Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.

पत्रांक : 68 / टी0एस0डी0–प्र0 / पीटीपीपी / दिनांक 09.02.2022

"Save Electricity for Nation"

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No.V. irrigation and Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi Near Paryavaran Complex, Saidullajab New Delhi 110030 invites on behalf of President of India, on line percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors registered with irrigation and Flood Control Department up to 3.00 P.M. on dates mentioned as below.

1. NIT 124/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No 2021_ IFC_215786_1) (Percentage rate). H.O. A: MLALAD Fund. N.O.W: Demolishing and reconstruction of Ambedkar Bhawan chaupal at Vasant Gaon in R.K. Puram Constituency AC-44. E.C.Rs. 1,65,85,355/- Earnest Money: Rs 3,31,707/- Period of Completion 300 Days. (Date of opening 15.02 2022).
2. NIT 125/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_215788_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:-4217 Plan Unauthorized colonies). N.O.W:- Improvement of streets and drain in Pilanjl Mohalla in Taimoor Nagar in Okhla Constituency (Reg. No. 11 ELD). E.C. Rs 27,30,802/- Earnest Money: Rs. 54,616/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 15.02.2022).
3. NIT 126/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_215793_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- (MLALAD Fund). N.O.W:- Providing and fixing 100 Nos steel (Iron) board at various places roads/street in Kasturba Nagar Assembly Constituency AC-42. E.C. Rs. 17,42,470/- Earnest Money: Rs 34,849/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 15.02.2022).
4. NIT 127/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_215795_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- (MLALAD Fund). N.O.W:- Construction of Toilet block at Lodhi colony Dhobi Ghat in Kasturba Nagar Assembly Constituency AC-42. E.C. Rs. 18,01,883/- Earnest Money: Rs 36,038/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 15.02.2022).
5. NIT 128/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_215796_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- (MLALAD Fund). N.O.W:- Providing and fixing 30 Nos of Security Gates at different location in Kasturba Nagar Constituency AC-42. E.C.Rs. 38,07,077/- Earnest Money: Rs 76,142/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 15.02.2022).
6. NIT 129/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_215799_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- (MLALAD Fund). N.O.W.:- Providing and placing Dustbins at various locations in different blocks in Sangam Vihar Assembly Constituency (AC-49). E.C. Rs. 11,69,575/- Earnest Money: Rs 23,392/- Period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of opening 15.02.2022).
7. NIT 130/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/ID No. 2021_IFC_215801_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- (MLALAD Fund). N.O.W.:- Providing and fixing porta cabin of size (12'x15') for Senior citizen in different locations of Vasant Kunj in the Mehrauli Assembly Constituency (AC-45). E.C. Rs. 13,45,594/- Earnest Money: Rs 26,912/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 15.02.2022).
8. NIT 131/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_215843_1 (Percentage rate). H.OA:- (MLALAD Fund). N.O.W:- Providing and fixing 40 Nos of security gates at different location in Tughlakabad Extension in Sangam Vihar Constituency (AC-49). E.C. Rs. 20,04,881/- Earnest Money: Rs 40,098/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 15.02.2022).
9. NIT 132/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_215844_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- (MLALAD Fund). N.O.W:- Providing and placing SFRC Victorian and Stainless Steel benches in different parks in Sangam Vihar Assembly Constituency (AC-49). E.C. Rs. 77,47,940/- Earnest Money: Rs 1,54,959/- Period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of opening 15.02.2022).
10. NIT 133/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_215846_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- (MLALAD Fund). N.O.W:- Providing and fixing of 450 Nos of signage boards at different locations

Flying into orbit

Two women take competition to new heights as Eileen Gu clinches Big Air gold in daredevil fashion at Winter Games

SHIVANI NAIK
FEBRUARY 9

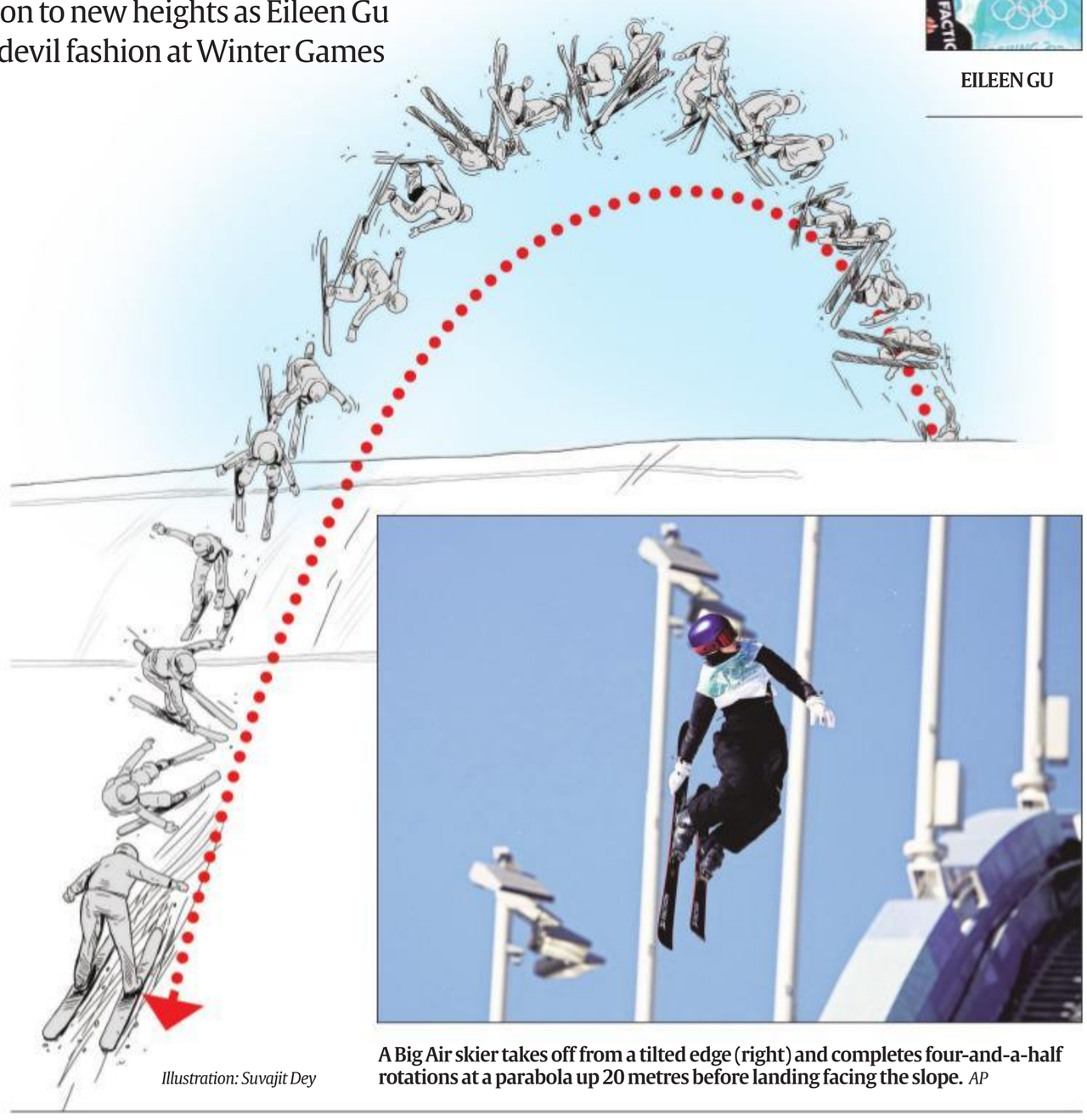


Illustration: Suvajit Dey

A Big Air skier takes off from a tilted edge (right) and completes four-and-a-half rotations at a parabola up 20 metres before landing facing the slope. *AP*

EILEEN GU

IN THE Big Air event of women's freestyle skiing at the Winter Olympics, there were two sets of outrageous rotating leaps on skiis - called "double cork 1620" - playing out against a star-struck blue Beijing sky. Together, they amounted to one giant leap for womankind.

Kicking up a crunching snow-storm with their flying skiis, two women aged 18 and 20 took turns accelerating up a giant ramp that tilted at the edge, catapulting them into a 20-metre orbit. Then they spun 4-and-half times mid-air while rotating twice off-axis, before descending to land, floating backwards to a gushing kick of adrenaline and some serious awe and crowd applause.

History's minor quibble of who among the two women stuck the historic landing first, though, might get buried in a sleet of silvery snow. For, everyone remembers the gold.

American-Chinese Eileen Gu, representing the Winter Games hosts China, and French freeskier Tess Ledeux, both scored an identical 94.50, on the 1620. But it was teenaged Eileen, who broke the internet in China, pipping the Frenchwoman in a dramatic Big Air final, with what was akin to a gold-winning last-ball monster six after going run-a-ball, in contention for bronze. Favourite Ledeux stumbled and holed out in response, realising bitterly that her own 1620 (4x360 degrees + half-turn flip of 180), from just minutes ago, would only fetch her a silver. The gold was whisked away from her by 0.75 points, with Gu's score of 188.25 narrowly shading her 187.50.

And to think it was Ledeux who had become the first woman to uncork the double 1620 at the Winter X-Games last month in Colorado's Aspen, where Eileen was absent. From fist-pumping back then about how she had secured "revenge" for a prior World Championships 4th-place finish, right up to staking a commanding claim on the gold in Beijing when she hit the 1620 in her first of three runs to take the lead, it had been Ledeux looking primed for the top spot on the podium. Eileen, who had never attempted the 1620 in competition, would literally pull a rabbit out of the hat, strategically keeping her best for the last.

NO FEAR

Eileen has a stomping streak of her own - she had advanced the daredevilry in women's freestyle skiing to four 360-degree rotations for a "1440 double cork" at Steamboat in Colorado last November. The 1440 itself was considered insurmountable for females. But in what has been a remarkable progression for the sport in four months, the eventual Beijing bronze medallist, Swiss Mathilde Gremaud, scored the highest 93.25 on her own switch double 1440, and was left consoling the second-best of 1620s (an additional half-spin) - the distraught Frenchwoman who nailed hers.

Elijah Teter, the athletic director at Wy'East Mountain Academy, told New York Post earlier: "She came up with the mentality of following guys around and doing tricks that they do. She's used to crashing and that is tricky for women. A couple summers ago, on Mount Hood, Eileen clipped the deck and got a very bad concussion. That took her out for a week. It's an injury that can make people fearful. Not Eileen. She gets past the fear."

1620 isn't the only eye-popping 4-figure for the 18-year-old. With a SAT score of 1580, Eileen is poised for Stanford coming term.

"Eileen is incredibly smart and likes to make the skier boys feel dumb," Teter added to the NY Post. "She uses bigger words than they do. She talks about things that go beyond skiing and hanging out. She throws chemistry stuff at them."

Ledeux, from La Plagne in France, wasn't short on ambition. The 20-year-old, whose 'bread & butter' was 3-and-a-half rotations for a "double cork 1260" till a month ago, had cranked up her difficulty adding one full rotation. But was blindsided by a biracial athlete who might turn out to be China's biggest star this Games.

BORN IN AMERICA

Eileen was born in San Francisco to an American father and a Chinese mother, driven to get the best for her talented daughter. Associated Press reports that the mother Yan Gu was frazzled watching her three-year-old skii downhill at breakneck speed, and steered her towards freestyle, which combines snowboarding stunts and downhill skiing, not realising the higher risks. But the young Eileen loved to fly, and was ready to be coached and travel.

Circa 2019, she shifted allegiance to China after splitting time in both countries. But at age 9, Eileen had competed on Chinese slopes, while simultaneously gaining proficiency in Mandarin and keeping top grades in academics back home.

Concurrently her modelling career took off, and it wasn't uncommon to spot her at the Met Gala, or sitting flanked by Venus Williams and actor Stacy Martin at a Louis Vitton show at the Paris Fashion Week. She counted Red Bull, Cadillac and Apple Beats and Victoria's Secret among her sponsors, even as the lead-up to the Games saw her pocket 20 endorsements, and light up billboards in Beijing in what has been a breakout season for the new-age glamorous Chinese athlete.

Not that the work ethic ever faltered. But her steep rise is in contrast with two other equally hardworking American-borns who turned out for China - Beverly Zhu and Ashley Lin, both figure skaters, the former even enduring trolling from rude netizens. Though home advantage might've kicked in at the very last period of her preparation.

Ledeux was quoted as grumbling by AP saying that while Eileen was an "extremely competitive and amazing athlete", she had had the benefit of training at the venue for weeks before the Games. "What I know is that she got lucky and that's only fair, she was able to train in the venues before everyone else and that probably made a difference today."

THE BIGGER 1620

The Frenchwoman had reckoned she had the gold sealed, after setting alight the debut Big Air finals with her opening run of 1620. But Eileen lurked.

After landing a 1440 (four rotations) in her opening run and a solid 1080 on Run 2, Eileen unveiled her own 1620 only in the third go at the repurposed steel mill-turned-park at Shougang. Assured of bronze, with Ledeux leading, Eileen said she contemplated improving on her 1440 for silver. The gold hovered though, and only a 1620 could take her there. Sticking her landing seamlessly, she couldn't stop grinning when she scored 94.50 to throw the gauntlet at Ledeux.

Taken aback, and having to nail a switch 1440 for gold, the Frenchwoman stumbled as a delirious Eileen celebrated. A few days back when fans of the 'Snow Princess' on Chinese TikTok urged tempering expectations, Eileen had shot back: "Why don't you have more faith in me?" After her gold, she would talk about fearlessly going for the 1620, knowing that even if she didn't stick the landing, she would inspire Chinese girls to aim big.

In the end, Ledeux was left wondering if she had opened her cards a tad too early, and tempted Eileen to bring out her own 1620 thereby putting her under the pump on her last run. The 1620 wasn't just a sentimental giant leap for women. It was mainstreamed by two women who elevated it to the best form of competition.

Inter beat Roma 2-0 in Italian Cup

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MILAN, FEBRUARY 9

A PAIR of brilliant goals from Edin Dzeko and Alexis Sanchez ruined Jose Mourinho's return to his former club as Inter Milan beat Roma 2-0 to reach the Italian Cup semifinals.

The match marked the first time Mourinho faced Inter at San Siro since he left after leading the club to the Serie A-Italian Cup-Champions League treble in 2010. Mourinho received a warm welcome from the fans, who deployed a banner that read: "Welcome back home, Jose." Roma players did not receive the same friendly treatment. Inter got off a perfect start to open the scoring on its first move.

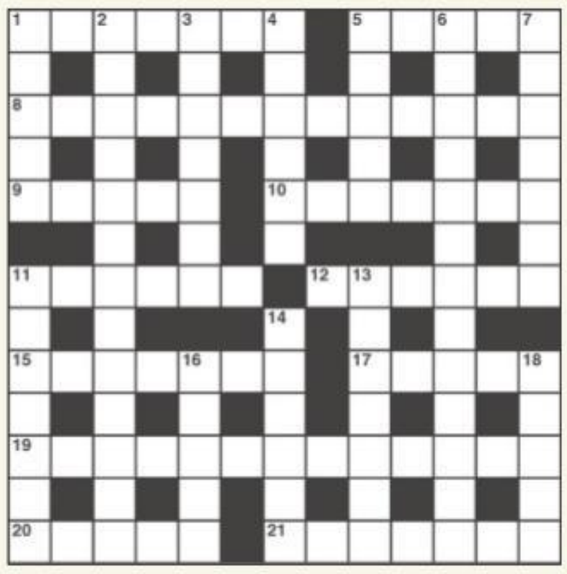
Facing his former team, Dzeko connected with a cross from the edge of the box from Ivan Perisic and beat Roma goalkeeper Rui Patricio with a right-footed volley after only two minutes. Roma's sluggish defense looked more solid as the game progressed, but Mourinho's team was too clumsy up front and failed to convert its rare occasions against the Serie A leader. Sanchez doubled Inter's lead in the 68th minute with a superb long-range strike into the top left corner that Patricio could not touch and left Mourinho ruminating. Under Mourinho, Roma is having an inconsistent season. The team dropped to seventh in the Serie A standings over the weekend after a 0-0 draw at home to struggling Genoa and its hopes of qualifying for next season's Champions League are looking slim. Inter's celebrations were dampened by defender Alessandro Bastoni's injury. He was helped off the field after hurting his right ankle and is now at risk of missing the Champions League round of 16 match against Liverpool next week. "We hope Bastoni doesn't have anything serious, unfortunately you could see he fell badly," Inter coach Simone Inzaghi said. "Now the medics will have the tests and we hope not to lose him for too long, as he is a very, very important player for us."

Meanwhile Monaco progressed to the French Cup semifinals by defeating second-tier side Amiens 2-0 with goals from Aurelien Tchouameni and Kevin Volland.

Monaco was the heavy favorite and was in control throughout. Tchouameni, a France midfielder with seven caps, put Monaco in the driver's seat after five minutes with a half-volley from a poorly cleared corner kick. The goal spurred the visitors on but Amiens forward Aliou Badji missed a couple of chances to level while Chadrac Akolo had a goal disallowed for an offside position.

Volland made it 2-0 from close range in the 54th from teenager Maghnes Akliouche's assist. Monaco was French Cup runner-up last year to Paris Saint-Germain and is chasing its first cup title since 1991.

CROSSWORD 4660



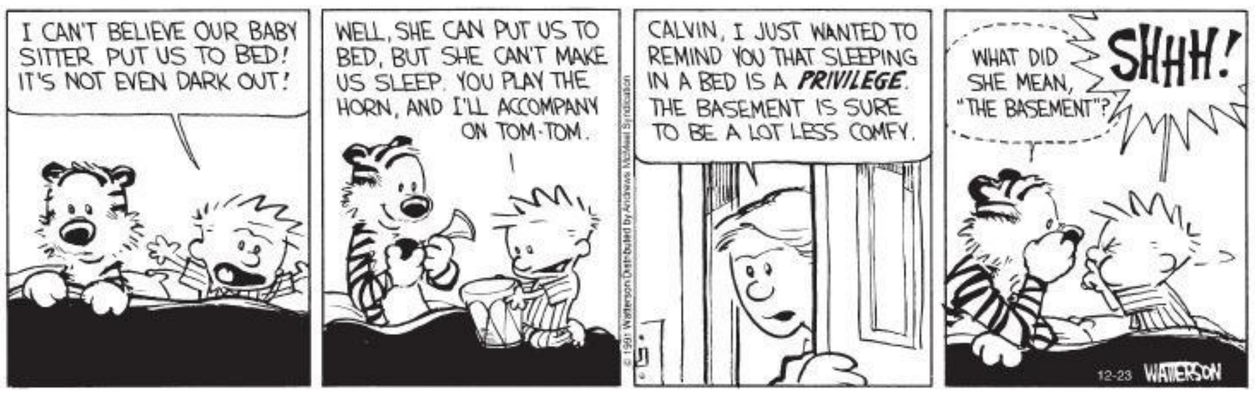
ACROSS
1 Beauty consultant goes to the wall (7)
5 Brown monkeys climb all over one (5)
8 A man whose career lies in ruins (13)
9 Some high pretty rolling countryside (5)
10 Properties on the American Atlantic seaboard (7)
11 A division of the church (6)
12 Royal house that is divided internally, naturally (6)
15 Effective narration (7)
17 Part of a jacket to copy in a fifty-fifty arrangement (5)
19 Finished announcement shows exaggeration (13)
20 Discrimination a cannibal appreciates in people (5)
21 After the start of the trial argue the cause of crime (7)

DOWN
1 Intended to provide me with a worker (5)
2 They have the best times of anyone (6,7)
3 They gave advice so wise and so clear perhaps (7)
4 Given support or cast out (6)
5 Make a speech - in gutter language? (5)
6 It takes all types producing newspapers (8,5)
7 A performer in a difficult part is tense (7)
11 Starts displays (4,3)
13 Release lever, perhaps, that is put in (7)
14 Horrified - has the wrong tag showing outside (6)
16 Susie's spoilt children (5)
18 Students may decline to learn it (5)

Solutions Crossword 4659: Across: 1 Speak, 8 Defiance, 9 First, 10 Pinioned, 11 Board, 12 Err, 16 Jetsam, 17 Amazon, 18 Urn, 23 Strew, 24 Stage one, 25 Comet, 26 Gossamer, 27 State. **Down:** 2 Prisoner, 3 Abstruse, 4 Senior, 5 Rigid, 6 Anona, 7 Mends, 12 Emu, 13 Ran, 14 Last post, 15 Movement, 19 Ringer, 20 Usage, 21 Daisy, 22 Nepal.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Everything I've written about your sign this week holds for today, only much more so. So, let me remind you of the vital importance of clear thought, sensible discussion and open lines of communication in absolutely everything, whether your concerns are intensely personal or public and professional.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
There's no time like the present for sorting out financial problems and claiming the prosperity that you deserve. Work out spending and saving plans over the next few days and share your ideas with partners once you've made up your mind.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Today's lunar position indicates a time when you may hide yourself away and rest, recharging your batteries in readiness for the coming battles and victories. To do this, though, you may need to duck some of your responsibilities.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
If tensions erupt, they may be difficult to control, mainly because the issues will be obscured behind a fog of confusion and misunderstanding. Tread warily, though, and you'll easily dodge such pitfalls. By anticipating the future you can change it to your advantage.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Challenging lunar aspects advise you not to count on certain transactions being finalised on time. A brief hiatus may actually do you good, allowing you to get on and complete the preliminaries or tie up loose ends. A delay is as good as a rest.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Listen to reason and accept that partners also wish to resolve joint problems. Soon you may expect to receive thanks for past efforts, or plaudits for your more successful endeavours. Such appreciation is no more than you deserve. It will certainly provide a boost to your confidence.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
The Moon now inaugurates a new three-month period of success and fulfilment, at least for all Librans who are capable of looking on the bright side. Specific areas which will benefit include everything to do with travel, education or the law. It's all a question of tuning into the larger picture.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
Your sign has stronger associations with money than many of the others, and I believe that, after today, you will begin to feel your business sensibilities stirring. Emotionally your passions will be more alert, you'll be looking for a challenge in a relationship.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)
Those of you with major schemes, whether personal or professional should reach a satisfactory turning-point. In love, you'll prefer the company of old and tested companions to new excitement. You have much to learn from people who have already had the experiences which are now coming your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
It looks as if your work or similar responsibilities are about to increase drastically. On the whole, this will be a welcome development even though you may be taken aback by the rate of change. There does seem to be a great deal happening at the moment which is taking you on to a more positive course.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Over the next couple of days the powerful and emotional Moon will come to your aid, enabling you to break any deadlocks and shift any obstacles, even those which seemed insurmountable. It's strange how quickly circumstances change when you're looking the other way.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Those of you aiming for domestic improvements will find events over the next few days helpful and reassuring, although if major schemes, including a move of home, are on the agenda, there seem to be few signs of real, solid, tangible movement just yet.

JUMBLED WORDS

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

I have never let my ____ interfere with my education - Mark Twain (9)

DVIOO

ABEOCN

AFHLS

AILTGH

SOLUTION: OVOID, FLASH, BEACON, ALIGHT
Answer: I have never let my **schooling** interfere with my education - Mark Twain

SUDOKU 4741

Difficulty Level 1s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4740

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

JUGRAJ HAT-TRICK IN 10-2 WIN VS SA

Drag-flicker Jugraj Singh, playing his second international match, slammed a hat-trick as India beat hosts South Africa 10-2 in the FIH Pro Hockey Pro League. Jugraj converted three penalty corners in the fourth, sixth and 23 minutes. Gursahibjit Singh (24th, 36th), Dilpreet Singh (25th, 58th), Harmanpreet Singh (2nd), Abhishek (12th) and Mandeep Singh (27th) were the other goal-scorers. **PTI**

Kuruvilla to quit as selector after exceeding tenure duration

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 9

THE BOARD of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will have a new selector from the West Zone after former India pacer Abey Kuruvilla's term comes to an abrupt end.

As per BCCI's new constitution, no individual can serve for more than five years in any cricket committee. The former Mumbai bowler was picked as the West Zone selector in the senior selection committee in December 2020. Kuruvilla was earlier the chairman of the junior selection committee and had completed his term of four years. During his tenure, the Unmukt Chand-led team won the ICC under-19 World Cup in 2012.

Combining his two tenures, Kuruvilla – who played 10 Tests and 25 ODIs for India in the late 1990s - has completed five years in the selection committee.

The Indian Express understands that the BCCI office-bearers weren't aware of this rule until a complaint was filed by former Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association member Sanjeev Gupta in January.

The BCCI will now seek applications for the post vacated by Kuruvilla.

"His term in cricket committee got over. So, BCCI will seek applications from candidates and the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) will conduct interviews going ahead," a Board official told *The Indian Express*.

The senior selection committee is now left with four selectors - Chetan Sharma, Sunil Joshi, Harvinder Singh and Debasis Mohanty.

New role in BCCI?

It is learnt that the Indian board might hand over a new role to the 53-year-old Kuruvilla going ahead. BCCI has a vacant post of general manager (game development) since Dhiraj Malhotra resigned last month.

India women lose one-off T20I to NZ

Queenstown: Batting let India down as they suffered an 18-run defeat to hosts New Zealand in the one-off women's T20 International here on Wednesday. Senior opener and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana did not play and her absence was felt badly as India fell short by 18 runs while chasing 156 for a win.

Rookie Yastika Bhatia, who opened in place of Mandhana along with Shafali Verma, scored a run-a-ball 26 (2x4; 1x6) but India never looked like they could chase down the target.

The opening stand of 41 runs was the highest partnership for India. Shafali contributed 13 runs from 14 balls with the help of two boundaries. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who made 12 from 13 balls. Sabbhineni Meghana did well with a 30-ball 37, which had six fours in it, stitching 34 runs with Richa Gosh (12) for the fourth wicket. Eventually, the visitors could only reach 137 for 8.

"We did not have partnerships but we have learnt a lot from this match and hope we will improve ourselves in the upcoming matches," Harmanpreet said. **PTI**

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand W 155/5 (Bates 36, Devine 31, Tahuhu 27, Vastrakar 2-16, Deepti 2-26) beat **India W** 137 for 8 (Meghana 37, Bhatia 26, Amelia 2-25) by 18 runs

Almost famous

Prasidh Krishna gives ample proof of prowess with 4-wicket haul as India seal ODI series vs WI defending a modest score

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
FEBRUARY 9

THE GAME changed after Prasidh Krishna came into the attack in the eighth over. Until then, West Indies hoped.

India were defending a modest 237 and early wickets were needed. But Shai Hope and Brandon King, the two Caribbean openers, were getting into the groove and raising the tempo, when skipper Rohit Sharma made a decisive bowling change.

Prasidh has made his name in T20 cricket, playing for Kolkata Knight Riders. But he has 'red-ball bowler' written all over him, with an attacking line and length, and ability to move the ball.

The Motera pitch for the second ODI was a bit spicy, offering good bounce and off-the-deck movement. Alzarri Joseph bowled a brilliant spell with the new ball for the tourists. Prasidh bettered him in India's 44-run victory. The hosts annexed the three-match series after West Indies were all out for 193.

Sharma had brought him on as a wicket-taking option and it was imperative for the seamer to bowl to his strengths, sticking to classic red-ball principles in terms of line and length. Prasidh struck immediately, hitting a hard length outside off and managing to extract extra bounce. King, attempting an expansive slash, failed to get on top of the bounce.

Darren Bravo is the old hand in the Caribbean pack and Prasidh was convinced that he had induced an edge from the left-hander to Rishabh Pant. Umpire Nitin Menon negated the appeal, but Sharma decided to go upstairs. Ultra Edge detected a spike and it was five out of five for the India captain over two games, DRS-wise. Little wonder that Sunil Gavaskar on air has started calling it 'Definitely Rohit System'.

This West Indies batting line-up is brittle under pressure. So when Prasidh removed stand-in West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran – Kieron Pollard sat out owing to a niggle – India were in complete ascendency.

It was another back-of-a-length ball that moved away, squaring up the left-hander a touch and taking the outside edge on way to Sharma at first slip. Standing a bit wider in that position was smart thinking from the skipper. His tactical nous came to the fore, as Yuzvendra Chahal dismissed Hope.

Googlies had served the leg-spinner well in the first ODI and after the game, Chahal had confirmed that he bowled a lot of them on Sharma's insistence. On Wednesday, the captain's brief to the leggie was ostensibly to bowl loopy leg-breaks outside off stump, taking the ball away from the right-handers.

Hope, moving at a snail's pace, was getting restless. He picked the wrong delivery to hit against the turn, seemingly oblivious to the fact that Sharma had kept Suryakumar Yadav a tad wider at long-on. It was excellent cricket all around; good bowling, a fine catch and top-class captaincy. This was what India had missed during their 0-3 ODI series defeat in South Africa, with Virat Kohli stepping down and Sharma absent due to a hamstring injury.

Promising future

Coming back to Prasidh, his emergence is good news for Indian cricket at a time when the team has been searching for a replacement for Bhuvneshwar Kumar. After the South Africa tour, head coach Rahul Dravid had spoken about India's inability to take wickets in the middle overs. Prasidh could offer a solution. After three wickets in Cape Town and a couple in the first ODI here, the 25-year-old returned with 4/12 in nine overs from this game. He and Mohammed Siraj, along with Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, will make India's pace attack meaty across formats. As regards to Prasidh's immediate future, a Man-of-the-Match performance just two days before the Indian Premier League mega auction was timely.

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As for Sharma's captaincy, he hardly put a foot wrong, save a couple of no-balls due to fielding infringements. Every bowling change worked.

He brought back Shardul Thakur and the medium pacer bounced out Jason Holder. Rohit turned to Thakur again, when Akeal Hosein was giving a mini scare, and the bowler got rid of him with another bouncer. Siraj removing Fabian Allen came on the heels of another successful bowling change.

Before that, when Sharma introduced Deepak Hooda, the off-spinner bagged his maiden international wicket by dismissing a well-set Shamarh Brooks.

Batting a concern

Batting, though, remains a concern for India and the course correction mainly lies in Kohli returning to form. Over the last 10-odd years, Kohli and Sharma have been the backbone of the team's top-order batting in white-ball cricket.

Now, they aren't scoring runs in tandem. It hurt India at the T20 World Cup. Kohli not getting big scores was a reason for the team's ODI series defeat in South Africa as well.

On Wednesday, Sharma (5) got out to a Kemar Roach delivery that kicked off from a length outside off stump. Kohli (18) went for a cover drive to an Odean Smith delivery, just that the ball moved off the seam after pitching and kissed the outside edge. It's almost two-and-a-half years since the former captain scored an international hundred.

Without big scores from him and Sharma, the team's batting loses its sheen.

A 91-run fourth-wicket partnership between KL Rahul and Yadav gave India's total some respectability. Rahul was lucky to get a reprieve on four before falling prey to a mix-up on 49. Yadav scored 64 but yet again failed to convert a half-century.

As Rahul departed, TV cameras captured the India U-19 World Cup-winning squad, resplendent in their national team blazers and watching the seniors, sitting alongside BCCI secretary Jay Shah and treasurer Arun Dhumal. Out there in the middle, Washington Sundar, an U-19 graduate, played a glorious straight drive off Roach, further attesting a seamless progression to the next level.

BRIEF SCORES: India 237 for 9 (Suryakumar 64, Rahul 49, Smith 2-29) beat **West Indies** 193 (Brooks 44, Hosein 34, Prasidh 4-12) by 44 runs

Prasidh Krishna rattled the West Indies batting line-up with figures of 4 for 12 in nine overs. *PTI*

Pant-as-opener experiment doesn't come off, but step in right direction

SANDIP G
FEBRUARY 9

IN THE end, the tactic to open with Rishabh Pant backlashed. He was expected to turn on the ignition, but laboured to 18 off 34 balls on a surface where the ball swung and seamed when new. Until a frantic surge, he looked overstrung, at times even desperate to justify the decision. Had the move worked, it would have been the first masterstroke of new captain Rohit Sharma's tenure. It did not.

Yet, for the apparent failure as well as the ridicule both Pant and Sharma could face, it was a progressive move, a step in the right direction in the country's pursuit for impetus at the top of the order, even a potentially landscape-altering one. Thus, the merit and rationale of the ploy should not be judged on the basis of a solitary outcome. Just as the move should not have been instantly glorified had it come off.

Later, in a ground-side chat with broadcasters, Sharma specified that regular opener Shikhar Dhawan would reclaim his spot when he returns. "People will be happy seeing Rishabh open then, but yeah it is not permanent. We will get Shikhar back in the next game. We want to try a few things with the long term in the mind," he said.

But don't be surprised if Pant strides out as an opener more frequently. That India needs ammo up the order is well-acknowledged. All of their trusted — and proven — top-order batsmen are exemplary stroke-makers and inscrutable match-winners. But none of them — from Sharma to Dhawan and Virat Kohli to KL Rahul — can turbocharge an innings at the start. Like, say, Jason Roy in the last World Cup (443 runs at a strike rate of 115). They could accelerate and improvise later in their knocks, but not when they are fresh at the crease, like Virender Sehwag in the past. To replicate what Sehwag at his destructive peak achieved is difficult, but Pant could offer a good shot.

To replicate what Virender Sehwag at his destructive peak achieved is difficult, but Rishabh Pant could offer a good shot. *PTI*

There is no denying Pant has the Sehwagian streak of insouciance. He has the courage to smear the first ball he faces for a boundary; he is unfazed by the ball that has just beaten him; he does not get cowed down by failures or criticism; at the crease he radiates with infectious positivity, and most of all, he can win matches and disorient bowlers. He might not have won as many games as befits his potential, but has demonstrated in Test matches and T20s that he could define games.

Not a specialist's job

That he is not a specialist opener is not a viable argument either. Neither were Sehwag or even Sachin Tendulkar or Rohit Sharma, neither Sanath Jayasuriya nor Adam Gilchrist. Opening in white-ball cricket has long ceased to be a specialist's job. On the contrary, makeshifts have accosted themselves better to the changing dimensions of the role. It is not stability that they are supposed to provide, but impetus, the tempo-setting knockout blow. At least in India, one doesn't need to possess a watertight technique to weather a swinging ball. And it's in India where the next 50-over World Cup would be played. So, every plot and step would be in that direction.

Coincidentally, Sehwag too failed in his first three innings as an opener in this version of the game, but rattled out a destiny-changing 100 off 70 balls against New Zealand in Colombo. So, the Pant move bristles with mouth-watering possibilities. The left-hander could metamorphose into a tempo-setter up the order. The rest of the top order could bide their time and dig in for the long haul.

Not that opening is a vexing concern for India — Dhawan and Sharma are among the best in the world — but grooming Pant could be a win-win for both him and his team. If not a permanent role, he could be a backup plan, not only if one of the regulars is injured (they have a knack of picking one too often), but also in the eventuality of India chasing a steep total or needing to qualify for the knockout stages by boosting net run rate. Coach Rahul Dravid could be employing the same flexibility mantra that was the hallmark of his captaincy days. Besides, Sharma is 34, Dhawan 36. Age could catch up with their reflexes. It's high time India streamlined their successors.

A big incentive could be that Pant might finally unlock his ODI potential. For all his sizzle in the longest format, he has only sparkled sporadically in this format — in 21 innings, he has averaged 31, not yet reached three figures, and batted mostly at 4, 5 and 6, where often he has seemed confounded in the anointed finisher's role. He seems to have withered under the immense shadow of Mahendra Singh Dhoni. The move up the order could, in turn, liberate him. It could muscle up India's batting line-up too.

Cummins praises Langer, but wanted change

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRISBANE, FEBRUARY 9

AFTER DESCRIBING Justin Langer as a legend with a "fierce love of Australia" and praising his influence on the national men's cricket team, new captain Pat Cummins ended weeks of speculation about a player-led push for change on Wednesday by saying Australia needed a new style of head coach.

Cummins, who took over as Australia's test captain immediately before the recent Ashes series against England, was heavily criticized by some star ex-players for not publicly endorsing Langer ahead of the coach's contract negotiations with the board last Friday.

Langer quit Saturday, announcing the decision via his management company as he traveled home across the country from Melbourne to Perth, after declining a six-month contract extension.

Four days later, Cummins issued a statement to "provide some clarity" shortly before commenting further at a news conference in Sydney, where the team is preparing for a Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka.

"To speak about a decision, which was yet to be made and which is for Cricket Australia to make, would have put Cricket Australia and the team in an impossible position," Cummins said in the statement Wednesday.

"I'd never do that. I believe in respecting the sanctity of the change room and the proper process." Media reports last year suggested that some players were unhappy with Langer's traditional coaching methods and mood changes. Following meetings between team leaders and management, Langer started taking a less hands-on approach.

Australia subsequently won the Twenty20 World Cup in November and then comprehensively beat England 4-0, missing out on an Ashes test series sweep by just one wicket.

"He made some big changes and deserves a lot of credit for that," Cummins said of Langer's response to player feedback. "The question is, do we think it's sustainable? We thought, no, it's the right time to make a change."

He made some big changes and deserves a lot of credit for that,. The question is, do we think it's sustainable? We thought, no, it's the right time to make a change. It was time for a more collaborative approach. To be better players for Australia, from this solid foundation, we need a new style of coaching and skill set"

PAT CUMMINS, AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN

Cummins said evaluations for cricketers and coaches had been going on for two years and the feedback from the players was consistent: it was time for a more collaborative approach. To be better players for Australia, from this solid foundation, we need a new style of coaching and skill set," Cummins told an afternoon news conference.

"A big theme of this summer has been more calm, more composed. That's the direction we want to take the team." His comments came a day after Australia announced an 18-man squad for its first test series in Pakistan since 1998 — and its first in four years without Langer.

As well as being among Australia's elite opening batters during a lengthy international career, Langer has been attributed with helping rebuild and reshape the culture of the men's national team following the so-called Sandpapergate scandal in March 2018.

Australia batter Cameron Bancroft was caught by television cameras trying to rough up one side of the ball with sandpaper in the third test against South Africa at Cape Town, and the whole episode became one of the lowest points in Australia's sporting history.

Under Langer's stewardship, Steve Smith and David Warner, banned for their roles in the incident, returned as senior batters for Australia and the team evolved.

"So many positives to what (Langer) brought to the table. He was the perfect man for the time. He did a fantastic job," Cummins said. "We've been really well schooled over the last four years by JL in how to conduct ourselves. He's got unimpeachable values. I think he's what we needed ... he's made us better people, better players."

Langer on Sunday issued a statement apologizing if his intensity in the coaching environment caused problems for the players.

Cummins noted Langer's acknowledgement, saying the 51-year-old was intense but the players were OK with it: "I think the apology was unnecessary.. It came from a good place -- and his fierce love of Australia and the baggy green -- something which has served Australian cricket well for three decades."

Anderson, Broad still have roles to play, says Strauss

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, FEBRUARY 9

JAMES ANDERSON and Stuart Broad were given encouragement Wednesday that their storied test careers with England were not over, with the interim head of English cricket urging the veteran pacemen to "get themselves fired up" to play in the summer series.

England's two leading test wicket-takers of all time were the headline names omitted for the upcoming tour of the West Indies in a ruthless response to a 4-0 loss to Australia in the Ashes series Down Under.

But Andrew Strauss, who is the interim director of English cricket, maintained that the 39-year-old Anderson and the 35-year-old Broad still had roles to play.

"They were both very disappointed and that doesn't surprise me," said Strauss, who played with both fast bowlers for England. "They're both very passionate about playing for England. I hope that they understand the rationale for the decision and also they understand that no one is saying this is the end of the road for either of them.

"Their job right at the moment is to get themselves fired up to go for the start of the international summer in June."

Asked if the absence of Anderson and Broad would give captain Joe Root more chance to exert his authority, Strauss said: "This is more about us finding a bowling resource that's capable of winning away from home and obviously you need a lot of variety in your attack to do that, that's blatantly obvious.

"It's an opportunity to see other people out there performing in the middle. It's the start of a new cycle and is a refresh and a reset and that dressing room will feel very different without Broad and Anderson in it, but I wouldn't in any way want people to think Broad and Anderson aren't thoroughly professional in everything they do in an England shirt."

With 640 wickets in 169 tests, Anderson is England's No. 1 wicket-taker in tests and third on the all-time list behind Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan and Australia's Shane Warne. Broad is second on England's list of wicket-takers — and sixth in international history — with 537 in 152 tests.

England plays test series against New Zealand and South Africa this summer.

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