



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

CHENNAI • SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION



SCHOOL INUNDATED, CHILDREN RESCUED

Differently-abled children at a school in Nagpur being rescued by a National Disaster Response Force team after sharp showers on Saturday flooded many parts of the city. About 400 people were rescued while one elderly woman was reported dead. The city may witness isolated thunderstorms with lightning in a few places | PTI



PM
Gati Shakti
National Master Plan for
Multi-Modal Connectivity

75
Azadi Ka
Mahotsav

G20
भारत 2023 INDIA



The Nation Receives the Gift of 9 Vande Bharat Trains together



Tamil Nadu also to be bestowed with 2 Vande Bharat

Flagging off of

Tirunelveli-Madurai-Chennai
Vande Bharat Express Train

Vijayawada-Chennai
Vande Bharat Express Train

Benefits

- ⌚ More than 2 hours faster than the fastest train already running on this route
- 🚂 Better Connectivity for people of Virudunagar, Madurai, Dindigul, Tiruchirappalli, Villupuram and Tambaram
- 📍 Boost to tourism in Tirunelveli Madurai sector and benefit professionals, businessmen, students and travelers

- 📊 Enhanced business opportunities for cottage industries in Tirunelveli, agro based industries in Madurai and other manufacturing sectors, and cement factories around Tiruchirappalli
- ⚡ First Vande Bharat Connectivity between Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh Via Renigunta connecting the religious Tirumala Tirupati Temple with Chennai and Tiruvallur districts of Tamil Nadu and benefit students, IT professionals, start up entrepreneurs and businessmen.



by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister
(Through Video Conferencing)
on Sunday, 24th September, 2023 at 12.30 PM

Time Table – Vijayawada-Chennai

| MAS-BZA Except Tuesday | Station ↑ | BZA-MAS Except Tuesday |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Dep. 0530 | Chennai | Arr. 2200 |
| 0705/0710 | Renigunta | 2005/2010 |
| 0839/0840 | Nellore | 1819/1820 |
| 1009/1010 | Ongole | 1703/1704 |
| 1121/1122 | Tenali | 1549/1550 |
| Arr. 1210 | Vijayawada | Dep. 1520 |

Key Features of Vande Bharat Express

- 🚄 Indigenously built Vande Bharat Train with maximum 160 km speed per hour
- 💺 Improved access to charging point under each seat and 360° seat rotation with increased reclination angle facility
- 👉 Seat numbers in Braille script on seat handles and special Lavatory for Divyangjans
- 🚽 Equipped with special antibacterial UV lamps, better ventilation and air conditioning to keep the air clean

- 🛡️ Equipped with Kavach (Train Collision Avoidance System)

- 🎥 Each coach equipped with CCTV cameras and infotainment facilities

- 🔥 Aerosol based better fire-fighting safety systems installed

Time Table – Tirunelveli-Chennai

| TEN-MAS Except Tuesday | Station ↑ | MAS-TEN Except Tuesday |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Dep. 0600 | Tirunelveli Jn. | Arr. 2240 |
| 0713/0715 | Virudnagar Jn. | 2113/2115 |
| 0750/0755 | Madurai Jn. | 2040/2045 |
| 0840/0842 | Dindigul Jn. | 1956/1958 |
| 0950/0955 | Tiruchirappalli Jn. | 1840/1845 |
| 1154/1156 | Villupuram Jn. | 1639/1641 |
| 1313/1315 | Tambaram | 1513/1515 |
| Arr. 1350 | Chennai Egmore | Dep. 1450 |

DD Watch the programme live on DD News

INDIAN RAILWAYS

Follow us on


E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Union Bank Bhavan 2nd Floor, 139, Prakasam Salai, Broadway, Chennai - 600108. Ph: +91 9633457999
Mail: cmcrdrochennai@unionbankofindia.bank

REGIONAL OFFICE BROADWAY CHENNAI

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s).

The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

GEORGE TOWN BRANCH: Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: Borrower: 1. S.Sathyia Ruban, 2.Mr. S. Srinivasan, Both are residing at: No.32, AP Road, I Lane, Choolai, Chennai-600112. Co-Obligant/Guarantor: 1. Mrs.S.Jayalakshmi, W/o S.Srinivasan, No.32, AP Road, I lane, Choolai, Chennai-600112. 2. Mr. S. Rathinavel, S/o Sababathi Chettiar, No 72, V V Koll Street, Kosapet, Chennai-600012.

Amount due: Rs. 34,23,339.00 as on 31-07-2023 plus interest and other charges from the date of NPA of the account.

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All the part and parcel of House and Ground bearing Old D.No 51 (part) New D.O. No. 15 (part) Vinayagar Kolli Street, Kosapet, Chennai, Chennai 600012 comprised in C.C.No.1784, O.S.No.2457, R.S.No. 2637 (part) and measuring East to West 64 feet on the both sides and North to South 20 feet on the western side and 20 feet 6 inches on the Eastern side and in all 1296 sq.ft or thereabouts and bounded on the : North: House belonging to Mr. G Jayaraman, South By: House belonging to Anumantha Achary, East By: Subramania Achari's House and, West By: V.V. Koll Street, And situated within the Registration sub-District of Purasawalkam and in the Registration District of Central Chennai.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 1,01,90,00/- EMD ₹ 10,19,00/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 1,02,00/- POSSESSION STATUS SYMBOLIC MOB: 90808 67238

Encumbrance known to secured creditor: NIL

(However intending bidders are advised to verify the EC and satisfy themselves before submitting bid)

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: **27-10-2023** between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)

E-auction website www.mstcecommerce.com

Intending bidders may download affree of cost, copies of sale notice, Terms and Conditions of e.auction Help Manual on operational part of e-auction from e-Bkay - IBAPI portal (<https://www.ibapi.in>) For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/bapi/index.jsp>. For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/bapi/index.jsp>

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/Rule 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

This may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6)/Rule 9(1) of security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-auction Sale on the above-mentioned date.

Place: CHENNAI Date: 21.09.2023

Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

Quote Express

WE KNOW WHAT WE ARE, BUT KNOW NOT WHAT WE MAY BE > WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE


E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Union Bank Bhavan 2nd Floor, 139, Prakasam Salai, Broadway, Chennai - 600108. Ph: +91 9633457999
Mail: cmcrdrochennai@unionbankofindia.bank

E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF 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) RULE, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

S.No. 1: CHENNAI ANNA SALAI BRANCH : Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: 1) Mr. S K A Kaleel Ahmed, & 2) Ms. Mahareemah Mahamudhu K, Both are residing at: PARI FLATS In Block E, 2, North Avenue, 19th central cross street, MKB Nagar, Chennai 600 039

Amount due: Rs. 16,89,738.21 as on 31.07.2023 with further interest, cost & expenses from the date of NPA.

Description of immovable secured assets to be sold: All the piece and parcel of L1G Flat bearing No E/2/31 measuring 237 Sqft or 22 Sqmt in third floor of the building PARI FLATS in Block E, 2, North Avenue also known as 19th Central Cross Street, MKB Nagar, Chennai 600 039, including the land admiring an extent of 59.25 Sqft being UDS of land measuring about 237 Sqft or there about comprised in Survey No 737/1 (part) and 737/2 (part) in Perambur Village, Perambur Purasawalkam Taluk, Chennai District bounded on the North by Block No E 13, South by Flat E-2/32 and 30 feet Road, East by Flat No E1/14, West by Flat No E2/30.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 7,76,000/- EMD 10% ₹ 77,600/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 20,000/- POSSESSION STATUS SYMBOLIC MOBILE 99521 10996

S.No. 2: CHENNAI ANNA SALAI BRANCH : Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: 1) DIVYA PRITHVI SURESH & 2) ALDRIN NAVIN ANTHONY, Both are residing at: Flat No S2, II Floor, Block 2, Geetha Apartments, Plot No 2, Siruvapuri, Sri Balasubramanya Swamy Nagar, Part I Thozhuvil Village, Tiruvallur Taluk Tiruvallur District.

Amount due: Rs. 24,12,489.42 as on 31.08.2023 with further interest, cost & expenses from the date of NPA.

Description of immovable secured assets to be sold: All the piece and parcel of Residential Flat bearing Flat No S2 Second floor Block No 2 measuring a super build up area of 650 Sqft and UDS 275 Sqft "Geetha Apartments, Plot No 2, Old Survey No 511/1E New Survey No 511/1 part, Siruvapuri Sri Balasubramanya Swamy Nagar part – 1 Vinayagar Kolli Street, Thozhuvil Village, Sevapet, Tiruvallur District 602025 bounded on the North by Plot No 3, South by Plot on 1, East by 23 feet road, West by Plot no 5 & 7.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 9,94,000/- EMD 10% ₹ 99,400/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 20,000/- POSSESSION STATUS PHYSICAL MOBILE 99521 10996

S.No. 3: CHENNAI ANNA SALAI BRANCH : Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: 1) Prabhu Seshadri, No.5/127 Subramanya Bharathiya Street, M A Nagar, Red Hills, Chennai-600 052. Also at: Plot No 44, Door No 44F, Second Floor, AMRUTH ENCLAVE, Sri Sai Nagar, Ponmarr Village, Chennai-600 048. 2) Seshadri Kuppusamy, No.5/127 Subramanya Bharathiya Street, M A Nagar, Red Hills, Chennai-600 052. Also at: Plot No 44, Door No 44F, Second Floor, AMRUTH ENCLAVE, Sri Sai Nagar, Ponmarr Village, Chennai-600 048.

Amount due: Rs. 16,45,476.68/- as on 31.07.2023 with further interest, cost & expenses from the date of NPA.

Description of immovable secured assets to be sold: All that piece and parcel of Flat at Door No: 44F at Plot No 44 in AMRUTH ENCLAVE, SRI SAI NAGAR LAYOUT (DTCP Approved Layout No 465/2010) comprised in Survey No 310/2B, 310/2A1, 310/2A, 310/2B and 311/2B of Ponmarr Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District, with 268 Sqft Undivided Share of Land out of the area measuring an extent of 1800 Sqft and 450 Sqft flat in second floor including common area, situated within the Registration District of Chennai South and Sub Registration District of Gudivanchery and being bounded on the North by Plot No 45, South by Plot No 43, East by Plot No 34, West by 23 Feet Road

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 9,16,000/- EMD 10% ₹ 91,600/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 20,000/- POSSESSION STATUS PHYSICAL MOBILE 99521 10996

S.No. 4: CHENNAI ANNA SALAI BRANCH : Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: BORROWER: S Venkatesan & V Manjula, Both are residing at: (1) No. 45 B Block Valleysewaran Garden, R A Puram, Chennai 600 028. (2) Flat S2 Second Floor Block F, Plot 11 and 12 SKC Jeeva Enclave, Devendra Nagar, Kilambakkam Village, Urakakkam Chennai 600 048.

Amount due: Rs. 12,16,123.72 as on 31.07.2023 with further interest, cost & expenses from the date of NPA.

Description of immovable secured assets to be sold: All the piece and parcel of residential flat bearing No S2 in Second Floor Block F, SKC Jeeva Enclave measuring 1024 Sqft of plinth area of the Flat with 415.95 Sqft of UDS in a total extent of Acre 0.59 cents situated at (1) All the piece and parcel of property measuring Acre 0.26 cents comprised in Survey No 168/B1, Patta No 607 as per Joint Patta No 1030, New Survey No 168/B1/B in No.3 Kilambakkam Village of Urakakkam Panchayat, Katankulathur Panchayat Union, Chengalpattu Taluk Kancheepuram District and the land being bounded on the North by S.No 171, South by S.No 168/B1A, East by Survey No 168/B1A, West by Survey No 168/B1A, South by S.No 168/B1A2, East by Survey No 168/B1A2, West by Survey No 168/B1A2, West by Land belonging to Kumaran Housing pvt Ltd, West by Survey No 168/B1-B

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 30,00,000/- EMD 10% ₹ 3,00,000/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 1,00,000/- POSSESSION STATUS SYMBOLIC MOBILE 99521 10996

S.No. 5: CHENNAI ANNA SALAI BRANCH : Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: 1) A Tamilarasi & 2) T Annadurai, Both are residing at: (1)34 North Main Street, Nandampakkam, Chennai 600089. (2) Plot 14 Sri Karpaga Vinayaga Nagar Layout SANJAY HOMES, No 58 Thirupachur Village, Thiruvallur Taluk.

Amount due: Rs. 14,80,316.56 as on 31.07.2023 with further interest, cost & expenses from the date of NPA.

Description of immovable secured assets to be sold: All the piece and parcel of land and building situated at Plot No 14 (South side) extent of 1176 Sqft out of 2090 Sqft comprised in Survey No 402/2 Part in the Layout "Sri Karpaga Vinayaga Nagar" approved by DTCP No 252/2008, situated at No 58 Thirupachur Village, Thiruvallur Taluk and District consisting of Ground floor building with plinth/builtup area of 588 Sqft within Sub Registration District of Thiruvallur and in Registration District of Kancheepuram stand by Patta No 117 in the name of Mrs.ATamilarasi bounded on the North by Plot No 14, part by 23 feet road, East by Patta No 13, South by Plot No 3, West by Plot No 5 & 7.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 17,22,000/- EMD 10% ₹ 1,72,200/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 20,000/- POSSESSION STATUS SYMBOLIC MOBILE 99521 10996

S.No. 6: CHENNAI ANNA SALAI BRANCH : Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: BORROWER: Mr. Ramadas Krishnamurthy, CO-BORROWER'S: 1) Mrs. Dhanalakshmi Ramadas & 2) Mr. Divya Ramdas, All are residing at: No: 1/265 Kalathumedu, 4th Cross Street, Kottakkam, Chennai - 600041.

Amount due: Rs. 27,02,237.00 as on 30.04.2023 with further interest, cost & expenses from the date of NPA.

Description of immovable secured assets to be sold: All the piece and parcel of Residential Flat bearing Flat No F2 First floor Block No 2 measuring a super build up area of 725 sqft including common area and UDS of 275 Sqft "Geetha Apartments, Plot No 2, Old survey No 511/1E New Survey no 511/1 part, Siruvapuri Sri Balasubramanya Swamy Nagar part – 1 vinayagar kolli street, Thozhuvil Village, Sevapet, Tiruvallur District 602025 bounded on the North by Plot No 3, South by Plot on 1, East by 23 feet road, West by Plot no 5 & 7.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 9,94,000/- EMD 10% ₹ 99,400/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 20,000/- POSSESSION STATUS SYMBOLIC MOBILE 99521 10996

S.No. 7: CHENNAI MAIN BRANCH (3326) : Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: Mr. K S Sundararajan, S/o K S Sarangapani, Address 1: No.1 Vasantha Avenue, Bevanthi Street, Kamarajar Nagar, Chennai-600073. Address 2: Flat AF2, First Floor, Plot No.2, Guru Apartments, St. Antoni Street, Puzhal, Chennai -600066. Address 3: No.1, Green Garden Arasanayagi, Mookandapalli, Hosur-635126.

Amount due: Rs. 29,81,051.00 as on 30.06.2023 with further interest, cost & expenses from the date of NPA.

Description of immovable secured assets to be sold: All that piece and parcel of an undivided share to an extent of 368 sq.ft of total extent of 4000 sq ft with Guru Apartments, Flat No AF-2,B - Block I, in First Floor having built up area to an extent of 717 Sq.Ft(inclusive of common areas) forming part of the building constructed in Plot No.2, St. Antoni Main Street, comprised in Old Survey No.448/2 of Puzhal Village, Ambattur Taluk, Thiruvallur District and bounded on the East to West on the Northern side: 80.00 Feet, East to West on the Southern side: 89.00 Feet, North to South on the Eastern side: 56 1/2 Feet, North to South on the Western side: 29 1/2 Feet and bounded on the North: Property belongs to Mr.Lawrance, South : St Antoni Main Street, East : SMRT Godown, West : Block A, Plot No.2. Super buildup area of 717 sq ft together with 368 sq ft of undivided share in a total extent of 4000 square ffeet mentioned in the schedule above. Survey No. Old Survey No.448, New Survey No.448/2 of Puzhal Village. Within the Registration District of Chennai North and sub Registration District of Red-hills.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 11,78,000/- EMD 10% ₹ 1,17,800/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 20,000/- POSSESSION STATUS SYMBOLIC MOBILE 91725 67679

S.No. 8: MINJUR BRANCH : Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s: BORROWER: Mr.Meganathan K.M, S/o Mohan, Plot No.31, Ramanuja Nagar, Neithavoyal, Ponneri Taluk, Thiruvallur Dist, Pincode : 601203. CO-APPLICANT: Amudha M, W/o Mr.Meganathan K.M, Plot No.31, Ramanuja Nagar, Neithavoyal, Ponneri Taluk, Thiruvallur Dist, Pincode : 601203

Amount due: Rs. 16,63,928.27 as on 30.06.2023 with further interest and other charges from the date of NPA.

Description of immovable secured assets to be sold: North Chennai Registration District, Ponneri Sub Registration district, Thiruvallur District, Ponneri Taluk, 140, Neithavoyal Village, Government approved Layout No.L.D.P.T.882/89, "Ramanuja Nagar", Plot No.31, comprised in Old Survey No.782/2 Part, after sub division New Survey No.782/96, admeasuring to an extent of 2000 Sqft or 186 Sq.Meter or 0.02 Ares, in Patta No. 1425, land building with T.N.E.B Service Connection A/c No.009:018:452, being bounded on the : Boundaries of: North by 30 Feet Width Road, South by Plot No.48, East by Plot No.32, West by 30 Feet Width Road.

RESERVE PRICE ₹ 21,01,000/- EMD 10% ₹ 2,10,100/- BID INCREMENT ₹ 20,000/- POSSESSION STATUS SYMBOLIC MOBILE 95005 76184

Regional Office Chennai (North),
Union Bank Bhavan, 2nd Floor, 139, Prakasam Salai, Broadway, Chennai - 600108. Ph: +91 9633457999
Mail: cmcrdrochennai@unionbankofindia.bank

NOTICE FOR THE SALE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

This is to inform that the below mentioned customers had pledged Gold Ornaments and availed loans. Even though the due date had completed and notices are issued for payment of the dues, there is no response from the said customers. So to recover the loan amount, under the bank policy it is proposed to sell the gold ornaments in open auction **10.10.2023 @ 11.30 AM** at the following branch address, **Union Bank of India**, premises and credit the proceeds to their loan accounts.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: (1) If any one had not received the notices this will be the final notice. (2) The advertisement expenses to be born by the respective borrowers. (3) Bidders intended to participate in the open auction has to deposit **₹ 10,000/- before 11.00 AM on 10.10.2023** in the UBI Branches. (



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

CHENNAI • SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION



THE BIGGEST ASIAN GAMES BEGINS

The Games was officially declared open by China's President Xi Jinping amid a festival of colours on Saturday. Postponed by a year due to Covid, it will be one of the largest in terms of representation

CHENNAI ■ MADURAI ■ VIJAYAWADA ■ BENGALURU ■ KOCHI ■ HYDERABAD ■ VISAKHAPATNAM ■ COMBATORE ■ KOZHIKODE ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ■ BELAGAVI ■ BHUBANESWAR ■ SHIVAMOGGA ■ MANGALURU ■ TIRUPATI ■ TIRUCHY ■ TIRUNELVELI ■ SAMBALPUR ■ HUBBALLI ■ DHARMAPURI ■ KOTTAYAM ■ KANNUR ■ VILLUPURAM ■ KOLLAM ■ TAEPALLIGUDUM ■ NAGAPPATTINAM ■ THRISSUR ■ KALABURAGI ■



If Dravidians are continued to be provoked, the east, west and south will be in danger. There is nothing new in DMK's Sanatana stance as they have been stating this for years
Mani Shankar Aiyar

Tribute to Jayanta Mahapatra

A special tribute was paid to legendary poet Jayanta Mahapatra, who passed away recently. Prof Sachidananda Mohanty and poet Sampurna Chattarji said Mahapatra was a true genius, a citizen of the world. "Someone who came from a small town to become someone who rubbed shoulders with great poets like A K Ramanujan speaks about the efforts he made to become someone so outstanding in his craft," they said



Union minister Darmendra Pradhan lighting the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the Odisha Literary Festival, in the presence of the Editorial Director of *The New Indian Express* Prabhu Chawla (second from R), CEO Lakshmi Menon (R), Editor Santwana Bhattacharya (second from L) and Resident Editor Siba Mohanty in Bhubaneswar on Saturday | DEBADDITA MALLICK

ODISHA LIT FEST OFF TO A BLAZING START

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

THE 11th edition of the Odisha Literary Festival got off to a blazing start as acclaimed authors from across genres and different parts of the country came together to celebrate the written word here on Saturday.

The two-day annual literary festival — the only-of-its-kind in Eastern India hosted by *The New Indian Express* — was inaugurated by Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Darmendra Pradhan. Speaking at the inaugural evening, Pradhan in his session 'Words, Ideas and Lessons: Creating a New Sense of Identity' said the opposition to the three-language policy es-

specially in Tamil Nadu is purely political. "While the opposition to NEP in Tamil Nadu is for political reasons, in my view, there is unanimity at the ground level that there should be scientific temper for the students and language should not be a barrier," he said in a free-wheeling chat with TNIE Editorial Director Prabhu Chawla.

Refuting allegations that people with RSS ideology are being drafted in to head top institutions in the country, the Union minister said all appointments are made on merit. He, however, maintained that there is no bar in the Constitution on appointing persons with RSS affiliation.

CONTINUED ON P7

Introducing the festival, TNIE Editor Santwana Bhattacharya said it stands for everything TNIE stands for — a decentering of power, and the idea of getting close to the real life of India on the ground. "Here, we celebrate books — the power of word, of ideas and expression. More potent than any weapon of destruction, more enduring than anything built as a form of physical destruction," she said.

Speaking about the theme of festival, 'The Ideas of Identity', TNIE's Odisha Resident Editor Siba Mohanty said identity — be it national, cultural, caste, class, gender or ethnicity — has assumed centrestage.

CONTINUED ON P7



Health Minister Ma Subramanian felicitates the family of an organ donor at Kalaiyan Arangam in Chennai | PRAVIKUMAR

instance, a family member or a friend who donate a kidney to another family member or a friend may not be eligible for the honours, sources said.

The practice of observing September 23 as Organ Donation Day began in Tamil Nadu after the tragic death of 15-year-old AP Hitendran in 2008. His parents, Dr Ashokan and Dr Pushpanjali, decided to donate his organs. This incident sparked a movement-like resurgence in organ donations across the state.

CONTINUED ON P7

Honour by collector

Collector or other top officials in the district will do the honours. It will not be applicable to donors who are alive. Full details are expected in two or three days

RAMRAJ MUHURTH SILK DHTOS
DHOTI JARI BORDER ■ SHIRT ■ TOWEL (3 in 1)
₹ 7550 Onwards
AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING TEXTILE SHOPS

WITH THIS ISSUE
Khalistan: The Canadian Connection
TERROR FIRMER
PLUS 12 PAGES
MAGAZINE

OUTSIDE RESERVE

Tiger deaths in India at an all-time high

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

LESS than two months ago, India celebrated the success of its tiger conservation efforts, with the data suggesting an annual population growth rate of 6.1%.

Now comes the worrying downside: tiger deaths across the country have reached an all-time high, with more than half of them perishing outside the tiger reserves.



There have already been 142 tiger deaths in the country till September 20 as against 121 during the entire last year, and 127 in 2021. About 51% of the tiger deaths so far this year (73 of 142 deaths) happened outside tiger reserves, whereas in 2022, the number was 43% (52 of 121).

Most of the deaths were in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Assam.

While the rise in the number of tiger deaths is concerning, experts say it is commensurate with the increase in tiger population. "As the population is increasing, so is the number of deaths," S P Yadav, member-secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), told this newspaper. "We need to be concerned if the deaths are due to poaching," he added.

Many tiger deaths since 2019 are under investigation for links to poaching.

Forensic infra poor

Wildlife forensic infrastructure in many states is not commensurate with the size of their tiger population, affecting probes into tiger deaths



MISSION 100 FOR INDIA IN HANGZHOU

- The stated aim for India's athletes is to breach the three-figure in terms of medals won. Their best was the 70 they won last time at Jakarta
- The 650-odd Indian contingent has five (six if you include the men's hockey team) Olympic medallists, including Neeraj Chopra. The Games close on October 8. Japan are the next hosts in 2026 | P13

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/ newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

12,000

THE LARGEST IN TERMS OF PARTICIPATION AT HANGZHOU

HANGZHOU MEIN JEET KI AARZOU

Amul
TEAM INDIA
OFFICIAL MILK SUPPLIER
INDIAN CONTINGENT
18th ASIAN GAMES 2023

dakCunha/AB/900

NIA confiscates property of hate merchant Pannu

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday confiscated the immovable property of Canada-based hate merchant Gurpatwant Singh Pannu in Chandigarh and Amritsar. Pannu, the controller of the banned Sikh For Justice (SFJ) and a Khalistani proponent, was designated a terrorist by the Union home ministry under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act in 2020.

The SFJ had in a recent hate video threatened Hindus, asking them to vacate Canada. Days later, Canadian ministers and top federal public safety officials denounced the video but did not name SFJ in their statement. "All Canadians deserve to feel safe in their communities. The circulation of an online hate video targeting Hindu Canadians runs contrary to the values we hold dear as Canadians," said public safety minister Dominic LeBlanc.

In New York, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US was deeply concerned about Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations against India on the killing of a Khalistani separatist in Canada, adding Washington was closely coordinating with Ottawa and wants accountability.

Back in India, the NIA action came after a special court issued confiscation orders. Pannu has been on NIA's radar since 2019, when it registered its first case against him. Non-bailable arrest warrants were issued against him on February 3, 2021 and he was declared a proclaimed offender on November 29 last year. His confiscated property include 46 kanal farm land in Khankot village of Amritsar and 1/4th share of a house in Chandigarh.

India gives it back to Pak

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

INDIA on Saturday tore into Pakistan for alleging it had evaded implementation of the UN Security Council's resolutions on Kashmir. Pakistan's interim Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar made the charge at the ongoing United Nations General Assembly.

Invoking the right to reply, Petal Gahlot, India's first secretary at the UN, said Pakistan is a habitual offender in misusing the UNGA platform to peddle baseless propaganda. She said J&K is India's internal matter and no country has any locus standi to comment on it. She went on to ask Pakistan to end cross-border terrorism, vacate PoK and stop human rights violations against minorities on its land. "Instead of engaging in technical sophistry, we call upon Pakistan to take credible and verifiable action against the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attack whose victims await justice even after 15 years," she added.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP PRESENTS THE FIRST EDITION OF RAMNATH GOENKA SAHITHYA SAMMAN FOR LITERARY EXCELLENCE BEST FICTION BEST NON-FICTION

ODISHA LITERARY FESTIVAL

CHIEF GUEST | NAVEEN PATNAIK, ODISHA CHIEF MINISTER

AT THE ODISSA LITERARY FEST (OLF), MAYFAIR HOTEL, BHUBANESHWAR, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

EVENT XPRESS



GROWING A TREE OF KNOWLEDGE ATHOME

Over the past three years, E Kalaivanan and his wife G Sugatha have conducted numerous book fairs right out of their living room, which doubles up as a mini library open to all those who are keen to read

Books are not just mere possessions, they have the power to transform entire lives. As means to nurture visitors' reading habit, I am planning to expand the library's collection and begin lending books to those interested

E Kalaivanan



The mini library has attracted children and youth from the neighborhood | SRIRAM R

OUTSIDE
FORMAL
EDUCATION

BAGALAVAN PERIER B @ Puducherry

EKalaivanan's house in Kirumambakkam village, modest in size yet boundlessly generous, bears markings of a multi-cultural space. An idea that took root on his wedding day, has now blossomed into a deep-rooted tree of knowledge right in his living room. In a culture where reading has become an esoteric, mystical pursuit, Kalaivanan is fighting the good fight, to democratise reading.

When the social activist pitched the idea of converting their living room into a library to his wife, G Sugatha, she wholeheartedly embraced it. Their love story had begun during their participation in the Nehru Yuva Kendra cultural exchange program, and continues till date towards the explicit aim of empowering the community.

Within their humble abode, the main hall has been transformed into a fully-fledged library with a meticulously curated collection of nearly two hundred books. The titles, originally acquired for Kalaivanan's reading pleasure, have now become a source of inspiration and information for many others.

Kalaivanan believes books have the power to change individuals, and consequently, society as a whole. "I have been an avid reader since my childhood, exploring books beyond the confines of formal education," he says.

It was during the trying times of Covid-19 pandemic that Kalaivanan ob-

served his neighbours wasting away their time idly. This compelled him to open his doors and invite them in, to utilise his reading material. Much to his delight, the simple gesture piqued the interest of the neighbours, who started to visit more often.

Kalaivanan and his wife, over the past three years, have organised small book fairs inside their home, with support from reputed publishers, putting out their copies at discounted rates. "In an era dominated by digital gadgets and Internet connectivity, books at home have become crucial," he notes.

The younger generation, despite their educational commitments, visit Kalaivanan's home library in the evenings. "As means to further nurture their reading habit, I am planning to expand the library's collection and begin lending books to those interested. Books are not just mere possessions, they have the power to transform entire lives," says Kalaivanan.

Recognising the need for inner peace in today's world, the home library also has a room dedicated to meditation. He extends this space to students and individuals who inspired Kalaivanan to organise complimentary coaching classes for competitive exams.

Currently serving as a field inspector with the Department of Performing Arts at Pondicherry University, Kalaivanan remains actively engaged in diverse social initiatives through Nehru Yuva Kendra and various other organisations. He is determined to fulfil his wife's aspiration to resume her education.

(Edited by Ajay UK)



A Class-12 student at a Tamil-medium school, Arun Mozhi Varman, from Kankoduthavanthitham in Tiruvanamalai, knew that the burden of running the family had fallen on his shoulders. His father, a farmer, had just passed away. His mother, who worked as a household labourer, could not make ends meet by herself. He had no option but to drop out of school and start working at a private company, for meagre wages.

The next chapter of his life began when he visited Arignar Anna Library in 2015, around a decade after he started working. There, he stumbled upon a Tamil translation of Rabindranath Tagore's *Gitanjali* and was awestruck by the brilliant quality of

the book. The library seemed to serve as a motivation for him, as he began visiting the library quite frequently, delving deeper and deeper into the world of literature. "When I went inside the library, I felt as if the environment provoked me to read a lot of books," Arun says.

As fate would have it, Arun's encounters with UPSC aspirants frequenting the library further fuelled his passion for pursuing education and he went on to study Bachelor of Arts in history from Annamalai University when he was 25. Sub-

sequently, he earned his Master's degree in history, all the while preparing diligently for the highly competitive UPSC examinations.

The first graduate in his family, he aimed to serve the country. Recognising the role of English to achieve his ambitions, he embarked on a journey to learn spoken English.

His unwavering determination led him to break free from the shackles of language.

Despite the fatigue associated with a full-time job, Arun's pursuit of his educational and career goals was unrelenting. He sat for the UPSC examination interview, even though age restrictions posed a challenge.

Now, the 36-year-old Arun has written 10 books, all in English, thanks to his voracious reading.

His first book, "Reflection on Human Relations," marked a significant milestone in his life, as it instilled confidence in his ability to transcend the limitations of a school dropout. Arun attributes his proficiency in English to his regular perusal of newspapers as well, including *The New Indian Express*.

He has also emerged as a motivational speaker and has shared his inspirational story across nine states and seven countries.

Arun's efforts have garnered him recognition from public figures and IAS officers alike. Arun hopes to pursue a PhD in history in the future.

(Edited by Ashutosh Acharya)



Arun Mozhi Varman

M ABDUL RABI @ Kanniyakumari

LET'S join hands to save the ecosystem, said the professors and the students alike, medical representatives and researchers, and people from every walk of life. And so they did, all coming together to rummage through the wilderness in Kanniyakumari to alleviate the effects of environmental degradation compounded by human interference.

Associating with the district forest department, Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation, an NGO comprising a group of nature lovers encompassing volunteers from across professions, launched a cleanliness drive to combat ecosystem degradation by removing broken glass - mostly liquor bottles - from the district's forest cover.

So far, the nascent group of environmentalists has collected over 2.5 tonnes of glass bottles from two forest areas within Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, handing them over to respective local bodies for recycling purposes. The volunteers are equipped with safety gear, including gloves and first-aid kits.

At the Zero Point in Pechiparai in Kodaiy Lower region, the volunteers huddled together to heap up over one tonne of glass bottles disposed of in the forest area. About 1.5 tonnes of bottles were collected in a similar drive carried out in Ulakkai Aruvi. The number of volunteers grew from the initial 25 to 50 at present, says Vinod Sadhasivan, founder of the Kanniyakumari Nature Foundation.

"Discarded liquor bottles found shattered inside forest areas pose a serious threat to the wildlife. It inflicts severe injuries on animals, resulting in infections," warns Vinod. He spoke about his plans to expand the initiative.

According to District Forest Of-

Gang of greens on a mission to restore a broken ecosystem

ONE SHARD AT A TIME



ficer M Ilayaraja, broken glass often goes unnoticed, with some people deliberating shattering them to pieces before discarding them inside these forest regions.

"It is important to keep the environment safe and clean. Garbage releases

toxic chemicals and pollutants that disrupt the ecosystem, posing a serious threat to forest flora and fauna," says Ilayaraja.

Nihya, an MSc graduate and volunteer at the organisation, recounted her experience collecting shattered liquor bottles from the Pechiparai forest region. "It is the responsibility of the tourists and visitors to keep the environment clean," says Nihya.

A Vensilas, another volunteer and government school teacher, expounded on the interdependency of wildlife and forests. "We have to save our ecosystem at any cost," said Vensilas.

(Edited by Jacob B Jacob)



The group has picked up over 1.5 tonnes of glass bottles so far within Kumari Wildlife Sanctuary | EXPRESS

R KIRUBAKARAN @ Coimbatore

ONa a windy September morning, two peacocks sashayed along a lush plot of land with narrow brown walkways complementing the verdant hues of an Open Space Reservation (OSR) in Coimbatore.

What once used to be a dumpsite for several years is now home to some 500 native species of trees and plants, all thanks to Thenmozhi Mohankumar (48), a diploma graduate who devoted her time to transforming the dump site at Balasubramaniam Nagar in Peelamedu into a useful and beautiful herbal garden/park.

A native of Chennimalai, Erode, Thenmozhi moved to Coimbatore only two years ago with her family for her daughter's schooling. Seeing the piece of land opposite her home littered with garbage, Thenmozhi sprang to action in no time and within 1.5 years, the city was gifted a stunning herbal haven.

Looking back, Thenmozhi says she feels elated that the residents who once opposed her work, came around and have embraced the garden as their own. "To many residents, it came as a surprise to see the barren land clean and transformed. They eventually began segregating their waste and disposing it with the help of corporation workers. Now, no one dumps waste in the open," she says.

Stating that the locals now use the garden for their morning and evening walks, Thenmozhi says students and children from the neighbouring areas also frequent the garden to learn about the different varieties of plants and trees here. She also recalls how some residents were cautious about peacocks flocking around and spoiling their plants and crops. Ever since the garden was set up, we started feeding the peacocks by keeping water and grains in one spot, which prevents them from damaging the plants and crops, she adds.

Today, there are about 500 varieties of plants and trees such as Agarwood (Akil), Benzoin (Sambrani), camphor, a rainforest tree Ailanthus triphylla (Matti), stone apple varieties (koyilvam and eka vilvam) with rare medicinal plants, and rare fruit varieties such as Ayanipala (wild jack), Mul Seetha (soursop), Seemai Elanthai (jujuba fruit) native to the Western Ghats. All these exotic plants are maintained in a natural way and are extra special to this garden, says Thenmozhi, who has a background

EXOTIC HERBAL FACELIFT FOR KOVAI DUMPSITE

A FARMER'S LINEAGE



All plants cultivated at the garden are given to area residents | S SENBAGAPANDIYAN

in farming as well.

"Since I hail from a farming family, I have a keen interest in gardening and I have been collecting and growing rare and exotic plants for a long time now and the park is only an extension of that," she says.

It took one strong-willed Thenmozhi who lives in a rented house to take over the barren land and breathe life into it - something that the native residents who live in their own houses in the area couldn't do. Thenmozhi, however, credits educationist CR Swaminathan as her mentor and says the park has been set up in his memory, adding that she is able to maintain it only with the help of volunteers.

"Initially, around 170 saplings were planted with a drip-irrigation system and a fence around the entire park, with the help of an environmental organisation Siruthuli. CR Swaminathan's sister Kamalam, his nephew Vikram, CRI and Mahendra

Pumps also contributed towards the maintenance cost of the park. Whatever plants, parts of vines, fruits and vegetables are cultivated here, we give it to the residents. There's a WhatsApp group consisting of residents from the area for holding related discussions," says Thenmozhi.

The 69-year-old Jayapalaswamy, a frequent visitor, says none of them thought that the place would get such a wonderful facelift. "It is all Thenmozhi's remarkable work. This park is a symbol of change," he says.

Thenmozhi who intends to return to her native after her daughters' studies are completed, says, "I am confident now that the residents will take care of the garden even when I'm gone. Wherever I go, I will continue to create gardens and green spaces useful to society," says Thenmozhi.

(Edited by Lisa Anthony)



Thenmozhi Mohankumar

54 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

The PM 2.5 level recorded at Alandur on Saturday. Nitrogen dioxide level was at 54 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ against the prescribed standard of 80 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

NEWS UPDATE FROM TN
Twitter @ xpressstn
Facebook 'TNIE Tamilnadu' @ xpressstn

newindianexpress.com

Udhayanidhi lays foundation stone for ₹409-crore TNUHDB housing project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

MINISTER of Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin on Saturday laid the foundation stone for a slew of housing projects undertaken at a cost of ₹409.74 crore by the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) in Koyathope, M S Nagar and Kotturpuram. The work is expected to be completed in 18 months.

The TNUHDB has carrying out reconstruction work on a total of 30,492 tenements across the state - 27,138 in Chennai and 3,354 in other districts.



Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin during foundation stone-laying ceremony of housing projects undertaken by the TNUHDB | EXPRESS

So far, a total of 7,582 dilapidated houses were demolished, while 9,522 houses have to be built at a cost of ₹1627.97 crore. Work on a total of 3,511 houses

had begun in eight scheme areas at a cost of ₹606.01 crore. Work on the remaining 6,011 houses, spanning 22 scheme areas, would commence soon at a

cost of ₹1021.87 crore.

On Saturday, Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin laid the foundation stone in three remaining scheme areas in Chennai to construct 2,364 houses at a cost of ₹409.74 crore. In Koyathope, a total of 324 houses will be built at a cost of ₹61.20 crore, 240 houses will come up in M S Nagar at ₹41.30 crore. A total of 1,800 houses will be constructed at a cost of ₹307.24 crore in Kotturpuram.

Ministers P K Sekar Babu, Ma Subramanian, Mayor R Priya, MPs Dayanidhi Maran and Tamizhachi Thangapandian were among those present.

STP worker drowns in 12-foot-deep tank filled with chlorinated water

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

A 32-year-old worker died after falling into a 12-foot-deep tank at the sewage treatment plant in Perungudi on Friday evening.

The deceased, identified as 32-year-old R Muthukumar of Karur, was working at the sewage treatment plant on contract basis. He was assigned with the task of monitoring the cleaning process of a chlorine tank.

On Friday evening, Moham-

med Raqfee, processing manager at the treatment plant, heard a loud splash and crying from the tank. Upon reaching,



Muthukumar was found to have accidentally slipped into the tank filled with chlorinated water to an extent of nine feet.

"By the time workers pulled Muthukumar out of the tank using equipment, he had drowned," said police. The body was taken to the Royapettah Government Hospital for post-mortem. Muthukumar is survived by his wife and children. A case has been registered.

Man stabs wife to death, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

A 50-year-old man was arrested in connection with the murder of his wife in Sholinganallur on Friday night.

The accused, identified as Muthu, 50, suspecting infidelity by his wife, M Punniyavathi, 46, of Gandhi Nagar in Sholinganallur, got into an argument with her at their residence on Friday night.

Police said Muthu went on to

brandish a knife and stab Punniyavathi multiple times. Muthu fled before neighbours arrived the spot. Their daughter, Lakshmi, who was present at the scene, sustained injuries on her hand as she tried to pacify Muthu, said the police.

Muthu was subsequently arrested. A case has been registered and the body, with the throat slit, was sent to Royapettah Government Hospital for post-mortem. A probe is on.



State Bank of India, Chennai Circle, organised a Farmer-Producer Organisation Connect Program in Madurai on Friday, in collaboration with Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivruddhi Society. The meeting was presided over by Govind Narayan Goyal, General Manager (Network 2), Local Head Office, Chennai.

Minor among seven nabbed in ganja crackdown

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

IN four separate incidents, seven persons, including a minor, were arrested for ganja peddling within the city limits on Friday and Saturday. Ganja weighing 24 kilograms was seized.

Based on a tip-off, the Prohibition Enforcement Wing (PEW) of Anna Nagar nabbed D Narayana Deili, aged 32, of Odisha,

from Perambur Railway Station for attempting to peddle ganja weighing 10.06 kilograms in the city, on Friday evening.

In another crackdown, the Marina police tracked the movement of three men and a minor boy, nabbing them from the Neelam Basha Bridge in Triplicane in the wee

hours of Saturday. Contraband weighing 10 kilograms was seized from the accused - M Naveen Kumar, aged 23, of Villupuram, A Abhijit Rout, aged 18, and S Benkin Helder, 19, of Odisha, and the minor boy.

N Akbar Kayal, aged 33, of West Bengal, was apprehended at the Moor Market in a

similar crackdown. A total of 2.7 kilograms of ganja were seized. S Saravanan, aged 20, was arrested near the Mattumandai Bridge after Thiruvottiyur police found him to be in possession of a total of 1.25 kilograms of ganja.

The six men were remanded in judicial custody, while the juvenile was sent to the Government Observation Home.

MSMEs urge govt to reduce power charges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

State MSME associations requested the state government to reduce electricity charges considering their welfare.

According to a release, MSMEs have been under tremendous stress in the last two years owing to economic recession, unprecedented increases in raw material costs and shortage of manpower.

"In addition to this, due to increase in power tariff, MSMEs have been facing difficulty in operating their business for the last one year. We have been representing the issues to the state government and are yet to receive any solution. Moreover, the proposal to increase electricity tariff year-on-year will challenge the survival of MSMEs" the release said.

The association also requested to remove solar networking charges, saying the income to Tangedco from networking charges is very minimum.

HC quashes COFEPOSA case against practising lawyer, orders his release

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

THE Madras High Court recently quashed a detention order issued under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA) Act, 1974, against a practising lawyer, or

dering for his release.

The order was passed by a division bench of Justices M Sundar and R Sakthivel on a habeas corpus petition (HCP) filed by petitioner Zahir Hussain through his advocate.

The order was passed by a division bench of Justices M Sundar and R Sakthivel on a habeas corpus petition (HCP) filed by petitioner Zahir Hussain through his advocate.

The bench, in its order, said, "The sum sequitur of the narrative, discussion and dispositive reasoning so far is impugned, the preventive detention order is vitiated, and the same is liable to be dislodged in the habeas corpus legal drill."

January 3, 2023. The petitioner challenged the dismissal before the Supreme Court, which dismissed the appeal before he was arrested on 30 May, 2023.

Senior counsel Abdul Hameed, appearing for the petitioner, contended that there was "non-application of mind" on the part of the authorities concerned, pointing out the detention was made "only on one ground of smuggling of goods."

He noted that the "live and proximate link" between the grounds of detention and purpose of detention has been "snapped."

The bench, in its order, said, "The sum sequitur of the narrative, discussion and dispositive reasoning so far is impugned, the preventive detention order is vitiated, and the same is liable to be dislodged in the habeas corpus legal drill."

Form No.63
Rule 148(1) of the Companies (Court) Rules, 1959
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT,1956
IN THE MATTER OF M/s.KRM Kumaragam Chits Private Limited
(in Provisional Liquidation)
Company Application No.361/2023
in
Company petition No.279/2016
ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TO PROVE THEIR CLAIMS

Pursuant to the order of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras dated 17.7.2023 in C.A.No.361/2023 & C.P.N.279/2016 notice is hereby given to all the creditors including workmen of the above named company that they are required to submit to the official liquidator of the court, proofs of their respective debts/claims against the above named company by delivering at the office of the official liquidator on or before **23.10.2023** or sending by post to the Official Liquidator so as to reach him not later than the said date, an affidavit proving the debt or claim as per the prescribed Form No.66 (Please see the Company (Court) Rules, 1959) duly stamped and notarized with their respective names, addresses and particulars of claim and title to priority under Section 529,529A and 530 of the Companies Act, 1956. Any creditor who fails to submit his/her affidavit of proof within the time limit prescribed by the Hon'ble High Court, Madras, will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution of dividend before his/her debt is proved or as the case may be, from objecting to such distribution.

Any creditor who has sent his/her proofs if so required by notice in writing, shall either in person or by his / her advocate, attend upon the investigation of such claim by the Official Liquidator at such time and place as shall be specified, in such notice and shall produce such further evidence of his/her claim as may be required.

DATED AT CHENNAI THIS THE 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023.

Sd/-
(B.SRIKUMAR, ICL)
OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR
HIGH COURT, MADRAS

Address:
O/o.The Official Liquidator,
High Court, Madras,
Corporate Bhavan, II Floor,
No.29, Rajajisalai, Chennai-600001.
Phone Nos. 25271149, 25271151

TAMIL NADU DR. J. JAYALALITHAA FISHERIES UNIVERSITY
NAGAPATTINAM
APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR
SEARCH COMMITTEE NOTIFICATION

The Government of Tamil Nadu vide its Gazette notification No. 311 dt 16.8.2023 of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare Department (G.O.D) No.513, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare Department (F.S2), dated 08.08.2023 has constituted a Search Committee to recommend a panel of three names to the Hon'ble Governor-Chancellor for appointment of Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, Nagapattinam.

The Search Committee invites applications for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, from distinguished academicians with high level of competence, integrity, moral and institutional commitment and possessing the educational qualifications and work experience according to UGC guidelines and also as notified by the Government of Tamil Nadu in their Tamil Nadu Government Gazette No.21 of 2012 (amended time to time) - Tamil Nadu Fisheries University Act dated 19th June 2012 (copy of which is available in Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University website: www.tnjfu.ac.in).

The Vice-Chancellor shall hold the office for a period of three years (provided that the person appointed as Vice-Chancellor shall retire from the office if, during the term of office, he/she attains the age of 70 years).

Interested candidates possessing the qualifications and experience shall download the prescribed application from the website of Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University (www.tnjfu.ac.in). The filled in application in the prescribed format shall be sent by speed post duly superscribing the Envelope "Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University" so as to reach the following address, on or before 5.00 p.m. of 24.10.2023.

Dr. S. Valli,
Nodal Officer
Search Committee for selection of Vice-Chancellor
Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
College of Engineering, Guindy Campus, Anna University, Chennai – 600 025

Application received by the Nodal Officer only after publication of this Notification in the Website / Newspaper will be considered. Applications received after the closing date will not be entertained on any account. Application should not be sent to the Search Committee Members directly.

DIPR/ 1099 DISPLAY/2023

REGISTRAR

MOOLAKKADAI MADHAVARAM BRANCH

Appendix IV - POSSESSION NOTICE (RULE 8(1)) (For Immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the Union Bank of India, Moolakkadai Madhavaram Branch, Address at 1, GNT Road, Moolakkadai Junction, Madhavaram under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand notice on the date mentioned against each account as stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

As the borrowers have failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of Property, described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sec. 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules.

S.No.1: Borrower's Name : Mr.L.K.Hanumantha Prasad, Demand Notice Dated: 09.06.2023; Possession Notice Dated: 20.09.2023; Outstanding Amount: Rs.13,55,213.63 (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Two Hundred and Thirteen and Paise Sixty Three Only) and interest charges.

Description of Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of land measuring 1355 sq.ft. in Karpuram ISHWARYAM, 5/10, Ranjith Road, Kotturupuram, Chennai 600085, comprised in Survey Number 5/10, Block number 15 of Adyar village, Mambalam - Guindy Taluk, Chennai District, with UDS of 276 Sq.Ft. / 15687 Sq.Ft. situated Within the registration district of Chennai South and sub-registration district of Adyar. Bounded on the North by: 40 ft. Road, South by: Property of Dr. Roy, East by: Property of Dr. Roy, West by: 20 ft. wide Ranjith Road.

Reserve Price : Rs.1,20,00,000/- EMD : Rs.21,10,000/- Bid increment : Rs.30,000/- Possession : Symbolic

S.No.2: Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor : BORROWER: Mr Abdul Hadi Mohammed Abdullah, Flat B4, Fourth Floor, 'ISHWARYAM', 5/10, Ranjith Road, Kotturupuram, Chennai-600085. Mrs.Abdul Subhan Fairose, Flat B4, Fourth Floor, 'ISHWARYAM', 5/10, Ranjith Road, Kotturupuram, Chennai-600085. A.H Fathima Nazira, Flat B4, Rajparis 'ISHWARYAM', 6A, Ranjith road, Kotturupuram, Chennai-600085.

Amount due : Rs.37.70 LAKHS as on 31.08.2023 with further interest to be charged plus costs and expenses

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All that piece and parcel of land in the extent of 6 Grounds and 1467 sq.ft. or thereabouts, situated at Flat no. B 4 in the fourth floor measuring 1355 sq.ft. in Rajparis 'ISHWARYAM', 5/10, Ranjith Road, Kotturupuram, Chennai-600085, comprised in Survey Number 5/10, Block number 15 of Adyar village, Mambalam - Guindy Taluk, Chennai District, with UDS of 276 Sq.Ft. / 15687 Sq.Ft. situated Within the registration district of Chennai South and sub-registration district of Adyar. Bounded on the North by: 40 ft. Road, South by: Property of Dr. Roy, East by: Property of Dr. Roy, West by: 20 ft. wide Ranjith Road.

Reserve Price : Rs.1,20,00,000/- EMD : Rs.21,10,000/- Bid increment : Rs.30,000/- Possession : Symbolic

S.No.3 : Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor : Mr. Venugopal B, Flat No F3, First Floor, VGN Platina, Plot No 34, Ambigai Nagar, Ayappakkam, Chennai-600077.

Amount due : Rs.39.22 LAKHS as on 31.08.2023 with further interest to be charged from 01.09.2023 plus costs and expenses

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : All that piece and parcel of land and building thereon belonging to Mr. B Venugopal having 691 Sq.ft of undivided share, comprised in Plot No.34, Survey No. 403/1 and 403/2, totally measuring an extant of 3694 Sq.ft bearing CMDA approval No.C-74504, situated at Ayappakkam village, Ambattur taluk and Thiruvallur district and land being bounded on the: North by: Plot No.33, South by: Plot No.35, East by: Survey No.402, West by: 27 meters road.

Reserve Price : Rs.43,02,000/- EMD : Rs.4,30,200/- Bid increment : Rs.40,000/- Possession : Symbolic

Date & Time of E-Auction: 27.10.2023 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM (with 10 min. unlimited auto extensions)
E-auction website-www.mstcecommerce.com

Intending bidders may download at free of cost, copies of sale notice, Terms and Conditions of e-auction Help Manual on operational part of e-auction from e-Bkary –IBAPI portal (<https://www.ibapi.in>).

For auction related queries e-mail to sarfaesi@unionbankofindia.com or contact Union Bank of India, Chennai – Asset Recovery Branch, "Elcanso Building" No.9, Casa Major Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600008, Contact : Mr. Vetri Selvan J, Mob. No. 9137554740, Email: ubin0554740@unionbankofindia.com.

For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>.

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/bkary/index.jsp> and Click "Buyer Guide for Login and Registration".

Notice of 30 days for sale of immovable secured assets under Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Date : 21.09.2023 Place: Chennai

Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India, ARB, Chennai.

Date : 20.09.2023, Place : Chennai

Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

Sangeetha Caterers and Consultants LLP- the owner of well reputed brand SANGETHA / SANGETHA Veg Restaurants had filed a suit for injunction alleging infringement and passing off, and other ancillary reliefs, against their erstwhile Franchisees - Rasnam Foods Pvt Ltd, RSM Foods Pvt Ltd, Prasanam Foods Pvt Ltd and another associated business GVR Foods Pvt

Relief for industries, LT consumers can modify power load without fee

A 15% capital subsidy will also be offered for rooftop solar power generation, says govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

IN a significant relief for small and medium industries, power tariff system in Tamil Nadu was tweaked on Saturday to allow low-tension consumers (tariff IIIB) to modify their electrical load based on demand four times a year without any charge. A 15% capital subsidy will also be offered for rooftop solar power generation.

The decision by Tangedco (Tamil Nadu Generation and

Distribution Corporation) came after Chief Minister MK Stalin, during a review meeting held at the secretariat on July 21, told officials to address the requests of micro, small, and medium enterprises regarding electricity charges, a press release issued on Saturday said.

Incidentally, Tamil

Nadu Industries Associations have planned to go on strike on Monday to urge the state to withdraw the recent electricity

tariff revision, peak hour charge and fixed charge, and to press for other demands.

Explaining steps taken in the past, the press release also said Tangedco had submitted a multi-year electricity tariff petition for the financial years 2022-23 to 2026-27 to TNERC in July 2022.

After the CM asked officials to take into consideration inputs from MSMEs and industries and revise the tariff, fixed charges for industries were re-

duced in July as follows -- from ₹100 to ₹75 for up to 50 KW, from ₹325 to ₹150 for 50 KW to 100 KW, from ₹500 to ₹150 for 100 KW to 112 KW, and from ₹600 to ₹550 for above 112 KW --- the press release pointed out.

The release also recalled the announcement made in 2022 towards the reduction of peak hour electricity charges for MSMEs from 25% to 15%, with the government providing an additional subsidy of ₹145 crore annually to benefit 3.37 lakh industries.



DRAWING TO CLOSE

Devotees taking Vinayakar idols in procession for 'visarjan' at Palavakkam on Saturday | MARTIN LOUIS

IN THE HC

Can't evict tenant, rent Act gives 575 days to ink agreement, says HC

R SIVAKUMAR @Chennai

MADRAS HC has ruled that a tenant cannot be evicted from a property on the ground of non-execution of rental agreement as per Tamil Nadu Regulation of Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants Act 2017 if the mandatory 575 day time limit given for signing agreement has not been exhausted.

Justice Sathi Kumar Sukumara Kurup gave the ruling while setting aside an order of a rent control appellate court. The case pertains to a civil revision petition filed by partners of Top Kapi, a toy shop, seeking to set aside an order of the rent tribunal dated December 20, 2022 confirming the July 18, 2022 order of the rent court.

The tenant has been occupying the building for over 40 years through an oral agreement. After the tenants Act

came into force, landlord S Sarath Babu served the tenant a notice in March 2019 seeking to sign a written agreement. The tenant had sent a reply expressing willingness but it reached the landlord late.

However, the landlord issued another notice and cancelled the tenancy, thereby asking the tenant to vacate the premises. The tenant filed a petition before the RDO seeking his intervention. Babu filed a petition before the rent court which ordered in his favour.

Challenging the order, an appeal was filed before the rent control appellate court which confirmed the order of the rent court. Aggrieved, the tenant approached the HC.

Setting aside the order, he directed the landlord and the tenant to enter into a fresh lease agreement within a year.

HC helps woman get share of son's terminal benefits

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madurai

THE Madurai Bench of Madras High Court came to the rescue of an elderly woman with regard to receiving a share of her late son's terminal benefits, which was denied by the government on the ground that only her daughter-in-law was mentioned as a nominee in service records.

Kalyani had knocked on the doors of the court a few months ago seeking direction to the directorate of ex-servicemen welfare to disburse a share of the terminal benefits of her son Subramanian, who died while working as a superintendent in the department.

Kalyani claimed that her son and daughter-in-law were living separately and the couple had several marital cases pending before various courts. During this period, she spent several lakhs towards treating

her son's liver ailment by borrowing money from several people, Kalyani added.

To settle these debts, she sent a representation in June 2023 to her son's office seeking to disburse her share from her son's terminal benefits. But the authorities rejected her request citing that her son had nominated only his wife to receive his death-cum-retirement benefits and gratuity, prompting Kalyani to approach the court.

Justice L Victoria Gowri, who heard her plea, opined that the above reason is not sustainable since the petitioner, being a senior citizen and one of the four legal heirs (including his wife and two children) of the deceased, is entitled to one-fourth share in the benefits. She directed the authorities to consider her case and disburse Kalyani's share to her within three months.

Why is PM silent on ₹7.5L cr irregularities flagged by CAG: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

DMK president and Chief Minister MK Stalin on Saturday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his cabinet colleagues for not responding to the 'irregularities' to the tune of ₹7.5 lakh crore flagged in the Comptroller and Auditor General of India report.

The DMK president, in his second episode of 'Speaking for India' podcast, asked: "Have you read what the report says?

Did you discuss this in the special session of Parliament? Did you even answer? So far, neither the prime minister nor the union ministers concerned have responded to this. They cannot respond either. That's the reason why Modi adopts 'different kinds of politics' to misdirect people."

Stalin said people of the country have realised that Modi is working against the poor, backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. "This has been proven by the defeat faced by BJP in the recent elections across various states," he added.

"Safeguarding our beloved

India, which stands united in diversity, is a responsibility that rests in the hands of each and every one of us," Stalin added.

He said even in the Ayodhya project, the CAG report had exposed the BJP's corruption.

"They name all projects with words that cannot even be easily pronounced by common people so that no one can even figure out what's really going on," Stalin said sarcastically.

"There is a tourism project (Swadesha Darshan) that invites tourists to all places where Ramayana is said to have taken place. It was claimed to be implemented in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Goa and Tel-

angana. In this project, the CAG has found several irregularities worth millions. This report reveals violations in contracts," Stalin added.

The CAG report said the UDAN scheme was started in 2016 by allocating ₹1,089 crore. Out of the 774 routes that were planned, only 7% are operational and the others are inactive.

"For example, in Tamil Nadu, Salem, Thanjavur, Ramnathapuram and Vellore were included in the scheme to provide air services. However, air connectivity has been established only in Salem, and that is also currently not in operation. The CAG report says that out of the total 774 scheduled routes, flights are not operational in 720 routes," Stalin added.

'Ooratchi mani' planned to help villagers

Chennai: Chief Minister MK Stalin will be launching the 'ooratchi mani' call centre set up by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department on September 26. By dialling toll free number 155340, people from all village panchayats can submit grievances in their village panchayats. The personal secretary (development) of the district collector will be the nodal officer of this call centre at the district level. Sources said people can lodge complaints on basic amenities like road facilities, drinking water, streetlights, electricity, ration shops etc.

Chennai: Chief Minister MK Stalin will be launching the 'ooratchi mani'

call centre set up by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

Department on September 26. By dialling toll free number 155340,

people from all village panchayats can submit grievances in their

village panchayats. The personal secretary (development) of the

district collector will be the nodal officer of this call centre at the

district level. Sources said people can lodge complaints on basic

amenities like road facilities, drinking water, streetlights, electricity,

ration shops etc.



Activists decry any further industrialisation on Pulicat ESZ | SHIBA PRASAD SAHU

These projects will not come in the way of wildlife and bird conservation. The State Board for Wildlife can only recommend, the final decision will be taken by the National Board for Wildlife
Chief Wildlife Warden

into the Kosasthalayar and the backwaters, salt pans, grasslands and scrub areas on all sides, where industrialisation is already heavy."

G Sundarrajan, coordinator of environment advocacy group Poovulagin Nanbargal, said: "There are enough studies conducted by NGT appointed committees, which recommended against setting-up of any more red category industries in Ennore-Pulicat wetlands. Any further shrinking of this area would mean trouble even for Chennai city."

When contacted, Chief Wildlife Warden Srinivas R Reddy said these industries are located more than 7 km from Pulicat lake close to SIPCOT industrial area in Gummidi poondi. "The area is already industrialised and as per NCSCM, the zone of influence of the Pulicat lake doesn't go beyond 4 km. These projects will not come in the way of wildlife and bird conservation. The State Board for Wildlife can only recommend, the final decision will be taken by the National Board for Wildlife."

Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden.

Naturalist M Yuvan, who headed a team from Palluyir Trust to survey the wetlands and bird populations in the ESZ of Pulicat, told TNIE: "Our studies post monsoons, show significant numbers of water birds, including threatened and migratory species like Greater Flamingoes, Eurasian Curlews and Brownheaded gulls, using the wetlands throughout and even beyond the 10km ESZ of Pulicat bird sanctuary, given that the Ennore-Pulicat wetlands are hydrologically and ecologically contiguous. This contiguity is essential to take into account during wildlife and wetland conservation as the lagoon doesn't exist in isolation, but is fed and spreads



CM MK Stalin unveiled the statue through video conference | MARTIN LOUIS

Stalin unveils statue of Tamil scholar Silamboli Chellappan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Namakkal

CM MK Stalin on Saturday unveiled the statue of Tamil scholar 'Silamboli' Chellappan at Kondampattimedu village near Senthamangalam, via video conference from Chennai. The statue was commissioned by the Silamboli Chellappan Silapathigara Arakkattai, Forest Minister S Mathiventhan, MP Rajeshkumar and MLAs Rama Lingam and Ponnusamy were present during the event.

Tracing the scholar's life, Stalin said, "He was also the founding director of the world Tamil research institute. He

openly spoke against Hindi as official language. After DMK formed its first government under CN Annadurai, Silamboli Chellappan was made organiser of the second World Tamil conference held in Chennai, in 1976, when the DMK government was dismissed, Chellapan was demoted from his post as director of Tamil development department by the then governor. It seems all governors are like this, unaware of the administration," Stalin said.

In 1989, when DMK came into power Chellapan was appointed as founding director of Tamil research institute.

My lifetime mission is to take Tamil and its literature to rest of India: Ravi

T MURUGANANDHAM @Chennai

MY life mission is to learn Tamil and take it forward to other parts of our country, governor RN Ravi, who recently completed two years in office in Tamil Nadu, told eminent Tamil personalities at the Raj Bhavan on Saturday.

In his 25-minute speech, Ravi turned emotional when he spoke about the glory of Tamil and its literature.

"I am still a toddler as far as Tamil and its rich literature are concerned. I have a long way to go. I have travelled and worked across the country and wondered how for 70 years I was ignorant of it."

Ravi said he started learning Tamil because he wanted to enjoy the depth of the treasure of knowledge this language has. "I have not yet got an equivalent of the word 'aram' in any European language. By very



Governor RN Ravi addressing eminent Tamil personalities at the Raj Bhavan on Saturday | EXPRESS

nature, European languages cannot do justice to old Tamil literature. Even in Indian languages, perhaps the only language that comes close in antiquity to Tamil is Sanskrit. Other Indian languages are in the process of evolution," he said

This great wisdom and knowledge, he said, have not reached the other parts of the

country. "We have a responsibility to take it across the country and the world. It has become my life's mission to learn Tamil and take it forward to other parts of our country because our people should reap the benefits of this language and literature. They cannot be deprived of such a rich treasure we have here," Ravi said.

2 years on, plan to promote solar power yet to take off

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN @Chennai

IT has been two years since the state government announced its ambitious plan to install solar power parks across the state. But, the project has not taken off yet due to unavailability of land and insufficient funds.

In September 2021, the then electricity minister, V Senthil Balaji, announced in the Assembly that solar power plants would generate a total of 6,000 MW to cut carbon emission. The government planned to kickstart the project in Tiruvannamalai, Karur, Salem, Erode, Chengalpattu and Kanchipuram.

A Tangedco official told TNIE, "We were able to find only 4,000 acres of land. We need at least 10,000 acres to install solar panels with a combined capacity of 2,000 MW."

The project was planned under the design, build, own, op-

erate and transfer model. This means it will be done under a private-public partnership. However, given Tangedco's debt of ₹1.4 lakh crore, investors are reluctant to take on such a massive project, he added.

Another official said, "Recently, a consultant had suggested splitting the state-owned power utility into separate entities for generation, distribution and renewable energy sectors. At present, the government is contemplating merging non-conventional energy sources and Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency to form a new renewable energy company. The government can provide capital investment for this purpose," he said.

S Nagalsamy, former member of TNIEC, said, "Given the rising demand for power, it's imperative to expand generation sources. So, the government must prioritise solar projects."

Day after K'taka releases water to TN, parties plan Bengaluru bandh

By CM D K Shivakumar says oppn adding political colour to issue, calls bandh pointless

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru



VARIOUS organisations, including Karnataka Jalarakshana Samithi, Federation of Karnataka Farmers' Association and Kannada outfits, have called for a total Bengaluru bandh on Tuesday to protest against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Schools and colleges in the city may remain closed on that day. BMTC buses, autorickshaws and cabs are likely to be off the road.

Kannada outfits such as Kannada Chaluvalli Vatal Paksha led by veteran activist Vatal Nagaraj and Karnataka Rakshana Vedike headed by Praveen Shetty will hold a

said that a meeting will be held on Sunday. Accordingly, a decision will be taken on declaring a holiday for schools on Tuesday, Sashidhar L Dindur, secretary of RUPSA, said.

However, the Association of Managements of English Medium Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) said although it will support the bandh call, schools will not be closed as mid-term exams are approaching. Shashi Kumar D, secretary, KAMS, said, "Raitha Sangha has asked us to declare a holiday on Tuesday. We are in solidarity with the organisations, but a decision on declaring a holiday on Tuesday will be taken on Monday, keeping in mind exams."

Appealing to Bengalureans to support the bandh call, Fed-

eration of Karnataka Farmers' Association president Kuruburu Shanthakumar said 1.3 crore people live in Bengaluru who also need drinking water. They should also support the Cauvery struggle. He accused the government of killing farmers by not providing water for their crops in the State and instead diverting it to TN. "The government should stop releasing water to TN immediately," Shanthakumar said.

Tanveer Ahmed, president of Ola, Uber Taxi Drivers' and Owners' Association, said an appeal has been made to members of the association to support the bandh call. Cabs and autos are likely to remain off the road on Tuesday.

meeting on Monday to discuss their plans for the bandh.

BMTC services are likely to be affected as the KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation has extended its support. The BMTC has been asked not to run buses on Tuesday between 6 am and 6 pm.

Recognised Unaided Private Schools' Association (RUPSA)

will hold a

Skill development scam case: Naidu approaches apex court

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

FORMER Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Telugu Desam Party leader, accused of allegedly misappropriating funds in the multi-crore skill development scam has approached the Supreme Court seeking to quash the FIR registered against him by Andhra Pradesh CID.

Naidu has approached top court against Andhra Pradesh HC's September 22, 2023 order refusing to quash the FIR and the order dated September 10, 2023 of judicial remand.

TDP leader in his plea has argued that he was arrested in an illegal manner and deprived of his liberty motivated only by political reasons by disregarding the fact that all actions were

initiated without obtaining the sanction mandated by section 17A of the PC Act.

Calling the allegations against which were relateable to the decision taken in discharge of his official duties as CM as "unfounded", he in his plea has said that he was suddenly named in the FIR registered 21 months ago. He further contended that

the FIR registered 21 months ago.

AP-CID is acting at the behest of the ruling party to hurt his chances in the state election.

"The CID is threatening the officers to implicate him, his family and TDP," the plea said.

Rejecting the arguments related to receipt of prior sanction under section 17A, the judge said, "Section 17A cannot be made applicable where the act of the public servant is lacking in good faith."

First day of Naidu's interrogation lasted six hours

Vijayawada: The APCID questioned TDP national president N Chandrababu Naidu for more than six hours at Rajahmundry Central Jail on Saturday. On the first day, a 12-member team led by DSP rank officer M Dhananjayudu grilled the TDP chief from 9:30 am to 5 pm, after Naidu underwent a medical examination in the presence of his counsels. It is learnt that the Dhananjayudu and other officials sought Naidu's response on 50 questions of a 100-page questionnaire. The CID officials grilled Naidu for almost two-and-a-half hours in the morning.

Doctors say gesture will offer solace to families

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

TO recognise and promote such donations, CM M Karunanidhi declared September 23 as Organ Donation Day. Tamil Nadu has been the leading state in the country in organ donations for the past 15 years.

During an event at Kalaiyanar Arangam on Saturday, floral tributes were paid to organ donors and their relatives were honoured. Grief counsellors, top-performing hospitals, and police personnel who facilitate the swift transport of organs through Green Corridor initiatives were also recognised. "There were 13 organ transplant units in government hospitals across the state. After the DMK came to power, 27 government medical colleges and hospitals were declared as non-transplant organ retrieval centres to increase donations. Though Tamil Nadu leads in organ donation, there are 6,179 patients waiting to get kidneys, 449 patients for liver, 72 for heart, 60 for lungs, and 24 for heart and lung," said Health Minister Ma Subramanian.

We have linked organ donations to insurance schemes. Since 2008, 1,726 people have donated organs in TN benefitting 6,327 patients of TN. In the last 2.5 years, 313 have donated organs benefitting 1,641 people, he said.

Member-secretary of Transplant Authority Government of Tamil Nadu (T R A N S T A N) N Gopalakrishnan said, "At RGGGH, we have been doing honour walk while handing over the bodies of donors to families. In case of brain-dead patients, the tragedy takes place at the prime age of their lives. The gesture will offer some solace to the families during their time of grief."

EXPRESS READ

'FIITJEE Big Bang Edge Test 2023' on October 22, 29

Chennai: The 'FIITJEE Big Bang Edge Test 2023' will be held on October 22 and 29. Students from Classes 6 to 11 can appear for the test, based on the performance of which students will be eligible to attend FIITJEE 'classroom program/integrated school program/live online classroom program' at a reduced fee (starting from April 2024). The test chalks out a comprehensive approach for exams, including JEE Mains, JEE Advanced, BITSAT, Olympiads, Class 10 and 12 boards, NTSE and junior Olympiads. ENS



Isha Gramotsavam, tool for social transformation: Thakur

Coimbatore: Isha Gramotsavam has become an effective tool for social transformation that helps villagers move away from addictions, break caste barriers, and empower women," said Anurag Thakur, union minister of youth affairs and sports, speaking at the grand finale of the event held at Isha Yoga Centre on Saturday. The minister was accompanied by Sadhguru, Founder-Isha Foundation, Tamil actor Santhanam and former Indian hockey captain Dhanraj Pillay on the occasion. Launched in August, Isha Gramotsavam was held in over 194 rural locations across south India. It saw participation of 60,000 players, including over 10,000 women, in events like kabaddi and throwball, said a press release.

Sanitary staff attempts suicide after caste abuse, panchayat prez booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Thoothukudi

A 38-year-old sanitary worker allegedly attempted to die by suicide after Pudur panchayat president verbally abused him. Pudur police booked woman town panchayat president Vanitha and Green Trust sanitary supervisor Alagarasamy under various sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The victim, M Karupasamy, is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

Sources said Karupasamy and his wife Muniammal belong to the Scheduled Caste

(Arunthathiyar), and are among 27 sanitary contract workers deployed by the Green Trust. "The sanitary workers, led by Karupasamy, had demanded Vanitha and secretary Ganesan for an increment. However, Vanitha refused," sources said.

Since the incident, Alagarasamy had instructed the staff to work overtime and treated them disrespectfully. He demanded Karupasamy to work till 10 pm, and even work at Vanitha's garden. On September 19, Karupasamy refused to work at the garden, following which the contractor com-

plained to Vanitha, who hurled caste slurs at Karupasamy. Karupasamy, who was depressed, attempted to die by suicide the same day on the town panchayat office premises," sources added.

As Ganesan refused to rescue Karupasamy, other sanitary workers admitted him to the Pudur Primary Health Centre, where the doctors referred him to neighbouring Arupukottai government hospital, read the complaint submitted by Muniammal.

(Those having suicidal thoughts can call 104 or 044-24640050)

Half-burnt body of woman found in Salem

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Salem

THE partially charred body of a woman was found near a temple at Deevattipatti in Salem on Saturday morning.

Sources said locals spotted the half-burnt body behind a temple near bus stand and informed Deevattipatti police.

"When the police arrived at the spot, smoke was coming from the woman's body. So it must have been set on fire only a few hours ago. How she was killed will be known after the post-mortem results. The woman may be around 25 years old," said police.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -III, CHENNAI,
6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhavan,
Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600008

O. A. No. 272 OF 2022

M/s. Karnataka Bank Ltd., Old No. 402, New No. 78, Thiruvalluvar Salai, Paneer Nagar, Mogappair - East, Chennai - 600 037, Represented by its Branch Manager

....Applicant

-VS-

1. M/s. Firefly Marketing, rep. by its Proprietor, Mr. N. Renga Krishnan and 3 others ...Defendants

To,

1. M/s. Firefly Marketing, rep. by its Proprietor, Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Door No. 14, Plot No. 76, Ayyavoo Nagar, Maduravoyal, Chennai - 600 095.

2. Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Son of Mr. R. Nagarajan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

3. Mr. N. Veerasamy Son of Mr. R. Nagarajan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

4. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

5. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

6. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

7. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

8. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

9. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

10. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

11. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

12. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

13. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

14. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

15. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

16. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

17. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

18. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

19. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

20. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

21. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

22. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

23. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

24. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

25. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

26. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

27. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

28. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai - 600 048.

29. Mrs. Sandhya Rengakrishnan, Wife of Mr. N. Renga Krishnan, Plot No. 73, F-1, Vassantham Appt, ShanthiNikethan Nagar, Varadharajapuram, Chennai -



OPINION

CHENNAI

SUNDAY

24.09.2023

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

08

WTO's LAZY THESIS LUMPS INDIA IN CHINA BLOC

THE phrase geopolitics was coined by Swedish political scientist Rudolf Kjellén in 1899. It represents the influence of geography, economics and demography on power relationships in the world. Kjellén observed that the State was a living organism, a 'force of will', an amalgamation of aspects and a set of dynamic interests.

The coinage has since acquired lasting contextual currency and is ricocheting across the world. This week the phrase punctuated the text of speechifying by Volodymyr Zelensky and world leaders at the UN General Assembly. The phrase also frames the context for business models—in the first six months of 2023 alone, the word geopolitics found nearly 12,000 mentions in corporate filings of S&P500 companies.

The trends first witnessed post the pandemic have accelerated following the war in Ukraine. The quest for resilience has triggered a migration from just-in-time economics to just-in-case geopolitics. The tectonic shift in economic relationships is manifest in data and in headlines—Mexico has ousted China

and emerged as the largest trading partner of the United States. As underlined by IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva, fragmentation of trade has implications for global growth.

Amid all this angst and din, earlier this month, the World Trade Organisation presented the *World Trade Report 2023*. In what is bizarre at the least and lazy theorising at its worst, the report leans on misplaced assumptions to paint a picture of risks.

Deploying a July 2022 WTO paper, the *WTR* has conjured a world of two trading blocs based on voting patterns in the United Nations.

The hypothesis lumps India with China along with Russia, most of North Africa and Southeast Asia, and places Europe, Canada, Australia, Japan and South Korea in the western bloc. Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa fall somewhere in between, closer to the US.

Before we get to its analysis and assessment of risks, consider the construct. The definition of the blocs illustrates the pitfalls of wilful blindness. Consider geopolitics first. India is a member of the US-led QUAD and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity which was formed in response to China's expansionism. India and the US have signed agreements on cooperation in space, in developing artificial intelligence and manufacture of defence equipment. Last fortnight India along with the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union announced the new India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor to counter the China-led Belt and Road Initiative.

Now consider the economic relationships. The United States is one of the top trading partners of India with exports touching \$128.55 billion in 2022-23 and including sourcing by Walmart and Apple. Last month Harley Davidson launched its cheapest bike made in India. The bulk of India's \$320-billion-plus services exports is to the US, Europe and UK. According to Nasscom, India is home to over 50 percent of the world's global capability centres. The US is the third largest contributor of foreign direct investment into India. This week J P Morgan announced that it will add India to its widely tracked emerging market debt index.

The artificiality of the assumptions is stark. The UN resolution for ending the war in Ukraine and asking Russia to withdraw saw 141 countries voting for the resolution, 32 abstaining and seven voting against. Saudi Arabia voted with the US. So did UAE and 12 others from Middle East and North Africa. Yet North Africa is lumped in the China bloc. What is the basis for the bunching and the presumptions? Can it be argued that the 141 countries who voted for the resolution can or will cease to engage with those who abstained or voted against?

The observations of *WTR 2023* and the paper suffer from *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* fallacy. Typically, the choice of members in a bloc will define outcomes as data can be tortured to deliver. *WTR 2023* argues that goods trade flows "between the two blocs grew by 4.6 percent more slowly than within these blocs since the onset of war in Ukraine". The July 2022 paper assumes two scenarios. In the 'full decouple' scenario all trade happens within the blocs. In the 'tariff' decouple' scenario countries move away from cooperative to non-cooperative tariff. In both scenarios volume of trade is affected as is the cost of goods.

There is no disputing that faultlines in global trade represent real and present danger. In the 1973 tome, *The World in Depression 1929-1939*, economist Charles Kindleberger underlined the role of "imposition of tariffs, collapse of world trade, bilateralism" in creating the conditions for the Great Depression. The passage of protectionist legislation—the Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act and the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act in the US, the Macmillan Tariff in the UK, the introduction of Obertarif in Germany.

In 2023, the global economy faces the spectre of rising cost of capital and slowing growth. The WTO, with all its faults, has scaffolded global trade. Instead of presenting postulates based on misplaced presumptions, it would be better if it illuminates real risks to global trade and growth. How about a study on the impact of new industrial policies—the Inflation Reduction Act in the United States or the Fit for 55 programmes in the EU—on trade and global growth?

QUOTE CORNER



Our world is becoming unhinged. Geopolitical tensions are rising. Global challenges are mounting. And we seem incapable of coming together to respond... We cannot effectively address problems if institutions don't reflect the world as it is. Instead of solving problems, they risk becoming part of the problem.

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, to world leaders at the General Assembly

The goal of the war against Ukraine is to turn our land, our people, our resources into a weapon against you. Many seats in the General Assembly Hall may become empty if Russia succeeds with its treachery and aggression.

Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine President, at the UN General Assembly

Indian cricket is very close to my heart. I'm not a man of tattoos but the tattoo (of Indian cricket) is well inside my heart.

Ravichandran Ashwin, cricketer, to the BCCI website at Mohali

WOMEN NEED POWER, NOT NUMBERS



POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

THE abacus of aspiration enumerates the formula of ambition. Numbers tell taller stories than politicians speaking about their track record. But nailing the narrative is the problem. Last week, parliament created history by passing the 128th amendment to India's 63-year-old Constitution in less than 24 hours. But the power of politics is in nuances, not demagoguery. For over four decades, India's gentler sex has been promised one-third reservation in the Lok Sabha and assemblies. They created the junior-most post of deputy minister to accommodate favourites. During

1962-67, there were just five women in the Council of Ministers and they held insignificant portfolios. When Indira returned to power in 1967 with a reduced majority she didn't appoint a single woman to the Union Cabinet; there was one minister of state and two deputy ministers. Even after she romped home for the third time in 1972 with a two-thirds majority, she stuck to the three-woman formula of junior ministers, including Nandini Satpathy.

When she lost in 1977, luck didn't smile on the gentle sex. Morarji Desai added only four women as ministers of state without important portfolios. However, when Indira returned to South Block again in 1980 with over 350 seats, her heavy dependence on male colleagues was evident—she picked only three women ministers of state, including Sheila Kaul, a relative. However, it was Rajiv Gandhi who tried to break the glass ceiling; of his 401 MPs, twelve women were in the Council of Ministers. Still, not one held Cabinet rank. Only Kaul got independent charge of

education and culture.

During 1989-91, women lost their political clout in the House. Both V P Singh and Chandra Shekhar, billed as messiahs of social justice, gave poor representation to women MPs in their governments. Singh appointed a minister of state and a deputy Minister. It was P V Narasimha Rao, the accidental prime minister, who holds the record of appointing women ministers, with a dozen of them in his council, and was the second PM to have a woman Cabinet minister. Among his twelve female colleagues, Sheila Kaul was the second Cabinet-rank woman minister; a rare event after 40 years. However, Rao didn't believe that women could handle sensitive and important portfolios like

finance, defence, home, HRD, commerce or finance.

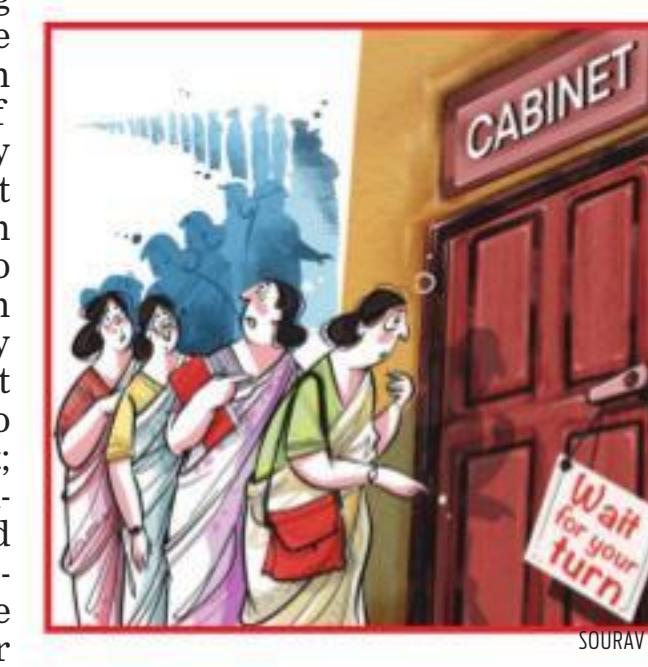
Congress puppets H D Deve Gowda and I K Gujral lacked the clout to choose their Cabinets. The only prominent female minister in the Vajpayee government with full Cabinet rank was Sushma Swaraj in 1998. In his second term, the number of women went up to eleven, with three Cabinet ministers. But men got the best jobs.

Manmohan Singh, despite his party's commitment to women's reservation, chose only two women Cabinet ministers in 2004—Ambika Soni and Meira Kumar—while the eight female ministers of state received insignificant portfolios. Singh broke previous records at some point during his second term with fifteen women ministers, five of whom were given Cabinet ranks. Again, none of them held finance or strategic portfolios, except ally Mamata Banerjee, who ran railways.

The situation improved radically when Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014. He inducted ten female

A man who views the world the same at fifty as he did at twenty has wasted thirty years of his life

Aruna Asaf Ali



SOURAV ROY

tions. The hypothesis lumps India with China along with Russia, most of North Africa and Southeast Asia, and places Europe, Canada, Australia, Japan and South Korea in the western bloc. Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa fall somewhere in between, closer to the US.

Before we get to its analysis and assessment of risks, consider the construct. The definition of the blocs illustrates the pitfalls of wilful blindness. Consider geopolitics first. India is a member of the US-led QUAD and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity which was formed in response to China's expansionism. India and the US have signed agreements on cooperation in space, in developing artificial intelligence and manufacture of defence equipment. Last fortnight India along with the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union announced the new India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor to counter the China-led Belt and Road Initiative.

Now consider the economic relationships. The United States is one of the top trading partners of India with exports touching \$128.55 billion in 2022-23 and including sourcing by Walmart and Apple. Last month Harley Davidson launched its cheapest bike made in India. The bulk of India's \$320-billion-plus services exports is to the US, Europe and UK. According to Nasscom, India is home to over 50 percent of the world's global capability centres. The US is the third largest contributor of foreign direct investment into India. This week J P Morgan announced that it will add India to its widely tracked emerging market debt index.

The artificiality of the assumptions is stark. The UN resolution for ending the war in Ukraine and asking Russia to withdraw saw 141 countries voting for the resolution, 32 abstaining and seven voting against. Saudi Arabia voted with the US. So did UAE and 12 others from Middle East and North Africa. Yet North Africa is lumped in the China bloc. What is the basis for the bunching and the presumptions? Can it be argued that the 141 countries who voted for the resolution can or will cease to engage with those who abstained or voted against?

The observations of *WTR 2023* and the paper suffer from *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* fallacy. Typically, the choice of members in a bloc will define outcomes as data can be tortured to deliver. *WTR 2023* argues that goods trade flows "between the two blocs grew by 4.6 percent more slowly than within these blocs since the onset of war in Ukraine". The July 2022 paper assumes two scenarios. In the 'full decouple' scenario all trade happens within the blocs. In the 'tariff' decouple' scenario countries move away from cooperative to non-cooperative tariff. In both scenarios volume of trade is affected as is the cost of goods.

There is no disputing that faultlines in global trade represent real and present danger. In the 1973 tome, *The World in Depression 1929-1939*, economist Charles Kindleberger underlined the role of "imposition of tariffs, collapse of world trade, bilateralism" in creating the conditions for the Great Depression. The passage of protectionist legislation—the Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act and the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act in the US, the Macmillan Tariff in the UK, the introduction of Obertarif in Germany.

In 2023, the global economy faces the spectre of rising cost of capital and slowing growth. The WTO, with all its faults, has scaffolded global trade. Instead of presenting postulates based on misplaced presumptions, it would be better if it illuminates real risks to global trade and growth. How about a study on the impact of new industrial policies—the Inflation Reduction Act in the United States or the Fit for 55 programmes in the EU—on trade and global growth?

IDEAL TEMPLE IN GOD'S OWN COUNTRY



OPINION

JAYARAM PODUVAL
Department of Art History & Aesthetics
Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

ONE of my university colleagues called me on a recent day. After some pleasantries, he came straight to the point, "Hey, I am in Kerala for an *ayurveda* treatment, I have a day to spare. Where should I go to get a feel of Kerala?" I asked, "Does this feel include art and culture, or is it just food and nature?" As an active member of the cultural milieu of Vadodara, he had to admit that it indeed included culture. I asked where he was taking the treatment. He mentioned a place in the northern region of Ernakulam district. So I advised him to visit the Vadakkunathan temple in Thrissur. "Why this temple?" my friend tried to provoke me. "Because," I said, "it is the Ideal example of Kerala architecture." Though my friend did not probe further, it made me think what I really meant by an "ideal example" of Kerala temple architecture.

I am not sure whether the authorities of Kerala tourism who coined the brand, 'God's own country', were aware of the

sheer number of religious structures in Kerala compared to other states. There are multitudes of temples, mosques, churches and even some synagogues. Though they may look different now, but in olden times they all looked similar with pyramidal roofs and terracotta or copper tiles. No doubt that local climate influenced the architecture design.

Temple architecture in Kerala took inspiration from Pallava and Chalukyan architecture developed in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Stella Kramrisch, a pioneer in the study of Kerala temple architecture, suggests Buddhist antecedents, which is worth looking at. She brings in the Gandhara and Sri Lankan examples of cloistered temples as influences of Kerala architecture. Given the trade links of Kerala with Sri Lanka and Gandhara, the theory may not be far-fetched.

Architecture historians name the temples of south India as *dravida*, with the Karnataka (Karnataka *dravida*), Tamil Nadu (Tamil *dravida*) and Kerala (Kerala *dravida*) variations. Within this, Kerala provides a different experience from those in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. It's mainly distinguished by the layout and the elevation. Kramrisch proposes that in Kerala you do find Tamil *dravida* style, especially in some southern regions like the Pukayila Pandakasala Ganapathi temple at Kollam and the Sreenarayana temple at Sreenarayananapuram in Thiruvananthapuram district.

The Vadakkunathan temple is an ideal example of Kerala *dravida*, with an exemplary layout. It is at the centre of Thrissur, with the sprawling Thekk

kinkadu maidan around it. The Thrissur Pooram festival, which was initiated by a 19th-century ruler of the Kochi royal family, underlines the importance of this temple as the centre of the town.

Vadakkunathan is multiple-shrined structure with Shiva as the presiding deity. Along with Shiva there are shrines dedicated to Parvati, Sankaranarayana and Srirama in the same precinct, enveloped by a colonnade called as *chuttambalam*. The circular structure houses the images of Shiva and Parvati facing west and east, respectively. The Rama shrine on the northern side is square.

There is a theory that Kerala temple architecture has borrowed from Buddhist styles in Gandhara and Sri Lanka. The Vadakkunathan temple in Thrissur could be a prime example of this influence

shaped. The circular shrine of Sankaranarayana, a syncretic form of Shiva and Vishnu, is positioned between the Shiva and Srirama shrines.

There are *balikals* or small stone pedestals placed around the shrine representing lesser deities—the *ashtradipalas* like Indra, Agni, Yama, Nirti, Varuna, Vasu, Soma and Isana, along with Ananta and Brahma. This is one of the distinct features of Kerala architecture

known as the *panca prakara* plan. S Jayashanker, one of the best-regarded experts on the subject, writes, "The temple complexes of Kerala fall under the *panca prakara* scheme. *Prakara* means enclosure or limit, and therefore *panca prakara* denotes five enclosures around the *Srikoil* or the principal shrine."

"Unlike in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, where the *prakaras* are constructed structures, Kerala has imagined *prakaras* demarcated by certain symbols. The devotees are not allowed to enter this imaginary periphery.

The *chuttambalam* is the second *prakara*. When we approach the temple, we see only the *vilakkumadam*, usually made of wood with a series of brass lamps—a nice spectacle at evenings when lit up. *Vilakkumadam* is the fourth *prakara*. Between *vilakkumadam* and *chuttambalam* is another enclosure that is seldom used for daily rituals.

The outermost *prakara* is known as *madyada*. It is the exterior wall with openings in the cardinal directions. These openings can be simple doorways or intricately decorated monumental structures called *gopurams*. When reading the word *gopuram*, many might visualise the Madurai Meenakshi or Padmanabhaswamy temples. However, there is also the Kerala version exemplified magnificently at Vadakkunathan.

The temple has auxiliary structures such as the *koothambalam* within its precinct, making it a unique complex for showcasing Kerala *dravida* architecture. Thus, it is the ideal Kerala temple.

jpoduval@gmail.com

CPM neglect

It is indeed ironic that despite the appointment of a minister from the scheduled caste community by the CPM to oversee the welfare of devaswoms, untouchability and caste-based discrimination continue to persist in Kerala's religious places. While public discussions about caste-related matters may be limited, the issue remains deeply ingrained in Kerala, with the CPM being no exception. The current CPM ministry has been criticised for neglecting the interests of backward classes, scheduled castes, and scheduled tribes. These marginalized communities, despite serving as reliable vote banks, have often been overlooked in candidate selection and ministry formation.

Girish R Edathitta, Pathanamthitta

Hope floats

The soft landing at the south pole of the moon is a great achievement. But if we are not able to connect with our craft there, it is a worry and a challenge. But hope can still be seen in the future.

S J Anvil, email

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: Manoj Kumar Sonthalia Editor: Santwana Bhattacharya

Resident Editor (Tamil Nadu): Anto T Joseph * Printed and Published by R K Jhunjhunwala on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Ltd., at Express Press, 'Express Gardens', 29, Second Main Road, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai - 600 058. Chennai: Vol. 24, No. 39, RNI Reg. No. TNENG/2000/3090, Phone: 044-23457601, Fax: 044-23457619. * Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. Copyright: Express Publications (Madurai) Private Ltd. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.



'Opposition to 3-language policy political'

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan asserts that the sole objective of NEP is to promote all local languages

BIJOY PRADHAN @Bhubaneswar

WITH Tamil Nadu government refusing to compromise on its stand on the New Education Policy (NEP), Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday said the opposition to the three-language policy was purely political.

In a free-wheeling talk with editorial director of The New Indian Express at the 11th edition of Odisha Literary Festival (OLF) here, Pradhan said the sole objective of the NEP is to promote all local languages. The Centre has taken a decentralised approach so far as language is concerned.

"I think opposition to a particular language in a state is political. If Tamil Nadu is opposing the NEP, it is for political reasons. The entire political community of Tamil Nadu is of the opinion that the teaching methodology should be in Tamil language. In my view, the opposition is for political reasons but there is unanimity at the ground-level that there should be a scientific temper for the student and language should not be a barrier," the minister said.

On the three-language policy, Pradhan said one should not confuse about making a choice. There is no barrier for choosing Tamil as method of learning, he maintained.



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan speaks at the Odisha Literary Festival in Bhubaneswar on Saturday | DEBADATTA MALLICK

ing,

On the need for a common communicative mechanism at pan-India level, the Union minister asserted, "There should not be a single language for the country. All languages of the country are national since one cannot impose a language on anybody."

He said technology is a great enabler to understand even foreign languages and there should not be any opposition to

learn other languages. Refuting the allegations that NEP is dividing the nation, the minister said any sensible person should not talk of division in any aspect of religion, language, region or geography.

"We have to create a united force with united spirit. I think now there is a movement in our country. We may have difference of opinions on political issues but the country is united for the well-being of the humanity," Pradhan added.

On the criticism of the inviting foreign universities to set up campus in India, the Union Education minister asked if it was wrong when 10 lakh students are going abroad every year for higher studies. "Should we not give an opportunity to the students of India to gain best knowledge of the world. It is wrong to think that we will be influenced by foreign institutes imparting education here," Pradhan said.

'Language no barrier'

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said opposition to a particular language in a state is political. "If Tamil Nadu is opposing the National Education Policy, it is for political reasons. The entire political community of Tamil Nadu is of the opinion that the teaching methodology should be in Tamil language. In my view, the opposition is for political reasons, but there is unanimity at the ground-level that there should be a scientific temper for the student and language should not be a barrier," the minister said.

Dismissing allegations that attempts are made by the Narendra Modi government to impose the ideology of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on institutions by drafting in people who owe allegiance to the Sangh Parivar, Pradhan said there is no bar in the Constitution that RSS people should not head any organisation. He, however, said all appointments are being made solely on the basis of merit and there was no place for ideological leanings in them.

PRIME MINISTER WITH A PENCHANT FOR CONTROVERSIES

YESHI SELI

JUSTIN Trudeau is no stranger to controversy. Born with a silver spoon, he owes his brand of politics to his father Pierre Trudeau, the 15th Prime Minister of Canada, as far as India is concerned. The weight of dynastic politics is so heavy for Justin Pierre James Trudeau — the 23rd PM of Canada — that he is ready to stake his political career for a band of Khalistani radicals.

Pierre Trudeau had gone all out to provide a safe haven for radical Khalistanis in the 1980s when thousands of Sikhs migrated to Canada. These included Talwinder Singh Parmar who allegedly killed policemen in Punjab in 1981 before fleeing to Canada. India sought his extradition, which Pierre refused.

On June 1, 1985, Indian intelligence alerted Canada about possible aircraft sabotage, which they ignored, and 23 days later, Air India Flight 182 (Kanishka) was blown up on its way from Toronto to London killing 329 on board. This is considered the worst terrorist attack in Canada to date.

Like father like son. Justin, too, has found refuge in supporting or rather seeking support from Khalistani extremists to cater to his vote bank politics. Why is Trudeau sinking his reputation by aligning himself with Khalistani extremists?

There are close to 7.7 lakh Sikhs in Canada, which constitute 2% of the country's population and they hold significant political influence in that country. The Canadian Parliament has 18 Sikh MPs. Though not all Sikhs are radical in their approach, those who exercise deep influence over the community also have deep pockets. They are said to be involved in organised crime and illicit activities. Trudeau seeks their support not just for funds but also for his vote-bank.

In March 2022, Trudeau's Liberal Party formed an alliance with the New Democratic Party (NDP), led by Jagmeet Singh, who openly endorsed the Khalistan Referendum on Canadian soil, framing it as a "fundamental human right of Canadian Sikhs protected by local and international laws."

Justin was sworn in as the Prime Minister in 2015 and first came to India three years later in 2018. His first India trip was marred with controversy: his reception in Mumbai was attended by Jaspal Atwal, a Khalistani convicted in 1986 for attempting to murder a Punjab minister Malkiat Singh Sidhu and also for assaulting



SOURAV ROY

former Premier of British Columbia, Ujjal Dosanjh. India was miffed with Jaspal's attendance and cold-shouldered Trudeau who was accompanied by his wife and three children.

PM Modi met him on the sixth day of his arrival and voiced his displeasure. On the same trip, the then chief minister of Punjab Amarinder Singh refused to greet Trudeau in Amritsar, where he had gone to visit the Golden Temple.

Five years later, Trudeau was in India again, this time for the G20 Summit. Before he arrived in Delhi, he began to bicker about G20 not inviting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He again defended Khalistani extremists in Canada and their rights to protest, terming it as freedom of speech.

On returning to Canada, Trudeau stirred the hornet's nest in Parliament alleging that the Indian government was involved in the killing of Khalistani extremist Harmandir Singh Nijjar. The fallout of Trudeau's statement was unprecedented as Canada expelled an Indian diplomat, inviting a quick fit-for-far from India.

His academic journey, too, resembles a tapestry of eclectic subjects, dabbling in literature, sampling editing, and even flirting with engineering and environmental geography. It is as though he couldn't settle on a major and decided to embrace everything.

Trudeau's fashion statement deserves a special mention. Remember when he donned traditional Indian attire during his visit in 2018? It felt like watching a C-grade Bollywood movie with a sprinkling of Canadian flair.

Beyond politics, Trudeau's personal life was once seen as a template for a successful politician — a charming wife and three kids. But that picture of familial bliss has faded. On August 3, Trudeau and his wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau publicly announced their separation after 18 years of marriage. Sophie, a former model and TV host, joined him in matrimony in 2005, adding a touch of celebrity to the prime minister's office.

DMK's Sanatana Dharma stand not new, why so much fuss over it: Aiyar

BIJAY CHAKI @Bhubaneswar



Secularism is not about securing a good life for the majority. It is ensuring a good life for the minorities

Mani Shankar Aiyar

CONTINUED FROM P1

"THE literary trends are not untouched too with an increasing readers' interest in history, memoirs, biographies and true account non-fiction. Thus, discussions around the 'ideas of identity' will be aptly in tune with the prevailing times," Mohanty said.

A special tribute was paid to legendary poet Jayanta Mahapatra, who passed away recently. Speakers Prof Sachidananda Mohanty and poet Sampurna Chattarji said Mahapatra was a true genius, a citizen of the world. "Someone who came from a small town to become someone who rubbed shoulders with great poets like A K Ramanujan speaks about the efforts he made to become someone so outstanding in his craft," they said. A documentary on Mahapatra was also screened.

The tribute was followed by a session on A Life in Full: Diplomat, Politician, Author, Peacemaker', which was helmed by former Union minister Mani Shankar Aiyar. Maintaining that there is nothing new in the stance of the DMK about Sanatana Dharma, Aiyar told festival director and senior journalist Kaveree Bamzai, if the Centre continues to give importance to such ideas, it will lead to a very dangerous situation.

"If Dravidians are continued to be provoked, the east, west



Kaveree Bamzai speaks to cultural historian Sachidananda Mohanty, and writer Sampurna Chattarji at the session 'Jayanta Mahapatra: A Tribute' | DEBADATTA MALLICK

and south of the country will be in danger. There is nothing new in the stance of the Dravidian party as they are stating this for years," he stated.

In his session, filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda said he started his journey as a director with an aim to change the image of Odisha that was earlier termed as the poorest state in the country. While authors Nivedita Mohanty, Gourahari Das and Abhiram Biswal spoke to journalist Sampad Patnaik about nationalism in Odia literature in his session titled 'Crime Friction: The Irresistible Lure of the Dark', crime writer Surendra Mohan Pathak spoke about the challenges of

writing crime fiction in a country like India, where it does not derive as much popularity as it does in the West.

He admitted that recognition takes time. To a query if crime fiction gets sidelined in today's OTT era, Pathak said both OTT shows and fiction draw inspiration from the same source – crime in real life. "Originality is the art of concealing the source," he said.

Scientist and writer Anand Ranganathan and economist Author Parakala Prabhakar in their session 'The New India Project: Crooked Timber or Iron Rich,' engaged in a riveting debate on the current situation of the country.

Centre will draft laws in simplified language, says PM

SHRUTI KAKKAR @New Delhi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Justice DY Chandrachud at the International Lawyers' Conference 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Saturday | PTI

tice Delivery System' would have 10 technical sessions that are aimed at knowledge-sharing. The event was also graced by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Lord High Chancellor of Britain and Secretary of State for Justice Alex Chalk, Attorney General R Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, and Su-

preme Court and high court judges.

Paying tribute to the legal fraternity for their contributions towards aiding India in achieving independence, the Prime Minister said that judiciary and the bar have been protectors of India's justice system.

Referring to the recent passage of Women's Reservation

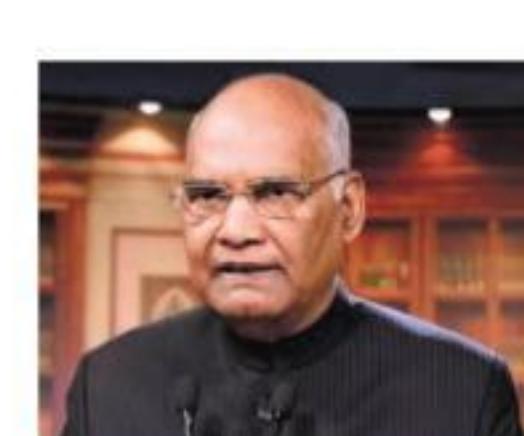
Bill, which aims to grant 33 per cent reservation to women in Lok Sabha and state assemblies, Modi said that the Bill would give new direction and energy to women-led development. The Prime Minister also said that the conference was happening at the time when India witnessed several historic moments.

Advocating for balanced co-operation between the executive and judiciary, Justice Chandrachud said that Indian judiciary must remain receptive to collaborating with various nations at the administrative level too. Making an appreciative note regarding individuals from diverse backgrounds cooperating to pass the Women's Reservation Bill, he said, "Individuals from different regions of India, diverse backgrounds and even conflicting ideologies came together to draft the Constitution in one voice. We find the same bipartisan effort has gone into the passing of Women's Reservation Bill in the Parliament."

The Modi government had issued a formal notification on September 2 that an eight-member committee was formed to examine and make recommen-

Panel to consult all stakeholders on feasibility of simultaneous elections

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi



THE high-level committee led by former president Ram Nath Kovind on 'One Nation, One Election', which met for the first time on Saturday, has decided to seek suggestions from all political parties and experts on the feasibility of the concept.

It was decided that the committee will seek views of the Law Commission and the Election Commission of India as well on the legal nitty-gritty of conducting elections simultaneously to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.

According to a source privy to the meeting, the committee is trying to complete its report before the start of the winter session of Parliament.

The Modi government had issued a formal notification on September 2 that an eight-member committee was formed to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on holding simultaneous elections.

At Saturday's meeting, the roadmap and other modalities of completing the task were discussed. The Centre will move further based on the committee's report.

At the meeting, the committee decided to invite suggestions from recognised national parties, parties having governments in states and their representatives in Parliament.

The ground work is going at full throttle and recommendations on the subject would be

made to the government as early as possible," said a source.

Reportedly, the committee's most important task would be to analyse and recommend possible solutions to possible scenarios such as a hung house, the adoption of a no-confidence motion, defections or similar events when simultaneous elections are conducted in the country. The panel also discussed ways to ensure the continuity of the cycle of elections.

Home minister Amit Shah, law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, former leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, former finance commission chairman N K Singh, former Lok Sabha secretary general Subhash C Kashyap and former chief vigilance commissioner Sanjay Kothari attended the meeting. Advocate Harish Salve joined the meeting virtually. Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was not present.

RAIL BLOCK

Several farmers' bodies on Saturday announced a three-day rail blockade in Punjab from September 28 in support of their demands, including financial package for losses caused by the recent floods, legal guarantee for MSP and debt waiver.

02
KILLEDIN KOTA AFTER BEING RUN
OVER BY A TRACTOR

| | Max | Min | Max | Min |
|-----------|-----|-----|------------|-----|
| Ahmedabad | 42 | 27 | Mumbai | 35 |
| Bhopal | 43 | 28 | Panaji | 32 |
| Jaipur | 41 | 30 | Patna | 27 |
| Amritsar | 40 | 23 | Lucknow | 42 |
| Chennai | 39 | 30 | Port Blair | 34 |
| Kolkata | 36 | 26 | Imphal | 23 |
| Srinagar | 18 | 08 | Chandigarh | 23 |

In election-bound Rajasthan, Congress leader bats for caste census ■ In UP, saffron camp focuses on Ram Mandir inauguration

Rahul promises swift quota for women if voted to power

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

RAHUL Gandhi has promised immediate implementation of the women's reservation bill if a Congress government is formed at the Centre. Speaking at a party workers' conference in Jaipur on Saturday, Rahul said the entire Opposition supported reservation for women and expressed his eagerness to see it implemented without delay.

The Congress leader criticized the BJP claiming the Modi government would implement quota for women only after a decade.

Party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, who addressed the gathering, accused the BJP of being anti-women and casteist. "If the Congress government comes to power in 2024, we will immediately go for women's reservation. Kharge also highlighted the incident where President Droupadi Murmu was not invited to the inauguration of the new Parliament building. "To a President who is a tribal, it's an insult,"

Kharge said. Rahul Gandhi told Congress workers that the Centre wanted to change the name of the country from India to Bharat, "which is why a special session was called".

"The Constitution clearly says India is Bharat. When the government realised that its proposal lacked public support, they introduced the Women's reservation bill to try and justify the special session," he said.



Rahul also challenged the government on the caste census. "Modi claims to provide opportunities to the OBCs but is afraid of the caste census. When BJP people come asking for votes, ask them why they are not conducting the caste census," said Rahul.

"Today's India is run by 90 officers, but only 3 of them are OBCs. The caste census is necessary to give adequate representation to every section in India. This census will reveal how many people belong to which social class," Rahul told party workers.

"We had conducted this census; you have the figures. Put those figures before the people and get the caste census conducted. Don't insult the OBCs," said Rahul. CM Ashok Gehlot said the INDIA bloc has made PM Modi nervous and shaken the foundation of the NDA government. "Efforts are being made to harass the Congress government through ED, CBI, and Income Tax. But public knows the truth," said Gehlot.

Ladli Behana scheme widened in poll-bound MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

LAUNCHED on June 10 to render monthly financial aid to married, widow and abandoned women, the ambitious Mukhya Mantri Ladli Behana Yojana of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government in Madhya Pradesh, will now cover unmarried women too.

Addressing a public meeting in Jabalpur during the last stretch of one of the five statewide Jan Ashirwad Yatras of the BJP on Friday evening, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced widening the ambit of the Scheme, hitherto covering married women (including widow, divorced and abandoned women) aged above 21 years.

"The CM Ladli Behana Scheme has had an extensive impact. Till now the 1.32 crore beneficiaries under the scheme were getting ₹1,000 monthly. But from October 10, the monthly sum will be hiked by ₹250 to ₹1,250. I'll not stop there only, but will gradually keep increasing the monthly sum by ₹250, till it reaches ₹3,000 monthly for each beneficiary Ladli Behana. Not only this, but the scheme till now covering only married women (aged above 21 years) will now also include unmarried Behanas aged above 21 years," Chouhan announced at the meeting.



ANOTHER WEAK BRIDGE COLLAPSES

Four pillars of Sono-Churhet Kajwe bridge over Barnar river caved-in in Bihar's Jamui district on Saturday due to heavy flow of water in the river. There were no reports of any loss of life | EXPRESS

'Bharat' replaces 'India' in MP civic body

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

AMID the raging India Vs Bharat political debate in the country, the mayor-in-council of the country's cleanest city Indore has resolved to replace 'India' with 'Bharat' at its proceedings and correspondence.

According to official sources at the IMC, the city's mayor had through the letter dated September 21, 2023, moved the proposal to use 'Bharat' instead of 'India' at the IMC. The proposal was cleared by the mayor-in-council (MIC) on Friday and will now be placed before the

place 'India' with Bharat at Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) proceedings, functions and correspondence.

According to official sources at the IMC, the city's mayor had through the letter dated September 21, 2023, moved the proposal to use 'Bharat' instead of 'India' at the IMC. The proposal was cleared by the mayor-in-council (MIC) on Friday and will now be placed before the

85-member house of the IMC, which is likely to meet next month to give its approval.

The ruling BJP (to which the mayor also belongs) has 70-plus members in the 85-member house of the IMC.

Various quarters have been abuzz with speculations about the Narendra Modi-led central government, contemplating to change the country's name from 'India' to 'Bharat.'

The state government had on July 25 lifted the "suspension

of internet services on broadband (ILL and FTTH) in a liberalised manner subject to fulfillment of certain conditions."

Singh said the state government's priority is to stop illegal influx of people from neighbouring Myanmar.

"The state government had imposed a ban on internet services as a precautionary measure to thwart unwanted incidents. I am glad to inform the citizens of the state that from today onwards, internet will be open to the masses," Singh had told journalists.

The state government had on July 25 lifted the "suspension

After Narmada flood, Gujarat govt says will provide relief for farmers

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

A special relief package for farmers affected by the Narmada River's overflow in the districts of Bharuch, Narmada, and Vadodara between September 16 and September 18 was announced by the Gujarati government on Saturday.

Due to last week's water release from the Sardar Sarovar dam and the torrential rains in the higher reaches of the Narmada, several areas in Gujarat were submerged.

Gongress has called it a "man-made disaster" and demanded an investigation by a special investigation team (SIT). Brackish Water Research Centre, which has been operating in the state since 2003, has even written a letter to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

The government said that the package will benefit farmers who have suffered a 33 per cent or greater loss for the kharif season 2023-24 in villages, subject to a

two-hectare cap.

According to SDRF guidelines, affected farmers will receive a compensation package of ₹8,500 per hectare for non-irrigated agricultural crops.

They will receive ₹8,000 in addition to ₹17,000 per hectare for irrigated agriculture and rainfed horticultural crops.

The special relief package will be provided from the state budget in addition to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to help farmers in the three districts.

Similarly, for 33 per cent or more of perennial horticulture crops uprooted or fallen per hectare, farmers will be eligible for ₹1,02,500 in addition to the ₹22,500 provided.

Gujarat politics have been on a boil for the past four days as a result of the Narmada Dam's water flow in Bharuch and Ankleswar in South Gujarat.

The opposition Congress claims that the BJP government refused to release water from the dam when farmers needed it, instead stored it to the point where the reservoir overflowed on September 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday.

However, the Gujarat government asserts that a "cloud burst" between the Indira Sagar Project (ISP) and the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) caused "flash floods."

The special relief package will be provided from the state budget in addition to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to help farmers in the three districts.

While addressing a gathering of women during his 42nd visit to Kashi during the last nine years, the PM acknowledged the power of women's leadership. "The Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, pending for three decades, has become a reality today. Political parties once opposed to it supported it in both Houses of Parliament," Modi said.

He took a veiled jibe on those

parties that opposed the renaming of the bill. "Certain quarters have objected to the word 'vandan' in the bill. Who would be respected and worshipped if our mothers and daughters would not be?" asked the PM.

The PM was given a rousing welcome, especially by women who showered flower petals on him as a gesture of gratitude for the passage of the women's quota bill. Addressing the gathering at the grounds of Sampurnanand Sanskrit Uni-

versity in Kashi, the first one after the passage of the bill, the PM said approval for the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill by Parliament was just another step in the acknowledgment of women's power.

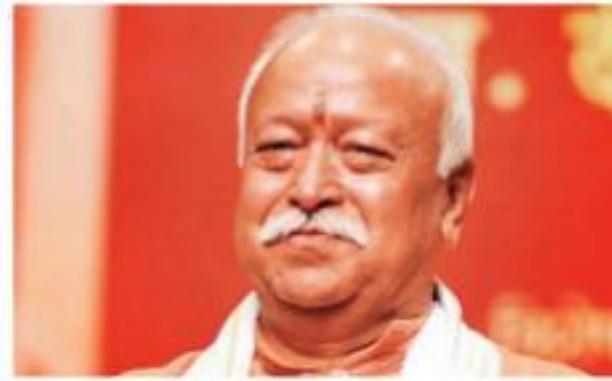
"Leadership by women could be a modern idea for the rest of the world, but we have been recognising it for ages by worshipping goddesses Parvati and Ganga before Mahadev," he said. Accompanied by UP CM Yogi Adityanath, the PM

Bhagwat, Yogi take stock of temple, poll readiness

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

Bhagwat and Adityanath also held deliberations over 14 Lok Sabha seats of the state that BJP had lost in the 2019 general election. The RSS chief will hold meetings with district in-charges and Sangh leaders

BJP source



RASHTRIYA Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has proposed a grand inauguration of Ram Mandir temple in Ayodhya, slated for January 2024, by holding consecration ceremony in temples across the country besides organising 'havan puja' in at least one temple in every village and encouraging lighting of five diyas (earthen lamps) in every house. According to sources, the proposal was discussed by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, who was in Lucknow for a four-day state visit, with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath late on Friday night.

The RSS chief also discussed the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP)'s plans to take out 'Shaurya Yatras' between September 30 and October 15 that will cover five lakh villages across the country to connect people with the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla (infant Lord Ram) in Ayodhya.

Around 2,281 such yatras will be taken out by the VHP's affiliate Bajrang Dal in all prominent cities and locations across the country. The construction of the temple began in August 2020 after Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone during a religious ceremony. The site for the construction was accorded to the Hindu side following the Supreme Court judgment in 2019.

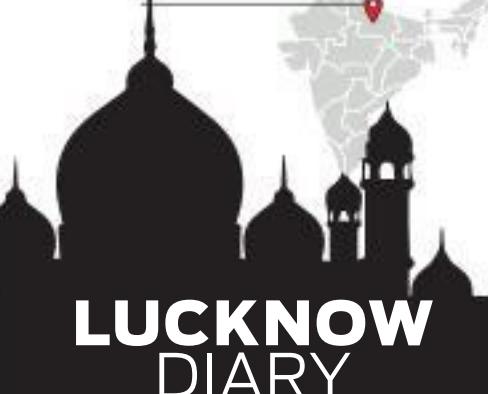
Bhagwat and Adityanath also held

deliberations over 14 Lok Sabha seats of the state that BJP had lost in the 2019 general election. The sources said during his state visit, the RSS chief will hold meetings with district in-charges and Sangh leaders of these constituencies.

The RSS chief stressed raising the appointments from Dalit communities in various organisational posts of the Sangh besides enrolling more people from the deprived classes.

With reference to the Women Reservation Bill passed by Parliament, Bhagwat emphasised increasing the activities of the 'Rastra Sevika Samiti'—the women's wing of the RSS—and spreading the message about BJP's "women-centric development model" of which the bill is a part.

Bhagwat also laid emphasis on promoting the ideals of the RSS, especially Hindutva. In the coming days, the RSS chief will review the coordination between the government and his organisation.



LUCKNOW DIARY

NAMITA BAJPAI
Our correspondent in Uttar Pradesh
namita.bajpai@newindianexpress.com

LU to collaborate with SAARC nations

In a significant move towards promoting regional cooperation and knowledge exchange, Lucknow University is embarking on a path of collaboration to benefit students, faculty, and researchers alike. To provide the students international exposure and experience, Lucknow University is set to foster academic and research ties with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations. The endeavour will expose the students to diverse cultures, languages and traditions, making it a fertile ground for academic exploration and cross-cultural understanding.



New initiative kindles light of education

UP government begins Atal Residential Schools (ARS), a key pro-rural and pro-poor initiative to empower minds and transform lives of children who lost their parents in pandemic. ARS will also offer better educational facilities to children of socially and financially backwards and deprived class. Conceived on the lines of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, ARSs are built to provide excellent residential facilities and quality education free of cost to the children. The state government had allocated ₹1,200 crore in this year's budget for the project which covers all 18 divisions of the state in the initial phase. Later, each district will have one school.

'Thwart illegal influx'

The state government had imposed a ban on internet services as a precautionary measure to thwart untoward incidents. "I am glad to inform the citizens of the state that from today onwards, internet will be open to the people," Chief Minister N Biren Singh said. He said the state's priority is to stop illegal influx of people from neighbouring Myanmar.

of internet services on broadband (ILL and FTTH) in a liberalised manner subject to fulfillment of certain conditions."

Singh said the state government's priority is to stop illegal influx of people from neighbouring Myanmar. "For that, we need immediate fencing of the international border," he said.

He also said that the Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement, signed between the governments of India and Myanmar, has remained "closed". He said the home ministry had closed it at the request of Manipur government as checking illegal migration was difficult because of its presence.

After keeping quiet for some time, BJP MP from Pilibhit, Varun Gandhi has rubbed his own party's government the wrong way by writing to UP deputy CM and state health minister Brajesh Pathak seeking reconsideration of suspension of licence of Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Amethi following the death of a 22-year-old owing to alleged medical negligence. The BJP MP said that the suspension would have far-reaching implications for the region's health care access as people are dependent on hospital for primary health care services.

Cricket stars join PM for new Varanasi stadium

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the women's reservation bill will give a new energy, direction and impetus to women-led development in the country.

The PM credited 'women power' for the passage of the Bill, renamed as 'Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam.'

The PM was in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi on Saturday. He laid the foundation of an international cricket stadium in the presence of veteran cricketers and BCCI office bearers. He also inaugurated 16 Atal Residential Schools (ARS) for deprived and orphaned children.

While addressing a gathering of women during his 42nd visit to Kashi during the last nine years, the PM acknowledged the power of women's leadership. "The Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, pending for three decades, has become a reality today. Political parties once opposed to it supported it in both Houses of Parliament," Modi said.

He took a veiled jibe on those parties that opposed the renaming of the bill. "Certain quarters have objected to the word 'vandan' in the bill. Who would be respected and worshipped if our mothers and daughters would not be?" asked the PM.

The PM was given a rousing welcome, especially by women who showered flower petals on him as a gesture of gratitude for the passage of the women's quota bill. Addressing the gathering at the grounds of Sampurnanand Sanskrit Uni-

versity in Kashi, the first one after the passage of the bill, the PM said approval for the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill by Parliament was just another step in the acknowledgment of women's power.

"Leadership by women could be a modern idea for the rest of the world, but we have been recognising it for ages by worshipping goddesses Parvati and Ganga before Mahadev," he said. Accompanied by UP CM Yogi Adityanath and veteran cricketer Roger Binny and Sachin Tendulkar, the PM

recounted the valour of Rani Lakshmi Bai and Ahilyabai Holkar. "From Rani Lakshmi Bai and her freedom struggle to the accomplishment of Mission Chandrayaan in modern India -- we have proved the power of women's leadership," said the PM.

"Kashi is the holy city of Mother Kushmanda, Mother Shringar Gaur



27

migrants rescued from sinking boat off Lebanon's coast by Lebanese troops

11 CHENNAI

SUNDAY 24.09.2023

newindianexpress.com

Kyiv breaks through Russian lines in south

Ukrainian general in an interview says that the advance is still underway and they are continuing to move forward

KYIV

UKRAINE has reported breaking through Russian defence lines in the south as its army said on Saturday that senior Russian navy commanders were among dozens killed or wounded in a missile attack on Moscow's Black Sea Fleet headquarters in Crimea.

In the latest claims of progress in the Zaporizhzhia area, the Ukrainian general leading the counteroffensive there told US media that the advance was still underway.

"On the left flank (near the village of Verbove) we have a breakthrough and we continue to advance further," general Oleksandr Tarnavskiy told CNN in an interview.

"Not as fast as it was excepted, not like in the movies about the Second World War," Tarnavskiy said in the CNN interview, adding it was important "not to lose this initiative."

Tarnavskiy said a major breakthrough would be if Kyiv recaptured the city of Tokmak—20 kilometres from the



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (C) receives a standing ovation from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (R) and members of parliament | AFP

front line—which fell to Russian forces at the start of their invasion. Retaking Tokmak would allow Ukrainian forces to push further toward occupied Melitopol and annexed Crimea. He gave some insight into the type of fighting taking place in the south, saying "Right now, neither the enemy nor us uses large formations, companies, battalions or brigades. We use assault squads, groups of 10 to 15 men."

"They conduct titanic work of concentrating enemy fire on them and using all the means they have to use to survive."

Meanwhile, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau has announced several support measures for Ukraine, including military, economic and humanitarian assistance.

Canada's pledge to stand with Ukraine will include \$650 million in new military assistance over next three years. Agencies

Nawaz to present agenda of progress

ISLAMABAD

INSISTING that there was no change in party supremo Nawaz Sharif's plan to return to Pakistan next month, ex-PM and Pakistani Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif has said his elder brother would present an agenda of progress on October 21.



ity in the PML-N camp comes after the September 15 Supreme Court of Pakistan's ruling that scrapped the recent amendments to the country's anti-graft laws and restored corruption cases against several public office holders, including Nawaz Sharif.

The apex court had announced its reserved decision on jailed ex-PM Imran Khan's plea filed last year, challenging the amendments made to the accountability laws by government led by Shehbaz Sharif. The PML-N president was quoted by *Dawn* as saying that the meeting (in London) was called to discuss Nawaz's next legal and political steps.

Asked if he had returned to London to "give a special message from the establishment" to Nawaz, the party president was quoted as answering that the meeting discussed "the legal and political next steps for Mian (Nawaz) sahib."

No migrant emergency in Europe, claims Pope

MARSEILLE

POPE Francis challenged French President Emmanuel Macron and other European leaders to open their ports to people fleeing hardship and poverty, insisting on Saturday that the continent isn't facing a migration "emergency" but rather a long-term reality that governments must deal.

For a second straight day in the French port city of Marseille, Francis took aim at European countries that have used "alarmist propaganda" to justify closing their doors to migrants, and tried to shame them into responding with charity instead.

He called for migrants to have legal pathways to citizenship, and for the Mediterranean Sea that so many cross to reach Europe to be a beacon of hope, not a graveyard of desperation.

The Mediterranean, Francis told Macron, "cries out for justice, with its shores that on the one hand exude affluence, consumerism and waste, while on the other there is poverty and instability."

AP

MADRASOYAL II BRANCH
No.123, Mettukuppam Main Road, Maduravoyal,
Chennai - 600 095 Ph.: 94441 44000
E-mail: cb-16046@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)] TO BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR
Demand Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 through Paper Publication To,
Borrower: Arjunan Madhu, No 237/1, 1st Floor, Thiruveethiammankoil Street, Melemanamedu, Thirumazhai, Poonaamallee, Chennai 600124.
Dear Sir / Madam,
Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, Maduravoyal II Branch (hereinafter referred to as "the Secured Creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That Shri.Arjunan Madhu (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") has availed credit facility stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements. You are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B' hereunder.

Schedule-A: Details of the credit facilities availed by the Borrower

| S.No. | Loan A/c.No. | Nature of Loan / Limit | Date of Sanction | Amount of Sanction |
|-------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 160000343589 | 619-Housing Finance | 19.11.2021 | Rs.45,00,000/- |
| 2 | 164001616671 | 631-Canara Home Loan Plus | 10.12.2021 | Rs.3,01,413/- |

the above said loan / credit facilities are duly secured by way of mortgage of the relevant documents executed by you in our favour. Since you have failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated, the bank has classified the debts as NPA on 05.06.2023. Hence, we hereby issue this notice to you under section 13(2) of the subject Act calling upon you to discharge the entire liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to Rs.48,53,351.72 (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred And Fifty One and Paise Seventy Two only) with further interest and costs within sixty days from the date of the notice, failing which we shall exercise all or any of the rights under section 13(4) of the subject Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and / or any other law in force.

Your 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.

Whereas the demand notice sent to you by regd. post / courier.

Schedule-B: Details of Secured Assets: Name of Title holder: Mr.Arjunan Madhu. Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of vacant land measuring to an extent of 4312 sqft in the layout named as L.S.S VIJAY AVENUE (D.D.T.C.P. No.9/2007), comprised in Survey No.84/1 part, situated at No.14, Perumatturallur Village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram District and being bounded by North: Vacant land, South by: Plot No 2, East by: Vacant land, West by: 40 Feet Wide Road. Measuring on the:- North to South on the Eastern side: 98 Feet, East to West on the Southern side: 98 Feet. In all measuring to an extent of 3920 Sqft. of land and situated within the Sub Registration District of Joint II Chengalpattu and Registration District of Chengalpattu.

In all total measuring an extent of item No.1 and item No.2 = 4312+3920=8232 Sq.ft. of land.

SCHEDULE - B (Property to be mortgaged) 396 Sq.ft., Undivided Share of land in the Schedule A Property.

SCHEDULE - C (Property to be mortgaged) Flat No.F - 3, in Third Floor, flat having a built up area of 1165 Sqft., in the premises, and covered car parking including Common amenities and common Area.

Schedule-C: Details of liability as on date

| S.No. | Loan A/c.No. | Nature of Loan / Limit | Liability With Interest as on Date | Rate of Interest |
|-------|--------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 160000343589 | Canara Housing loans - Rs.45,48,615.86 | 11.9% | |
| 2 | 164001616671 | Canara Home loan Secure | Rs.3,04,735.86 | 11.5% |

Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Date : 21.09.2023

Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Date :



annual growth India needed to bring about transformative changes in the lives of millions of people by 2050, said economist and former US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers in New Delhi on Saturday

India-Canada row: Start-ups, IT firms to shrug off diplomatic spat

Experts say even if this escalates into protracted diplomatic spat, effect would be modest

UMA KANNAN @Bengaluru

AMID worsening diplomatic ties between India and Canada, experts feel it may not be a cause of concern at the moment for start-ups and IT companies, irrespective of their huge presence in Canada. Top Indian IT services companies have business operations in Canada. Infosys has more than a decade presence in the country.

In July this year, Infosys Public Services (IPS), a North America-based company of Infosys, announced the opening of its new subsidiary, Infosys Public Services Canada, headquartered in Ottawa, Ontario.

The company had said in a statement that the IPS Canada announcement is the latest development in a series of investments made by Infosys which has expanded the employee count to over 7,000 with a commitment to increase to 8,000 employees by 2024. IPS Canada will also work with local universities and technical colleges to recruit talent.

In September 2022, Infosys opened its digital centre in Calgary, Canada, and it said this would bring 1,000 jobs to Calgary over the next two years.

Wipro in January this year opened the Wipro AWS Launch Pad Centre in Toronto, Canada. While opening the centre, the company had said that Toronto serves as a prime location to enable co-creation across industries given the ongoing technology expansion and investments in the city, which is now the third largest tech hub in North America.

Apart from centres, IT companies have partnered with many Canadian firms.

Tata Consultancy Services has partnered with Canadian business jet maker Bombardier to help the company drive digital transformation. Last year, TCS partnered with Payments Canada, the country's largest payment organisation, to transform its payment system operations and help implement the Real-Time Rail (RTR), the new real-time payments system.

"At this time, it's not a huge

BUSINESS RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA-CANADA



Given visa suspension, we expect Canada may be replaced with other markets like Australia and the UK. Another reason, the ban can't be long term is due to several Canadian pension funds have been investing in India for a while and they can't afford not to play a role in India growth story — Bhaskar Majumdar, Managing Partner, Unicorn India Ventures

1 INFOSYS PLANS TO INCREASE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN CANADA TO 8,000 BY 2024

2 PAYMENTS CANADA HAS PICKED UP TCS TO TRANSFORM ITS PAYMENT SYSTEM OPERATIONS

3 CPPIB IS ONE OF THE LARGER INVESTORS IN ZOMATO AND NYKA, WITH AN INVESTMENT TO THE TUNE OF 1.3 LAKH CRORE

4 BROOKFIELD IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST INVESTORS IN INDIAN INFRA AND REAL ESTATE

5 WIPRO IN JANUARY THIS YEAR OPENED WIPRO-AWS LAUNCH PAD CENTRE IN TORONTO

6 CANADA PENSION PLAN INVESTMENT BOARD (CPPIB) HAS INVESTED IN MANY FIRMS IN INDIA INCLUDING VERE, RENEW POWER & L&T INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



issue, more of a conversation of interest and not of significant concern but worth keeping an eye on. We do not see it significantly affecting the tech services industry unless this goes on for months," Peter Bendor-Samuel, CEO of Everest Group, a research firm, told this newspaper.

If it turns out to be an intense but brief diplomatic spat, business will shrug this off. If it stretches out for months then it may affect the Indian firms' ability to do work in Canada. However, even if this were to escalate into a protracted diplomatic spat, the effect would be modest, he added.

The CEO of Everest Group also said that there has been a lot of talk and marketing in Canada, however, it's a relatively high-cost location vs Mexico, Eastern Europe and South America. Hence, there are not huge teams in Canada relative to other nearshore locations. IT industry's apex body Nasscom said that they are in close touch with its members in Canada and as per their feedback there are no immediate areas of concern.

"Given the visa suspension, we expect that Canada may be quickly replaced with other competitive markets like Australia and the UK. Another reason, the ban can't be long term is because several Canadian Pension funds have been investing for a while and they cannot afford not to play a role in India growth story," Bhaskar Majumdar, Managing Partner, Unicorn India Ventures.

He believes that there is no immediate cause for any big concern. "Given the visa suspension, we expect that Canada may be quickly replaced with other competitive markets like Australia and the UK. Another reason, the ban can't be long term is because several Canadian Pension funds have been investing for a while and they cannot afford not to play a role in India growth story," Bhaskar Majumdar, Managing Partner, Unicorn India Ventures.

"Since this is an evolving situation, we will continue to engage with stakeholders to track any potential areas of impact that may need sup-

port," it said.

Start-ups' association with Canada

Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) has made investments in many Indian start-ups including Byju's, Delhivery, Flipkart and Paytm, among others. In May this year, general insurance company Acko raised an undisclosed amount from investors including CPP Investment Board.

According to Tracxn data, CPP Investment Board has 3.6% stake with cumulative investment of ₹292 crore in Acko. In Byju's, it has 3.4% stake with cumulative investments of ₹1,456 crore. In Flipkart, its cumulative investments stood at ₹6,663.50 crore.

No doubt IT firms and start-ups will exercise caution in light of recent developments with business interests and offices in Canada, says Bhaskar Majumdar, Managing Partner, Unicorn India Ventures.

He believes that there is no immediate cause for any big concern. "Given the visa suspension, we expect that Canada may be quickly replaced with other competitive markets like Australia and the UK. Another reason, the ban can't be long term is because several Canadian Pension funds have been investing for a while and they cannot afford not to play a role in India growth story," Bhaskar Majumdar, Managing Partner, Unicorn India Ventures.

and they cannot afford not to play a role in the India growth story. Brookfield, for example, is one of the biggest investors in Indian infra and real estate."

Manoj Agarwal, Managing Partner, SeaFund VC, says, CPPIB is one of the larger investors in listed entities like Zomato and Nykaa with an investment to the tune of Rs 1.3 lakh crore and other large such large Canadian funds, who have an investment view of India are likely to suffer as much as the start-ups here.

The ongoing tension could also impact Indian start-ups and IT companies that are using Canada as a base to enter the US. Indian software companies have made significant investments in Canada and created job opportunities.

Indian start-ups previously saw Canada as an attractive bridge into North America. However, given the present circumstances, alternate locations like GIFT City, Dubai, or even Delaware seem more promising. These hubs offer a sense of security and policy stability that businesses crave, said Anirudh A Damani, Managing Partner, Artha Venture Fund. Experts also said that the impact will depend on how long this tension lasts between the two countries.

Tata Projects to build Micron chip plant in Gujarat

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

MICRON TECHNOLOGY has selected Tata Projects to build their new semiconductor assembly and test facility in Sanand near Ahmedabad.

The US-based chip firm said it has begun recruitment process for the new plant. Micron on Saturday conducted ground-breaking ceremony at Sanand GIDC-II, and a formal agreement was signed between the two companies. Gursharan Singh, senior vice-president, Micron, senior vice-president, Micron,

said the new manufacturing site will be an invaluable addition to Micron's existing global assembly and test footprint.

Micron will invest \$825 million for the project in next seven years, and it will come up in two phases. The facilities will procure and package chips for clients at the plant, or other companies could send their chips for testing before shipping. It will assemble and test manufacturing for both DRAM and NAND products and address demand from domestic and international markets.



The new site of 1.4 million square feet including 500,000 square feet of clean room is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Micron is the first company approved under the semiconductor mission under the government's Modified Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP) scheme. As per the scheme, the company will receive 50% fiscal support for the total project cost from the central government and incentives representing 20% from the state of Gujarat. The combined investment by Micron and the two government entities over the course of both phases will be up to \$2.75 billion.

53rd Annual General Meeting of HUDCO

The Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) held its 53rd Annual General Meeting through video conferencing on 21.09.2023. Shri Kuldip Narayan, Chairman & Managing Director, HUDCO chaired the meeting and addressed the shareholders to apprise them of the outstanding performance of the Company during the year. During the financial year 2022-23, HUDCO posted the PAT of Rs 1701.62 crore. In line with the excellent performance of the company, HUDCO approved for payment of a total dividend (Interim and Final) of Rs 770.73 crore to shareholders for FY 2022-23, as against Rs 700.66 crore for the FY 2021-22, which is an increase of 10% compared to last year. The outstanding performance of HUDCO in the FY 2022-23 has resulted in increase of the net worth of the company to Rs 15,445.25 crore, which was Rs 14,468.32 crore in the previous year.

"Taxpayers are requested to avail this opportunity and respond to such intimations to enable cleaning up/reconciliation of pending demands and facilitate timely issue of refunds," the tax department stated.

According to the Government, so far, 7.09 crore income tax returns have been filed for the 2022-23 fiscal year, with 6.46 crore returns processed and 2.75 crore refund returns issued.



Business & Beyond

COAL INDIA SIGNS MoU WITH BSF

In order to provide safe and clean drinking water in remote and rural areas, Coal India, as a part of its CSR initiative, has collaborated with the Border Security Force (BSF) to establish RO Water Filtration Plants at 8 border outposts of BSF in West Bengal. An MoU to this effect was signed at Coal India headquarters in Kolkata in the presence of Shri Vinay Ranjan, Director (P&IR), CIL.



66th Annual General Body Meeting of NAFED

The 66th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) took place today in New Delhi at the NCUI Auditorium, Hauz Khas. Approximately 558 delegates representing various Member societies and state federations, such as RAJFED, MARKFED-Punjab, BISCOMUN-Bihar, BUNKUS, Delhi State Co-op Federation, and Ahilya Co-operative Society Federation, graced the event with their presence. In his welcome address, Dr. Bijender Singh, Chairman NAFED thanked Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Union Minister for Home & Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, and senior officers of the Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Department of Consumer Affairs for their continued guidance and support to NAFED over the years and also for the faith and trust placed in the abilities of the Federation.



80%

annual growth India needed to bring about transformative changes in the lives of millions of people by 2050, said economist and former US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers in New Delhi on Saturday

NEWS SCOPE

ARE 'STRIKES' AS A BARGAINING TOOL MAKING A COMEBACK?

GURBIR SINGH

TWO mass labour strikes are rattling economic planners and lawmakers in the US. In an era when unified action by labour is considered passe, the United Auto Workers (UAW) have launched strikes in several Detroit plants of the three big automobile companies — General Motors, Ford and Chrysler parent Stellantis from 15 September.

A new hardline leadership of the UAW has been gunning for the 'greed' of the Big Three. Stagnant wages and a tiered salary system that underpays new employees are the issues. Other demands include a 4-day week, and protection against plant closures as electric vehicle production rises.

US president Joe Biden has lent a hand to the protesters, but planners are worried if the strikes escalate to cover the entire 150,000 unionized auto workforce, it could disrupt supply chains and dent US growth. The 3 auto companies account for as much as 50% of US' car production. Meanwhile, Hollywood has been more or less paralyzed since May this year after screenwriters, banded under the Writers Guild of America, have stopped work. The studios, streaming services and production companies have been brought to their knees as original content has virtually stopped flowing, leading to a world-wide entertainment drought. The conflict is over perceived poor pay, the size of writing staffs on shows and the fear of becoming redundant due to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the creation of scripts. According to the WGA's calculations, the entertainment industry profits have ballooned from \$5 billion in 2000 to \$28-\$30 billion from 2017-2021. Spending on original streaming content grew from \$5 billion in 2019 to \$19 billion in 2023 — the lion's share of it by Netflix, which reported \$6 billion in operating profits in 2021 and \$5.6 billion in 2022.

Labour unrest wanes

Cut to India, and it seems ironical that despite rampant inflation, growing inequality and a hire-and-fire regime in industry, there is hardly any overarching industrial action that

stands out in recent years. In fact, government data shows the number of strikes fell from 112 incidents in 2015 to just 59 in 2019 while lockouts were down from 29 to just 9 in the same period. The number of man days lost due to industrial action in this period also fell sharply from 4.6 million in 2016 to just 1.2 million in 2019.

The eclipse of trade unionism and the withdrawal of industrial action has been a post-liberalisation phenomenon. Two important factors have played a part. First, is the lower weightage of mainstream 'legacy' industries like construction, mining, steel and textiles that had spawned militant unions.

Spillover of anger

But those who have studied the history of working class militancy will understand that legal handcuffs or a repressive regime cannot stop anger from spilling over. Recent strikes by overworked delivery boys in food chains are a case in point. In April this year hundreds of employees of Blinkit, the 10-minute delivery service, went on a flash strike.

Or take the case of nurses unions who paralyzed UK's health services from October 2022 to June this year through strike actions. It was a first in their 109-year history, and triggered by the British government offering a humiliating 5% hike in salaries.

In India, there have been several partially successful general strikes. The last one was on 26 November 2020 when an alliance of 10 national trade unions managed to bring at least a quarter of the organized labour force on the road. The pivotal demands — stopping privatization, the rolling back of the Industrial Relation Code and more government funds for the rural employment programmes — played a role; but it was the link up with hugely powerful farmers movement that had announced a march on Delhi's Parliament for 30 November — that proved to be the morale booster.

In days to come, more than the strictly 'economic' union demands, we will see more 'political' mobilization. In 1946, when Indian naval ratings in British war ships in Mumbai's harbour went on strike for India's independence, textile unions in Mumbai struck work and rallied in support of the 'naval mutiny'. Resistance to onerous living and working conditions comes in unexpected forms. Whoever thought Hollywood writers would sit out for 5 months and more. Refusing to work as a form of mass protest, will continue to be a tool in the arsenal of the deprived.

EXPRESS READ

North-east biggest beneficiary of GST: FM

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said north-eastern states have been the biggest beneficiaries of GST, recording a compound annual GST revenue growth rate of 27.5% since its implementation (2017-18 to 2022-23) as against 14.8% for all states. She said the gain coming through GST is definitely a boon for the states, which need revenue for implementing different programmes. **ENS**

No of govt-recognised start-ups crosses 1L mark

NEW DELHI: The number of government-recognised startups has increased to over 1 lakh at present from 450 in 2016. Union minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday. Addressing entrepreneurs, he added confidence by 2047, Economy will see exponential growth. He said the government's commitment to improve ease of doing business in India, making it easier to start and run businesses. **PTI**



66th Annual General Body Meeting of NAFED

The 66th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) took place today in New Delhi at the NCUI Auditorium, Hauz Khas. Approximately 558 delegates representing various Member societies and state federations, such as RAJFED, MARKFED-Punjab, BISCOMUN-Bihar, BUNKUS, Delhi State Co-op Federation, and Ahilya Co-operative Society Federation, graced the event with their presence. In his welcome address, Dr. Bijender Singh, Chairman NAFED thanked Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Union Minister for Home & Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, and senior officers of the Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Department of Consumer Affairs for their continued guidance and support to NAFED over the years and also for the faith and trust placed in the abilities of the Federation.

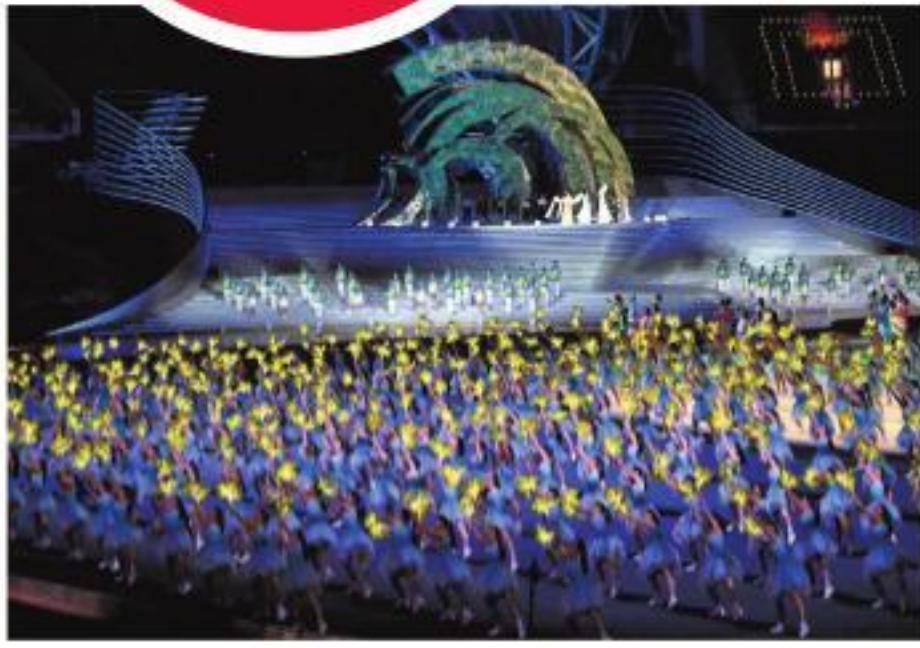
CHESS: LIREN NOT TO COMPETE?

Ding Liren, yet to play since being crowned chess world champion, may miss the team championship. His expected tussle on board 1 against India's D Gukesh was shaping up to be a blockbuster.



Our main focus is on the consistency of process, to keep ourselves maintained... Sometimes we find new methods to grow... I think all that (Asiad) is helping (prepare for the Olympics).

— Rudranksh Patil, India shooter



PLAYED IN CHINA

With the country staging yet another big event, **Swaroop Swaminathan** finds out why they keep bidding and successfully hosting large-scale competitions

WHEN Rick Burton was the chief marketing officer for the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee around the time the 2008 Summer Games rolled around, the body's sponsors were thrilled that China was hosting the biggest sporting event.

While China had already hosted some big ticket-events in a mainstream standalone sport (World Badminton Championships; Beijing, in 1987) or a continental multi-discipline event (Asian Games; Beijing, 1990), the Olympics officially marked their entry into big-time sport.

While their athletes had firmly established their presence as serial medal-winners in the 1990s, hosting the Olympics is a different challenge. That's why when Ning Li (six-times gymnastics medallist at the Los Angeles Games in 1984) lit the cauldron in Beijing, USOC's principal sponsors were delighted. Officially, it didn't just mark the beginning of the 2008 Olympics. "They (our sponsors) knew China saw the Games as a coming out party for doing business and welcomed the chance to associate with China and the Olympics," Burton, who's now a professor in sports management at Syracuse University, tells this daily.

If 2008 was China's coming out party, the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games is set to be a reminder — not that anybody needed one — of the country's pedigree when it comes to hosting blue ribbon competitions.

In the last 15 years alone, they have hosted World Championships in Aquatics (2011; Shanghai), Artistic Gymnastics (2014; Nanning) and Athletics (2015;

Beijing), two Olympics (2008; Beijing and 2022; Beijing — Winter Games) apart from one Asian Games (2010; Guangzhou). No other country can boast of such an impressive array of elite events spread across the country in such a short period of time. So, it begs the question. Why does China keep hosting events? And why are they so good at it?

Here's Burton. "Most nations desire to be viewed by their peers' as good or excellent," he says. "It may be for economic reasons, tourism, human rights or sports. In fact, many countries will begrudgingly admit that having their athletes win medals at Summer or Winter Olympics is a reflection on their way of life. So, too, is the perception associated with hosting mega (or global) sporting events. It makes a country look 'active' in front of peers or perceived enemies." That this is set to be China's biggest sporting event since the beginning of the pandemic (it's comfortably bigger than the 2022 Winter Olympics in terms of athlete representation) supports Burton's argument. While the Winter Games was held amid a cloud of Covid and intrigue, the message this Asiad is forward-looking. "Heart

SELECT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2011 Aquatics | Shanghai |
| 2014 Artistic Gymnastics | Nanning |
| 2015 Athletics | Beijing |
| Olympics | Asian Games |
| 2008* Beijing | 2010 Guangzhou |
| 2022* Beijing | 2023 Hangzhou |
| * - Summer | ^ - Winter |
| & officially began on Saturday | |

to heart @ future." The other advantage that China has, according to Burton is "... one important thing to remember is that major sporting events are state/government funded. Other countries may not have that financial capacity or sport in that country is largely privatised (the US, for example). In the case of the Olympics, cities must bid and then underwrite the costs. In China or Russia, those costs have traditionally been underwritten by the government."

Countries have forever tapped into the invisible benefits of hosting sporting events. But no country has done it to the extent that China has in the 21st century. Simon Chadwick, a professor of Sport and Geopolitical Economy at SKEMA Business School, like Burton, spoke about how China used the 2008 Olympics as a sort of brand relaunch for the country.

"Post-communist, pre-pandemic China was routinely deploying sport as a multi-faceted policy instrument," he tells this daily. "The 2008 Summer Olympics were essentially a brand relaunch; the 2022 winter Games were intended as a projection of power. Between times, the country's football plans were about attaining global legitimacy, and the Beijing government's announcement that China would become the world's biggest domestic sport economy by 2025.

"China was arguably the nation that prompted the notion of sport's geopolitical economy — multiple motives and multiple outcomes were driving its engagement with sport. Sure, image and reputational benefits were part of the equation; indeed, a reappraisal of the 2008 Olympics might result in the mega-event being labelled as an episode of sports propaganda.

However, those who excessively and simplistically use this term somehow tend to forget how the British used sport during colonial times, or how bread and circuses were as feature of the Roman empire."

Since 2020, though, China may have lost some of this appetite to host global or big-ticket continental meets. The next three weeks or so could decide whether the country finds its second wind. Chadwick explains. "Five years ago, China was the industry leader in the way it deployed sports events as an instrument of geopolitical economy. However, since then it has lost this position to the Gulf nations... perhaps the upcoming Asian Games is a chance to refocus and relaunch its hosting strategy."

When China rebranded itself as a sporting superpower in terms of infrastructure where the only two currencies were spectacle and grandeur, Burton's ringside view allowed him to make one observation. "I sensed that China was signalling to the West that it was ready to be seen as a major sporting power. It wanted that recognition. The Opening Ceremony (2008) with a massive number of Chinese drummers, rhythmically pounding in unison suggested the presence of a modern dynasty not just in sports but within the trillion-dollar global economy. "I may not have stopped to think about whether China would host more major sporting events (including the 2022 Winter Games) but looking back across the last 15 years, I'm not surprised."

Will Hangzhou bookend 15 years of spectacle or will it kick-start a second coming? The coming years will answer this question.

Real test begins for India paddlers

ENS @ Chennai

AFTER winning their respective first group-stage clashes, Indian men's and women's table tennis teams tested their bench strength in the last preliminary stage matches at the Gongshu Canal Sports Park Gymnasium. On September 23, Manav Thakkar, Manush Shah, and Harmeet Desai beat Tajikistan 3-0 as India opted to rest veteran A Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyan. Trio of Diya Chitale, Ayhika Mukherjee and

matches against Tajikistan.

For the women's team event, it was a close encounter against Singapore as Ayhika Mukherjee lost to Zeng Jian in the opening match. Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula gave India a lead, only for Zeng Jian to level it with a win over Batra in her second match. Ayhika dusted herself off in the deciding match, to take her team over the line.

In the pre-quarters, Indian women's paddlers will first match up with Thailand, and



G Sathiyan is expected to be back against Kazakhstan

should they survive, will face South Korea in the quarterfinals. While the men's team drawn in the bottom half, will take on Kazakhstan in their round of 16 match.

despite depositing passports at the Indian Embassy in their country soon after returning home from Asia Cup, Pakistan players have yet not been issued visas to visit India for the upcoming ODI World Cup scheduled to begin on October 5. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has raised the issue with the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday and is awaiting a response from the world governing body. The delay also forced the PCB to change its plan of having a short team bonding camp in Dubai before flying out for Hyderabad.

Delay in visa, PCB informs ICC

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

DESPITE depositing passports at the Indian Embassy in their country soon after returning home from Asia Cup, Pakistan players have yet not been issued visas to visit India for the upcoming ODI World Cup scheduled to begin on October 5. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has raised the issue with the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday and is awaiting a response from the world governing body. The delay also forced the PCB to change its plan of having a short team bonding camp in Dubai before flying out for Hyderabad.

The passports were submitted as soon as the team returned home from the Asia Cup held in Sri Lanka. We have yet to re-

ceived the visas. The ICC has been apprised of the issue as this has made the PCB to change its plan of having a two-day team bonding camp in Dubai," a PCB official in the know of developments told this daily.

For the PCB, the plan was to fly to Dubai on September 25 and stay there for two days before flying out for Hyderabad on September 27. Pakistan are supposed to play their first warm-up match against New Zealand in the city on September 29. Their second and last warm-up match is scheduled for October 3 against Australia. The 1992 champions begin their World Cup campaign against the Netherlands in Hyderabad on October 6 followed by a match against Sri Lanka at the same venue on Oc-

tober 10. It has already been reported that the first warm-up match has to be played behind closed doors as Hyderabad police have expressed inability to provide security for the same due to festive season. The PCB source, however, said the board has neither been informed by the ICC or BCCI in this regard when spoken about playing the practice match against New Zealand behind closed doors.

The two boards were at loggerheads when the BCCI refused to travel to Pakistan for the 2023 Asia Cup forcing the PCB to adopt a hybrid model for the tournament. As per the model, four matches were played in Pakistan while the remaining contests including those involving India were played in Sri Lanka.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Games open with glitter & gold

Blending elements of artificial intelligence and eco-friendly technology, the Asian Games began on Saturday with a one-of-a-kind opening ceremony, headlined by a futuristic light show and a digital torch relay. The dazzling programme, held amid a diplomatic row over the denial of entry to three

Indian athletes from Arunachal Pradesh, was a melange of technology, cultural history of China.

Continental drift

This will be the 19th edition of the Asian Games and third in China after Beijing (1990) and Guangzhou (2010)

655 NO OF INDIAN ATHLETES

Out of India's contingent, five have tasted Olympic success in individual events (PV Sindhu, Lovlina Borgohain, Mirabai Chanu, Neeraj Chopra and Bajrang Punia). It will be six if you include the men's hockey team.

More than 12,000 athletes will take part making this one of the biggest multi-discipline events to be held, even surpassing the Tokyo Olympics as well as the next edition in Paris.

2 NEW MEDAL EVENTS, BREAKING AND EGAMES

● More than 12,000 athletes will take part making this one of the biggest multi-discipline events to be held, even surpassing the Tokyo Olympics as well as the next edition in Paris.

● Olympic quotas will be available for finalists and, in some cases, for semi-finalists in some disciplines including boxing and archery.

● After giving it a miss in 2010 and 2014, both Indian teams are making their cricket debuts.

481 Gold medals

40 Sports

61 Disciplines

56 Venues



India flag bearers Harmanpreet Singh (hockey) and Lovlina Borgohain (boxing) during the Opening Ceremony in Hangzhou on Saturday | AFP

Mission Olympics for Lovlina & Co in China

EONS @ Chennai

INDIAN boxers have had encouraging results in recent times and enter the Asiad with high spirits. Nikhat Zareen has been an unstoppable force in the last twenty four months or so. Lovlina Borgohain has been among winners as well. The men's team have also been on the up with youngsters like Nishant Dev showing plenty of promise. Deepak Bhoria, picked over the more-experienced Amit Panghal (2018 Asiad gold winner), also has a point to prove. Veteran Shiva Thapa also has all the tools to prosper. But Asiad is going to be hard as it gets with the region boasting

many talented boxers. Given that there are a total of 34 Olympic quotas up for grabs, the Indians could be tested thoroughly.

The fact that Nikhat will be facing Asian champion Nguyen Thi Tam of Vietnam in the very first round says a lot about the competition. The two had locked horns during the IBA World Championships final in New Delhi and it was a real slugfest then. Both had given it all before Nikhat prevailed.

The women's event, barring two categories (66kg and 75kg) will have four quotas on offer. India had won just two medals in the previous edition. It could be a different story this time.

SHORT TAKES

Upbeat Indian spikers face Japan in last eight

Hangzhou: The giant-killing men's volleyball team can take a giant foot forward towards medalling at the Asian Games level if they can beat Japan, Asia's second best side, in the quarterfinals on Sunday. They have already beaten South Korea and Chinese Taipei in two of the earlier rounds.

Indian E-sports team top seeds, begins campaign in QF

Hangzhou: India were seeded directly into the quarterfinals in the League of Legends E-sports event, while they will begin their campaign from the Round of 32 in two other sections. India will compete in four of the seven events in the E-sports which will be making its full-fledged debut.



Ex-India cricketer K Srikanth hands the First Division Raja of Palayampani Shield to Jolly Rovers CC captain B Indrajith during TNCA Annual Day function on Saturday.

Sai Sudharsan bags top award

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

B SAI Sudharsan was adjudged as the Cricketer of the Year at the 91st Annual Day function of the TNCA at Chepauk. Sai Sudharsan was awarded the Bishnuram Medhi Trophy.

Jolly Rovers team that won the senior division league was awarded the Raja of Palayampani Shield, while Nelson Sports Club were the runner-up of the senior division league.

Meanwhile, all TNCA Lower Division League matches scheduled on Sunday have been postponed due to inclement weather and wet ground conditions.

Other Winners: NN Sunwara Memorial Trophy: Pradosh Ranjan Paul; Balihai Memorial Trophy: Nitish Rajagopal; V Jagannathan Memorial Trophy: Abhinav Kannan; T Vasu Naidu Memorial Trophy: N Jagadeesan; DR Mam Ramaswamy Endowment award: Vijay Shankar; SW De Alwis Trophy: Moksh Kumar Bhandari; Women's Cricketer of the Year: S Anusha.

MotoGP India: Martin wins sprint

AGENCIES @ Greater Noida

JORGE Martin held his lead from the start to win the sprint race at India's debut MotoGP on Saturday and close the gap on championship leader Francesco Bagnaia. Ducati-Pramac rider Martin started second on the grid and jumped into the lead, while a crash on the first corner saw Marco Bezzecchi slip back from pole position.

World champion Bagnaia came second and Marc Marquez completed the podium.

Verstappen takes pole
SUZUKA: Max Verstappen took pole position on Saturday for the Japanese Grand Prix, as he looks to take a giant stride towards a third-straight world title this weekend. McLaren's Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris finished second and third.

Atwal shares lead with eight others

MONTEREY PENINSULA: Arjun Atwal shared the first-round honours with eight others, all shooting 4-under 68 at the Pebble Links here. Other leaders include Vijay Singh, YE Yang of Korea, Americans Jerry Kelly, Dicky Pride and Brian Gay, Richard Green of Australia, Steve Alker of New Zealand, Mike Weir of Canada.



ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP INDIA 2023

T K VINEETH @ Kochi

US presidential hopeful Vivek Ramaswamy's recent remark that he would 'gut' H-1B visas if he were to come to power has raised concerns among visa seekers. It has also turned the spotlight on the problems associated with the non-immigrant American work visa programme, one of the most sought-after by highly skilled professionals from India.

"The lottery system needs to be replaced by actual meritocratic admission. It's a form of indentured servitude that only accrues to the benefit of the company that sponsored an H-1B immigrant. I'll gut it," US-based news portal *Politico* quoted Ramaswamy as saying. In another interview to *Fox News*, he said only those having the civic skills to be US citizens – not just technical skills – should be given these coveted work visas.

The H-1B visa scheme as it stands today is indeed mired. But not in the way the business-minded politician described it. There is a dire need to increase the annual cap of work visa issuances, which currently stands at 85,000. The demand for H-1B visa, which offers the path to Permanent Resident Card, is so high that lakhs of applications are filed every year and add to the huge backlog from previous years. For instance, for fiscal year 2024 alone, US businesses submitted as many as 7,80,884 applications. To deal with such a high number of visa seekers, the US government adopts a lottery system to decide who all get the visas.

The lottery system is by no means perfect. Selection in the lottery does not mean the visa is guaranteed. This year, for example, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USIS) conducted two rounds of lottery. The second round was necessitated after the agency found ineligible applications were wrongly selected. The very nature of the selection process makes luck, rather than pure merit, the deciding factor. Ramaswamy says the visa is "bad for everyone involved".

But that's stretching it a bit too far. American companies need highly qualified professionals in large numbers, whereas there is an acute shortage of candidates with the relevant qualification and skill sets in the US. This makes these companies scout for talent from countries like India but they need to rely on the H-1B visa to hire professionals from abroad. It also works for the professionals because they get fairer pay in the US, can bring in their spouse and children, and enjoy the social status and comforts of living in a Western country.

Politics vs business

Ramaswamy has a habit of making bombastic statements to constantly remain in the news and win the popularity charts. Before taking to politics, he was a businessman who had no qualms in using the very H-1B visas he now threatens to abolish. His pharmaceutical company Rovant Sciences used non-immigrant work visas as many as 29 times from 2018 through 2023. And so, his claim that he will bring in a 'meritocratic' visa regime in place of H-1B needs to be taken with a pinch of salt.

Always under scrutiny

By definition, H-1B is a non-immigrant visa that allows US-based companies and other employers to hire professionals from other countries in specialty occasions that require theoretical or technical knowhow. These specialty occupations are spread across various fields

the H-1B visa programme, citing its impact on the US job market which was badly hit by the Covid pandemic. But more than the pandemic, the harsh decision was influenced by the fact that it was in election year and Trump was seeking a second term as US president. The suspension of the H-1B visa programme deprived thousands of foreign workers of the opportunity to work in the US, leaving those vacancies open to native Americans—a factor Trump hoped would help him come back as president. The visa crisis ended only when his successor Joe Biden let Trump's proclamation lapse in March 2021.

including architecture, engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, social sciences, medicine and health, education, business specialties, accounting, law, theology, and the arts.

The H-1B visa is usually issued for three years, which can be renewed for another three years. After the maximum period of six years, one has to leave the US and stay out for at least



VIVEK RAMASWAMY

including architecture, engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, social sciences, medicine and health, education, business specialties, accounting, law, theology, and the arts.

The H-1B visa is usually issued for three years, which can be renewed for another three years. After the maximum period of six years, one has to leave the US and stay out for at least



KEY CANDIDATES

GANESH NAGARAJAN @ Chennai

VEAR 2024 will see elections to the world's largest and second largest democracies. While India is yet to firm up the dates for the Lok Sabha polls, the US has already started electioneering for the high stakes presidential poll that has a fixed date.

The upcoming US presidential election is going to be significant for various reasons. One, rarely has the US had an election where the sitting president is pitted against a former president. Despite his advanced age—he is 80—and poor ratings, President Joe Biden wants a second term. He is expected to face former president Donald Trump, 77, who is a strong contender though hemmed by serious legal challenges that may harm his presidential bid. As of now, there are 14 serious candidates eyeing the hot seat—10 Republicans, 3 Democrats, and one third-party candidate. A few more had announced their intent to run but pulled out of the race.

As of Saturday, a total of 1,101 candidates have registered with the Federal Election Commission website to run for president with some 300 identifying themselves as belonging to Republican Party and over 160 as Democratic Party. In 2020, as many as 1,212 people had registered as candidates. But only a few from both parties are serious contenders.

Many in India will be closely watching the 2024 US election because there are a handful of Indian Americans, too, in the fray but only Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy (both Republicans) are in the news. The others are relatively lesser known—Hirsh Vardhan Singh (Republican), Shabadiot Singh Bharara (Democrat), and Ajay Thaliyath (Democrat). A few more candidates with Indian-sounding names are in the list.

The process

The US elects its president every four years but the entire election process takes about two years. The election day is fixed—the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The next presidential election will be held on November 5, 2024.

Eligibility to contest

For a person to become the US President, he/she should be a natural-born citizen of the US, be at least 35 years old and have been a resident of the US for 14 years. Hollywood actor and former Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger could not run for president because he was born outside the US. Though Obama was born in the US, he faced allegations about his place right through his tenure. Once a candidate declares his/her intention to run for presidency, he or she has to raise or spend more than \$5,000 for their campaign and register with the federal election commission.

DONALD TRUMP, 77, is former US president with the dubious distinction of embracing indictments in four criminal cases which has ironically boosted his popularity among his core supporters

VIVEK GANAPATHY RAMASWAMY, 38, is an American entrepreneur and author who is also a staunch supporter of Trump. An Indian-American, his family roots are in Palakkad, Kerala

ASA HUTCHINSON, 72, is former Arkansas governor who has publicly said Trump should step aside to deal with his first indictment

TIM SCOTT, 57, is the only Black Republican US Senator who is known to keep a low profile

MIKE PENCE, 64, was Trump's vice president who broke with his former boss over the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol

CHRIS CHRISTIE, 61, was Trump's advisor for the White House campaign but became a vocal critic of the former president after the January 6, 2021 attack

DOUG BURGUM, 67, is serving his second term as North Dakota's governor after selling his software business to Microsoft Corp in 2001

WILL HURD, 46, is a former CIA officer turned US Congressman, and is the second Black candidate in the Republican race

REPUBLICAN PARTY

RON DESANTIS, 44, is the Florida governor who is said to be the leading challenger to Trump but his support has weakened

NIKKI HALEY, 51, was Trump's ambassador to the United Nations. An Indian-American, her family roots are in Amritsar, Punjab

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

JOE BIDEN, 80, the oldest-ever US president. He faces the uphill task of convincing voters of his stamina to run for another hectic four years

ROBERT KENNEDY JR., 69, is the son of US Senator Robert F Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1968 during his own presidential bid in Dallas

MARIANNE WILLIAMSON, 71, is a best-selling author and self-help guru. This is her second bid for the White House

GREEN PARTY

CORNEL WEST, 70, is a political activist, academic and philosopher

2024

is when the next presidential election will be held on November 5

INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT

Once clarity emerges on who will be the next president, he has to wait for two months before he takes office. The inauguration day is usually January 20. It may be pushed by a day if it happens to be a Sunday

TV debates

Oratory skills are a key qualification and TV debates can make or break a candidate. Once the parties announce their presidential and vice presidential candidates, the action shifts to election campaigns and television debates. The practice of television debates started in 1960, which was broadcast through radio, too.

The first debate was between John Kennedy (Democrat) and Richard Nixon (Republican).

Whoever heard the debate on radio felt Nixon was articulating his position well. But who

ever saw the debate on television found Nix-

on uncomfortable to the medium. His refusal to use makeup resulted in a 'five o'clock shadow' (beard visible late in the day after a clean shave in the morning), which is believed to be a factor in his defeat. Kennedy, whose rating was down until then, started to canter. There were three more debates and Nixon did win them, but it was not enough for him to win the presidency.

After 1960, the next presidential debate happened only in 1976. Since then presidential debates are a staple before any US elections. Candidates decide the format and at least three debates happen. In the 1990s, Republi-

cian President George Bush (Sr) was debating with Democratic contender Governor Bill Clinton. At one point in the debate, Bush checked the time on his wrist watch before a live audience. Soon after, his rating started falling and he subsequently lost.

Election day

The election is held in November. Only registered citizens can vote. Irrespective of their affiliation to a party, they are free to vote for any candidate. Voters who have not voted in primaries can still vote during the presidential general elections. America has been mostly a two-party—Democrats and Republi-

cian—country. A third candidate from the Green Party or People's Party, too, stands and loses. The third candidate is not part of television debates.

Electoral college

The electoral college determines the outcome of the elections. A candidate who wins the popular vote cannot become the next presi-

dent if he/she does not get a simple majority in the electoral college. Each state gets as

many electors as it has members of Congress.

There are currently 538 electors in all. A can-

didate needs the vote of at least 270 electors to

win the presidential election. In the past, can-

candidates have won the popular vote but not had enough electoral votes and had to con-

cede, as it happened in 2016 and 2000.

1,101

candidates have registered with the Federal Election Commission website to run for president

2024

is when the next presidential election will be held on November 5

INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT

Once clarity emerges on who will be the next president, he has to wait for two months before he takes office. The inauguration day is usually January 20. It may be pushed by a day if it happens to be a Sunday

TV debates

Oratory skills are a key qualification and TV debates can make or break a candidate. Once the parties announce their presidential and vice presidential candidates, the action shifts to election campaigns and television debates. The practice of television debates started in 1960, which was broadcast through radio, too.

The first debate was between John Kennedy (Democrat) and Richard Nixon (Republican).

Whoever heard the debate on radio felt Nixon was articulating his position well. But who

ever saw the debate on television found Nix-

on uncomfortable to the medium. His refusal to use makeup resulted in a 'five o'clock shadow' (beard visible late in the day after a clean shave in the morning), which is believed to be a factor in his defeat. Kennedy, whose rating was down until then, started to canter. There were three more debates and Nixon did win them, but it was not enough for him to win the presidency.

After 1960, the next presidential debate happened only in 1976. Since then presidential debates are a staple before any US elections. Candidates decide the format and at least three debates happen. In the 1990s, Republi-

cian President George Bush (Sr) was debating with Democratic contender Governor Bill Clinton. At one point in the debate, Bush checked the time on his wrist watch before a live audience. Soon after, his rating started falling and he subsequently lost.

Election day

The election is held in November. Only registered citizens can vote. Irrespective of their affiliation to a party, they are free to vote for any candidate. Voters who have not voted in primaries can still vote during the presidential general elections. America has been mostly a two-party—Democrats and Republi-

cian—country. A third candidate from the Green Party or People's Party, too, stands and loses. The third candidate is not part of television debates.

Electoral college

The electoral college determines the outcome of the elections. A candidate who wins the popular vote cannot become the next presi-

dent if he/she does not get a simple majority in the electoral college. Each state gets as

many electors as it has members of Congress.

There are currently 538 electors in all. A can-

didate needs the vote of at least 270 electors to

win the presidential election. In the past, can-

candidates have won the popular vote but not had enough electoral votes and had to con-

cede, as it happened in 2016 and 2000.

1,101

candidates have registered with the Federal Election Commission website to run for president

2024

is when the next presidential election will be held on November 5

INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT

Once clarity emerges on who will be the next president, he has to wait for two months before he takes office. The inauguration day is usually January 20. It may be pushed by a day if it happens to be a Sunday

TV debates

Oratory skills are a key qualification and TV debates can make or break a candidate. Once the parties announce their presidential and vice presidential candidates, the action shifts to election campaigns and television debates. The practice of television debates started in 1960, which was broadcast through radio, too.

The first debate was between John Kennedy (Democrat) and Richard Nixon (Republican).

Whoever heard the debate on radio felt Nixon was articulating his position well. But who

ever saw the debate on television found Nix-

on uncomfortable to the medium. His refusal to use makeup resulted in a 'five o'clock shadow' (beard visible late in the day after a clean shave in the morning), which is believed to be a factor in his defeat. Kennedy, whose rating was down until then, started to canter. There were three more debates and Nixon did win them, but it was not enough for him to win the presidency.

After 1960, the next presidential debate happened only in 1976. Since then presidential debates are a staple before any US elections. Candidates decide the format and at least three debates happen. In the 1990s, Republi-

cian President George Bush (Sr) was debating with Democratic contender Governor Bill Clinton. At one point in the debate, Bush checked the time on his wrist watch before a live audience. Soon after,