

BUDGET SESSION BEGINS TODAY

Opp seeks discussion on Adani, BBC film row; Govt says ready for all

Discuss unemployment, price rise, women's quota Bill, say parties



At the all-party meeting in New Delhi on Monday. Anil Sharma

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

AN ALL-PARTY meeting convened by the government ahead of the Budget Session of Parliament, beginning Tuesday, saw demands by the Opposition for a discussion on the row over a report by a New York-based in-

Adani public offer to close today; stock at 7-12% discount

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

WITH JUST a day for its Rs 20,000 crore follow-on public offer (FPO) to close, Adani Enterprises Ltd, the flagship of the Adani Group, partially recovered Monday to end 4.2 per cent higher at Rs 2,878 a share, but continues to be at a 7-12 per cent discount to the FPO price band of Rs 3,112-3,276 a share.

The Adani Enterprises stock had plunged 18 per cent on Friday, and 1.18 per cent on Wednesday.

The slide in the fortune of Adani Group and its founder Gautam Adani continued Monday as shares of four of the

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BHARAT JODO YATRA ENDS

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the conclusion of his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar on Monday. The yatra covered over 4,000 kms in 136 days. Shuaib Masoodi

REPORTS, PAGE 10

BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY



THE WORLD



SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 61 AT MOSQUE IN PESHAWAR PAGE 18

ODISHA MINISTER'S KILLING

ASI was on traffic clearance duty, clear intention to kill: FIR

SUJIT BISOYI

BHUBANESWAR, JANUARY 30

ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTOR (ASI) Gopal Das, the police officer who shot Odisha minister Naba Kisore Das on Sunday, had been "deployed for traffic clearance duty" for the minister's programme in Jharsuguda district and opened fire with a "clear intention to kill him", according to the first information report (FIR) filed in the case.

While the ASI has been dismissed from service, police remained quiet on the motive behind the killing. Police sources said Gopal Das has a clean serv-



Naba Kisore Das

ice record and has also been awarded for his work in the past.

"It's a clear cut case where the accused is admitting that he has committed the crime. We will try to ascertain the details by taking the accused in remand. Efforts are on to conduct the investigation in a scientific way by collecting maximum evidence and examining eyewitnesses."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED

What aided the rise

GREATERT CERTAINTY FOR states of their revenue flows and devolution from the central pool are likely triggers for higher capital expenditure. This comes at a time when the RBI has nudged states to mainstream capital expenditure planning rather than treating them as "residuals and first stops" for cutbacks in order to meet budgetary targets.

cial data.

Capital expenditure by these 18 states in November accounts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Rajasthan reply in court: 81 MLAs told Speaker did not resign voluntarily

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, JANUARY 30



Assembly Speaker
CP Joshi

ALL THE 81 Rajasthan MLAs who had resigned from the Assembly in September appeared before Speaker CP Joshi to withdraw their resignations and said their resignations "were not voluntary", according to an affidavit by Assembly Secretary Mahaveer Prasad Sharma filed in the Rajasthan High Court on Monday and seen by *The Indian Express*.

In a copy of the noting by Speaker Joshi, dated January 13, where he rejected the resignation letters — and attached with Sharma's reply — Joshi says that all the 81 MLAs "appeared before me one by one in person and voluntarily submitted *prarthana patra* (prayer letters) requesting withdrawal of resignation. In their prayer letters, they have clearly mentioned that the resignation letters given earlier were not voluntary."

In the reply to the petition filed

by Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore, Sharma said the resignation letters were presented to Joshi by Chief Whip Mahesh Joshi, Deputy Chief Whip Mahendra Choudhary, ministers Shanti Dhariwal and Ram Lal Jat, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's advisor Sanyam Lodha, and MLA Rafeek Khan.

"All the 81 MLAs did not hand over the resignation letters but the resignation letters were presented by six MLAs, and out of these 81 letters of resignation five were photocopies. Thus, the Hon'ble Speaker was well within his right to keep the matter for consideration and determination ... as to whether the resignation letters were voluntary or not," Sharma said in his reply.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Hockey coach resigns after dismal run in World Cup



Time to step aside:
Graham Reid

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

FORMER AUSTRALIA International Graham Reid became the first and, perhaps, the biggest casualty of India's debacle at the hockey World Cup after he resigned Monday as chief coach with Hockey India saying this marked the beginning of a "new approach" for the men's team.

Reid, who guided India to a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics, informed the players about his decision Sunday night. On Monday morning, he met Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey to submit his resignation.

Along with Reid, the foreign coaching support staff — analytical coach Gregg Clark and scientific advisor Mitchell Pemberton — has put in its papers, too.

The trio's resignation comes in the aftermath of India's embarrassing World Cup campaign

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Death sentence for man who attacked, injured two cops at Gorakhnath temple

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 30

A SPECIAL Court in Lucknow Monday awarded the death sentence to 30-year-old Ahmed Murtaza Abbasi for attacking and injuring two police constables with a sharp-edged weapon while trying to forcibly enter the premises of the Gorakhnath

temple in UP's Gorakhpur in April last year.

"Additional District and Sessions Judge Viveka Nand Sharani Tripathi awarded the death sentence to Murtaza Abbasi. The court also imposed a total fine of Rs 44,000 on him. I am yet to go through the full judgment," said Mithlesh Kumar Singh, the state government counsel.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

UP DGP Dr Devendra Singh Chauhan said the death sentence was awarded due to "effective work by the ATS prosecution wing". Abbasi's court-appointed lawyer, Ram Narayan Tiwari, did not respond to calls from *The Indian Express* seeking comment.

In a statement, UP Police said that Abbasi was "highly radicalised" and in "direct touch"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Gender gap in undergraduate widens, gains of last few years lost to pandemic

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

VIDHEESA
KUNTAMALLA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

CRUCIAL GAINS made in closing the gender gap across different undergraduate programmes suffered a setback in the pandemic year, according to the latest All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) released by the Education Ministry on Sunday. Data show that the number of women for every 100 men

enrolled across different Bachelor's programmes dropped in the academic year 2020-21.

For instance, a year after the gender gap in BCom closed in 2019 — there were as many women as there were male students — the AISHE report for 2020-2021 showed that this gain was lost in the subsequent year that was marred by large-scale disruptions due to the pandemic.

From 100 women per 100 men who registered for the BCom programme in 2019, the enrollment for women fell to 94 for every 100 men in 2020 — a dip that takes the enrollment figures closer to what it was in 2016 (93

GIRLS PER 100 BOYS
IN UNDERGRADUATE
PROGRAMMES

	2019-2020	2020-2021
BA	127	108
BCA	73	59
BBA	68	62
B.Com	100	94
B.Ed	215	185
B.Pharm	93	66
B.Sc Nursing	385	308
B.Sc	113	110
B.Tech	42	40
LLB	53	49
MBBS	110	100

women per 100 male students).

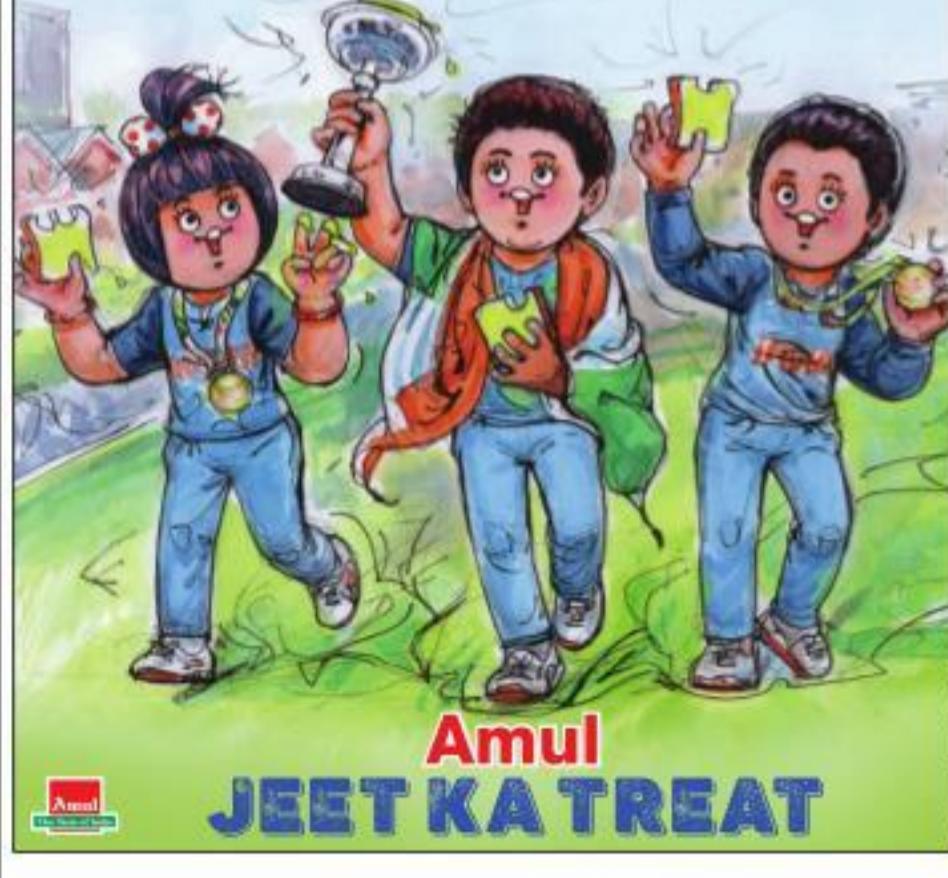
Similar drops were witnessed in other programmes too, including medicine where, from 110 women for every 100 men in MBBS in 2019-20, there are now 100 women in 2020-21 (see box).

Other undergraduate programmes such as pharmacy, which came close to plugging the gender gap in 2019 — 93 women for 100 men — saw a drastic drop to 66 women in 2020-21.

Undergraduate programmes such as nursing and education, which have traditionally had more women participation, also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

WONDER-19 VICTORY



Budget signal from states for FM: Capital spending gets boost

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE CENTRE is likely to renew its thrust on capital expenditure in the upcoming Budget, buoyed by some visible traction in capex spending by states late in the current financial year. After remaining muted for the first seven months of 2022-23, capital spending by states has seen a sharp pickup in November, with 18 major states — including Gujarat, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha — posting a 49.7 per cent year-on-year increase at Rs 44,647 crore. For the financial year so far till November, these 18 states have seen a rise of 5.7 per cent in their capital expenditure to Rs 2.44 lakh crore, primarily on account of the sharp pickup seen in November, according to offi-

cial data.

Capital expenditure by these 18 states in November accounts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EACH ONE OF US CAN MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT TOWARDS CLEANER INDIA.



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Indian Express ★★★★ 4.6



WEB EXCLUSIVE



PRIYADARSHAN – THE MAN AT 66, AND THE DIRECTOR AT 39

In his resplendent film journey, Priyadarshan has had many ups and a fair number of downs, especially in his home ground. But it cannot be denied that he was responsible for some of Malayalam cinema's greatest successes

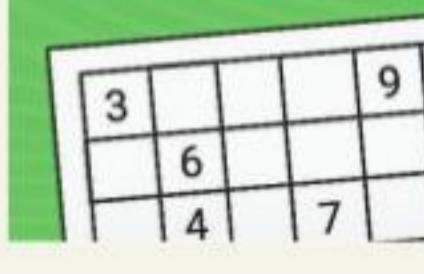
TECH



LENOVO THINKPAD X1 CARBON REVIEW

The MacBook Air now has a competition

PUZZLES AND GAMES



ENJOY DAILY CROSSWORDS AND SUDOKU FROM THE INDIAN EXPRESS

EXPRESS AUDIO

Fighter jets' crash, police on radicalisation, and rally against love jihad

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Today we discuss about the air force jets that crashed, a high-level police conference on growing radicalisation in the country, and a rally against love jihad in Mumbai

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Opp seeks discussion on Adani, BBC film row

willing to discuss every issue as per the rules, and sought the co-operation of the Opposition in running the proceedings smoothly.

The parties also sought a discussion on passage of the women's reservation Bill, "threat to cooperative federalism", unemployment situation and price rise.

The Congress did not attend the meeting as its leaders were in Srinagar for the concluding event of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Besides Singh, the government side was represented by Parliament Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal, and Ministers of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal and V Muraleedharan. Joshi said 37 leaders from 27 parties were present at the meeting.

The Trinamool Congress, the second-largest Opposition party in Parliament after the Congress, did not join others in demanding a discussion on the Adani row.

The parties which wanted this taken up included the DMK, represented by TR Baalu, the Aam

Aadmi Party (Sanjay Singh), the RJD (Manoj Kumar Jha), the CPM (Elamaram Kareem) and the CPI (P Sandosh Kumar).

Jha questioned Adani using India's name and flag, while challenging the report on its practices by the US investor firm Hindenburg Research.

The CPI(M) central committee, which met in Kolkata, demanded a high-level inquiry monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Supreme Court into the allegations. The CPI(M) said it will coordinate with other parties to raise the issue in Parliament.

At a meeting of his party MPs Sunday, DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin asked them to raise issues like the Adani row, apart from the controversy over the curbs on the BBC documentary, and "attempts made by the BJP to change the basic characteristics of the Constitution which could be seen from unnecessary comments made by certain sections, including the Vice-President of India (Jagdeep Dhankar) questioned the Supreme Court order on the basic structure of the

Constitution".

The TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay sought a discussion on "the threat to cooperative federalism". The Government of India is trying to create an economic blockade of West Bengal. That is a dangerous trend. We said the Finance Ministry should release the funds for West Bengal for the 100 days' jobs scheme (MGNREGS)," he said.

The demand for a discussion on passage of the women's quota Bill, setting aside 33% of the seats for them in Parliament and Assemblies, was also supported by the BRS and BJD.

Like Bandyopadhyay, RJD MP Jha said at the meeting that Parliament cannot be reduced to just a body giving approval to government legislation. It should discuss substantial issues of concern to the country, he said. He also said it was wrong for Adani to conflate the charges against his companies with an attack on India. On the BBC film row, he said many parties had sought a discussion on it.

"Hindenburg posed 88 questions to Adani Group which responded with a 413 page rant. The demand for a discussion on passage of the women's quota Bill, setting aside 33% of the seats for them in Parliament and Assemblies, was also supported by the BRS and BJD.

Both the RJD's Jha and the YSRCP's VVijayash Reddy sought a caste census. Reddy said backward castes were over 50% of the total population and a caste-based census would help find their economic status.

Apart from the TMC, several

parties demanded a discussion on unemployment, with Jha seeking a blueprint, calling the situation very worrisome.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Union minister Pralhad Joshi said the government was willing to hold a discussion on all subjects as per the rules. "Urge all political parties to extend their cooperation in the smooth functioning of the Houses," he said.

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• Budget signal for FM: Capital spending gets boost

for 18.3 per cent of the overall capital spending during April-November. Capex by states such as Gujarat, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh has more than doubled in November as against the corresponding period last year. For states such as Odisha, the rise in capex is nearly five-fold, while for Bihar, it is an over three-fold increase in November.

Experts said better certainty

for states' revenue flow in terms of growth in tax collections and devolution from the Central pool

has worked in favour of higher capital expenditure by states. Among the states with the highest level of capital expenditure, Uttar Pradesh has seen an increase of 6.6 per cent at Rs 35,658 crore during April-November this fiscal and over 125 per cent increase in November to Rs 9,819 crore.

Capex by Gujarat rose 44.3 per cent in April-November to Rs 20,399 crore and by 11.3 per cent in November to Rs 2,129 crore. Capex by Maharashtra increased by 9.2 per cent to Rs 19,310 crore during April-November, but declined from the year-ago level in November by 5.6 per cent to Rs 3,253 crore.

Bihar's capital spending increased by 46 per cent April-November to Rs 14,290 crore and by over 400 per cent in November to Rs 5,116 crore, while Odisha's capex rose to Rs 5,046 crore in November as against Rs 1,015 crore last year.

Some states have recorded a decline in capital expenditure during April-November including Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana

CAPEX BY STATES

	Nov 2022 (₹crore)	YoY change (per cent)	April-Nov 2022 (₹cr)	YoY change (per cent)
Uttar Pradesh	9,819.19	125	35,658.03	6.6
Madhya Pradesh	2,388.32	0.66	22,358.87	-5.8
Gujarat	2,129.38	118.3	20,399.81	44.3
Maharashtra	3,253.33	-5.6	19,310.42	9.2
Tamil Nadu	2,126.52	-47.9	18,287.56	-11.1
Odisha	5,046.48	396.9	14,903.37	93.6
Bihar	5,116.79	434.2	14,290.71	46
Total*	44,647.1	49.7	244,263.6	5.7

*for 18 states; Source: Govt data

and Uttarakhand. Capex by Andhra Pradesh declined by over 30 per cent to Rs 6,188 crore in April-November from Rs 9,199 crore in the year-ago period, while in November it declined to Rs 312 crore from Rs 460 crore. Tamil Nadu's capex has declined by 11 per cent to Rs 18,287 crore during April-November and by 48 per cent in November to Rs 2,126 crore, according to official data.

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India had in a report asked states to mainstream capital expenditure planning rather than treating them as "residuals and first stops" for cutbacks in order to meet budgetary targets. Capital spending by states grew by just 0.9 per cent in April-October 2022, which RBI said partly reflects the tendency to back-load expenditure in the latter half of the year.

"It is worthwhile to consider creating a capex buffer fund during good times when revenue flows are strong to smoothen and maintain expenditure quality and flows through the economic cycle," the RBI report on State

Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2022-23 had stated, while outlining likely reversal to the old pension scheme by some states as a major looming risk.

"States have better revenue visibility as they gain on higher revenue collections. States' own revenues have been good and so has been the devolution amount by Centre helping instill confidence in states to spend more on capital expenditure. The government was shifted to Lucknow from Gorakhpur due to the Special ATS Court's jurisdiction, he said. Abbasi is lodged in a Lucknow jail.

The incident for which the death sentence was handed out occurred on April 3 last year when, police said, Abbasi reached the temple gate, attacked security personnel there with a sharp-edged weapon and raised religious slogans. He was overpowered by security personnel, they said.

According to police, two PAC personnel, Gopal Gaur and Anil Paswan, suffered injuries on their hands and legs. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who is the head priest of the Gorakhpur temple, was not present on the premises at the time.

Abbas, who hails from Gorakhpur, was also accused of trying to snatch the weapons of security personnel.

According to the government counsel, Abbasi was also convicted under IPC sections 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion) 186 (obstructing a public servant in discharge of duty), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from duty), 333 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter public servant from his duty) and 394 (voluntarily causing hurt in committing robbery).

The court also convicted Abbasi under The Criminal Law Amendment Act and Arms Act, Singh said.

Following the incident last year, the police had lodged a case against Abbasi at the Gorakhpur station with UP's Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) in charge of investigation. The police had also claimed to have recovered a bag belonging to Abbasi at the temple gate along with a laptop, another sharp-edged weapon, ID cards, and a cellphone.

The police had told the court after the arrest last year that Abbasi was under the influence of radical preachers of various terrorist organisations and had pledged a vow of allegiance to the outfit Ansar-ul-Tawhid in 2013, and later to ISIS.

We want the culprit to be punished," said Arun Bothra, Additional Director General of Police, Crime Branch. Bothra, who questioned Gopal Das, did not respond to questions on whether the ASI had any personal enmity with Naba Das, and the allegations of a "bigger conspiracy".

"We are exploring different angles. I am not able to say anything at this moment. We are verifying whether he has any mental illness, as claimed by his wife. His service record has no such mention," said a senior police officer who did not want to be named.

The Crime Branch team visited the spot with forensic/ballistic experts. Gopal Das's cellphone, a 9 mm pistol and three rounds of ammunition have been seized. These will be sent for ballistic examination, police said in a statement. The viscera of the slain minister has been preserved for further examination.

According to the FIR filed by Brajrajnagar Inspector-in-Charge Pradyumna Kumar Swain, Gopal Das, who was posted at the Gandhi Chowk outpost where the incident occurred, was "deployed for traffic clearance duty" for the minister, who was scheduled to inaugurate an office in the area. Gopal Das allegedly used his 9 mm service pistol for the shooting. At about 12.15 pm on Sunday, the minister's car stopped near the building and he got down from the vehicle. "All of a sudden, ASI Das opened fire from his service pistol from a very close range, aiming at the minister with clear intention to kill him," Swain says in the FIR.

According to the FIR, even as Swain and Constable KC Pradhan

• Gender gap in UG widens

witnessed a significant fall in numbers for women – from 385 in nursing and 215 in education (for every 100 men) in 2019-20, to 308 and 185 women, respectively, in 2020-21.

The gender gap in undergraduate programmes such as computer science, business administration, pharmacy, technology and law – which have always had a gender skew in favour of men – continues to be large.

According to the latest survey, the total student enrollment in higher education went up from 3.85 crore in 2019 to about 4.13 crore in 2020-21, an increase of nearly 29 lakh. Out of the total enrolled, 51.3% or 2.12 crore are male and 48.7% are women.

Overall, the Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education for the

age group of 18 to 23 years is 27.3% as against 25.6% in 2019-20. GER is a measure to determine the number of students enrolled in undergraduate, post-graduate and research-level studies within the country and is expressed as a percentage of the population in the 18-23 years age group.

According to the survey, the GER for women is more than the GER for men – a trend that has been on since 2017-18. Gender Parity Index (GPI), the ratio of female GER to male GER, has increased from 1 in 2017-2018 to 1.05 in 2020-21.

At the postgraduate level, too, the number of women pursuing business administration, science, technology and commerce has gone down in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-2020.

Cup, it is learnt. The coach, on the other hand, was said to be frustrated after some of his choices – especially with regard to support staff – were overruled by Hockey India. At that point, the national governing body believed a change of coach closer to a World Cup would have negatively impacted the team. But after a shock loss to New Zealand in a campaign where India began strongly but lost their way, Reid's position became untenable.

Reid became India's coach in mid-2019 on the back of another disappointing World Cup. At the time, he was the team's 26th chief coach in 25 years.

In a recent interview with *The Indian Express*, he had joked that he expected to get fired within the first three months of taking over but he ended up becoming the longest-serving foreign coach of the team and injected Indian hockey with stability and self-confidence.

It is learnt that the players, in a closed-door meeting late last year with Hockey India officials, had expressed dissatisfaction over Reid's selections and tactics. Some of these points were reiterated following the exit from the World

cup, it is learnt. The coach, on the other hand, was said to be frustrated after some of his choices – especially with regard to support staff – were overruled by Hockey India. At that point, the national governing body believed a change of coach closer to a World Cup would have negatively impacted the team. But after a shock loss to New Zealand in a campaign where India began strongly but lost their way, Reid's position became untenable.

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Our Company was originally established as a partnership firm in 1988. Our Company was, thereafter, registered and incorporated in Ahmedabad, Gujarat as 'Adani Exports Limited' on March 2, 1993, as a company limited by shares pursuant to Part IX of the Companies Act, 1956 and pursuant to a certificate of incorporation issued by the Registrar of Companies, Gujarat at Ahmedabad ("RoC"). A certificate of commencement of business was issued by the RoC on March 4, 1993. Subsequently, the name of our Company was changed to 'Adani Enterprises Limited' pursuant to a resolution of our Board of Directors passed on May 20, 2006 and subsequently a resolution of our Shareholders was passed on July 29, 2006 and to reflect the changes in our business strategies. Consequently, a fresh certificate of incorporation was issued by the RoC on August 10, 2006. For further details in relation to the changes in our name and the registered office of our Company, see 'History and Certain Corporate Matters - Brief History of Our Company' and 'History and Certain Corporate Matters - Changes in the registered office of Our Company' on page 228 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated January 18, 2023 ("RHP").

Registered and Corporate Office: Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S. G. Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad - 382 421, Gujarat, India; Telephone: +91 79 2555 5555, Contact Person: Jatin Jalundhwala, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; Email: investor.aei@adani.com; Telephone: +91 79 2555 5377; Website: www.adanienterprises.com; Corporate Identity Number: L5110DGJ1993PLC019067



ADANI ENTERPRISES LIMITED

THE PROMOTERS OF OUR COMPANY ARE GAUTAM S. ADANI AND RAJESH S. ADANI

FURTHER PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO [•] PARTLY PAID-UP EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 1 EACH ("FPO EQUITY SHARES") OF ADANI ENTERPRISES LIMITED ("COMPANY") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [•] PER FPO EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A PREMIUM OF ₹ [•] PER FPO EQUITY SHARE) ("OFFER PRICE") AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ 20,000 CRORE* BY WAY OF A FRESH ISSUE (THE "OFFER"). THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO [•] FPO EQUITY SHARES, AGGRGATING UP TO ₹ 50 CRORE, FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES NOT EXCEEDING 5% OF OUR POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL ("EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "NET OFFER". THE OFFER AND NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [•]% AND [•]%, OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY, RESPECTIVELY.

*RETAIL DISCOUNT OF ₹ 64 TO THE OFFER PRICE WILL BE OFFERED TO RETAIL INDIVIDUAL BIDDERS.

*ASSUMING FULL SUBSCRIPTION AND ALLOTMENT AND RECEIPT OF ALL CALL MONIES WITH RESPECT TO THE FPO EQUITY SHARES

The Offer is being made in accordance with Regulation 155 and 129(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations | QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Net Offer | Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Net Offer | Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Net Offer

Employee Reservation Portion: Upto [•] FPO Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ 50 crores | A Discount of ₹ 64 per FPO Equity Share is being offered to Retail Individual Bidders bidding in the retail portion

PRICE BAND: ₹ 3,112 TO ₹ 3,276 PER FPO EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 1 EACH.

THE FLOOR PRICE IS 3,112.00 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE FPO EQUITY SHARES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 3,276.00 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE FPO EQUITY SHARES. BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 4 FPO EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 4 FPO EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER.

THE ABOVE PRICE BAND IS FOR A FULL FPO EQUITY SHARE HAVING FACE VALUE OF ₹ 1 EACH, OF WHICH 50% OF THE AMOUNT IS PAYABLE AT THE TIME OF THE APPLICATION AND BALANCE AMOUNT WILL BE PAID IN ONE OR MORE SUBSEQUENT CALL(S) AS DETERMINED BY THE COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR A DULY AUTHORISED COMMITTEE THEREOF AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION, FROM TIME TO TIME.

ACCORDINGLY, AT THE TIME OF THE APPLICATION, INVESTORS ARE REQUIRED TO PAY THE APPLICATION BID AMOUNT (i.e. BID LOT X 50% OF THE PRICE OF THE FULL FPO EQUITY SHARE).

Payment Schedule for FPO Equity Shares		
	At Floor Price (₹)	At Cap Price (₹)
On Application	1,556.00*	1,638.00*
One or more subsequent call(s)	1,556.00	1,638.00
Total (₹)	3,112.00	3,276.00

* Constitutes 50% of the Floor/Cap Price.

In accordance with the recommendation of a Committee of Independent Directors of the Company, pursuant to their resolution dated January 18, 2023 the above provided price band is justified based on quantitative factors/ KPIs disclosed in 'Basis for the Offer Price' section vis-a-vis the WACA of primary issuances/ secondary transactions disclosed in 'Basis for the Offer Price' section provided in the RHP.

- The weighted average cost of acquisition (WACA) of all Equity Shares transacted in the last 1 year, 18 months and 3 years preceding the date of the RHP.*

Period	WACA per Equity Share (in ₹)	Cap Price (₹ 3,276) is 'x' times the WACA	Range of acquisition price per Equity Share: lowest price - highest price (in ₹)
Last 1 year	2,884.83	1.14	1,564.31 - 4,125.20
Last 18 months	2,317.45	1.41	1,360.97 - 4,125.20
Last 3 years	1,104.57	2.97	124.76 - 4,125.20

* As certified by M/s. Shah Dhandaria and Co, LLP, Chartered Accountants, by way of their certificate dated January 18, 2023

* We are not aware of any off-market secondary transactions of Equity Shares

- We expect our expenses to increase in the future as we continue to expand our operations and increase our investments in new business verticals, which will place significant demands on our management and our operational and financial resources, and if we fail to manage the growth of our existing businesses and to capitalize on our growth opportunities effectively, our business and results of operations may be adversely affected. In Fiscals 2022, 2021, 2020 and the six months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, our integrated resource management business contributed 69.4%, 59.4%, 70.1%, 78.0% and 69.4% of our total income, and our mining services business contributed 3.9%, 5.0%, 4.2%, 4.3% and 4.4% of our total income, respectively. Additionally, we ramped up our airports operations and it contributed 3.2% of our total income in the six months ended September 30, 2022. Our other businesses are at various stages of development and in line with our strategy we intend to expand, diversify and develop these businesses.
- Limited operating history of certain businesses: Some of our businesses, such as defence (started in 2017), airports (started in 2019), roads (started in 2018), data centers (first data center commissioned in October 2022), digital, water management, commercial mining, industrials manufacturing, among others and metals and manufacturing have limited operating histories, and may not serve as an adequate basis to evaluate our future prospects, results of operations and cash flows.
- Our integrated resource management business primarily depends on an increasing demand for imported coal in India and our ability to maintain a diverse supplier base.
- Certain companies within the Adani group are involved in various legal, regulatory and other proceedings. For instance, the Investigations Department of SEBI had approached our Company and certain companies within the Adani group (Adani Ports And Special Economic Zone Limited, Adani Total Gas

RISKS TO INVESTORS

- Limited and Adani Transmission Limited, Adani Global Limited) for certain information and documents, and these requests have been responded by them to SEBI. In case any proceedings are initiated or adversely determined against them, it could have an adverse impact on our business and reputation.
- Our Promoter Group does not include certain immediate relatives of the spouses of our Promoters (which is in line with our historical practice), and relevant confirmations relating to them are based on publicly available information.
- The P/E ratio based on the cap price of ₹ 3,276 per FPO Equity Share and the diluted EPS for FY2022 of ₹ 7.06 per equity share is 464.02 times and may not be indicative of market price on listing or thereafter.
- Weighted average cost of acquisition (WACA) based on the last five primary issuances or secondary transactions, not older than three years prior to the date of the RHP, is as below:

Past Transactions	WACA per Equity Share (in ₹)^	Floor Price (₹ 3,112) is 'x' times the WACA	Cap Price (₹ 3,276) is 'x' times the WACA
WACA of primary issuances	1,915.85	1.62	1.71
WACA of secondary issuances*	3,624.18	0.86	0.90

* We are not aware of any off-market secondary transactions of Equity Shares

^ The above is basis the details of the last five primary issuances (excluding Equity Shares issued under ESOP/ESOS and issuance of bonus Equity Shares, as applicable) or secondary transactions (secondary transactions where Promoters, members of the Promoter Group, or Shareholder(s) having the right to nominate Director(s) on our Board, are a party to the transaction), not older than three years prior to the date of the RHP irrespective of the size of transactions.

- The 10 BRLMs associated with the Offer have handled 97 public issues in the past three years, out of which 34 issues closed below the Offer Price on listing date :

Name of BRLMs	Total Issues	Issues closed below IPO Price as on listing date
ICICI Securities Limited	7	1
Axis Capital Limited	8	3
IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited	1	1
IIFL Securities Limited	10	4
JM Financial Limited	4	-
Common Issues of all BRLMs	67	25
Total	97	34

BID/OFFER PROGRAMME

BID/OFFER CLOSES TODAY*

* Bidding end time and date shall be at 5.00 p.m. on the Bid/Offer Closing Date.

In case of any revision to the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days following such revision of the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company in consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, will be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the Book Running Lead Managers and at the terminals of the members of the Syndicate and by intimation to the Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Banks, as applicable.

The Offer is being made in terms of Regulation 155 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations and through a book building process wherein not more than 50% of the Net QIB Portion will be allotted on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs"), and such portion, the "QIB Portion". Our Company in consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion, out of which at least one-third shall be reserved for allocation to domestic Mutual Funds only, subject to valid bids being received from the domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations. In the event of under-subscription, or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance FPO Equity Shares shall be added to the portion of the QIB Portion less the number of Equity Shares Allotted to the Anchor Investors ("Net QIB Portion"). Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIB Bidders other than Anchor Investors, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid bids being received at or above the Offer Price. If the aggregate demand from Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the Net QIB Portion, the balance FPO Equity Shares available for allocation will be added to the remaining QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Non-Institutional Bidders, in accordance with Regulation 129(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, out of which (a) one third of such portion shall be reserved for Bidders with Bids exceeding ₹ 2,00,000 up to ₹ 10,00,000, and (b) two-third of such portion shall be reserved for applicants with Bids exceeding ₹ 10,00,000, provided that the unsubscribed portion in either of such sub-categories may be allocated to applicants in the other sub-category of Non-Institutional Bidders in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders ("RIBs") in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid bids being received at or above the Offer Price. All potential Bidders, other than Anchor Investors, are required to mandatorily utilise the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process by providing details of their respective bank account (including UPI ID in case of UPI Bidders) in which the corresponding Bid Amounts will be blocked by the SCSBs, or by the Sponsor Banks under the UPI Mechanism, as applicable to participate in the Offer. Anchor Investors are not permitted to

participate in the Anchor Investor Portion through the ASBA process. For details, see "Offer Procedure" on page 698 of the RHP.

The FPO Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("U.S. Securities Act") or any state securities laws in the United States, and unless so registered may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. Accordingly, such Equity Shares are being offered and sold (i) outside of the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur; and (ii) to "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act) in transactions exempt from the registration requirements under the U.S. Securities Act. The FPO Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered, listed or otherwise qualified in any other jurisdiction outside India and may not be offered or sold, and Bids may not be made by persons in any such jurisdiction, except in compliance with the applicable laws of such jurisdiction.

Bidders/ Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/ Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/ Applicants should note that in the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/ Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders'/Applicants sole risk. Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CDBT notification dated Feb 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021.

CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPANY AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: For information on the main objects of the Company, please see the section "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 228 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, please see the section entitled "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 723 of the RHP.

LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY: Limited by shares

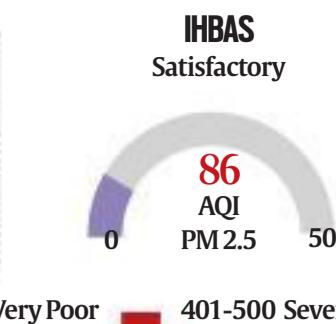
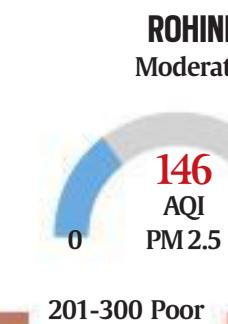
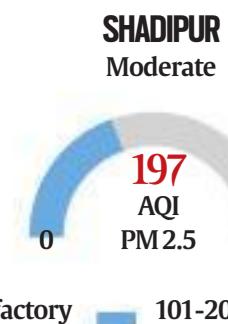
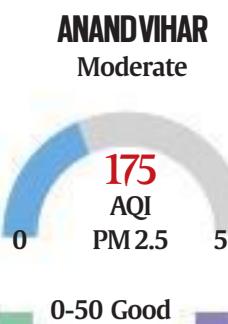
AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the

authorised share capital of the Company is ₹ 4,90,42,00,000 divided into 4,85,92,00,000 Equity Shares of ₹ 1 each and 45,00,000 preference shares of ₹ 10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of the Company is ₹ 1,14,00,01,121 divided into 1,14,00,01,121 Equity Shares of ₹ 1 each. For details, please see the section entitled "Capital Structure" beginning on page 79 of the RHP.

NAMES OF THE INITIAL SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM: The initial signatories to the Memorandum of Association are Mahasukh S. Adani, Vinod S. Adani, Vasant S. Adani, Gautam S. Adani, Rajesh S. Adani, Suvanna M. Adani, Pritiben G. Adani, Ranjan Vinodbhau Adani, Pushpa V. Adani and Shilin R. Adani. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of our Company, please see the section entitled "Capital Structure" beginning on page 79 of the RHP.

LISTING: The Equity shares are listed on BSE and NSE. The FPO Equity Shares offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received 'in-principle' approvals from BSE and NSE for the listing of the FPO Equity Shares pursuant to letters dated January 17, 2023. For the purposes of the Offer, NSE is the Designated Stock Exchange.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA ("SEBI"): SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 669-670 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.</p



S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: **January 31**
Mainly clear sky. Strong surface winds (speed 20-30 kmph) during the day

MAX: 22
0.4°C below normal

MIN: 9
0.1°C above normal

CM FLAGS OFF 'SUPERSITE', MOBILE LAB

Vehicles, dust, industry? Delhi will now know what's causing pollution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

DELHI NOW has real-time pollution data that's publicly available on the extent of contribution of different sources — like vehicles, industry, road dust, coal and fly ash — to PM 2.5 levels in the city.

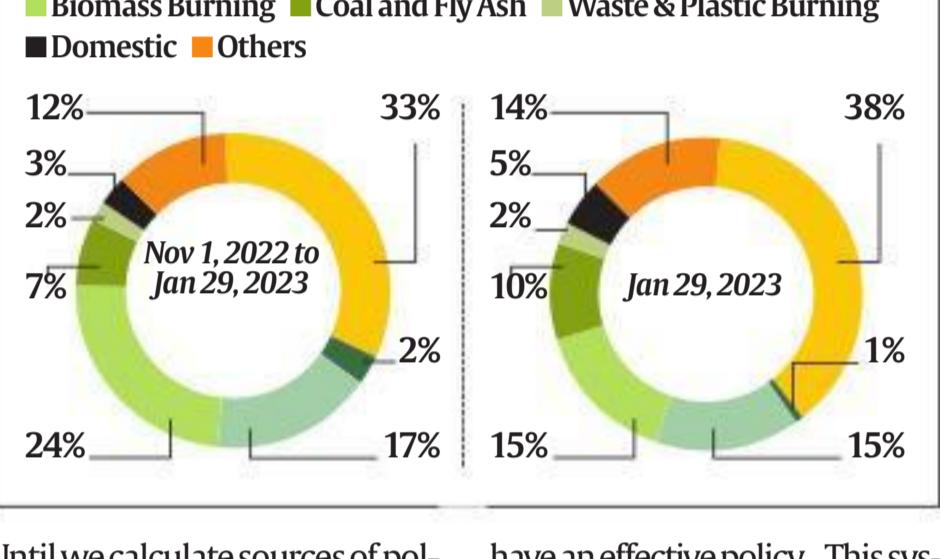
Data is drawn round-the-clock and analysed through an automated system at Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Rouse Avenue, which functions as a 'supersite' for what is the newly launched real-time source apportionment study for Delhi. The setup includes a mobile lab, which can be stationed at air pollution hotspots to determine sources of particulate matter there. The lab houses equipment including gaseous analysers and carbon analysers. In addition to estimating sources of PM 2.5 on an hourly basis, the system includes a forecasting mechanism, which provides an hourly AQI forecast for the next three days.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who inaugurated the supersite and mobile lab on Monday said, "Till now, we have relied on one-off studies and based on that, policies have been made. The issue with this is pollution data changes daily and this is not factored into making policies.



Kejriwal said more mobile vans can be launched eventually to collect data from different areas. Abhinav Saha

SOURCE APPORTIONMENT



Until we calculate sources of pollution in real-time, we cannot

have an effective policy... This system will give us information to

take action and help us take micro-level steps..."

On the mobile lab, he said more such vans can be launched eventually to collect data from different areas. Real-time data can be accessed on the R-AASMAN portal: <http://raasman.com/>

At 1 am on Monday, for instance, the single largest contributor to PM 2.5 levels was secondary inorganic aerosols, which contributed around 36%, followed by vehicles which contributed around 23%, and 'others' (tyre and brake wear, paints, and plastic processing and melting) which contributed around 21% at Rouse Avenue. At 11 am, with a fall in pollution levels, contribution of vehicles had fallen to 7% and the single largest contributor with 47% was 'others'.

Secondary inorganic aerosols are particles that are formed through interaction of different elements and could originate from various sources like brick kilns, power plants, vehicles and refineries. These aerosols are largely attributed to sources that are located far away, officials associated with the project said.

Mukesh Sharma, a professor at IIT-Kanpur, who is part of the project said: "Earlier, we would collect samples and analysis would take months. This data will now be available every hour.

Forecasting component has also been strengthened... For forecasting, machine learning is being used. With air quality data from about 10 years at different locations, and wind speed, wind direction information, machine learning is being used for forecasting... if these are conditions, what will be the air quality."

IIT Kanpur, IIT Delhi and The Energy and Resources Institute are involved with the study, with Delhi Pollution Control Committee being the nodal agency.

Sharma said the analysis would involve breaking pollutants into elementary compounds and around 20 ions. Ions help identify pollutants of secondary origin that may have travelled long distances, he explained. "Unless you go deeper into the particle, you cannot fine-tune decisions. We will be able to physically pinpoint sources and we can target them. At a 'supersite', measures are sophisticated..." he said. Where the pollutants are coming from geographically will be identified post-data analysis and will be communicated to the DPC.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP spokesperson Paveen Shankar Kapoor said any step in the fight against pollution is welcome, but the experience of the last eight years says the Delhi government is not at all serious to fight air pollution.

Police said the woman had

Elderly woman living alone tied up, killed in robbery bid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

AN 88-YEAR-OLD woman was tied up and killed in her sleep by unknown assailants, who then proceeded to rob her house, in Northeast Delhi's Karawal Nagar on Sunday.

According to police, the woman, Shanti Devi, was living alone in the 8-bedroom house after her husband died in 2018. She is survived by her three sons.

Police sources said the accused allegedly entered through the back door. A case of robbery and murder has been registered at Dayalpur police station and police are looking for the accused.

The incident came to light when a PCR call was made by locals around 9 am after neighbours found the main door of the house open. The caller told police that the woman was not responding when they called out to her.

DCP (Northeast) Sanjay Sain said, "The station house officer reached the spot. Police opened the door and found the woman lying dead in her bed. The lock of the main door was broken and the house was completely ransacked."

Another officer said, "Two days before her death, a policeman had come to visit her as she

was registered with the senior citizen cell. We suspect the men broke into the house on Sunday around 2-3 am. They trapped the woman by covering her and tying her up."

Meanwhile, her family said they don't suspect anyone and are waiting for the probe.

Deepak Kumar Sharma, one of the victim's sons, told the media, "We will perform the last rites of our mother on the same day as our father's birthday today. He died five years ago... We were told that the newspaper boy was the first person to notice that the main door of the house was not locked and informed our mother's neighbours. My father worked at the Central Customs department. Our mother was not ready to leave the house because of the memories they shared..."

Deepak, a retired official from the Department of Health and Family Welfare, lives in Faridabad while his brothers live in Delhi. They are also retired officials from the bank and Ministry of Education.

Daksh, the victim's grandson, added, "We used to call her almost everyday and enquire about her health. She was strong-willed and independent... She was found tied with ropes/ clothes."

How tattoo, amputated index finger help cops catch murder accused on the run for 14 yrs

ARNABJIT SUR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

HAVING GROWN out his beard since he, along with three accomplices, allegedly committed a cold-blooded murder of a daily wager over a personal dispute 14 years ago, 34-year-old Sandeep proved to be a hard man to catch.

But a black tattoo on his left palm, which he had since he was a teenager, and an amputated index finger of his right hand, which he got due to an accident while working at a factory, gave it away for him.

On the intervening night of November 13 and 14 in 2009, the four accused allegedly killed Allah Noor (22) by hitting him with a stone on his head in West Delhi's Khyala.

A case of murder was lodged in Tilak Nagar police station and several police teams were formed to trace the accused.

On a tip-off, three of the accused, identified as Sunny, Rahul and Sanjay, were arrested. But Sandeep remained absconding and was declared a proclaimed offender in 2010.

After the incident, he stayed in hiding for some time before fleeing to Bihar and Jharkhand, where he started working as a construction worker. "He got married to a woman named Radha, who was from Jharkhand, and they had three children. During this time, he also worked in different tent houses," an officer added.

Soon, after frequently changing his hideouts between Bihar and Jharkhand, Sandeep along with his family shifted his base back to the capital last year and started living in Vikas Nagar.

Police said it seemed like Sandeep had tried to rub off the tattoo as the skin around it was peeling off. "He might have got information that we were looking for him based on those identity marks so he tried to peel the tattoo off, but didn't succeed as it was permanent," the source added.



Sandeep, along with three accomplices, allegedly killed a daily wager over a personal dispute in 2009

to get more clues about Sandeep's physical characteristics.

Said the officer: "After sustained inquiry, we got to know that Sandeep had a swastika tattooed on his left palm and an amputated index finger on his right hand,

An officer said that since Sandeep had worked with tent houses before, they identified all tent house owners in the city and enquired from them if any of their employees had a tattoo and an amputated finger.

"He came to Delhi in 2015 and worked at a tent house for a few months before going back to Bihar," a source said.

Soon, after frequently changing his hideouts between Bihar and Jharkhand, Sandeep along with his family shifted his base back to the capital last year and started living in Vikas Nagar.

DCP (Crime) Vichitra Veer said that for years, the police team of Sub-Inspector Sanjeev, Assistant Sub-Inspectors Kirori and Manoj under the leadership of Inspector Ajay Kumar and ACP Anil Sharma, discreetly collected



CRACKING
THE CASE

SPRUCING UP

Work in progress for redevelopment of Qudsia Ghat near ISBT, which is part of the beautification project of the Yamuna's banks. Abhinav Saha

BBC docu ruckus: Panel to talk to students, parents, says DU V-C

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE SEVEN-MEMBER committee set up by Delhi University to look into the incidents that took place on campus on January 27, when students attempted to screen the BBC documentary 'India: The Modi Question', submitted its preliminary report on Monday and will meet students and parents as part of its inquiry.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, DU Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh said: "I have seen the report... they have decided to meet students to know their views regarding the issue. The committee is also planning to meet their parents. The matter



Protests had erupted at DU's Art Faculty on Friday over the screenings. Amit Mehra

is very serious and related to the future of our students, so we want to take the parents

into confidence before taking action."

He added, "We have not taken any action yet. The committee could not complete the process within two days... Without knowing the viewpoint of the students, it would not be advisable to take any action."

The committee, headed by DU chief proctor Rajni Abbi, was constituted on Saturday.

Protests had erupted at DU's Art Faculty on Friday over the screening of the documentary planned by student groups like the National Students' Union of India and the Bhim Army Student Federation. As many as 24 students were detained by the Delhi Police and Section 144 was imposed on campus. They were released later.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat discharged Wasim under sections related to the Arms Act, stating that the case against him "is essentially based on surmises and conjectures rather than actual material/evidence". "There is no ground to presume accused Babu Wasim committed an offence under Section 25 Arms Act," it said.

The court said the case against Wasim was built on his disclosure under the Arms Act, stating that the case against him "is essentially based on surmises and conjectures rather than actual material/evidence". "There is no ground to presume accused Babu Wasim committed an offence under Section 25 Arms Act," it said.

The court said the case against Wasim was built on his disclosure under the Arms Act, stating that the case against him "is essentially based on surmises and conjectures rather than actual material/evidence". "There is no ground to presume accused Babu Wasim committed an offence under Section 25 Arms Act," it said.

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Samaira Khanna with Martin Cox Director of Johnlocke Institute



Samaira Khanna with Dr Jamie Whyte

EXCELLENCE EXEMPLIFIED

Indian student Samaira Khanna from TBS (The British School, New Delhi) won a proud commendation at the Global Essay Competition organised by the John Locke Institute, London, beating contestants from all over the world last year.

The annual competition invited students worldwide to explore a wide range of challenging and interesting questions beyond the confines of the school curriculum.

The 14-year-old commendation recipient of the academic writing competition's junior category was the only Indian contestant amongst 7700 applicants.

Of the seven essay questions provided this year, Samaira's essay dealt with a very sensitive topic - "An appropriate age of consent for irreversible sex reassignment surgeries" in the transgender population. Her findings were based on examination of neuroscience data that supports age competency of taking medical decisions and correlated with psychological, anatomical and social impacts of irreversible surgeries.

Samaira was invited along with her parents Mr Ankur Khanna and Mrs. Abha Khanna to Oxford University, where she got the opportunity to network with scholars, judges and faculty members at the prize ceremony taking place on campus.

After receiving such recognition for her writing, Samaira, despite still being in secondary school, has set her sights on perusing her undergraduate studies at the university.

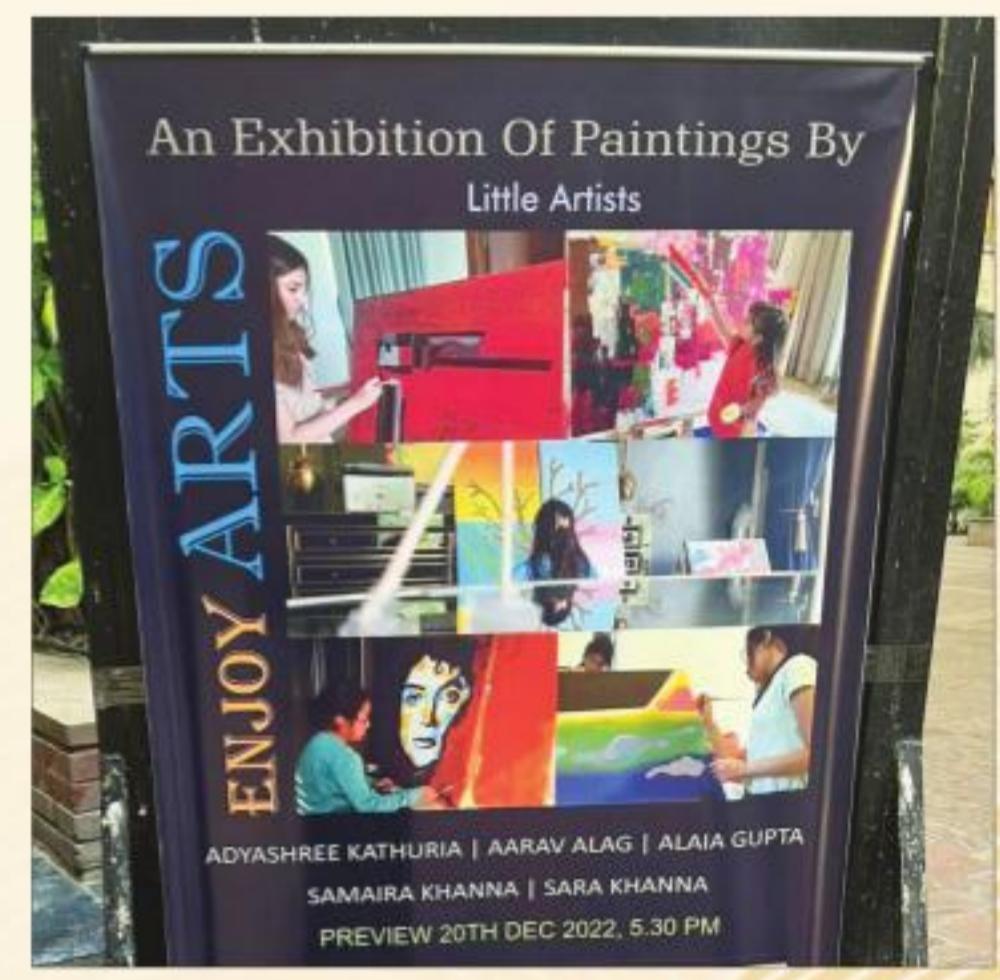
At this young age Samaira holds many accolades. She aced the UKMT with a gold in 2022. This budding artist exhibited her pieces of art, beautifully curated under the mentorship of renowned artist Joyattam Dutta Roy. Samaira displayed her works at the art exhibition that took place at the India Habitat Centre. The chief guest, FDCI President, Mr. Sunil Sethi, congratulated Samaira on her beautiful work and was impressed when she mentioned that the proceeds from the exhibition will be used to fund the education of a girl child. A wonderful act at such a young age he said.

Samaira's message to students of her age "Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing". Absolutely, dot on for this young lad!

This advertorial is released by
Samaira Khanna



Samaira Khanna with FDCI president Mr Sunil Sethi



"Internalizing the Mantra of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', we are moving ahead with the determination to always put India first."

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Prime Minister



Ministry of Tourism
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The magnificent six-day festival celebrates the music and dance, food and festivities, arts and crafts that make India an incredible land.

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Date & Time:

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Entry free. Please carry your identity proof.

SC to hear BBC docu 'ban' pleas; waste of court time: Rijiju

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE SUPREME Court said Monday that it will list for hearing on February 6 a PIL challenging the "ban" on the BBC documentary 'India: The Modi Question'. It also agreed to list for hearing a related plea seeking the quashing of "all orders directly or indirectly censoring" the documentary, including one by the Government "directing Twitter India to block 50 tweets with link to YouTube videos" on it.

The PIL was filed by Advocate M L Sharma who mentioned it before a bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud. As Sharma pressed for an urgent hearing, saying people were getting arrested, the CJI made it clear that it will come up on February 6 and told the counsel, who is known to be a serial PIL litigant, that "you can speak to the social media from elsewhere".

The bench, also comprising Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, later agreed to list for hearing the related petition, which was filed by journalist N Ram, TMC MP Mahua Moitra and Advocate Prashant Bhushan.

Tagging a news item on the related petition, Union Law



Law Minister Kiren Rijiju. File

agenda can sustain? The matter is settled & set aside by the highest Court of India. What is the motive of these kind of people? What is their objective? Is Supreme Court of India supreme or BBC? India has moved much beyond this colonial mindset..."

The documentary focuses on Modi's and his then state government's response to the 2002 Gujarat riots.

On January 20, the Centre ordered YouTube and Twitter to take down links sharing the documentary with officials saying it has been found to be "undermining the sovereignty and integrity of India" and has "the potential to adversely impact" the country's "friendly relations with foreign states" and "public order within the country".

Sharma's PIL also sought quashing of the January 20 order claiming it is "illegal, malafide, arbitrary and unconstitutional."

It wanted the court to examine the documentary and act against those directly or indirectly responsible for the 2002 Gujarat riots.

The related petition points out that Bhushan and Moitra had tweeted about the documentary on January 19 and January 22, respectively, sharing links of the URLs where it could be found. However, it said, Bhushan's tweet

was blocked and the link to the URL shared by Moitra removed after the January 20 direction issued by the Secretary, I&B Ministry.

The petitioners in the related plea said the Government has not officially placed any order or any other information in the public domain "which explains the reasons for the need to exercise its emergency powers."

It said the "contents of the BBC Documentary and the tweets by" Bhushan and Moitra are protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and expression.

FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com



PM Narendra Modi pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 75th death anniversary, at Rajghat on Monday. Amit Mehra

With PM's push, BJP to field more women in elections — with or without quota Bill

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

AFTER MANDAL-KAMANDAL politics of the past two decades brought about overwhelming changes in the political landscape, the BJP has identified that the next game changer for the Indian electoral scene would be more women leading from the front.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has often invoked the country's "nari shakti (women power)", and identified women as the BJP's "silent voters". He used his 2022 Independence Day speech to call for "respecting women". Last April, while addressing party workers on the BJP Foundation Day, Modi said the government's policies and welfare measures for women had given them "fresh confidence", and made them loyal BJP voters.

The turnout of women voters has been on the rise, surpassing men in some state elections. The party believes this was one reason for its spectacular return to power in Uttar Pradesh last year, with women voters outnumbering men in the state elections.

So, party leaders say, on the road to the 2024 general elections, there could be more programmes and schemes targeted at women by the government, building up finally to the "masterstroke": passage of the long-pending, much-awaited women's reservation Bill.

There are clear signals regarding this. One of the standing instructions of Modi to party leaders is that there must be strong women representation of women in candidates' list for state elections. Whenever the party Central Election Committee meets, the PM always asks how many women have been given tickets. "So, before presenting the list, the leaders clarify beforehand that these many women figure in it," said a party leader.

"We all fought together for the independence of the country and liberated it from the British Raj. All secular parties must come together to liberate the country from the BJP Raj," said the CPI's Raja. While Omar asked Rahul to undertake another yatra from the west to east of the country, and promised to walk with him, Mufti said the country sees a ray of hope in him.

The RSP's Premchandran said, "A historic movement was undertaken. Rahul Gandhi has proved he is the right leader to fight against these divisive forces."

For Tripura, which goes to polls on February 16, women make up 11 of the BJP's 55 candidates, including Pratima Bhoumik, a surprise choice given

that she is a Union Minister of State. Party sources said Bhoumik, who will contest from Dhanpur, could be the party's chief minister if the BJP wins. That would make her the first ever woman CM in the Northeast — sending a strong message to women voters in the region, where their social status is on an average higher compared to other states.

Last year, after Modi had urged BJP-ruled states to focus on policies and welfare measures for women, Tripura was among the states that announced reservation of 33 per cent of all state government jobs for women.

In his speech to BJP workers last April, the PM said: "With Dalits, the weaker sections, Backwards and youth, women too now support the BJP.. Women have been given new rights, good governance has given them security, and keeping their health in mind, schemes provide them gas connection, free rations and health benefits."

Among the BJP outfits that will spread the message of the government's initiatives ahead of the 2024 elections is the Mahila Morcha, which is set to be a major force in the election. The party believes this was one reason for its spectacular return to power in Uttar Pradesh last year, with women voters outnumbering men in the state elections.

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FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com

Yatra ends in Srinagar, Rahul says BJP, RSS incite violence

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 30

Rahul Gandhi after hoisting the Tricolour at the party office in Srinagar, Monday. Shuaib Masoodi

Congress's hopes take hit, only 8 of 23 Opposition parties turn up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

IN THE end, there was no clinching of hands showcasing Opposition unity, nor a dramatic show of support. If the Congress had expected a long line of Opposition leaders to turn up at Srinagar to mark the culmination of Rahul Gandhi's cross-country Bharat Jodo Yatra, it was in for disappointment Monday.

Only a handful of leaders attended the Srinagar event, despite Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge having written to heads of 23 political parties, inviting them to join the concluding event. The Congress's expectation was that all parties that had been invited would send representatives to the function at Srinagar's Sher-e-Kashmir cricket stadium.

Eventually, leaders of eight parties attended the Srinagar event, which was also hit to an extent by bad weather, with heavy snowfall starting Monday morning. Among them were the DMK's Tiruchi Siva, CPI general secretary

text of the 2024 elections... there will be some discussions on that," Congress communication head Jairam Ramesh had said in a press conference at the AICC headquarters earlier this month.

What has perhaps surprised the Congress most is the absence of both the JD(U) and RJD, its partners in Bihar. The leaders of neither party joined the Yatra, and were missing in Srinagar too.

But the Congress can take heart from the fact that all its other allies, like the NCP, Shiv Sena, JMM and DMK, joined the Yatra at certain points. While Aditya Thackeray (Shiv Sena) and Supriya Sule (NCP) walked with Rahul when the Yatra entered Maharashtra, Sanjay Raut joined him in Jammu. Leaders of the DMK and the JMM also attended the Srinagar event.

Eventually, leaders of eight parties attended the Srinagar event, which was also hit to an extent by bad weather, with heavy snowfall starting Monday morning. Among them were the DMK's Tiruchi Siva, CPI general secretary

D Raja, the National Conference's Omar Abdullah, the PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, the RSP's N K Premachandran, and the IUML's K Navas Kani. Also present were representatives of JMM and VCK.

BSP MP Shyam Singh Yadav, who walked with Rahul when the Yatra crossed Delhi, also attended the event. Sources in the BSP, however, said Singh — the MP from Jaunpur constituency in UP — did not attend the event as a BSP representative.

"We all fought together for the independence of the country and liberated it from the British Raj. All secular parties must come together to liberate the country from the BJP Raj," said the CPI's Raja. While Omar asked Rahul to undertake another yatra from the west to east of the country, and promised to walk with him, Mufti said the country sees a ray of hope in him.

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FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com

DATE WITH MILLET

UNION SCIENCE Minister Jitendra Singh launched the Indian government's first 'millet calendar' at the CSIR-NPL campus in Delhi on Monday. A well-known diabetologist himself, Singh has designed the desktop calendar himself, say his close aides, adding that each page has a quote of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on millets. The calendar is more like a mini-encyclopedia on the cereal grain with answers to frequently asked questions, information about its nutrition value and how it helps in fighting diseases. The back of every page has millet recipes.

ONE OF A KIND GIFT

THE G20 Employment Working Group under the Labour Ministry has come up with a novel way to promote Indian products among the forum delegates. The Ministry has decided to gift products from the government's 'One District, One Product' programme to the participants. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry in December last year had identified one product from every district in the country to encourage its manufacturing and marketing. The aim is to encourage rural entrepreneurship, fuel the economic growth of the district and drive employment. The products have a wide range — from crafts to food items.

Tripura: Nominations close but parties face seat-sharing hitches

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, JANUARY 30

AS NOMINATIONS ended Monday for the February 16 Assembly polls in Tripura, parties in the state, which are seeing problems crop up over seat-sharing, proclaimed that they would paper over their differences with their alliance partners and win.

"We have an alliance with the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT). We shall return to power with the public's blessings. I have submitted my nomination as a BJP candidate from the Town Bardowali seat. People have come out to support us. I'm sure BJP will get a massive victory," Chief Minister Manik Saha said at a roadshow in Agartala accompanied by his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma and Manipur counterpart N Biren Singh.

On Saturday, the BJP announced that IPFT would contest five out of the 60 Assembly seats, while it would contest 55. A day later, the IPFT said it would field six candidates. In the Ampinagar ST-reserved constituency now, BJP state vice-president Patal Kanya Jamatia is pitted against the IPFT's sitting MLA, Sindhucharan Jamatia. Saha, however, called it a non-issue and

Sudip Roy Barman from Agartala. After submitting his nomination papers, Barman said people would make the "right choice" on polling day. His comments came amid a tug-of-war between the Congress and the Left Front — comprising the CPI(M), the CPI, the Forward Bloc, the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and the CPI(ML) — over seats. The Left Front announced 47 candidates and allocated 13 to the Congress. The Congress, however, announced it would contest 17 seats.

FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com

DECISION 2023 TRIPURA

There will be 2nd leg of Yatra... Cong will be on field this year

Photo: ANI

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Staffer accuses IAS officer of slapping him, she denies charge

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 30

A GOVERNMENT employee in Assam's Kokrajhar district has accused Kokrajhar Deputy Commissioner Varnali Deka of slapping and throwing food stuff at him for not bringing her lunch box in a carry bag, a charge denied by the IAS officer.

Deka claimed that she had taken the employee, Dipak Das (50), "to task" over some office-related work and that she didn't slap him as alleged by him.

While the alleged incident happened on January 27, Das received an order on Monday, releasing him from the DC's office, sending him back to his original department.

The order, signed by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, states that "following a letter sent by the Agriculture department in January and earlier request letters of Agriculture Department from time to time regarding release of Sri Dipak Das, mech-helper, office of the EE (Agriculture) division, engaged in DC office, on deputation, Sri Dipak Das is hereby released from DC Office, Kokrajhar, with immediate effect."

Das alleged that Deka had hit him on the face at around 5 pm on January 27. Speaking to reporters, he alleged that he was asked to get Deka's lunch box from her car. First she scolded him for not bringing it in a carry bag. He went on to allege that she threw some of the food on him and slapped him on the face, near the ear.

"She hit him so hard that he is still feeling the pain in his ear. We had to take him to the hospital after putting cotton in his ear. She is a DC but what right does she have to raise her hand on him?" asked Das's daughter Sunita, 24.

However, the family did not register an FIR in the matter. Sunita said she had filed a complaint on January 28 but withdrew it the next day, saying that she felt pressured and was afraid of going to the police against a senior officer. Deka said that the complaint was withdrawn after she visited the family to explain.

"On the day concerned, I had taken the person to task because of not doing some file work properly, but it was not physical and there was nothing untoward on my part. I had shown him the correct way to do it but there was no physical movement on my part. When I found out that the person was not well, I visited the person and spoke to the family. Thereafter, they have withdrawn the complaint," she claimed.

The 'team Pathaan' was speaking at an event organised by production banner Yash Raj Films in Mumbai on Monday.

Shah Rukh said for artistes, cinema is a medium to entertain and unify the country without hurting any sentiments.

Factions' statements in, EC to decide 'real' Sena

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

SHIV SENA factions led by both Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his predecessor, Uddhav Thackeray, on Monday submitted to the Election Commission written statements in support of their claims on control over the party name and the election symbol, leaving it to the poll panel to now decide on their claims, according to sources.

The two sides have now completed their arguments and submitted documents and written statements to bolster their claims, an EC source said.

The Commission will take some time to decide which side

Ukraine war makes obvious UNSC must be reformed: UNGA chief

Meets PM, lauds India's efforts in areas of water resource management, others

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

UNDERLINING THE need for reforms in United Nations, UN General Assembly president Csaba Korösi on Monday said the UN Security Council (UNSC) has become "paralysed" and "dysfunctional" in its "present form", as it has not been able to take any decision since the Russia-Ukraine war started.

Earlier in the day, Korösi called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who also emphasised the importance of reforming UNSC.

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office said that during the meeting, Korösi "lauded India's transformational initiatives for communities, including in the area of water resource management and conservation".

Acknowledging India's efforts towards reformed multilateralism, Mr Korösi underscored the importance of India being at the forefront of efforts to reform global institutions.

The UNGA president's handle tweeted later in the evening, "Glad to call on PM Modi. Appreciated



UNGA president Csaba Korösi with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

his focused views on identifying simple, scalable & sustainable solutions that can transform societies. Discussed ways India can contribute to true transformation of the water crisis through initiatives like Global Water Info System."

Stating that Modi thanked Korösi "for making India his first bilateral visit since assuming office", the PMO said he appreciated Korösi's "approach based on science and technology to find solutions to global problems". Modi also assured Korösi of "India's fullest support to his Presidency

initiatives during the 77th UNGA, including the UN 2023 Water Conference".

The PM emphasised the importance of reforming the multi-lateral system, including the UN Security Council, so as to truly reflect contemporary geopolitical realities," it stated.

On a three-day visit to India, Korösi also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

Korösi said, "We discussed the issue of war in Ukraine with Mr Jaishankar. It (war in Ukraine) is

one of the issues why it is quite obvious that the Security Council must be reformed. The Security Council was created in 1945 to be the prime responsible body to make sure that there will be no wars, no major conflicts. All conflicts should be resolved by peaceful means."

Now, he pointed out, the world is witness to the fact that one permanent Security Council member (Russia) has "committed an aggression against its neighbour and annexed its territory, and the Security Council is not in the position to take any decision...be-cause veto power in hands of its own (UNSC) member".

Highlighting India's role in the wake of Russia's war on Ukraine, Korösi said New Delhi was very active in all Ukraine-related issues.

Stressing the need for reforms in UNSC, Korösi said while the permanent members have traditionally not been too enthusiastic, they have declared that they are ready to consider reforms of the Security Council.

On China violating India's sovereignty, he said, "All conflicts must be resolved by peaceful manners."

SC to take up pleas against poll bonds today

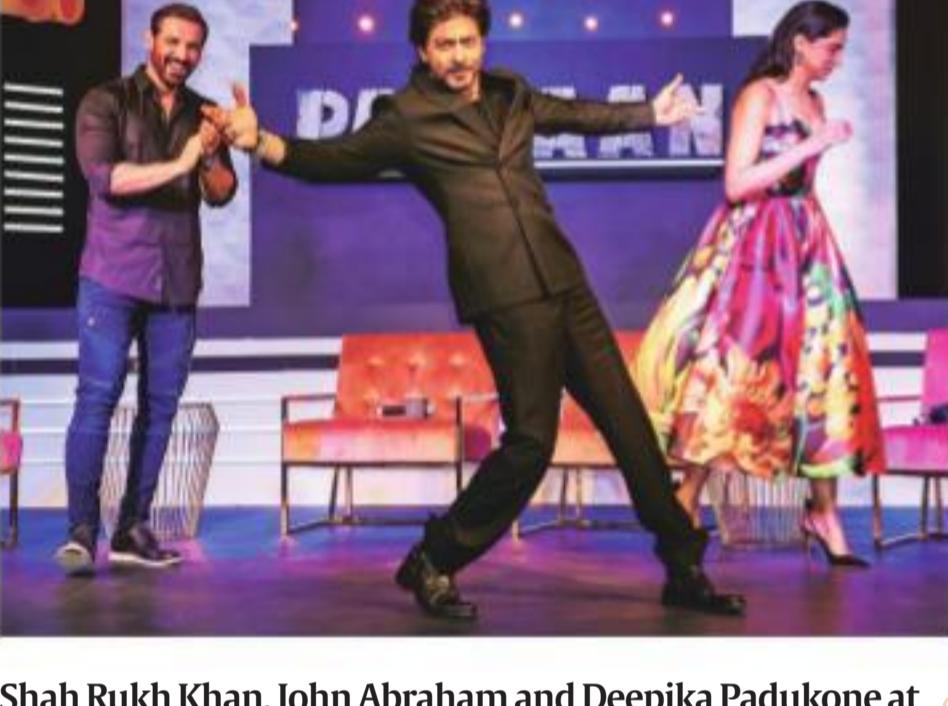
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE SUPREME Court will on Tuesday take up petitions challenging the validity of the Electoral Bonds Scheme of 2018.

As per the cause list, or the list of business of the court, a bench of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and P S Narasimha will hear the matter. It was heard on December 15 last by a bench presided by Justice B R Gavai.

While the Centre has termed the scheme "a big step towards electoral reform", which will "ensure transparency" and "accountability", opponents of the move contend that it affects transparency in political funding, as it allows political parties not to disclose in their annual contribution reports to the EC, details of the identity of those who have donated through electoral bonds. In April 2019, an SC bench had directed parties that have received donations through bonds to submit the details to the EC.

"The list of themes of national importance and of social relevance given under clause 35 of the Policy Guidelines are indicative and may be expanded to include similar subjects," it said.



Shah Rukh Khan, John Abraham and Deepika Padukone at an event in Mumbai on Monday. PTI

"To be honest, when we make films, be it in north, south, east, west, our aim is to spread happiness, brotherhood, love, kindness... Even when I'm playing a bad guy in 'Darr' or 'John' is bad in this film... We are just playing characters. None of this is meant to hurt any sentiment. It is just entertainment."

Shah Rukh said for artistes, cinema is a medium to entertain and unify the country without hurting any sentiments.

Shah Rukh said the overwhelming love coming his way for "Pathaan" has more than made up for his time away from the movies. "The four years that I had... Covid had good and bad parts. I didn't work. I was with my children. I saw them grow up," he said.

Man gets death for rape-murder

Surat: A Valsad court Monday sentenced to death a 22-year-old youth convicted in a POCSO case for the murder-cum-rape of a nine-year-old girl. The court also ordered him to pay Rs 17 lakh to the family members of the victim.

The court also ordered that

under IPC Act Section 201, the convict should be sent to seven years behind bars. According to the Valsad police, the incident happened on February 7, 2020, when the convict, who knew the girl's family, attempted to rape her. After she retaliated, he strangled her to death.

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NOTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION OF DATE

Online registration for Admission to Class-VI (session 2023-24) in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas through selection test is in progress. Last date of submission of online applications is extended up to 8th February 2023. Candidates may apply free of cost by visiting the website <https://navodaya.gov.in> or <https://cbseitms.rcil.gov.in/nvs>.

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From March, broadcast 15 hrs of national interest content: Govt to channels

DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

BEGINNING MARCH, all private television channels will be required to air national interest content for 15 hours every month. A detailed advisory to this effect was issued by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Monday.

Now, he pointed out, the world is witness to the fact that one permanent Security Council member (Russia) has "committed an aggression against its neighbour and annexed its territory, and the Security Council is not in the position to take any decision...be-cause veto power in hands of its own (UNSC) member".

The recent guidelines for uplinking and downlinking of television channels included a requirement for private broadcasters to undertake public service broadcasting for 30 minutes every day, based on certain themes given by the ministry. In this regard, the ministry undertook extensive consultations with the private broadcasters and their associations.

Stressing the need for reforms in UNSC, Korösi said while the permanent members have traditionally not been too enthusiastic, they have declared that they are ready to consider reforms of the Security Council.

On China violating India's sovereignty, he said, "All conflicts must be resolved by peaceful manners."

The broadcasters are also required to keep the record of the content telecast for 90 days. The Electronic Media Monitoring Centre, under I&B Ministry, shall keep the record of the content telecast for a period of 90 days, the advisory said. The government requires the broadcasters to submit a monthly report online on the Broadcast Seva Portal.

The content can be shared between the broadcasters and a repeat telecast on one or several channels is also allowed now. In fact, a digital repository of relevant videos or textual content for the purpose may be developed, the advisory said, which may be accessed and used by TV channels. The ministry has also added to eight themes included in the uplinking/downlinking policy document – education and literacy; agriculture and rural development; health and family welfare; science and technology; welfare of women; welfare of the weaker sections of the society; protection of environment and of cultural heritage; and national integration.

"The list of themes of national importance and of social relevance given under clause 35 of the Policy Guidelines are indicative and may be expanded to include similar subjects," it said.

Will rather die than join hands with BJP again, says Nitish

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JANUARY 30

A DAY after BJP state executive passed a resolution on "not aligning with Nitish Kumar again", Bihar CM and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar said on Monday that he "would prefer to die than realign" with the NDA, adding that "going back to the NDA in 2017 was a mistake". Nitish said his objective now was to work for the Opposition unity at the national level, clarifying that he was not a "claimant" for any position.

Talking to reporters after paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, he said: "Younger generation must not forget this day when Mahatma Gandhi was killed. People should also know why he was killed. After all, he had been working towards uniting Hindus and Muslims... But there are people who are out to create disturbances and would look for any opportunity to foment trouble."

On BJP's "not aligning with him again" resolution, Nitish said: "We are the ones who deserted them. One can see election results from February 2005 onwards... we bagged more seats than them (BJP). I was a part of BJP of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and had come out of it in 2013. It was a mistake to go back to them in 2017. They (BJP) falsely implicated Lalu Prasad. In 2020 polls, they engaged in foul

play to reduce the number of our seats."

Nitish said the BJP was now getting restless. "As for us, there is no question of going back. I would prefer to die than going back to them. In fact, they are growing restive," he said.

THE BJP and JD(U) have been launching blistering attacks on each other ever since Nitish deserted the NDA last year to form the Grand Alliance government in Bihar with the help of RJD. The BJP initially engaged itself in giving out signals to Nitish for a catch-up but when that did not work out, it went on an offensive against him. Nitish, in turn, has been countering the BJP in equal measure.

Public Notice
Date: 30.01.2023
Regarding Invitation of Objections/Suggestions for Declaration under Garbage Free City 3-Star (GFC) Protocol under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0
In line with Garbage Free City Star Ranking by Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, self-assessment of Municipal Corporation of Delhi under the protocol is undertaken. All wards in-charges in the MCD have submitted their self-declaration regarding declaring MCD as a 3-star city under GFC protocol. A preliminary resolution has been passed to declare MCD as 3-Star City under the same protocol. The preliminary resolution is based on city efforts and achievements in the area of Door-to-Door collection and segregation of waste, sweeping of public and commercial areas, management of litter bins, bin free city, processing of waste, user fee collection and sustainable financing, enforcement and plastic ban, drain cleaning, C&D waste management, effective citizen grievance and redressal mechanism, dumpsite remediation, bulk waste generator compliances and other areas mentioned in GFC protocol. Thus, regarding the same MCD would like to appeal to its citizens to provide with their objections and suggestions within 7 days from the date of publication to Nodal Office (Swachh Survekshan 2023) MCD Headquarter on E-mail - mcdswachhsurvekshan@gmail.com. MCD will adopt a final resolution to declare the city as Garbage Free 3-star city after completion of the above-mentioned timeline.
R.O. NO. 64/DPI/MCD/2022-23

RASHTRIYA CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Administrative Bldg, Chembur, Mumbai 400 074.
CIN : L24110MH1978G01020185
Advt. No. 01122022
RECRUITMENT FOR TROMBAY/THAL/ AREA OFFICES PAN INDIA
Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF Ltd) is a leading profit making company in the business of manufacturing and marketing of Fertilizers and Industrial Chemicals having revenue from operations of around Rs. 12,812.17 Crores. The Manufacturing units are in Maharashtra (at Thal - Dist. Raigad and at Trombay - Chembur, Mumbai) with National Level Marketing Network. Company provides excellent career growth opportunities. Company intends to recruit:

Sr. No.	POST CODE	NAME OF THE POST	NO OF VACANCIES
</tbl

Should prepare kids for life after school, says Rukmini Banerji

pared for work and are able to show it. Right now, there's only a marksheet."

While ASER-2022 showed that enrolment has gone up, Banerji pointed to variations in attendance patterns across the country. "If I look at enrolment numbers going up, we don't see much change in attendance patterns. Now that we have high enrolment, we need to look at attendance more seriously... we have several states in which average attendance on a given day is between 55% and 60%, which poses big problems," she said.

She was speaking at a explained.Live session on 'Pandemic and after: State of education', where she discussed takeaways from the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2022 and the way ahead.

Banerji said, "In NEP (National Education Policy), we know what the goal is... what do you want children to be. Some articulation of what kind of young person does India need. I think that this intense competition at the high-school level is only going to intensify. There's only a small fraction of employment in the organised sector. Preparing for life needs to come in early... the crisis is not looming, it's here. We have such high aspirations, but we aren't preparing children for doing many things that are possible. We have a big focus on individual excellence... How do we create a whole young cohort who are prepared for life, pre-

pared for work and are able to show it. Right now, there's only a marksheet."

Mamata also stated that legal action will be taken on the issue, while ordering 'Z-plus' security to Sen. Visva-Bharati is a central university, and is unique in having the Prime Minister as its Chancellor. Vice-Chancellor Bidyut Chakraborty said they would fight the case in court.

On January 24, the university authorities had issued a letter to Sen, accusing him of occupying excess land belonging to the university that had been leased to his father – at Shantiniketan in Bolpur in Birbhum district – and demanding that he hand it over.

Earlier too, similar notices had been sent to him.

She added, "What we need now is a big, big effort. From the government school side, you can see a much bigger effort happening... ASER data should be looked at in this way... where do we need to go. Motivation to teach and motivation to learn were probably much higher once schools opened than in business-as-usual times. The real challenge is, how do we keep this energy and momentum going."

Banerji was in conversation with Uma Vishnu, Deputy Editor at *The Indian Express*.

VISVA-BHARATI ROW

Mamata gives land records to Amartya Sen, says nobody can question now

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 30



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with Amartya Sen at his Bolpur residence on Monday. Express

was feeling very bad about it. That is why I came... I made government officers survey and get the records. Now it is proved that it is your land. We have found the land records. Now, no one can question you. They (the university authorities) are lying."

The CM said she would talk to the district magistrate regarding the legal recourse the government will take, while telling Sen: "I have been tolerating this disrespect towards you for a long time. Please do not be bothered about all this."

She later ordered the officials

present to give Sen Z-plus security, with a police camp near his residence.

Speaking to mediapersons later, Mamata talked of "saffronisation" of Visva-Bharati, saying the authorities should focus on running the university "smoothly" rather than "suspending students". "I am sorry to say but there is saffronisation of Visva-Bharati."

On the land row, the CM said: "Amartya Sen is a Nobel Laureate and is respected not just in Bengal but the world over... The university wrote that Sen has 1.25 acres

of land, but after reading news reports, we surveyed and found out the truth. We have found records which say he has 1.38 acres. This proves Amartya Sen is right."

Sen told mediapersons he was surprised by the CM's efforts. "I am surprised that she looked for the old land records and had the zeal... such zeal in a political leader." About Z-plus security, he said he did not know what it was, and could not comment on it.

In response to a question, Sen said he did not think the controversy would end despite Mamata giving him the land records. "Those who want to drive me away from my home, there is politics in their aim... I prefer a secular point of view. Those who indulge in communal politics cannot accept that."

The latest notice to Sen had come soon after he stated in an interview to PTI that Mamata had all the makings of a prime minister. The TMC had linked the action against him to his support to the CM.

On Monday, Sen said he didn't want to speculate on the 2024 electoral fight. "But there is a need for a fight to get rid of communal politics. In such a fight, there are reasons for us to join."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

COMPLAINT FORWARDED BY LAW MINISTRY

Kerala Bar Council seeks lawyer explanation on charge of bribing judges

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JANUARY 30

ACTING ON a complaint forwarded from the Union Law Ministry, the Bar Council of Kerala on Monday decided to initiate a probe into the allegation that Kerala High Court Advocates' Association president Saiby Jose Kidangoor has taken money from clients for allegedly bribing HC judges.

Bar Council chairman, Advocate K N Anil Kumar, said a meeting of the Council decided to seek explanation from Kidangoor after initiating suo motu action against him.

Following social media posts from a few advocates, the HC registrar (vigilance) had recently looked into the allegation that Kidangoor took money from litigants under the pretext of bribing judges to obtain favourable verdicts.

"It is well known in Ernakulam that this advocate is an agent of judges of Kerala high court and the only advocate who can influence the judges by bribing them."

Kumar said since there is no clarity on the complainant who has approached the ministry, the Council's meeting decided to seek a clarification on that.

allegation. Kochi police had recorded statements of various advocates, including Kidangoor, and his clients, as part of the probe.

It is learnt that police have sought a legal opinion on the next course of action, including registering an FIR against the advocates.

Bar Council's intervention came in the wake of advocates approaching the Union Law Ministry against Kidangoor. In the letter to Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, the complainants said Kidangoor has "close acquaintance" with most HC judges.

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KRISHNANUNNI H, COLLECTOR & DM, ERODE | AWARD CATEGORY: HEALTHCARE

In a remote mountain village in Tamil Nadu, doctors are just a click away



Krishnanunni H. Abhinav Saha

ready at work after a recent study found "20% of the population" suffered from malnutrition and vitamin deficiencies.

But it's not only healthcare though that has improved after the internet project was launched. According to Roja, a village assistant officer, around 434 students from Kathirimalai and nearby villages have also been using the WiFi facility, resulting in "better reading and writing abilities". "If the students' reading and writing abilities were below 20 last year, they are now above 60," she said.

With the 'Kathirimalai healthcare project' a success, the Erode district administration is expanding the project to similar remote areas in the Western Ghats region.

Although some are cautious about the project's sustainability, most people in the village said they find hope in Krishnanunni's "special interest" in the WiFi project, and his frequent inspections to the slopes of Kathirimalai.

The District Collector is among the 19 winners of The Indian Express Excellence in Governance Awards for 2020 and 2021. The biennial awards celebrate the finest workdone by District Magistrates, women and men considered the foot-soldiers of governance as they script change that touches the lives of countless people across the country.

The first obstacle in launching the telemedicine project was



building a communication network in an area that had no phones or roads. That's when Krishnanunni and team jumped on the idea of WiFi.

Soon, a team from the Centre for Social Computing (C4S) reached Kathirimalai and began installing a tower, and the required hardware, with help from the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) along with NABARD. The technical assistance for the internet came from Anthiyur town, the nearest metropolitan roughly 40 km from

the forest.

"The facility is accessed by the end-user with only one click... It allows people to connect with the doctors or mentors on the screen," said Roshy K Falgunan of C4S, who played a key role in setting up the 100 Mbps, long-distance wireless facility.

The efforts are bearing fruit. Falgunan said the doctor-patient telemedicine experiment also helped the authorities trace those who needed urgent medical attention. For instance, she said, the administration is al-



Associate Partners



Knowledge Partner

RTI-exempted organisations cannot be asked for info on hawala, says HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

ORGANISATIONS EXEMPTED from the purview of the Right To

Information (RTI) Act cannot be asked to disclose information unless it pertains to human rights or corruption, the Delhi High Court has observed.

The January 25 order by a single judge bench of Justice Prathiba Singh came on a plea filed by the Chief Public Information Officer (CPIO) of the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) against a July 3, 2020 order of the Central Information Commission asking it to disclose certain information to an RTI applicant.

The bench said the information sought through the RTI application was related to "money laundering business, hawala money transactions, acts of tax evasion and smuggling activities".

It said provisions of the RTI Act would not apply to the organisations specified in Schedule II of the Act and pointed out that the CEIB was listed "at serial number 4 in Schedule II under the heading Intelligence and Security Organisation established by the central government".

"The only exceptions to this mandate are if there are any allegations of corruption and human rights violations," the bench ruled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

S.R. NO.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL	NIT NO 48/PDNC EPC-D 04/48/PDNC DATED 11.04.2022	OPENING DATE OF CORRIGENDUM-1 IS 25.01.2023 WITH EXTENSION IN THE DATE OF ONLINE BED SUBMISSION UPTO 23.02.2023 17:00 HRS.	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
2	HVPNL	E-TENDER ENQUIRY NO 07/CWR/2022-23 DATED 13.06.2022 ONLINE TENDER ID 2022_HBC_259602_2	CORRIGENDUM NO.12, THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BED SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 17.02.2023 17:00 HRS.	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
3	HVPNL	NIT NO 66/PDNC EPC-D 06/6/PDNC DATED 14.11.2022	OPENING DATE OF CORRIGENDUM-3 IS 25.01.2023 WITH EXTENSION IN THE DATE OF ONLINE BED SUBMISSION UPTO 08.02.2023 17:00 HRS.	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R CH DADRI	WIDENING AND STG. OF CHANDANI TO RAMALWA'S ROAD IN KM 3.65 (ROAD ID 2367) (CMA NO. 26956 DT. 08.07.2022) IN PD CHARKHI DADRI. + 1 WORKS	24.01.2023 23.02.2023	227.81 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812022251 pwd-eepd-dadri@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	PROVIDING HOUSE KEEPING SERVICES INCLUDING FRONT DESK AND OTHER STAFF, FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES VIZ. MECHANISED HOUSE KEEPING, MANPOWER IN SWARAN JAYANTI STATE PWD REST HOUSE GURUGRAM	CLOSING DATE 14.02.2023	359.78 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01667230855 prexeeng.fb@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM JUGLAN TO THASKA RD 0.00 TO 5.700 IN HISAR DISTT (CMA-22256 DATED 25.06.2018) + 6 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 16.02.2023	806.24 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7404406969 pwd-eepd1-hissar@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R HANSI	SPECIAL REPAIR BY PROVIDING WDG. AND STG. FROM KOTH KALAN TO KAPRO IN KM 0.00 TO 5.40 IN HISAR DISTT. (ROAD ID 10961), TRANSFERRED FROM HSAMB. + 5 WORKS	27.01.2023 16.02.2023	1403.24 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	821798000 pwd-eepd-hansi@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R KARNAL	STRENGTHENING WITH 40MM BC AND RELAYING OF CC BLOCK ON NEWAL GHEER GARHI BIRBAL ROAD (ROAD ID 7170) LENGTH KM 32.210 IN INDRI CONSTITUENCY IN KARNAL DISTRICT. + 4 OTHER WORKS	26.01.2023 16.02.2023	1312.52 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9876009311 pwd-eepd-karnal@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	ANNUAL REPAIR FOR MINI SECTT. AT GURUGRAM FOR THE YEAR 2022-23	CLOSING DATE 14.02.2023	19.13 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8826648880 pwd-eepd-gurgaon@hry.nic.in
7	PANCHAYATI RAJ FATEHABAD	UPGRADATION OF PANCHAYAT GHAR BUILDING FOR MAHALA SANSKRITIK KENDER + 9 WORKS	25.01.2023 06.02.2023	85.90 LACS	<a href	

BRIEFLY

JAMMU & KASHMIR
Power outage in Valley amid snowfall, rain

Jammu: Many areas of Kashmir Valley were out of power on Monday as rains and heavy snowfall continued unabated since last night. An official statement issued said that the load of the whole valley dipped before 850 Megawatts (MWs) during early Monday morning hours, adding that "in addition to that, around 215 11-KV feeders were under fault due to heavy snowfall". Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd was able to bring up the load to around 1500 MWs by 3 pm. ENS

KARNATAKA

Woman had drugs worth ₹7 cr in abdomen, held

Bengaluru: Officials at Bengaluru Airport arrested a 40-year-old woman who allegedly tried to smuggle cocaine worth Rs 7 crore by hiding it in her abdomen. The woman, who hails from Sierra Leone, had boarded a flight in Guinea after swallowing the capsules. She landed in Bengaluru via Dubai on January 14. According to sources, authorities subjected her to a body scan and radiology procedures where 58 capsules of cocaine were found in her abdomen and extracted. ENS

HARYANA

Fast-track courts set up for narcotic cases

Chandigarh: Haryana has come up with fast-track courts for expeditious disposal of cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. At least six such fast-track courts have been notified in the state — one each in Ambala, Hisar, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, and Panipat. In 2022, the Haryana Police seized approximately 24 tonnes of narcotics worth crores of rupees and attached properties worth Rs 31.45 crore of those involved in drug trafficking. ENS

DELHI

HC bats for trials for muscular dystrophy meds

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Monday directed officials of Hanugen Therapeutics Private Limited, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council and the Centre's Department of Biotechnology to hold a meeting to enable clinical trials for medicines to treat duchenne muscular dystrophy. A single judge bench was informed by both parties that pursuant to the December 22 HC order directing BIRAC to release Rs. 5.35 crore to Hanugen for the latter to begin the trial, a stalemate had occurred. ENS

Nuh death: Autopsy cites internal bleeding, liver rupture caused by blunt force injury

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, JANUARY 30



Police said Waris Khan, accused of cattle smuggling, died after a road accident

TWO DAYS after police said that 22-year-old Waris Khan, who was accused of cattle smuggling, died of injuries received in a road accident in Nuh area of Haryana, while his family alleged assault by cow vigilantes, the post-mortem report by a medical board cites "severe internal bleeding in the abdominal cavity due to rupture of liver" caused by "blunt force injury" as the cause of death.

The report further stated that the viscera samples had been preserved and sent for chemical analysis.

Nuh SP Varun Singla, however, said, "The findings of the

post-mortem report are consistent with the preliminary probe suggesting that he died of internal injuries sustained in the accident."

According to the police, the incident took place on Saturday

when a Santro car with three occupants — Waris Khan (22), Shokeen (30) and Nafis — crashed into a mini-truck near Khor Kalan on Tauru-Bhiwadi road around 5am. Police said both vehicles were badly damaged and the three car occupants suffered injuries in the accident, which was captured on a CCTV camera.

"Cow vigilantes informed the police and the injured were taken to a CHC in Tauru from where Waris and Nafis were referred to Narhar government medical college. Waris died of injuries sustained in the accident at the hospital. His body had no visible injuries. The family of the deceased has alleged that he was beaten up by cow vigilantes, but prima facie there was no sign of

physical assault. A complaint against Bajrang Dal has been lodged in the daily diary register and if more facts emerge, we will probe the allegations," Singla had said on Sunday.

After a video emerged on social media in which vigilantes could be seen rescuing a cow from a Santro car and questioning the three car occupants about their names and respective villages, the family of Waris alleged that he died of physical assault.

Waris' brother Imran had told The Indian Express on Sunday that in the video, it is visible that he had no serious injury as he was talking normally. "How did he later succumb to internal injuries? We want justice," he had said.

Farah's family has, however, rejected the conversion charge, saying they were married for the last three years and were living together in a rented apartment.

Acting on a complaint lodged by the man's cousin who alleged that 25-year-old Dushyant Chaudhary was being "forced to convert to Islam", police booked Farah (21), her brother Amzad (26) and father Hanif Qureshi.

Farah's family has, however, rejected the conversion charge, saying they were married for the last three years and were living together in a rented apartment.

"We have registered an FIR for abetment to suicide against the in-laws. The charges for forced conversion are being probed," Deputy SP (Civil Lines) Arvind Kumar Chaurasia said.

Members of the Hindu Jagran Manch staged a demonstration at Nauchandi police station on Monday morning demanding Farah and her family's arrest on charges of forced religious conversion.

According to the FIR, Dushyant worked as a DJ and married Farah in 2020 despite their families opposing their relationship. After they got married, both started living in a rented apartment. The couple has a son.

According to Johnny Chaudhary, who filed the police complaint, his cousin Dushyant had changed his name to Faiz Qureshi and started wearing a skull cap. "But he (Dushyant) refused to follow Islamic rituals."

"Why would we have forced him to convert after three years of their marriage," said Farah's brother Amzad Qureshi who has been named in the FIR.

ED chargesheets ex-deputy secy to Chhattisgarh CM in coal levy case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, NEW DELHI, JAN 30

ED ATTACHES 51 PROPERTIES

New Delhi: The ED has attached 51 immovable properties worth approximately Rs 17.48 crore in Raipur against eight persons, including Saumya Chaurasia, former deputy secretary to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, in an alleged money laundering case linked to the coal levy case in the state.

According to the ED, a cartel involving bureaucrats, businessmen, politicians and middlemen was allegedly extorting a levy of Rs 25 per tonne for coal transported in Chhattisgarh.

Seven other accused are Chaurasia's brother Anurag Chaurasia, alleged kingpin of the scam Suryakant Tiwari, the ED said.

Rajnikant Tiwari, his mother Kailash Tiwari, mining officers S S Nag and Sandeep Kumar Nayak,

and one Rajesh Choudhary.

The chargesheet, runs into more than 5,500 pages, was filed in the court of 4th Additional District and Sessions Judge (Special Judge PMLA) Ajay Singh Rajput, ED's counsel Saurabh Pandey told PTI.

On January 20, the court had denied bail to Chaurasia citing the ongoing investigation. Chaurasia's lawyer Faisal Rizvi said, "We will apply for bail again."

Chaurasia was posted as Baghel's deputy secretary when she was arrested on December 2 last year. She was produced before a PMLA court, which remanded her in ED's custody. She was sent to judicial custody on December 14. In October last, the ED had arrested three persons — Chhattisgarh IAS officer Sameer Vishnoi, businessman Sunil Agrawal of Indramani group and one Laxmikant Tiwari.

Earlier this month, the additional chief metropolitan magistrate allowed an application filed on behalf of the state government seeking to withdraw the plea and disposed of the case.

The application filed on January 12 through the prosecutor said that the accused persons had committed the act "as a protest without any personal interest or benefits".

Mumbai Police withdraws cases against 36 CAA protesters

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

A CASE filed by the Mumbai police against 36 persons for protesting at the Gateway of India against the attack on students at Jawaharlal Nehru University over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in 2020, has been withdrawn.

On January 20, the court had denied bail to Chaurasia citing the ongoing investigation. Chaurasia's lawyer Faisal Rizvi said, "We will apply for bail again."

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Lakshadweep moves SC over suspension of MP's conviction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

EC defers bypoll in Lakshadweep

New Delhi: The Election Commission Monday decided to withhold the bypoll to the Lakshadweep Lok Sabha seat after the Kerala High Court suspended the conviction of MP P P Mohammad Faizal.

The EC had on January 18 announced by-elections to vacant assembly and parliamentary seats across the country, including the Lakshadweep LS seat. The polls were scheduled for February 27.

Subsequently, the Election Commission on January 18 declared elections to the vacant Assembly and parliamentary seats, including Lakshadweep that had fallen vacant following the MP's conviction.

However, on January 25, the Kerala HC suspended Faizal's conviction and sentencing, noting that the Lok Sabha election was one-and-a-half years away and a "bypoll at this juncture would lead to wasteful expenditure".

Pointing out that the conse-

quence of not suspending the conviction will be "drastic", the HC said: "The cumbersome process of elections will have to be started, and the exorbitant cost of a parliamentary election will have to be borne by the nation and indirectly by the people of this country. The enormity of administrative exercises required for the conduct of an election will inevitably lead to various developmental activities in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep coming to a halt for a few weeks at least... the maximum period for which the elected candidate can function will be only a period less than 15 months".

CJI-led Bench to hear pleas against forcible religious conversion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 15

PETITIONS PENDING before the Supreme Court seeking measures to stop forcible and fraudulent religious conversions will now be heard by a new Bench.

The matter, which was pending before a Bench presided by Justice M R Shah, will now be heard by a Bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud.

The cause list for Monday shows that the matter is listed along with petitions challenging laws against religious conversions in different states before the CJL-led Bench, which also comprises Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwalla.

The Bench of Justices Shah and CTRavikumar had earlier rejected objections to the maintainability of the petition filed by Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay. Terming

forced religious conversions a "serious issue", the court had on the last date of hearing on January 9 sought the assistance of Attorney General R Venkataramani.

The court on that day also cautioned the counsel appearing for Tamil Nadu, who denied that there was any forced fraudulent conversions happening in the state and urged the Bench to leave the matter to the legislature. The counsel contended that the petitioner was a BJP member and alleged that the plea was politically motivated.

Justice Shah rebuked him

saying it had already decided to examine the issue. "You may have different reasons to be agitated like this. Don't convert court proceedings into other things... We are not concerned with A state or B state. Do not see it as targeting one state. Do not make it political," he told the counsel.

According to the NIA, Kamla was the "medical in-charge of battalion-1" of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army, the armed wing of the banned CPI (Maoist).

In a statement, the ministry said that the best marching contingents and tableaux among the three services and the CRPF marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces.

The online poll chose Gujarat's tableau with the theme Clean-Green energy-efficient Gujarat as the winner, followed by the tableaux of UP and Maharashtra.

As per the online poll results for popular choice, conducted between January 25 and 28 on MyGov web page, the IAF was declared the best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs' tableau based on the Eklayka Model Residential Schools was declared the winner among tableaux presented by ministries and departments.

A special prize was given to the CPWD and the Vande Bharatam Dance Group.

As per the online poll results for popular choice, conducted between January 25 and 28 on MyGov web page, the IAF was declared the best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces.

The online poll chose Gujarat's tableau with the theme Clean-Green energy-efficient Gujarat as the winner, followed by the tableaux of UP and Maharashtra.

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FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

WALK THE WALK

The next yatra is Rahul Gandhi's challenge: To link his arduous, impressive trek to the party, the people and, yes, elections

RAHUL GANDHI'S TREK over five months across 12 states has ended. He must begin on a longer, more arduous yatra, which covers the distance to 2024. This second yatra will not follow a land route, be judged by kms covered. It will not have the luxury of playing with ambiguities. Unlike the Bharat Jodo Yatra, it will also not be a spectacle trailed by cameras. But its final outcome will be clear and visible — it will be measured by the Congress tally on the Lok Sabha polls scoreboard in 2024. To talk of this second yatra the day after Rahul Gandhi completed his marathon first, showing an impressive physical and mental fortitude, and successfully pushing back against criticism that he lacks staying power, is not to be mean-spirited or to shift the goalpost. It is only to point out that even though Rahul and his fellow yatris went to great lengths to insulate the Bharat Jodo Yatra from electoral imperatives, surely they know that a political party in a democracy cannot distance itself from its main role. At the end of a long journey, therefore, after they have shaken off the dust, the Bharat Jodo Yatris must confront the Congress's challenge ahead of 2024. Work of the second yatra must begin — of connecting the dots, between yatra and the party, party and the people.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra has ensured that in this process, Rahul Gandhi will play the pivotal role. The rebels within his party, the Group of 23, who sought a Congress less dependent on the Gandhis, have been pushed onto the backfoot. The reluctant politician has affirmed the position he inherited in his party — and he is seen to have done so too. It may always have been on the cards that the Congress will be led by Rahul Gandhi in the battle against the Modi-BJP in 2024, but the yatra has given the scenario a ring of undeniability. Of course, this may even turn out to be to the Congress's and the Opposition's detriment. After all, ever since Rahul stepped down as party president, a space had opened up after a long time at the Congress's top, and at the Opposition's centre, for newer and older players to aim for and work towards. At the same time, however, the Bharat Jodo Yatra has shown that Rahul is not just counting on his surname, he can be ambitious and imaginative too. He has, even though in the broadest possible strokes, painted the political contest as an ideological one at a time when the BJP's dominance had seemed to spook and subdue most of its Opposition, or compelled them to fight on the BJP's terms.

And yet Rahul and the Congress must know that without the second yatra, the first is in danger of becoming a vanity project for the leader, a very belated coming out party. That's a much lesser, far more diminished version of what the Bharat Jodo Yatra could be. From the Srinagar chill to the heat of the party backroom, his next step is cut out.

THE NEW CHAMPIONS

Back stories of victorious world U19 players reveal how cricket remains a vehicle of aspiration, provides more level field

THE TRIUMPH OF India's U19 women's team in the inaugural ICC Junior World Cup signifies a big step forward for the game. In the days to come, seeds of professional cricket will be sown in the minds of parents across the length and breadth of the country, for nothing mainstreams a sport like a world title. It could well be a mini-1983 impetus for the women's sport, or mini-2007 maybe, given how social media helps spread the word about the new champions in town. The women's IPL has come hot on the heels of this triumph and is most timely. The senior team, too, has been consistently making semis and finals of ICC 50-over and 20-over World Cups, and inspired enough confidence in the BCCI to go ahead with plans of the women's IPL.

The back stories of these teenaged world champions reveal how cricket remains a vehicle of aspiration for lower and middle class families. The message has now reached far and wide that sports provides a level playing field and can be an alternate career option. But make no mistake, the journey for most young women hasn't been easy. They faced discrimination and gender stereotyping apart from the financial struggles of their parents. These tales also bring to light a heartening fact that Indian parents are willing to take a punt on cricket for the girls, just as they do on boys. This alone will see a proliferation of talent, making up for the slow development of women's cricket so far, as compared to Australia and England. Going ahead, no one will dare question what women players are capable of in cricket, and how far they can go. They have shown that they can go the whole distance and there is no excuse not to invest in their training.

The final frontier, though, remains to be crossed. Just like in men's cricket, Australia remains the team to beat for seniors. India's women have lost a bunch of finals to the Aussie women, and the gap in standards is real. The women's team is yet to win a senior ICC title. Yet, despite the near-misses, cricket in India is now becoming truly inclusive as women assert their power and an equal stake in the country's most popular sport — be it as spectators or players. It is to be hoped that the elusiveness of the senior ICC title begins gnawing, just like it does in the men's sport. Today, though, is the time to celebrate the marvelous feat of the feisty eleven.

MILLETS FOR MPS

Their inclusion in Parliament menu is affirmation of state commitment to reviving and promoting the ancient grains

THE MENU IN Parliament has got a tasty and nutritious upgrade. Alongside the ever-popular biryanis and cutlets, Members of Parliament will now be able to partake of idlis, dosas, shorba, tikkis and khichdi made from the ancient grains of the Subcontinent. Dishes made from millets, such as jowar (sorghum), bajra (pearl millet) and ragi (finger millet), and pseudo millets, such as ramdana (amaranth), will now be served in all the Parliament canteens, and will also be delivered to MPs in the Central Hall. In the International Year of Millets — promoted by the UN after it was proposed by India — this is an important affirmation of the government's commitment to promote these grains.

It's not just that millets — for centuries, a dietary mainstay across India — have long suffered from state neglect, particularly when compared to the support provided for higher-yielding wheat and rice varieties. Millets have also been perceived as "humble", figuring more in animal fodder in recent decades than on dinner plates and thalis. The image problem is a tough one to fix, but it can be done. A key part of the government's communication as it pushes this agenda would be the message that millets are incredibly versatile and adaptable, even in non-traditional preparations, such as the Bajra Parmesan Khichdi served at the award-winning restaurant Indian Accent, for instance.

There are encouraging signs that the government has recognised this: A press release put out by the Ministry of Agriculture at the start of the year mentioned that there would be efforts to involve local restaurants and food bloggers in the national millets campaign. If the year-long efforts help in restoring millets to their proper place in the daily diet of Indians, the government can also consider reviving and promoting the incredible varieties of indigenous rice, wheat and other crops.



SANJAY SRIVASTAVA

ONE OF OUR greatest thinkers, the largely forgotten polymath Rahul Sankrityayan (1893-1963), imagined yatra and wandering as forms of thinking and forming a world view. In his book *Ghumakkad Shashtra* (The Wanderer's Shashtra), published in 1948, Sankrityayan suggests that yatras should lead to a sense that "it is intensely human to help strangers and to consider it one's duty to offer assistance to those whose language we do not understand". Rahul Gandhi may or may not be familiar with Sankrityayan's writings. However, the recently concluded Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) borrows from a long tradition of writing and thinking about travel as a mode of contemplating the world. That said, something has changed over the years. We are no longer the travellers we once aspired to be. Our aspirations may have become more touristic.

BJY sought to revive the meaning of wandering across unfamiliar territories as an act of dialogue across religious, linguistic and cultural differences. It was based, of course, on a utopian vision of the possibilities of co-existence in a phenomenally diverse society. It also sought to question a key Indian characteristic: We mainly know how to be kind to those we know (members of our caste, kin, and people from our religious networks, for example) and appear to have lost the capacity for dealing with difference and unfamiliarity. Utopian visions of society are at the heart of some of the most important social transformations. But the politics of Utopianism represented by BJY — the possibility of recognising a common humanity through the barriers of difference — remains quite distant from its political dividend. There are reasons for this.

The Yatra's objective as the regathering of a national public comes at a time when the idea of national identity has become firmly linked to an imagined global one that is tightly bound to notions of impressing an (imagined?) international audience. Indian life only finds meaning in as much as it provides a global patina to Indianess. Global achievers of Indian origins, the ways in which Indian thought and philosophy had already

It is difficult to say if Yatra's meaning lies in its role as public spectacle or in issues Rahul Gandhi raised

"predicted" a variety of modern developments and India's new-found standing on the global stage are the key narratives of our times. This is an important shift in popular thinking from that prevalent in earlier decades. This also means that any national event that cannot be presented as enhancing India's global identity and prestige might have little public purchase in terms of electoral gains. BJY's focus was on the state of Indian life, rather than its "global" status.

Then there is the rise of statist nationalism. This relates to the consolidation of a strict hierarchy between the people and the state. Indian democracy has historically been a state (rather than people) led one, with the state determining what may or not be said in public and how we might behave towards each other. However, it increasingly appears that the dictates of statist nationalism have also become acceptable among citizens. The idea that the state is supreme and beyond criticism has emerged as the most commonly accepted form of national duty. The public imagery of Bharat Jodo Yatra, in contrast, tended to give a sense of intimacy between the public and political leaders — the public could mingle on equal terms with its leaders. Currently, political dividends are more likely to accrue to muscular statist nationalism.

The not-so-subtle shift in the ways we now choose to imagine relationships between the state and citizens has been accompanied by the rise of a new kind of citizen figure. This is a citizen who is "anti-politics" and believes that social change is best achieved through the lack of proper political processes. This growing belief has consolidated the idea that society is best governed through "politically neutral" tools such as technology and actions by leaders that do not take account of social circumstances. The latter, it is now increasingly thought, merely leads to "appeasement". BJY was an event that sought to highlight the differences that must be accounted for to address the actual, rather than the imagined national life. In a milieu characterised by a search for a homogenous national identity and anti-politics, it runs the risk of being interpreted as going against the

"true" national interest at best and a political gimmick, at worst.

The rise of the anti-political citizen — a change from the context of early nationalism — is also linked to another scenario that may have affected the ways in which those who thronged BJY's various stages may have engaged with it. This is the rise of a new kind of culture of spectacle, one that is now an active part of the making of political life at the highest levels. Through new forms of social media — where, say Facebook and Instagram are both the means and end to identity-making — the spectacle has become everything. Taking part in spectacles is itself meaningful and nothing exists outside it. This contributes to the making of new public realms where involvement with spectacular public events is both the means and the end for self-validation. It is, then, impossible to say if the Yatra's actual meaning lies in its role as a public spectacle or the kinds of issues Rahul Gandhi might have been trying to raise, those relating, for example, to corruption or tolerance or the need for dialogue.

Ironically, given the uncertainty of the Yatra's utility for his party, it does appear that Rahul Gandhi's personal stature as a politician stands considerably enhanced. There is acknowledgement of his capacity for raising questions that many think are important — though just not important enough to outweigh Narendra Modi's appeal — as well his mental and physical fortitude. If only for these reasons, the Yatra has been an important event. It has contributed to the rebuilding of Congress's prospects in the long term. In the immediate future, Rahul Gandhi's personal stocks are higher than before, though his party needs to overcome several handicaps. The traveller does not any longer achieve a special quality through reflecting on the difficult questions of nationhood — as Sankrityayan once imagined. For, the traveller is pitted against the desire of the tourist for instant gratification.

The writer is British Academy Global Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology SOAS, University of London



VIDIT AATREJ

INDIA OVERTOOK THE UK as the world's fifth-largest economy in 2022, and is on track to achieving PM Narendra Modi's vision of a \$5 trillion economy by 2026-27. Despite concerns of a looming global recession, supply disruptions and the Russia-Ukraine war, India has stood out as a bright spot, growing faster than most major emerging markets.

The 6.3 crore micro, small and medium enterprises — which account for 30 per cent of GDP and employ nearly 11 crore people — have demonstrated this spirit of resilience. With sales in several industries across the MSME sector reaching 90 per cent of pre-pandemic levels, India's small businesses are scripting a turnaround.

Alot of the credit for this bounceback goes to the government for its proactive interventions, such as extending the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, overhauling the Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises and rolling out the Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme to boost self-employment. That said, the largely unorganised nature of our MSMEs, rising interest rates and a deteriorating external environment make it imperative to address their pain points on an ongoing basis.

The Union budget 2023 presents an opportunity for our visionary government to amp up its efforts towards making our MSMEs competitive and self-reliant.

Streamlining input tax credit for e-commerce suppliers is one such intervention. Currently, suppliers selling on e-commerce

A PUSH FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Budget 2023 is an opportunity to put MSMEs on the digital fast lane

platforms need to procure input services like logistics, which are taxed at 18 per cent. Assuming an online supplier deals in apparel, which attracts 5 per cent or 12 per cent GST, there is an accumulation of input tax credit.

This leads to precious working capital getting blocked without any visibility of future realisation, potentially discouraging suppliers from adopting e-marketplaces. Between April and November 2022, as many as 2.9 lakh sellers on Meesho, dealing in products that attract less than 18 per cent GST, saw input tax credit accumulation of Rs 265 crore on account of this inverted duty structure.

While lower costs will encourage more MSMEs to use tech-powered logistics services, they will need support to tap rising e-commerce demand from smaller towns and semi-rural areas. To this end, the government could rope in India Post as a tech-enabled last-mile delivery partner that can facilitate cash-on-delivery transactions at competitive prices. Similarly, the unparalleled reach of Indian Railways can be synergised to ship wares to the remotest parts of the country quickly and cost-effectively.

There is also a need to expedite GST relaxation for small online businesses. In a landmark move last year, the GST Council announced a relaxation of rules for small businesses looking to go online. Among other measures, mandatory GST registration was waived for small online vendors with a turnover of less than Rs 40 lakh and Rs 20 lakh for goods and services, respectively. These changes, aimed at bringing parity between online and offline sellers, were expected to

come into force from January 2023 but will now be implemented by October 2023.

With just 10 per cent of our MSMEs currently online, expeditious implementation of these new norms is key to unlocking their full potential. Millions of small businesses are waiting in the wings, hoping to reap the benefits of digitisation such as a much bigger addressable market, increased efficiencies and easier access to capital.

The National Logistics Policy can also be leveraged to make our MSMEs competitive. The NLP aims to bring down logistics costs as a percentage of the GDP from 13-14 per cent to 8 per cent, on par with developed nations. While lower costs will encourage more MSMEs to use tech-powered logistics services, they will need support to tap rising e-commerce demand from smaller towns and semi-rural areas. To this end, the government could rope in India Post as a tech-enabled last-mile delivery partner that can facilitate cash-on-delivery transactions at competitive prices. Similarly, the unparalleled reach of Indian Railways can be synergised to ship wares to the remotest parts of the country quickly and cost-effectively.

With a visionary government charting out the nation's growth path, I am hopeful that the budget would deliver on the above challenges for MSMEs and take us closer to the dream of an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*.

The writer is founder & CEO at Meesho, an e-commerce platform



JANUARY 31, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

NUCLEAR PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN MAY HAVE nuclear weapons capable of blowing up other countries by the end of this century, according to a secret document of the United States Air Force. The document entitled "Air Force 2000", was recently circulated within the US Defence Department in an effort to start senior officials thinking about future weapons planning. Besides Pakistan, 10 more countries are listed in the document as being capable of having nuclear weapons by the end of the century: Argentina, Libya, South Korea, Taiwan, Iraq, Brazil, Japan, West Germany, Israel and South Africa.

CONGRESS-I SHAKE-UP

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi's piecemeal reorganisation of her government and the Congress party continued with the resignation of Shipping and Transport Minister C M Stephen and his announcement that he would take over as the AIIC General secretary.

NO TO ELECTION DUTY

THE BIHAR GAZETTED officers finally decided not to go to Assam for election work as the order was "illegal". This decision was taken at a meeting of the co-ordination committee of over 11 gazetted officers' associations.

DHAKA PROTEST

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN Dhaka prevented authorities from opening the central university of Dhaka after a fortnight's vacation, by locking the main gates of the faculty and office buildings. About a thousand students also brought out a procession, demanding the release of four of their classmates, three of whom were sentenced by a summary martial law court to seven-year prison terms for violating the country's 11-month-old martial law. The demonstrators chanted slogans calling for civil liberties and the withdrawal of the military government's education police.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Let diplomacy flow

On Indus Water Treaty, entrenched attitudes from both India and Pakistan are a reminder that technical agreements are only a partial solution. They can put strains on the ecosystem for years to come



MEDHA BISHT

A FORTNIGHT AGO, Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif expressed the desire for a diplomatic handshake from across the border. The environment conducive to the thawing of relations between the two countries is far from appropriate and reconciling rhetoric with practice remains a challenge. As of now, both countries have opted for diplomatic hedging. This attitude has framed the water diplomacy between the two countries as well. By raking up the issue of hydroelectric projects, Pakistan has reiterated its desire for third-party mediation while India has reinforced its call for revisiting the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

In a recent notice to Islamabad via the Indus Commissioners, New Delhi claimed that the "intransigence" of Pakistan had made the communication channels over shared waters defunct. New Delhi has asserted that in light of this "material breach" of the agreement, it would like to "update the Treaty to incorporate the lessons learnt over the last 62 years". It has given a 90-day notice to Islamabad — this has opened space, both legally and politically, for discussing, debating, interpreting and possibly also analysing the faultlines of water diplomacy of both countries.

Conversations on renegotiating and updating the IWT began a few years ago. In 2021, a parliamentary standing committee report suggested renegotiating the Treaty. Under Article 60 of the Vienna Convention on the Laws of the Treaties, a party can criticise an agreement and give notice of its intention to terminate it if the other party violates its fundamental provisions. India has adopted the moderate approach of not terminating but modifying the IWT.

India has attributed the "material breach" to Pakistan's unilateral decision to approach the Permanent Court of Arbitration, bypassing the mandate of Indus Commissioners. The arbitration proceedings started on January 27. India boycotted this hearing. New Delhi claims that Islamabad has violated the dispute settlement mechanisms, as mandated by Articles 8 and 9 of the Treaty. Article 8 specifies the roles and responsibilities of the Permanent Indus Commission — a regular channel of communication for matters relating to the implementation of the Treaty. Article 9 is relevant for addressing any difference or dispute that might emerge between the two countries.

Article 9 offers a graded pathway to address any issue related to the implementation or interpretation of the IWT — for instance, it provides for the appointment of a neutral expert in case there is a lack of consensus among the Commissioners. If the neutral expert believes that the difference should be treated as a dispute, it can be referred to the Court of Arbitration. However, it adds that the Commission has to report the facts to the two governments. The report must state the points of concord in the Commission, the views of each Commissioner on these issues and also mention the issues of disagreement. Only after receiving such a report can either of the governments address the issue bilaterally or through the Court of Arbitration. Some



sources claim that Pakistan was reluctant to discuss these issues under the Permanent Indus Commission from 2017-2022. The significance of the "material breach" and calls for terminating the Treaty should be seen in this context.

However, any analysis of international diplomacy would be incomplete if it looks only at legal aspects. The practice of diplomacy and the use of law for explaining and justifying government actions are equally important. The reasoning put forward by India and Pakistan requires scrutiny. Ecological and economic concerns are also important to understand the diplomatic fault lines.

The history of the Kishanganga Hydel Power Project — the Kishanganga is called Neelam in Pakistan — is a case in point. In 2013, in a 52-page document, the Court of Arbitration gave a partial award on the project, upholding India's right to divert water for the project. The Court refused to set a bar on the release of water, as demanded by Pakistan. However, it also restrained from making KHEP immune to environmental considerations. After the completion of the project, Pakistan objected to it again in 2014.

Pakistan has also contested the Ratle project on the Chenab river on grounds of design and violations of the IWT. The project was delayed but work resumed on it in

The two countries should use bilateral dispute settlement mechanisms to discuss the sustainable uses of water resources. Given the broad contours of the Indus Water Treaty — particularly Article 7 which talks about future cooperation — discussing and broadening transboundary governance issues in holistic terms could be the starting point for any potential diplomatic handshake.

The writer is associate professor at Department of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi

Meanwhile, Pakistan asked the World Bank to establish a Court of Arbitration to look into the project. The Bank has started a parallel process for appointing a neutral expert. India objected to this process, claiming it was a unilateral move.

Pakistan has shown a penchant for third-party mediation, arguing that this could be the best route for overcoming the impasse in the relations between the two countries. India has seen Pakistan's objection to the hydel projects as a tactic to delay them. Such positions are tantamount to diplomatic hedging. They are a reminder that technically-negotiated agreements are only partial solutions and can put incremental strains on transboundary rivers and their ecosystems for years. The two countries should use bilateral dispute settlement mechanisms to discuss the sustainable uses of water resources. Given the broad contours of the Indus Water Treaty — particularly Article 7 that talks about future cooperation — discussing and broadening transboundary governance issues in holistic terms could be the starting point for any potential diplomatic handshake.

The writer is associate professor at Department of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Sania [Mirza] may not be leaving on a winning high, but she's a champion in every right. In a society where she, like other women athletes, frequently faced obstacles, she rose to great heights to inspire women from across the region."

— DAWN, PAKISTAN

Treating the middle class fairly

Since the pandemic, the salaried class has been affected by job losses, pay cuts, high inflation and medical bills. Budget should address its concerns



MADAN SABNAVIS

BUDGETS SEEM to be all about providing largesse to the poor and incentives to the industry while reiterating the constraint of being fiscally prudent. Any talk of addressing the issues confronting the middle class is skipped and never quite addressed. Will this budget be any different?

The problem is that when one is neither poor nor rich, one has to fend for oneself. Most of the expenditure schemes are targeted towards the poor. There is the food subsidy or a free food programme. Farmers are given cash transfers under the PM Kisan scheme and the fertiliser subsidy also percolates to them. There is the MGNREGA which provides employment for the rural folk. There are farm loan waivers. There is also a health insurance scheme (PM Ayushman Bharat) for the poor but not one for the middle class. The discourse on these expenditures revolves around how they are populist or necessary, with the new term, revdi, catching on now.

Spending is also directed towards the industrial sector. The PLI is an example where the government gives an outright subsidy for investing and producing more. It is performance-based but directed at the capitalist. The corporate tax rate was reduced in 2019 — the effective tax rate for India Inc is now closer to 22 per cent. This is considered to be an incentive for performing better and for investing more. But its efficacy is debatable. There are resolution mechanisms in place — loan waivers, for example — to resolve the settlement of loans which industry cannot repay.

The section which has gotten left out every time is the salaried class. The salaried class is a known category. It is fully monitored and can be taxed at will. This forms an assured revenue stream for the government.

The number of people in the salaried class only increases as more jobs are created. Hence the tax paid by this class also increases. Even those who retire from service are already registered with the tax authorities and continue paying taxes on income earned on interest or dividends. This does not hold for corporate tax or even customs duties. There is also no lobby group for this section unlike farmer groups or SME associations or the industry associations like CII and FICCI. In fact, even economists who pontificate on what the FM should do normally speak for the industry — never for the salaried class.

The salaried class has borne the brunt of attempts to enhance government revenue through increases in direct or indirect taxes. In fact, the withdrawal of exemptions and change in tax rules which make this class pay more tax works to the benefit of the government. After all, the entire business of budgeting is a zero-sum game where higher revenue is normally at the cost of some section as buoyancy is limited given that growth

has been erratic.

If one looks back at how the middle class has been affected by successive budgets, the following points emerge.

First, interest income on deposits, which was tax free up to a limit, was withdrawn (the popular Section 80L). Second, those who invested in the famous fixed maturity plans to take advantage of the long-term capital gains suddenly realised one day that the one-year period was changed to three years. Third, those who thought equity markets were good if the instruments were held for a longer period of time have found their gains now being taxed. Fourth, dividend, which was tax-free, is now taxed in their hands with no commensurate increase in the payouts by companies. Fifth, the limits that one could invest under Section 80C have been kept unchanged for long. Sixth, interest on the National Savings Certificate which was tax-free now is taxable. Seventh, even provident funds interest above a certain level is now being taxed. Eighth, when income crosses Rs 50 lakh per annum, there is a surcharge on the entire income rather than the income over the threshold.

The list is endless, and there is strong justification for every such change. But at the end of the day, the salaried individual ends up subsidising the nation. The government keeps lamenting that there are very few people paying taxes — around 60 million. But this cannot be a justification for taxing this set heavily every year. The government has kept the tax brackets unchanged since 2014-15 while withdrawing exemptions slice by slice. It is not surprising that when the government offered an alternative tax scheme which excluded exemptions, few showed any interest in switching.

Inflation has been increasing at an average of 6 per cent per annum over the last decade. A basic exemption limit of Rs 2.5 lakh looks incongruous in such a situation and the logical thing is for the limit to be adjusted in line with inflation. With taxable income not changing and cumulative inflation at over 50 per cent, there is a case for increasing the exemption limit to Rs 3.75 lakh.

Savings in the economy have been coming down and to induce people to get thrifty, tax incentives would be in order. The government can keep aside some part of its borrowing programme for retail investors in the form of tax-free bonds that are issued with a coupon rate of 7 per cent. Further, the limits under different sections need to be increased to keep in line with higher costs of living. The Section 80C limit of Rs 1.5 lakh needs to be doubled to encourage savings. Also, the present deduction for medical insurance premium, Rs 25,000, appears to be very low given that an equivalent of the Rs 5 lakh cover under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme costs well over Rs 35,000 when privately taken.

Since the pandemic, the purchasing power of the salaried class has been affected by a combination of loss of jobs, pay cuts, high inflation, and high medical expenses. There is a serious need to treat this class more fairly and review the government's approach to taxation.

Sabnavis is Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda and author of Lockdown or Economic Destruction? Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHERE'S THE DATA?

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Census matters' (IE, January 30). The delay in announcing census data has consequences for the country at large. High-quality census data is more exhaustive than other government or privately commissioned surveys, with the latter being limited in scope. Census data could be handy for policymakers and academics to understand the impact of the pandemic on society and help them shape thorough responses in the face of a recession. With India experiencing a digital revolution, the findings of the census could guide the market and the economy to tap newer opportunities.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

FOR THE VOTES

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Mughal Gardens now Amrit Udhyan, BJP hails end of "slave mentality"' (IE, January 29). In the name of ending "slave mentality" and "colonial mindset", the ruling party is distorting history by depriving citizens of the information about historical monuments. British architect Edwin Lutyens named the gardens "Mughal gardens" because he borrowed heavily from Mughal architectural features during its construction. This unending project to rename streets, monuments and cities is clearly aimed at garnering votes in the name of defending India.

H Upadhyay, via email

INDIA AND ADANI

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Hindenburg report alleged fraud by its firms, Adani group says attack on India' (IE, January 30). Hindenburg Research is a renowned entity. Its findings cannot be unfounded. The report has undoubtedly dented investor confidence in our regulatory bodies, SEBI and RBI. Rather than repudiating the claims, it is advisable that the Adani Group comes up with facts and testimonies. Not to mention, this is a lesson for SEBI and RBI that laxity will neither be accepted nor tolerated. This is clearly a case of dereliction of duties.

Ananya Singh, Noida

NOVAK'S REDEMPTION

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Novak Djokovic wins' (IE, January 30). A year ago, the Serb was spiralling, ejected from Australia — where he was a three-time defending champion — over his unvaccinated status. On Sunday, he banished those difficult memories by claiming a record-extending tenth Australian Open singles' title. Barely four months shy of turning 36, Djokovic is at a stage where an athlete's physical prowess — regardless of their indomitable will — is expected to enter the past tense. While this appears increasingly true, Djokovic's mask of invincibility looks firmly intact.

SS Paul, Noida

What is lost at Mughal Gardens

Place names are the stuff of history. They recall forgotten geographies, tributes



NARAYANI GUPTA

TWO MONTHS ago, the Garden Museum in London held an exhibition of the paintings of Constance Villiers-Stuart (1877–1966), called "Earthly Delights". In 1913, Villiers-Stuart had published a small and beautifully evocative book, *The Gardens of the Great Mughals*, which inspired the Town-Planning Committee (appointed in 1912) to introduce terraces and water-bodies borrowed from Mughal gardens in Kashmir in the garden of the Viceroy's House. Horticulture innovations or borrowed ideas are traditionally acknowledged, as seen in "Japanese"/"Chinese" gardens in European cities. This was why the vast garden was named the "Mughal" Gardens, though designed by English landscape architects.

Today, in a trend we have become familiar with, it has been renamed. A double whammy, the Mughals and the British knocked out in one stroke! (It was similar in 2018 when the name of Mughalsarai, a railway junction created in 1862, was changed to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction; but the word "Mughal" had been invented by the British, and the dynasty had no connection with the place). We await the day when we are informed that Edwin Lutyens had nothing to do with the Rashtrapati Bhavan, it was built by *sthapatis* from Sanchi, just as the Lal Qila was built by the Tomars.

Landscapes are not neutral — they bear the signature of the artist/architect/designer. Middle-class Indians are travelling to more and more countries all over the world. Should they not enjoy recognising connections — in flowers, in furniture designs, in textile and carpet motifs, apart from the two areas which they are well up on — cuisine and clothing styles?

A lecture on Saturday, on Delhi in the last half-century of Mughal rule, drew a packed audience. People, one senses, are hungry for history. This was not the case 50 years ago. Delhi, with its much smaller population, had many more people who were familiar with its history and architecture. The history was kept alive with Sunday picnics to monuments being a popular pastime. The growing city had large islands of Jats, many "colonies" of Punjabis, "South Indians" and Bengalis, but the language of the *shahar* was treated with respect: Urdu poetry was popular; its songs happily understood...

Today, the city is navigated with google-maps, transit journeys are by metro, so that the intervening landscape is not seen, and the city is "explored" with the help of guides. Urdu is conflated with "Muslim" and with "Pakistan" (a senior professor whose father was Indian described *zubaan* as a "Muslim" word!) and yet the timeless songs that use Urdu words remain so popular.

Lahore and Delhi are twin Mughal cities; Delhi, in addition, is a Rajput and Sultanate city. Vestiges of these pasts, and of the British presence, are scattered all over. And why? Because earlier regimes did not rename older landscapes or buildings, they built *near* them.

Renaming roads and gardens in the

British capital of New Delhi will not make them any less part of the City Beautiful and Garden City movements of the US and Europe of 100 years ago. It would be far more challenging to build a new city, and leave New Delhi to the CPWD and the ice-cream carts. The CPWD will never change in its functioning, and the people of Delhi will do a Chikko Andolan for their ice-cream. And they will queue up in February to rush through the Mughal Gardens, furtively plucking the occasional tulip. I have walked on Kingsway munching chana from paper cones in the 1950s; I have been tempted by garish handkerchiefs spread out by hawkers on the Boat Club lawns in the 1960s; I have enjoyed strolling from the Archives to the bus-stop on tranquil evenings in the 1970s; I have led noisy groups of children up Raisina Hill in the 1980s... So much to be grateful for.

Delhi, shrug your shoulders and continue to welcome us all in. Remember, you have many gates for entry, none for exit. And among those who enter, there are butterflies. At one end of the Mughal Gardens is the round pool, surrounded by rings of flower beds — the Lutyens' "Butterfly garden". They will always be there, whether you call them *tilti* or butterfly.

The writer is a historian of Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH.	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH.	NOBAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	THE SIRSA DISTT COOP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD SIRSA VITA SIRSA	2023_HBC_252467_1, 2023_HBC_252675_1, 2023_HBC_252395_1	E-TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF ACID SLURRY IS HEREBY EXTENDED AS ON 10.02.2023 DUE TO NON FILFILLMENT OF QUORUM OF THREE OFFERS IN 1 INSTANCE AS PER PURCHASE RULE	vitaindia.org.in	7496963239 vitasrs@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EXPENSE (AMOUNT) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NOBAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION RORATK	EMANELMENT OF CONTRACTOR FOR PROVIDING AND FIXING TWIN DUSTBIN IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS UNDER SBM FOR ALL ULBS OF DISTRICT RORATK AS PER SOUDI	28.01.2023 03.02.2023		www.etenders.hry.nic.in	sevnrota@gmail.com
2	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION RORATK	CONSULTANCY OF SOLID WASTE TREATMENT PLANT RORATK (TO EXTEND RENEWAL OF ENVIRONMENT CLEANANCE, EXTENSION/ RENEWAL OF CONSENT TO OPERATE UNDER WATER AND AIR ACT FROM THE CONCERNED DEPTT. ETC.) (RE-CALL)	27.01.2023 03.02.2023		www.etenders.hry.nic.in	sevnrota@gmail.com

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कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री

लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग श्योपुर (म. प्र.)

मेला ग्राउन्ड के पास, पाली रोड श्योपुर (म. प्र.)

Web: page: www.mppwd.gov.in E-mail: cepwdsheopur@mp.nic.in

"निविदा आमत्रण सूचना"

मध्यप्रदेश लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीयकृत पंजीयन प्रगतीकृत टेकेडारों से मध्यप्रदेश के गार्यपाल की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु सङ्कट दर अनुसूची प्रधानशिल तक 25/03/2022 एवं भवन कार्यों की दर अनुसूची प्रधानशिल दिनांक 15/09/2022 निविदा आमत्रण सूचना जारी होने के दिनक तक समस्त संसोधनों सहित ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा अनलाइन निविदाएं आमत्रित की जाती है। जिसकी विस्तृत निविदा सूचना एवं कार्यों का विवरण वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदा में होने वाले समस्त संसोधनों का प्रकाशन केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर ही किया जावेगा। पूरक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा। वेबसाइट पर होने वाली तकनीकी समस्याओं हेतु विभाग जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा।

क्र.	ई-टेंडर क्र.	एन.आई.टी. जिला	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की दृष्टि	निविदा दर	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	2023-PWDRB_247365_1	श्योपुर	मजबूतीकरण कार्य एस.सी. एस. बॉलीटाइंट विकास से गार्यपाल मार्ग ल. 1.00 कि.मी. एवं बॉलीटाइंट विकास से गार्यपाल मार्ग ल. 2.13 कि.मी.	12416000	124160 12500	03 माह
2.	2023-PWDRB_247366_1	श्योपुर	मजबूतीकरण कार्य एस.सी. एस. बॉलीटाइंट विकास से गार्यपाल मार्ग ल. 0.40 कि.मी.	4674000	50000 5000	02 माह
3.	2023-PWDRB_247367_1	श्योपुर	मजबूतीकरण कार्य बांडोला रोड पार्म ल. 2.15 कि.मी.	11884000	118840 12500	03 माह
4.	2023-PWDRB_247368_1	श्योपुर	मजबूतीकरण कार्य रोडपथ मेन केनल आवाल आवाल मार्ग ल. 1.50 कि.मी.	3512000	50000 5000	02 माह
5.	2023-PWDRB_247370_1	श्योपुर	मजबूतीकरण कार्य बांडोला बहुच मार्ग ल. 0.70 कि.मी.	4557000	50000 5000	02 माह
6.	2023-PWDRB_247371_1	श्योपुर	मजबूतीकरण कार्य बांडोला-मरायापी हेताम मार्ग ल. 15.00 कि.मी.	7775200	777520 20000	05 माह
7.	2023-PWDRB_247372_1	श्योपुर	बांडोल बॉलीटाइंट विकास मार्ग ल. 2.40 कि.मी.	15597000	155970 12500	03 माह
8.	2023-PWDRB_247374_1	श्योपुर	प्रेसर वेलिलाला मार्ग ल. 2.85 कि.मी.	8122000	81220 10000	03 माह
9.	2023-PWDRB_247376_1	श्योपुर	प्रेसर वेलिलाला मार्ग ल. 2.85 कि.मी.	340000	6800 2000	02 माह
				1388.54 लाख		

1. अनलाइन टेंडर पब्लिक दिनांक 25/01/2023 समय 10:30 बजे।

2. अनिवार्य निविदा प्रपत्र विक्रय प्रारम्भ दिनांक 27/01/2023 समय 10:30 बजे।

3. अनिवार्य विड समर्पित प्रारम्भ दिनांक 27/01/2023 समय 10:30 बजे।

4. अनिवार्य निविदा प्रपत्र विक्रय /डाक्टरेलट का अंतिम दिनांक 03/02/2023 समय 17:30 बजे।

5. अनिवार्य विड समर्पित का अंतिम दिनांक 08/02/2023 समय 17:30 बजे।

6. बिड ऑफिसियल दिनांक 10/02/2023 समय 10:30 बजे।

उपरोक्त वेबसाइट अनिवार्य प्रारम्भ करने के उपरान्त निविदा प्रपत्र (टेंडर डॉक्यूमेंट) वेबसाइट के माध्यम से प्राप्त हो सकेंगे। विस्तृत एन.आई.टी. एवं अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाइट में देखी जा सकती है।

कोरोना से बचने की तीन बातें बहुत जरूरी,

हटा।/- (झंगी, संकरण योग्य)

कार्यपालन यंत्री

लो.नि.वि. संभाग श्योपुर (म.प्र.)

(मो.न. 9009852101)

G-22298-22

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, NOIDA-201301 (U.P.) Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes / amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Fresh-Tender Work :

S. No.	Jobs No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1	46/DGM/SM(WC-3)/ET/2022-23	M/o Building (Renovation of Kitchen and Maintenance work in Community Centre and B-Block Market, Sector-50), Noida.	60.14
2	74/DGM/SM(WC-9)/ET/2022-23	D/o Sector-9 & 94A (M/o Shed & Road Gate in Antim Niwas in Sector-94A), Noida.	83.48
3	42/DGM/SM(WC-2)/ET/2022-23	M/o Drain (Repair & Raising Drain & Fixing of M.S. Jaal in Village Nithari Sector-31), Noida.	35.68

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 13.02.2023 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 14.02.2023 at 11.00 AM.

Dy. General Manager (Civil)

NOIDA

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 06.02.2023 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 07.02.2023 at 11.00 AM.

Dy. General Manager (Civil)

NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

DRM (TRD & GSU) NWR Ajmer on behalf

of The President of India invites E-

Tenders for the following work up to 15.00

Hrs. on the mentioned date. 1. DRM-

TRD-19-2022-23 Tender No.: DRM-

TRD-19-2022-23 Name of work:

All DIV-Electric work due to development of

Goods shed platform of DET station.

Approximate cost of work: Rs.

23,00,081/- Bid Security: Rs.

46,000/- Date & Time of Closing E-

Tender:- 16.02.2023 at 15.00 Hrs. Date

& Time of Opening E-Tender:-

16.02.2023 at 15.30 Hrs. The details of

above E-tender are available on website

www.ireps.gov.in

104/AC/23

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GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION

STORM WATER DRAIN DEPARTMENT

Invitation for Bids No.GCC/KB/JFPR/2022/2 (SWDC.No.B1/0662/2020)

Grant No and Project Title : Grant 9232-IND : Integrated Urban Flood Management for the Chennai - Kosasthalaiyar Basin Project -Additional Financing.

TOTAL RECALL

4TH ARREST IN 2021 MAOIST AMBUSH:
THE ATTACK THAT KILLED 22 POLICEMEN

JAYPRakash S Naidu

RAIPUR, JANUARY 30

NEARLY TWO years after 22 police personnel were killed by Maoists in Chattisgarh's Bijapur on April 3, 2021, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) made the fourth arrest in the case. A woman who provided medical care to Maoists was apprehended on Sunday, following a tip-off.

What was the incident?

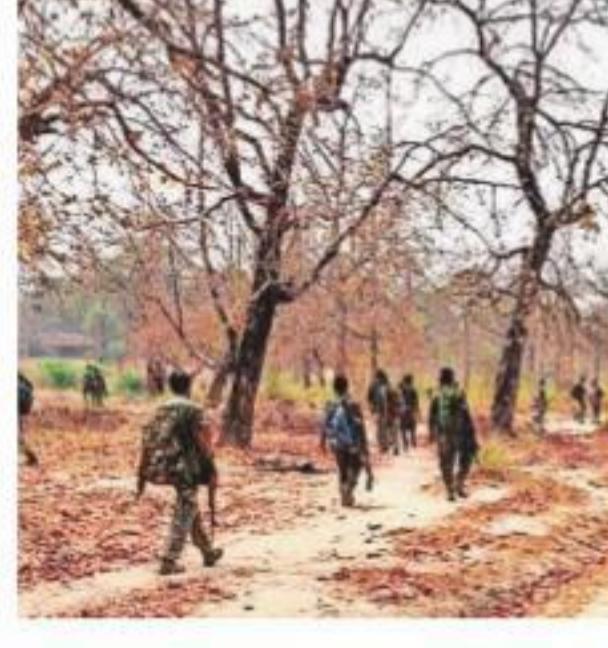
On April 2, 2021, security forces received intelligence inputs about the presence of armed Maoists in the villages of Peddagelur, Tekulgudem, Jonaguda, and Jeeram in Bijapur district. A special team of over 1,000 personnel, consisting of District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF) and Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (COBRA) unit of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was formed.

The next day, around 10.30 am, as the team exited Peddagelur and Tekulgudem after search operations, they were ambushed by around 350 to 400 Maoists, including members of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA). The rebels fired indiscriminately with their automatic, semi-automatic, and country-made weapons. They also used huge quantities of Barrel Grenade Launchers (BGL), disorienting the security forces.

What is the status of the probe?

The NIA on Sunday arrested Madkam Ungi alias Kamla, a resident of Muthamadgu village in Bijapur. Kamla was the medical team in-charge of PLGA Battalion No 1. Two more arrests, of Muchaki Budhra and Madkam Kosi, were made on January 18. The first accused, Madkam Rama, was arrested on June 28 last year. On December 22, the NIA filed a chargesheet before a special NIA court against 23 accused.

What has changed since the attack?



Security personnel carry out a combing operation in the forests of South Bastar on April 4, 2021, a day after the deadly Maoist attack. Reuters

The year 2022 saw the lowest number of police casualties in the Maoist-affected Chhattisgarh in the past 20 years. Further, the Bastar police killed some of the Maoists involved in the 2021 attack and some have surrendered before the police.

"There have been many positive changes since 2021. The security vacuum in the region has been addressed to a great extent after opening up of security camps in Silger, Kunderd, Galgamp, Nambi, Elmangunda, and Potakapalli," said P Sundarraj, Inspector General of Bastar range.

According to the statistics provided by the Bastar police, the number of personnel killed in 2022 dropped to nine from 46 in 2021. In 2019, about 21 personnel were killed and in 2020, the figure was 36.

What is the big reason for concern?

A major challenge that remains is instances of villagers being killed by Maoists for being *mukhbirs* or police informers. While in 2021, 33 villagers were killed, in 2022, 31 lives were lost.

Third Covid booster linked with 90% reduction in deaths: Study

The third booster dose of a Covid-19 vaccine was associated with 90 per cent reduction in deaths in people with multiple health conditions as compared with two doses, a study conducted in Hong Kong has claimed.

The research, published in *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, compared data from people aged 18 years or older with two or more chronic conditions, such as high blood pressure, diabetes and chronic kidney disease, who received a third dose between November 2021 and March 2022, with people who received only two doses.

"We found a substantially reduced risk of COVID-19-related death in adults with multimorbidity who received a homolo-



PAPER
CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

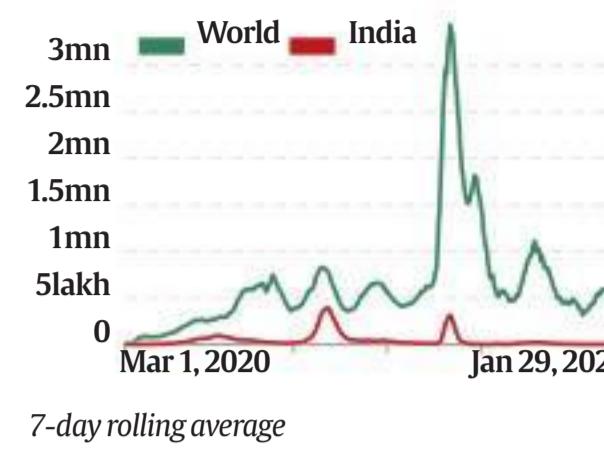
gous booster dose of BNT162b2, an mRNA vaccine, or CoronaVac, an inactivated whole-virus vaccine," said Esther Chan from The University of Hong Kong.

As the Omicron (BA.2) variant hit Hong Kong in late 2021, the city reported the highest Covid-19 mortality rate worldwide relative to its population of 7.5 million people, the researchers said.

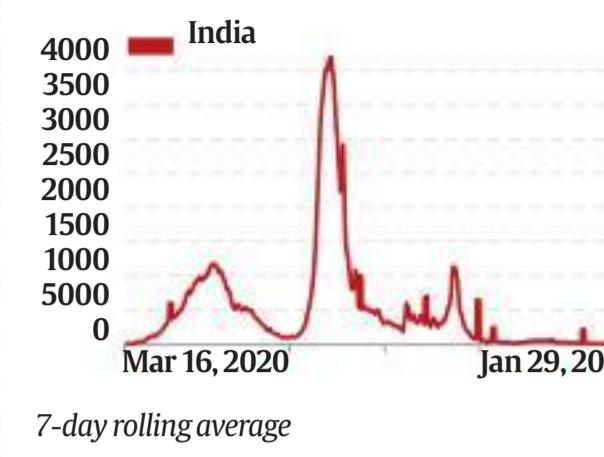
The study included 120,724 recipients of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (87,289 who received a booster) and 127,318 CoronaVac recipients (94,977 who received a booster).

There were more deaths among CoronaVac recipients than Pfizer-BioNTech recipients, the researchers said. PTI

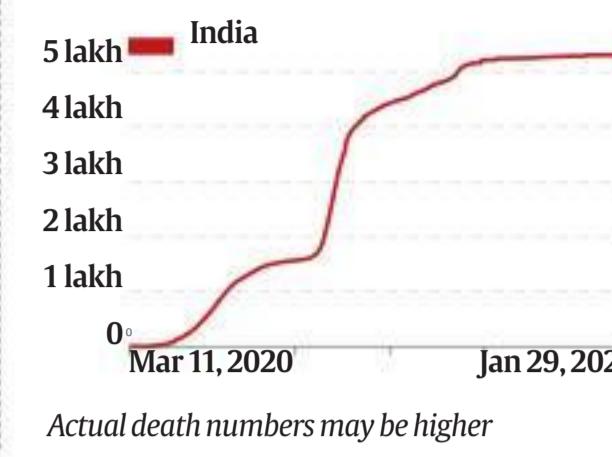
DAILY NEW CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES



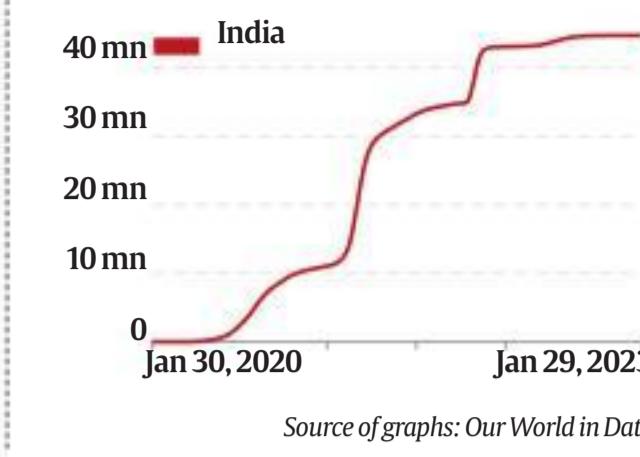
DAILY NEW CONFIRMED DEATHS



CUMULATIVE CONFIRMED DEATHS



CUMULATIVE CONFIRMED CASES



Actual death numbers may be higher

Source of graphs: Our World in Data

EXPLAINED HEALTH

Three years of Covid-19

The first case in India was reported on Jan 30, 2020. Since then, the country has seen 3 waves of infection and 5.3 lakh deaths, but a massive immunisation drive has delivered more than 2.2 bn doses of vaccines

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

IT WAS on January 30, 2020 that India reported its first case of infection with the novel coronavirus: a 20-year-old medical student in Kerala's Thrissur, who had returned from Wuhan, China, the epicentre of the outbreak.

The virus came to be named as SARS-CoV-2, and the infection was termed coronavirus disease, or Covid-19.

In the three years since, India has seen three distinct waves of the pandemic — the first driven by the original virus in 2020, a sharp peak driven by the deadly Delta variant in April-May 2021, and the third by the less lethal but more contagious Omicron variant in January 2022. More than 4.4 crore Covid-19 infections and 5.3 lakh deaths have been reported across the country so far.

At the same time, more than 220 crore doses of vaccines have been administered, with over 90% of the population over the age of 12 years having received at least two doses.

Around the world, the virus has caused more than 752 million confirmed infections and 6.8 million deaths, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) data.

India's three Covid waves

The first three cases of Covid-19 in India were reported in medical students who returned to Kerala from Wuhan. They did not transmit the infection to contacts, and no new case was reported for over a month. The next set of infections was detected in early March, causing local spread and clusters.

The Centre initially brought in measures like screening international passengers for fever. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared Covid-19 a pandemic.

Harsher measures then kicked in. All international flights into India were suspended by March 23. The government announced a 21-day lockdown, which was extended thrice. All non-essential work was halted during the lockdown.

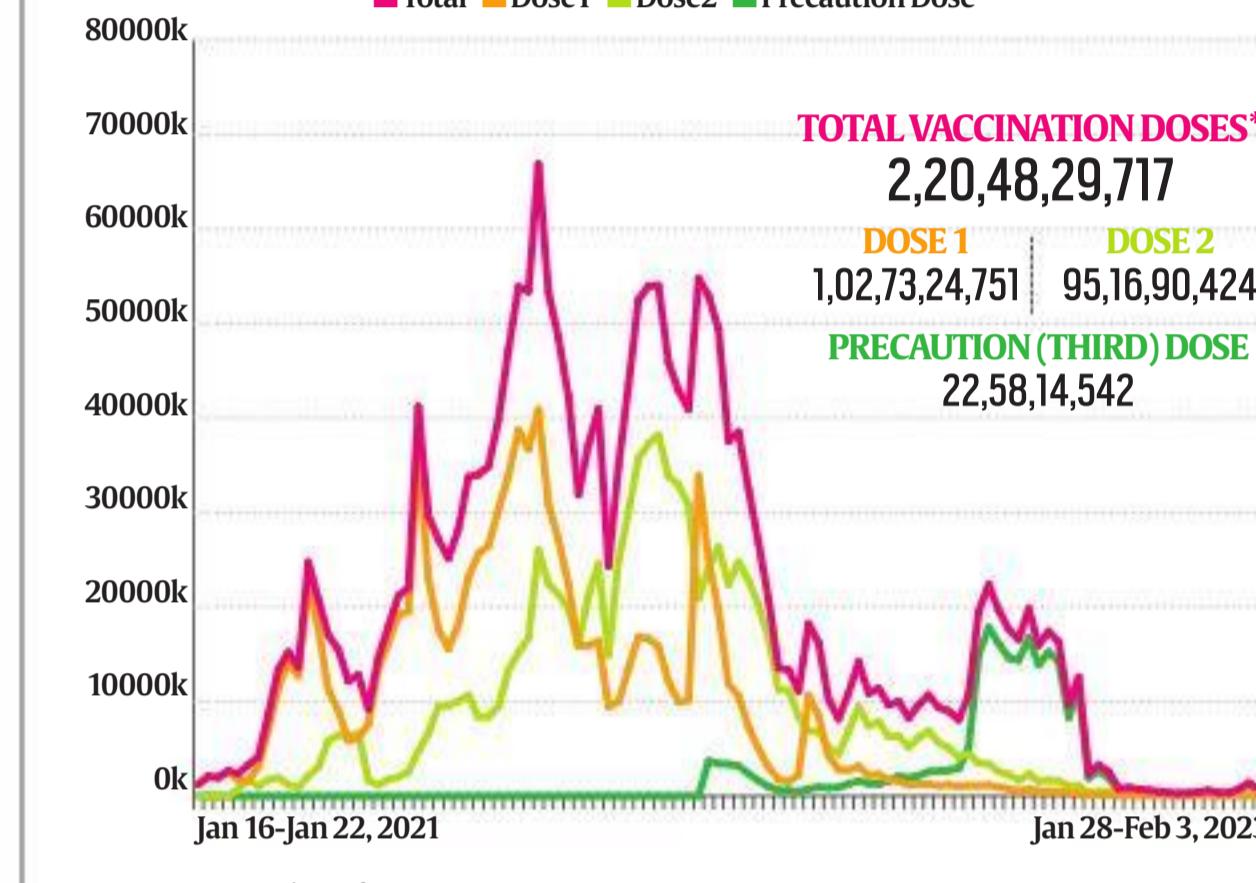
The number of cases started increasing in June, driven by the original variant, and peaked in September when over 6.4 lakh cases and over 8,000 deaths were recorded in a week. This wave also saw hospitals stopping routine outpatient procedures in order to keep beds vacant for Covid-19 patients. Even patients with mild symptoms were admitted to hospitals.

Not knowing how to treat the new infection, doctors used a variety of medications, including the anti-malarial medicine hydroxychloroquine and antibiotics like azithromycin. Some doctors also used the anti-parasitic medicine ivermectin. In various trials later, none of these therapies could be shown as effective.

What did work was high-flow oxygen to improve breathing in patients whose lungs were affected, and steroids like dexamethasone for those whose immune system went into overdrive and started attacking organs.

The second wave in April-May 2021 was

WEEKLY VACCINATION TRENDS



Source: CoWin; *As of 11 pm on January 30

brutal, with a huge spike in cases and deaths reported over a short period. The sheer numbers overwhelmed health systems, leading to a shortage of beds, oxygen, and healthcare professionals.

The government was criticised for having declared a premature victory over Covid-19, and for allowing political rallies in West Bengal ahead of Assembly elections and events like the Maha Kumbh in Haridwar, which was attended by over 9 million people.

With the Delta variant going deep into the lungs and causing severe pneumonia, more and more patients — even those in their 20s and 30s — ended up in hospitals in need of oxygen. This led to a spike in demand, and the government diverted industrial supplies of oxygen to hospitals. The increasing burden on healthcare structures also meant that by April, the government allowed home isolation of patients with mild symptoms.

The Delta wave also saw many developing the deadly fungal infection mucormycosis after a bout of Covid-19.

The increase in infections was seen despite India rolling out a vaccination drive in January 2021 — beginning with healthcare workers, frontline workers, and the elderly. Over 5.5 crore doses had been administered by the end of March 2021.

At its peak in May, the second wave saw 27.4 lakh cases and over 28,900 deaths in a week. The Health Minister was changed after this, with Mansukh Mandaviya taking over from Dr Harsh Vardhan.

The third wave, driven by the Omicron variant, was smaller both in terms of the number of cases and hospitalisations and deaths. At the peak in mid-January 2022, there were 21 lakh cases with around 7,800 deaths.

The Omicron variant, though spreading faster than Delta, mostly led to upper respiratory tract symptoms. After the wave subsided

by February, most restrictions were eased.

By March, international flights to the country had resumed and the Disaster Management Act, invoked to empower the government to implement restrictions and control measures, was revoked.

Impact of the lockdown

On March 24, 2020, with less than 600 confirmed Covid cases, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a nationwide lockdown. This prompted a massive reverse migration — workers, left with no livelihood and with modes of transport shut, made their way back home on foot.

Scientists have since said that the lockdown was unlikely to stop the spread of the infection, but it might have helped in "flattening the curve" and giving time to scale up health infrastructure.

On March 26, 2020, the government announced a stimulus package of Rs 1,70,000 crore to provide food security, direct cash transfers, and cooking gas to those affected by the lockdowns.

The government's sudden enforcement of the lockdown seemed hastily prepared and immediately disadvantaged already vulnerable populations. Reports suggest that the government's efforts to provide financial support and a measure of food security to ease these pressures will be insufficient to meet demand. But better planning and communication could have helped avert this crisis," *The Lancet* said in an April 2020 editorial.

The crisis of oxygen supply

The sudden increase in the number of patients needing oxygen during the Delta-variant driven wave quickly led to a nationwide oxygen crisis.

The daily liquid medical oxygen supply was increased from 1,292 MT in February to

8,593 MT by April. A total of 10,250 MT of liquid medical oxygen was allocated to the states. This was done by enhancement of production in steel and other plants capable of generating oxygen. Restrictions were also imposed on industrial use of oxygen.

"The government failed to manage the even distribution of oxygen in the states and amidst the skyrocketing demand, the government could not maintain a steady flow of oxygen leading to an unprecedented medical crisis," a Parliamentary panel noted.

The shortage of oxygen also saw a blame game between some state governments and the Centre.

Testing, genome sequencing

Testing in India began with one laboratory at the National Institute of Virology in Pune in January 2020. By March, the government allowed private laboratories to start conducting tests for Covid-19, and capping the price at Rs 4,500. Now, laboratories even in remote areas are equipped to conduct RT-PCR tests for the virus.

India has also developed cheaper indigenous kits and started using TB diagnostic machines like CBNAAT and TrueNat for Covid-19 detection. At present, there are 3,394 laboratories across the country that can conduct the test, which costs around Rs 300 to Rs 400.

The government has also approved the use of rapid antigen tests and home kits.

In addition, the government has scaled up genome sequencing through the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics (IN-SACOG), which is now a network of 52 laboratories across the country. India has already submitted over 2.25 lakh genome sequences of the virus to the international database.

Nationwide vaccination drive

India rolled out Covid-19 vaccination on January 16, 2021, with the Indian version of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine Covishield, and the then still-under-trial Covaxin. The vaccination of healthcare workers began in January and frontline workers in February. Vaccination for people above the age of 60 and those above the age of 45 with comorbidities began in March 2021. By April, the vaccination drive was extended to all above the age of 45 years.

Even as the Centre opened up the vaccination drive for all adults in May, it said the cost would have to be borne by the states or by private players. By June, the decision was reversed and centralised procurement started again.

In September 2021, a record 2.5 crore people were immunised on the Prime Minister's birthday.

The administration of a third booster dose and vaccination in children over the age of 12 years started in 2022. At present, 97% of the eligible people have received their first dose and 90% their second dose. The coverage of the third precaution dose has remained low, with around 27% of the adults having received it so far, according to data shared by the Health Ministry in December.

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

4 things to look out for in Union Budget to be presented this week

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THIS IS a crucial week for the Indian economy. There is panic on the bourses following the Hindenburg Research allegations against the Adani Group — by Monday, losses in the group's stock values had reached a staggering \$65 billion. Even before the publication of the Hindenburg report on January 24, Indian markets were among the worst performers so far in 2023.

On Tuesday, two key documents will be released — the Economic Survey, and the latest update of the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook. Both will contain pointers to the prospects of the Indian economy.

Also on Tuesday, the US Federal Reserve will release its next policy decision, which will likely have a bearing on Indian markets as well as the RBI's monetary policy stance later in February.

Perhaps the most far-reaching impact will be that of the Union Budget — the last full Budget of the second Narendra Modi government before next year's Lok Sabha



Johnson called Putin in February 2022 and tried to dissuade him from war. File

UNITED KINGDOM
Putin said he could hit me with missile: Boris

London: Former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that President Vladimir Putin didn't seem serious about avoiding war in the days before Russia invaded Ukraine — and at one point told the British leader it would be easy to kill him with a missile. The Kremlin denied Putin made any such threat. In a documentary released Monday, Johnson says he called Putin in February 2022 and tried to dissuade him from war, saying Ukraine wouldn't join NATO in foreseeable future.

AP

NEW ZEALAND
Auckland to get heavier rainfall after flooding

Wellington: A dangerous amount of rain is forecast Tuesday for New Zealand's most populous city four days after Auckland had its wettest day on record in a storm that killed four. Emergency for Auckland and surrounding districts was lifted on Monday morning, but Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown warned that dangerous conditions were forecast to return on Tuesday. Brown said up to 12 centimeters (almost 5 inches) of rain was forecast in some areas that were already waterlogged. The heavy rain warning covers Auckland and further north on the North Island.

AP

EGYPT
Blinken calls for calm as tension grips Jerusalem

Cairo: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged Israel and the Palestinians on Monday to exercise restraint and ease tensions amid a spike in violence that has put the region on edge. Speaking in Cairo, just hours ahead of a two-day visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank, Blinken said it is imperative for both sides to work to de-escalate tensions that have soared since last week in what he called "a new and horrifying surge in violence" and prompted severe responses from each.

AP

SWITZERLAND
Covid nearing 'inflection', but still grave: WHO

Geneva: Covid remains a global health emergency, the World Health Organization chief said Monday, after a key advisory panel found the pandemic may be nearing an "inflection point" where higher levels of immunity can lower virus-related deaths. Speaking at the opening of WHO's annual executive board meeting, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said "there is no doubt that we're in a far better situation now" than a year ago — when the highly transmissible Omicron variant was at its peak.

AP

THE WORLD



FOR THIRD STRAIGHT STINT

TREVOR RETURNS AS GRAMMY HOST

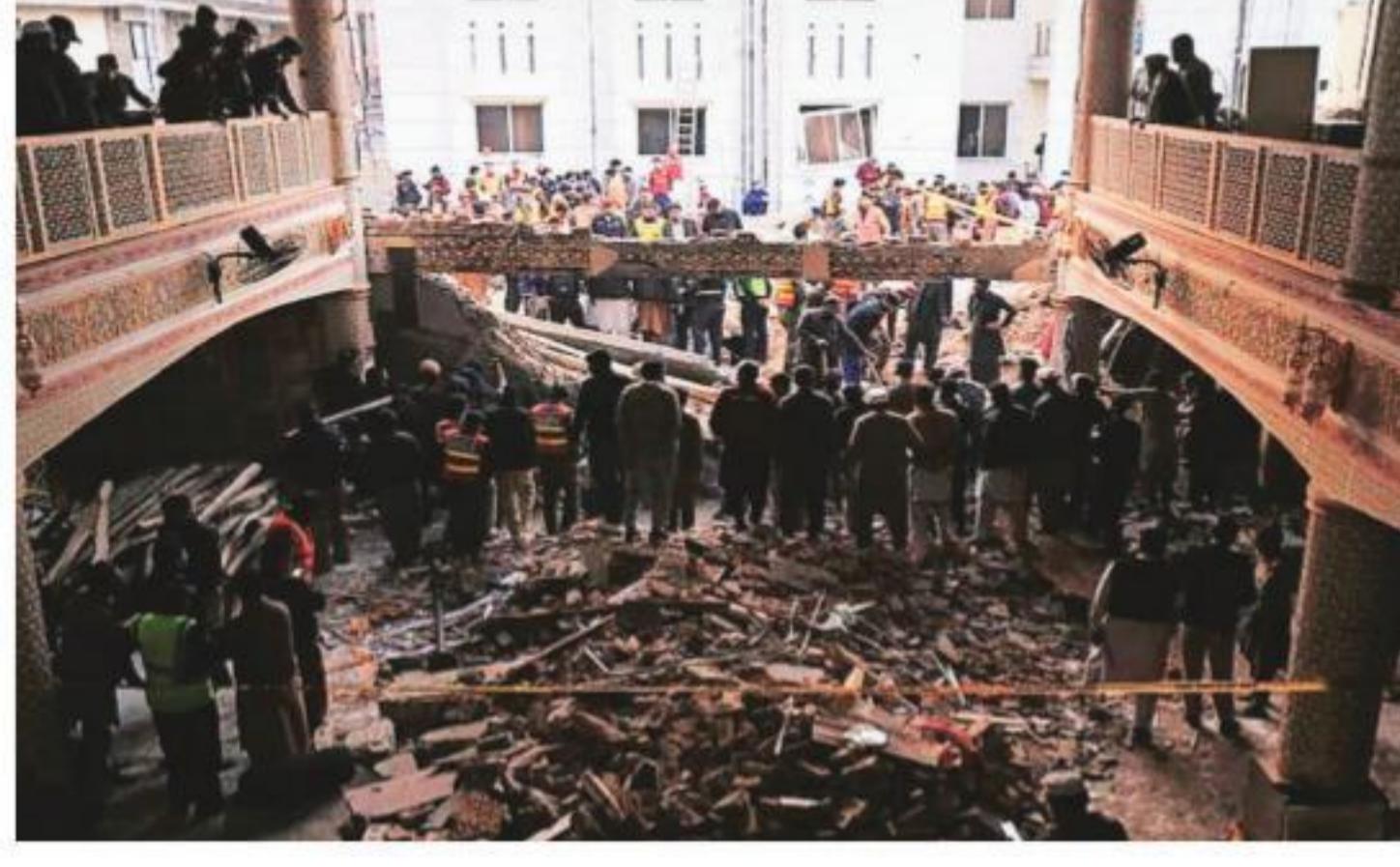
Trevor Noah returns for his third hosting stint at the Grammys, which airs live on Monday. The ceremony returns to Los Angeles after relocating to Las Vegas for the first time ever, where a hybrid model included fans in the audience too.

AP

61 killed, over 150 hurt as suicide bomber attacks Peshawar mosque

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, known as Pakistani Taliban, claims responsibility for the deadly attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PESHAWAR, JANUARY 30



Rescue workers, people gather to look for survivors under mosque's collapsed roof. Reuters

A TALIBAN suicide bomber blew himself up in a mosque packed with worshippers during afternoon prayers on Monday in the high-security zone in Pakistan's restive northwestern Peshawar city, killing at least 61 people and wounding more than 150 others, mostly policemen, officials said.

The powerful blast occurred inside the mosque in the Police Lines area around 1.40 pm when worshippers — which included personnel of the police, army and bomb disposal squad — were offering the Zuhra (afternoon) prayers.

The bomber who was present in the front row blew himself up, causing the roof to collapse on the worshippers, officials said.

Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Peshawar Muhammad Ijaz Khan said 61 people have been killed in the blast, adding that 300 to 400 police officials said over 150 were injured.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), known as the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for the suicide at-

tack, saying it was part of a revenge attack for slain TTP commander Umar Khalid Khurasani who was killed in Afghanistan in August last.

The outlawed TTP has carried out a number of suicide attacks in the past, targeting se-

curity personnel.

A police official said that a portion of the mosque collapsed and several people were believed to be under it.

"We are currently focused on the rescue operation. Our first priority is to safely retrieve the

people buried under the debris," in-charge Rescue operation Bilal Faizi said.

The bomber entered the highly secured mosque inside police lines where four layers of security were in place.

Provincial Police chief Moazzam Jah Ansari said they are investigating the blast and how the bomber entered the highly fortified mosque.

He expressed the apprehensions that the bomber might have been residing in the police lines before the blast and as there are family quarters too inside the police lines.

The headquarters of the Peshawar Police, Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), Frontier Reserve Police (FRP), Elite Force and telecommunications department are also located near the blast site.

Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan condemned the attack and offered condolences to the bereaved families.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army chief General Asim Munir dashed to Peshawar to review relief and rescue operation.

At least five sub-inspectors and the mosque's prayer leader

Israel's Mossad launched drone attack on Iranian facility: Officials

NEW YORK TIMES
TEL AVIV, JANUARY 30

A DRONE attack on an Iranian military facility that resulted in a large explosion in the center of the city of Isfahan on Saturday was the work of the Mossad, Israel's premier intelligence agency, according to senior intelligence officials who were familiar with the dialogue between Israel and the United States about the incident.

The facility's purpose was not clear, and neither was how much damage the strike caused. But Isfahan is a major center of missile production, research and development for Iran, including the assembly of many of its Shahab medium-range missiles, which can reach Israel and beyond.

Weeks ago, American officials publicly identified Iran as the primary supplier of drones to Russia for use in the war in Ukraine, and they said they believed Russia was also trying to obtain Iranian missiles to use in the conflict. But U.S. officials said they believed this strike was prompted by Israel's concerns about its own security, not the potential for missile exports to Russia.

The strike came just as Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken was beginning a visit to Israel, his first since Benjamin Netanyahu returned to office as prime minister. The director of the Central Intelligence Agency, William J. Burns, visited Israel last week, though it is not clear anything about the operation in Isfahan was discussed.

American officials quickly sent out word on Sunday morning that the United States was not responsible for the attack. One official confirmed that it had been conducted by Israel but did not have details about the target.

Russia claims more gains in eastern Ukraine; 5 dead so far

'Tough situation': Zelenskyy on Bakhmut, Donetsk, Vuhledar

AGENCIES
KYIV, JANUARY 30

RUSSIAN FORCES claimed incremental gains in eastern Ukraine on Monday adding up to their biggest advances in months, after relentless battles that Kyiv described as human wave attacks which showed Moscow had no regard for the lives of its own men.

The administrator of Russian-controlled parts of Donetsk province, Denis Pushilin, claimed troops had secured a foothold in Vuhledar, a coal mining town whose ruins have been a Ukrainian bastion since the outset of the war.

A day earlier, the head of Russia's Wagner mercenary force said his fighters had secured Blahodatne, a village just north of Bakhmut, a city that has been the focus of sustained Russian attacks for months.

Kyiv said it had repelled assaults on Blahodatne and Vuhledar, and Reuters could not independently verify the situations there.

"The situation is very tough. Bakhmut, Vuhledar and other sectors in Donetsk region — there are constant Russian attacks," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video address, adding that "We must speed up the events, speed up the supply and open up new necessary weaponry options for Ukraine."

Russian shelling killed at least five and wounded 13 others during the previous 24 hours, Ukraine said Monday.

Meanwhile, Zelenskyy met Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Monday during a rare visit by a foreign leader to a region close to the war front.

Zelenskyy thanked Frederiksen for the assistance provided by Denmark, whose defence ministry said that 19 advance war tanks will be donated to Ukraine.

Iran summons Kyiv diplomat for drone strike comments

Dubai: Iran summoned Ukraine's charged d'affaires in Tehran on Monday over his country's comments on a drone strike on a military factory in the central Iranian province of Isfahan, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

In Ukraine, which accuses Iran of supplying hundreds of drones to Russia to attack civilian targets in Ukrainian cities far from the front, a senior aide to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy linked the incident directly to the war there.

"Explosive night in Iran," Mykhailo Podolyak tweeted on Sunday. "Did warn you." REUTERS

Japan: Two foreign skiers found without vital signs

MARI YAMAGUCHI
TOKYO, JANUARY 30

TWO FOREIGN men hit by an avalanche while backcountry skiing were found without vital signs in a famous ski resort in central Japan, police said Monday.

Nagano Prefectural police said the two men were among five foreign skiers who were caught in an avalanche Sunday afternoon on the eastern slope of Mount Hakuba Norikura where the group was backcountry skiing.



Injured skiers taken into ambulance in Japan's Otari village. AP

Rescuers reached the accident site Monday and recovered the two

men, who were presumed dead. Police declined to disclose the skiers' nationalities and names, saying they are still being verified, but Japanese media reported that one was American and the other Austrian. Police are waiting until the men's identities are confirmed before confirming their deaths.

Another party of eight foreign skiers, who saw the five engulfed in the avalanche while also skiing outside of the designated ski slope in the area, rushed over to dig them up. Three of the five survived — two uninjured and a third with

a shoulder injury. They walked down with the other party, leaving behind the two who were already without vital signs when dug out, police said.

At Nozawa, another ski and hot springs resort elsewhere in the Nagano prefecture, rescuers found the body of a 38-year-old Japanese skier in the forest outside a designated ski slope where he went missing while backcountry skiing with a friend, police said.

An avalanche warning was issued for the area on Sunday after heavy snow since last week. AP

PUBLIC RELEASE OF 1940s MAP HAS DRAWN FORTUNE SEEKERS TO A SMALL DUTCH VILLAGE. BUT NOT EVERYONE IS EXCITED

Nazis buried a treasure. Nearly 80 years later, search continues

CLAIRE MOSES
NETHERLANDS, JANUARY 30

IN THE spring of 1945, a couple of weeks before the liberation of the Netherlands from its Nazi occupiers, five German soldiers buried four ammunition boxes filled with gold, jewels and watches in a woodsy part of a sleepy Dutch village.

Nazi soldiers had snatched the valuables, which could be worth millions, off the street after they were blown out of a bank vault during an explosion in the city of Arnhem in the late summer of 1944, documents show.



A Nazi soldier named Helmut Sonder drew a map that showed exactly where the treasure had been buried. NYT

What the men who buried the loot probably did not know was that one of their fellow soldiers, a man named Helmut Sonder, was lying in the bushes with a war injury, observing the scene and committing it to memory. Afterward, Mr. Sonder drew a meticulous map that showed exactly where (by three poplar trees) and how deep (about 1.7 to 2.3 feet) the treasure had been buried.

Not much is known about the fate of the man who drew the map, but the document ended up in the Dutch National Archives in The Hague. This month, it was released as part of the archives'

annual "publicity day," along with thousands of documents that are no longer classified.

The map's release has spurred a renewed hunt for the boxes of gold and jewels and has elevated the profile of the tiny village of Ommen — population 751 — as one of the few places in the world where a known Nazi treasure could be hiding.

"We're on the map," said Klaas Tamme, a former mayor of the municipality that includes Ommen. "That has been nice."

Others share his excitement but express a sense of frustration about the people coming from all over the country to dig up the side of a regional road. The mystery has captivated local residents and received widespread attention in the Dutch and international news media, but its main question remains unanswered: Is the loot still there?

Searching for the treasure in the area could be a dangerous pursuit, said Sebastian Hoogenberg, an amateur metal detectorist who runs a YouTube channel where he talks about the items he finds around the Netherlands.

It is not the first time that the village, which is especially quiet in the winter without the cyclists and campers who flock to the area in the summer, has been the site of archaeological buzz. In 2016, three researchers found a trove of 31 golden Roman coins.

Not everyone has joined the excitement about the possible Nazi treasure.

NYT

BID TO UPHOLD FALLING BIRTH RATE

China province lets unmarried individuals raise children legally

According to govt rules, only married women are legally allowed to give birth

REUTERS
BEIJING, JANUARY 30

HEALTH AUTHORITIES in China's southwestern province of Sichuan will allow unmarried individuals to raise a family and enjoy benefits reserved for married couples, in the latest effort to bolster a falling birth rate.

The government dictates that only married women are legally allowed to give birth, but with marriage and birth rates having fallen to record lows in recent years, provincial authorities revamped a 2019 rule to cover singles who want to have children.

From February 15, married couples and any individuals who want offspring will be allowed to register with the government in China's fifth most populous province, with no ceiling on the number of children they can register for.

The measure aims to "promote long-term and balanced population development," Sichuan's health commission said in a statement on its website.

Until now, the commission had allowed only married couples who wanted to have up to two children to register with local authorities.

A nationwide registry system for couples to register with local authorities ensures maternity insurance to cover medical bills, while letting married women keep their salary during maternity leave.



Family of victims at the site with police officers. Reuters

Eight killed in mass shooting at birthday party in South Africa

REUTERS
JOHANNESBURG, JANUARY 30

GUNMEN KILLED eight people and wounded three others at a birthday party in South Africa's Eastern Cape province, police said, adding that manhunt was underway to find the killers.

The mass shooting was carried out by two attackers and occurred between 5.15 and 5.30 pm (0845 and 0900 IST) on Sunday at a house in KwaZulu-Natal, the South African Police Service (SAPS) said in a statement.

The gunmen fled after the attack, and no arrests have been made, the police said. Investigations into the circumstances and possible motives for the attack were ongoing.

Police have not named the victims, but confirmed that the owner of the house was among them.

"These victims were killed by criminals, and we will not rest until we find out what happened and who was responsible for (this) callous and cold-blooded attack on these unsuspecting victims," said Eastern Cape SAPS Commissioner Nomthetholeli Lillian Mene.

The latest incident follows a spate of mass shootings last year that shocked the nation.

In July, gunmen killed 19 people in random shootings within hours of each other.

South Africa has one of the world's highest murder rates, with around 20,000 people killed every year out of a population of 60 million.

REUTERS

19

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023

ECONOMY

SENSEX: 59,500.41 ▲ 169.51 (0.29%) NIFTY: 17,648.95 ▲ 44.60 (0.25%) NIKKEI: 27,433.40 ▲ 50.84 HANG SENG: 22,069.73 ▼ 619.17 FTSE: 7,769.89 ▲ 4.74 DAX: 15,093.47 ▼ 56.56



GOLD

₹ 56,880



RUPEE

₹ 81.49



OIL

\$ 84.65



SILVER

₹ 68,795

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of January 27

International market data till 1900 IST

Xiaomi Global
VP Manu Jain
quits company

Jain leaves
after a
nine-year
stintPRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

CHINESE SMART device maker Xiaomi's global vice president and former head of its Indian arm Manu Kumar Jain announced his resignation on Monday after an around nine-year stint at the company.

The development comes amidst the ongoing legal tussle between Enforcement Directorate and Xiaomi over alleged Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) violation by the company.

"Change is the only constant in life! Last 9 years, I'm lucky to have received so much love that it makes this goodbye so difficult. Thank you all."

"The end of a journey also marks the beginning of a new one, full of exciting opportunities. Hello to a new adventure!" Jain said in a tweet.

Jain had spearheaded the launch of Xiaomi in India in 2014.

"After nine years, I am moving on from the Xiaomi Group. I feel confident that now is the right time, as we have strong leadership teams across the world. I wish the Xiaomi teams globally all the best and hope they achieve even greater success," Jain said.

BRIEFLY

Aryaman and
Ananya Birla
named in board

Mumbai: Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd Monday announced appointments of Ananya Birla and Aryaman Birla, children of its chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, as additional non-executive directors on its board. PTI

L&T Q3 net rises 24 pc

New Delhi: Engineering and construction conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Monday reported a 24.2 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,552.92 crore in the December quarter on the back of higher revenue from operations. PTI

LIC MD: Two names pitched

Mumbai: Financial Services Institutions Bureau has recommended the names of M Jagannath for the first vacancy of Managing Director in LIC and Tablesh Pandey for the second vacancy. ENS

Unilever CEO

London: Unilever appointed Hein Schumacher to replace Alan Jope as Chief Executive from July. REUTERS

'Growth (in luxury car sales) will be much better this year... youngsters joining market'

INDIA'S WEALTHY, unlike its poor, were not affected financially by Covid-19, and that has led to hope among luxury carmakers that this segment will be able to continue its upward momentum in 2023 as well. In an interview, **NAVEEN SONI**, president, Lexus India, tells **MIHIR MISHRA** that smaller towns and first-time buyers in metros are contributing to the uptick in demand for these cars. Edited excerpts:

The passenger car industry reported its best-ever year. How was 2022 for luxury carmakers in India?

The size of the industry (luxury car market in India) was 41,000 in 2018 but shrank to something like 18,000-19,000 units or even lesser in 2020. So, this was expected because of Covid-19.

But even during the Covid-19 period, the growth for high net-worth individuals (HNIs) did not suffer, only the market size did. That happened primarily because the priority of these people shifted to health and mobility was not a priority. So, it was not an economic issue as far as

Change is the only constant in life! Last 9 years, I'm lucky to have received so much love that it makes this goodbye so difficult. Thank you all."

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"After nine years, I am moving on from the Xiaomi Group. I feel confident that now is the right time, as we have strong leadership teams across the world. I wish the Xiaomi teams globally all the best and hope they achieve even greater success," Jain said.

What are these new segments of people joining the luxury car market after Covid-19?

So there are two primary reasons behind the rapid return of growth in sales in the luxury car space. One is the constant that there is this created demand that was added during the pandemic period and helped us grow in the post-pandemic period.

Second is there was a certain set of customers, who faced a lot of challenges during Covid-19. And a lot of unpredictability has been seen by them (during Covid). So, they have been saying you only live once, express yourself! This

YOLO effect gives them the confidence that they want to come out in numbers to express themselves in the market. And that is why we are seeing a double impact.

Despite high demand, luxury carmakers did not report their best-ever year in 2022

We would have reported

THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEWWITH
NAVEEN SONI
PRESIDENT, LEXUS INDIA

best-ever sales in 2022, if supply (semiconductor chip) was not an issue and crossed the highest-ever sales mark of 41,000 units (this record is of 2018). But I am confident that with the clear signs of supply revival, we are confident that the growth rate will be much better this year. In 2022, luxury carmakers sold 36,000 units and pending orders are estimated to be about 8,000 units. If we were able to deliver even half of the total pending orders of 2022, we would have breached or hit the highest-ever sales number.

Many luxury car makers in India, including Lexus, have reported their best-ever year. We surpassed our 2021 number by June of 2022. And by September, we were already at our highest-ever sales and the business size grew about three times as compared to the previous year.

Did sales come from the usual tier 1 cities or have new markets opened up too after Covid?

The smaller towns also are contributing to sales now. By smaller towns, I do not mean cities like Pune or Ghaziabad, it has moved beyond that. Cities like Vijayawada, Coimbatore, Madurai, Bhubaneswar and Jaipur are contributing more to sales. Even in these cities people are more than willing to experiment with luxury cars and it is growing at a higher percentage but on a lower base.

Also, a large number of first-time buyers are also joining the luxury car market mainly in the metro markets. These youngsters want to express themselves and are purchasing luxury cars. This has led to a decline of three to four years in the average age of owners of Lexus vehicles in India.

Passenger vehicle manufacturers are predicting the sales boom of 2022 to not continue in 2023. Will luxury car sales be hit too?

I think the pending orders – both for luxury cars and the mass market cars – should sail us through at least for this year.

India is a big market by itself and we should be able to sail through this because India seems to be not as impacted as other markets as far as recession is concerned. I am cautious about 2023 and worried about 2024.

Jet consortium gets no SC relief; will pay PF, gratuity dues to staff

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR

MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

THE SUPREME Court Monday dismissed the appeal of Jalan-Kalrock Consortium (JKC) that sought a stay on the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order directing it to pay provident fund and gratuity dues to workers and employees of Jet Airways.

In a January 13, 2023 order, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had approved transfer of Jet ownership to JKC.

The consortium had approached the SC after its plea seeking to cap its payment liabilities at Rs 475 crore under the approved resolution plan was struck down by the NCLAT on

December 6, 2022.

Following the apex court's refusal to interfere, JKC will now have to fork out an additional Rs 200-250 crore to fulfil its payment obligations. JKC has maintained that it is not liable to pay anything beyond the Rs 475 crore mentioned in the resolution plan. This includes payment of Rs 380 crore to lenders and Rs 52 crore to employees.

It had also said any further payment liabilities will jeopardise the resolution plan and with it the efforts to revive Jet Airways.

An email sent to JKC seeking comments on Monday's SC ruling remained unanswered at the time of going to print.

Last week, lenders of erstwhile Jet Airways approached the NCLAT opposing the NCLAT's order.

With the effective date reset to November 16, JKC has time till May to settle all dues and take over the management control of Jet Airways. NCLT had first approved JKC's bid for Jet Airways in June 2021 following bankruptcy proceedings initiated against the airline after it stopped operations in 2019. FE

13 NCLT order which states that the airline's new supposed owners have fulfilled all the conditions precedent.

The lenders, through their counsel, had sought a suspension of two weeks of the order which was disallowed by the NCLT judges. Although there was no official statement from the lenders, the street expected them to approach a higher court to challenge the NCLT order.

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Rise in CEO salaries over the last 4 years

The study analysed data across 519 firms. It says the sum of variable pay and long-term incentives for compensation, the component of LTI increased to 40% from 26% in FY16.

Source: Aon India's 12th annual executive rewards survey

21%
Rise in CEO salaries over the last 4 years

The study analysed data across 519 firms. It says the sum of variable pay and long-term incentives for compensation, the component of LTI increased to 40% from 26% in FY16.

Source: Aon India's 12th annual executive rewards survey

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Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Shivam Kumar W/o Rahul Tanwar R/o-CB-149 Ring-Road Naina Delhi-110028, have changed my name to Shivam Tanwar Permanently.

0040651901-1

I, Sandeep Kumar Wadhwan, S/o Chandrabhan Wadhwan, R/o E-42, Ground Floor, Parivarayan Complex, (Nag Complex), Ignou Road, Saidul Azaib, South Delhi-110030, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sandeep Wadhwan.

0070824667-1

I, Sambohd Pragyam Saman, D/o Jai Parkash Jain, R/o 150, 2nd Floor, 2nd Right cut from Delhi Main Road, Sector 9-11, Hisar, Haryana-125001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sumangla Jain.

0070824670-1

I, Sadhana Rawat W/o Sh. Sohan Singh, R/o F-3, Sector-6, Plot No. 8, Vaishali, Ghaziabad-201010, U.P. have changed my name to Sadhana Devi for all future purposes.

0040651909-1

I, Ritupriya Rakesh Raman, R/o Rose Gaurden, Nageshwar Colony, Boring Road, Phulwari, Patna, Bihar-800001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ritupriya Vardhan.

0070824693-1

I, Rajani Kumari, W/O Ranjeet Kumar, R/O D-2/44, 2nd Floor, No.5, Flat No-6, Mahavir Enclave, South West Delhi, Delhi-110045 have changed my name from "RAJANI KUMARI" to "RAJANI SINHA".

0040651938-1

I, Raj Balla DOB 01-01-1965 W/O Sh. Vijay Pal R/o Flat No. 135A, Block-34, LIG Flat, Sector-99, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my name to Raj Balla DOB 10-09-1964 for all future purposes.

0040651874-1

I, Rahil S/o Jai Ram Jha R/o K. Colony G.T.Road, Murthal, Sonipat, Haryana-131027, have changed my name to Rahil Jha for all future purposes.

0040651876-1

I, Pooja Kukreja, D/o Mohan Lal Kukreja, W/o Sandeep Wadhwan, R/o E-42, Ground Floor, Parivarayan Complex, (Nag Complex), Ignou Road, Saidul Azaib, South Delhi-110030, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pooja Wadhwan.

0070824668-1

I, Pawan Kumar, S/o Shri Ram, R/o Sarai Sukhi (102), Kurukshetra, Haryana-136135, declare that name of Mine and My Wife has been wrongly written as Pawan Kaushik and Anju in my minor Daughter Prakriti, aged about 17 years, in her 10th Class Certificate. The actual name of Mine and My Wife is Pawan Kumar and Kajal, which may be amended accordingly.

0070824672-1

I, Mohammad Samar Malik, S/o Mohd. Shahzad Malik, R/o 174, Sanjay Colony, Arthala, Ghaziabad, have changed my name to Samar Malik.

0070824696-1

I, Mayank, S/o Vijay Kumar, R/o 2552, Amar Singh Patti, Bahora Kalan(134) Gurgaon, Haryana-122413, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mayank Rustagi.

0070824669-1

I, Kuneek Singh, S/o Surnam Singh, R/o Gali No-07, Mamra Sector-66, Noida, U.P.-201301, have changed my name to Daivik Chauhan for all future purposes.

0070824669-1

I, Tanveer Ahamed S/O Nusrat Ali,R/o H.No-54,Islamnagar, Shyampr, Khatauli, Muzaffarnagar,Uttar Pradesh-251201,have Changed my name to Tanveer Akhtar, permanently.

0040651914-4

I, Sunil Kumar Sharma,S/o Munshi Ram, Add-Rao Gopal Dev Chowk Tula Ram Vihar-Part-II,Mohinder-garh mode Rewari, Haryana-123401,Changed my name to Sunil Kumar.

0040651915-7

I, Pritam Kaur, W/o Baljeet Singh, R/o 12 D, Pocket-B, Vikaspuri Extn., Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Paramjeet Kaur.

0070824712-1

I, Joti Singh, S/o Krishan Kumar, R/o 604, Indira Colony, Nangthala, Nang Thala (138), Hisar, Haryana-125047, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rishi Kumar.

0070824671-1

I, Jagmohan alias Jagmohan Mittal S/o Sh. Om Prakash Mittal, R/o House No.48, Vigyan Lok East Delhi Near Anand Vihar Delhi-110092, hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name from Jagmohan alias Jagmohan Mittal to Jagmohan Mittal for all future purposes.

0040651832-1

I, INDERJIT KAUR W/o Jasvinder Pal Singh, R/o F-56 B, F, F Block, Tilak Vihar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, has changed my name as INDERJEET KAUR from INDERJIT KAUR as recorded in CBSE for all purpose.

0040651895-1

I, Md Imtiyaz Alam S/o Mansoor Alam R/o 1579-80 IIrd Floor,Aziz Ganj, Bara Hindu Rao, Azad market, North Delhi-110066, have changed my name to Imtiyaz Alam for all future purposes.

0040651876-2

I, Virender Singh alias Virender Singh Chahal S/o Sh. Chandan Singh R/o A-2, Tower-11, Type-4, Kidwal Nagar East, South West Delhi, Delhi-110023 have changed my name to Virender Singh Chahal for all purposes.

0040651834-6

I, Venessa w/o Rahul Singh, R/o 10785 galii no.16, Pratap Nagar near Gulabi Bagh Delhi-110007 changed my name as Venessa Michael for all future purposes.

0040651839-1

I, Pinky D/o Sh. Prahlad Kumar Mehra W/o Sh. Naveen Kumar Kamra, R/o 1/573, Galii No.13, Balbir Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Pinky Kamra for all purposes.

0040651834-4

I, Mehtab Singh S/o Sh. Chotu Ram R/o H.no.198 Main Gali, Badi Basti, Jonti, Delhi-110081 have changed my name from Mehtab Singh to Mehtab Singh Chhikara for all purposes vide affidavit dated 28/01/2023 at Rohini Court Delhi.

0040651863-1

I, Abhishek S/o Sh. Pawan Kumar R/o C4F-232, Upper Ground Floor, Near Janak Nursing Home, Janakpuri, West Delhi, Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Abhishek Jha for all purposes.

0040651834-5

I, Munshi Ram Sharma, S/o Tara Chand, Add-Rao Gopal Dev Chowk Tula Ram Vihar-Part-II,Mohinder-garh mode Rewari, Haryana-123401,Changed my name to Munshi Ram.

0040651914-2

I, It is for general information that I, Sushant Malik, Son of Shri LT. Ajay Malik, residing at H.no.124 Anand Nagar, Near-Inderlok Metro-Station, Delhi-110035, declare that name-of-mine has been wrongly-written as Shushant Malik in my passport. The actual-name of mine is SUSHANT MALIK, respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

0040651915-7

I, Varkey Thomas Tharyil S/o Thomas Joseph Tharyil R/o G-8 Module 10 Mangalam Estate Indrapuram Abbay Khand 3 Ghaziabad have changed my name to SHIVESH KUMAR DWIVEDI.

0040651915-4

I, Risha Watts W/o Sumit Watts R/o 15/1 West Patel Nagar Delhi-110008, have changed my name to Reesha Watts.

0040651914-10

I, Rekha w/o-Pradeep Bishwas, Add-54 Vandana-Enclave khora Ghaziabad 201301,UP,Changed my name to Rekha Rawat.

0040651915-2

I, Rakesh S/o Ranjit Singh R/o Rattanthal tehsil-Kosli,Rewari (Haryana)-123301,have changed my name to Rakesh Singh, for all purposes.

0040651987-6

I, Rakesh Kumar Madan,S/o Vishan Dass R/o 3/27, Subhash Madan and Vishan Madan are names of one and same-person.

0040651937-6

I, Vikram Kumar S/o Late Purshotam Kashish,R/o-1593 Third-Floor Madarsa-Road Kasher Gate,Delhi-110006,have changed my name to Vikram Kashish.

0040651923-2

I, IJJAWAL GOELS/O KAMAL KISHO R/o HOUSE NO.1933, SECTOR-6 BADHADURGH, JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124507, have changed my name to IJJAWAL GOEL.

0040651915-1

I, Tanveer Ahamed S/O Nusrat Ali,R/o H.No-54,Islamnagar, Shyampr, Khatauli, Muzaffarnagar,Uttar Pradesh-251201,have Changed my name to Tanveer Kumar to Rajeev Modi.

0040651935-1

I, Rajeev Kumar,S/o Prem Chand Modi,R/o M-1306,Emaar Palm Drive Sector-66,Golf Course Extn Road,Gurgaon,Haryana-122018,have changed my name from Rajeev Kumar to Rajeev Modi.

0040651935-1

I, RAVINA, W/O KAPIL CHAUDHARY,HOUSE NO.99,SAT YAM RESIDENCY, CHHAPRAULA,GAUTAM BUDH-NAGAR, U.P.201009,CHANGED MY MINOR daughter's name Ridhi Mahajan to Hridyanshi Mahajan. Aged-8-years.

0040651937-5

I, Sumit Mahajan W/o, Akshay Mahajan R/o H.No.28,Arjun-Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. 201001,have changed my minor daughter's name Ridhi Mahajan to Tapasya.

0040651922-2

I, Sonu Raghw,W/o,Kuldeep Singh R/o B-3101 Spring view floor Sare Home,Lal kuan,Ghaziabad,have changed my name,from Sonu Raghw to Tapasya.

0040651934-2

I, Shyama D/o Jahid Ali,R/o Jain Colony,Ashok Vihar,Loni Dehat,Ghaziabad,U.P.-201102,have changed my name from Shyama to Sayma Ali,for all future purposes.

0040651883-10

I, Shashi Prakash Rana,S/o Shri.Narayan Singh R/o-Plot-No.534,Nayak Mohalla, Bijnor,New Delhi-110061,have change my name from Shashi Prakash Rana to Shashi Parkash for all future purpose.

0040651915-8

I, INDERJIT KAUR W/o Jasvinder Pal Singh, R/o F-56 B, F, F Block, Tilak Vihar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, has changed my name as INDERJEET KAUR from INDERJIT KAUR as recorded in CBSE for all purpose.

0040651895-1

I, Gaurav Behl S/o Dalip Ram Behl, residing at BK-1/120-C, Janta Flat, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088 have changed the name of my minor son AVYAN BEHL aged 7 years and he shall hereafter be known as AVYAN BEHL.

0040651846-1

I, Satyender Kumar s/o Hardev Singh,R/o V-530, Gali No.16-A,Vijay Park Majupur Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Satender Kumar Permanently.

0040651914-6

I, Saroj Kumar,W/o Madan Lal Sachdev R/o Flat-No.D-115,Ram Vihar,Sector-30, Gautam Buddha-Nagar,have changed my name to Saroj KAUR.

0040651913-1

I, Gobind Ram,S/o Siya Ram,R/o Flat No.12, E-49,3rd Floor,Deep-Vihar,Sector-24,Pansali,Delhi, have changed my name to Gobind Ram Garg.

0040651883-3

I, Sanjika D/o Shri Shiva Rao,R/o G-1st,Block-258,Block-G-1st, Madangiri,Pushpa Bhawan,South Delhi-Delhi-110062,have changed my name to Sanjika Rao, for all future purposes.

0040651922-7

I, Sunil Kumar,S/o Shri Jagdish Parsad R/o C-392,Vikas Puri,Delhi-110018 changed my name from SUNIL KUMAR to SUNIL JINDAL.

0040651834-4

I, Mehtab Singh S/o Sh. Chotu Ram/R/o H.no.198 Main Gali, Badi Basti, Jonti, Delhi-110081 have changed my name from Mehtab Singh to Mehtab Singh Chhikara for all purposes vide affidavit dated 28/01/2023 at Rohini Court Delhi.

0040651834-1

I, T, MANJIT KAUR, W/O JOGA SINGH R/O A-34 A CHANDER VIHAR Niloti-Extn, Delhi-110041,have changed my name to MANJEET KAUR.

0040651913-1

I, LAL BABU/S/O TAPESHWAR PRASAD GUPTA R/O HNO.B-130,GALINO,5,SHANI-BAZAAR ROYAL PARK,SECTOR-137,NOIDA,UP-201301,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHOK MALHOTRA,FOR ALL PURPOSE.

0040651914-5

I, T, KULDEEP S/o,Ramvir Singh,R/o,B-3101 Spring view floor,Sare Home,Lal kuan,Ghaziabad,have changed my name,from Kuldeep Kuswaha.In,future i will be,known as Kuldeep Kuswaha.

0040651914-9

I, T, SUDESH RANI W/O BIJENDER SINGH R/H NO.HNOD-50,D-BLOCK,YADAV NAGAR,BADLI,DELHI-110042,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUDESH.

0040651914-7

I, T, SONALI,W/O VENKATESH MALEPATR R/H NO.FLAT.NO.10 3RD FLOOR PLOT NO.63 GALI NO.2 KRISHNA KUNJ-1,LAXMI NAGAR DELHI-110092,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SONALI MALEPATRE.

0040651914-9

I, T, KITABO Devi W/o No.117726 Rank Ex GNR Late Ranbir Singh R/o H.no.176, MadanPur Dabas,Delhi-81,have changed my name,from Kitabo vide affidavit,30.1.23,before,Delhi.

Team India's last-minute request for change resulted in Lucknow's 'shocker' pitch

Pitch curator at Ekana Stadium has been sacked

DEVENDRA PANDEY
JANUARY 30

AFTER INDIA trudged over the line to chase 100 runs with one ball to spare, to level the T20 series 1-1 against New Zealand on Sunday, the pitch curator at Lucknow's Ekana Stadium has been sacked, according to sources in the Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA).

Following the six-wicket win, India skipper Hardik Pandya called the pitch "a shocker of a wicket", that saw spin bowled for 30 out of 39.5 overs, and a grand total of 200 runs scored on it.

The India skipper was also unhappy about the state of the pitch in Ranchi's JSCA Stadium, another turner where India suffered a 21-run defeat at the hands of the Kiwis. "Both the games (pitches) we have played on so far (have been shockers). I don't mind difficult wickets. I am all up for that, but these two wickets are not made for T20. Somewhere down the line, the curators or the grounds that we are going to play in should make sure they prepare the pitches earlier," he added.

According to the sources, the curator had prepared two black soil pitches for the game in advance. However, at the behest of a last-minute request from team management three days prior to the match, the curator had been asked to prepare a fresh pitch made of red soil instead. The new pitch could not be adequately prepared on short notice, and led to even slower conditions.

The pitch curation was subject to heavy criticism following Sunday's match with Team India bowling coach Paras Mhambre echoing the concerns of Pandya when asked about the conditions. "The curator is the right person to answer that question (on pitch)," he said. "There was a little grass covering on the middle, but there was none on both ends. When we came yesterday, it looked like it would turn and we realised it would be challenging." Gautam Gambhir, mentor of the Lucknow Super Giants IPL franchise, called it a "sub-standard wicket" on Star Sports studio.

The pitch curator in Lucknow has now been replaced by Sanjeev Agarwal from Gwalior, in a bid to have it ready ahead of the return of home-and-away fixtures in the IPL in March.

Meanwhile, Pandya's side will now prepare to take New Zealand in the series decider at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad amid heightened scrutiny of the quality of the surface they play on, and the ability of India's new-look T20 batting order to deal with turning tracks.



Indian team captain Hardik Pandya alongwith Suryakumar Yadav on the day of the game. Sportzpics

Starc likely to miss first Test vs India

New Delhi: In a big blow for Australia, speedster Mitchell Starc on Monday confirmed that he won't be fit for the opening Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India which is due to start from February 9.

He was on stage for the Australia Cricket Awards when the host asked for an injury update to which the 33-year-old replied, "I am track...still a couple of weeks and then probably meet the guys in Delhi...after...hopefully, a first Test match win...get myself into training over there."

Delhi is the venue of the 2nd Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy but it's still not confirmed if Starc will be cleared to play that match as well.

—Express News Service

In the final T20I before the IPL kicks off, it remains to be seen whether Prithvi Shaw - fresh off a triple century in the Ranji Trophy this month - gets a look into the side.

With Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and KL Rahul out of the team, both Shubhman Gill and Ishan Kishan - on the back of their own ODI double centuries - have been trusted to lead the top order for India alongside Rahul Tripathi. The trio have scored a combined total 54 runs in the two matches.

Leap of faith or smart investment?

Cricket is still largely identified in India with the men's game, and it remains to be seen how the money spent on broadcast and franchise rights for the Women's Premier League will reflect in the balance sheet

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

ON SATURDAY, footwear giant Puma tweeted a video of a cricketer taking guard and asked people to guess the identity of their 'newest ambassador'.

Of the thousands of responses, 80 percent named a male cricketer, the company revealed on Monday when they announced the tie-up with India's all-format captain Harmanpreet Kaur.

Signing one of the biggest female stars makes sense with the Women's Premier League (WPL) around the corner. Big money was spent recently—Rs 5,651 crore—to buy broadcast and franchise rights for the league and its five teams. Yet the replies to the 'guess who' question in the clever marketing promo alluded to the plain fact that despite her growing popularity, Harmanpreet still plays cricket in the shadows of the Virat Kohlis and Rohit Sharmas. Packaging the WPL as a women's version of the hugely-popular Indian Premier League (IPL) is no guarantee that fans, with their loyalties in the men's game, will watch it at a stadium or their homes.

Like every start-up, the WPL has unknowns. With a separate window before the IPL, it will have to stand on its own feet.

Viacom18 is paying the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Rs 7.09 crore per WPL game, a fraction compared to what they shell out for digital rights of an IPL game.

The five-year WPL deal cost Viacom18 Rs 951 crore, which according to a veteran broadcaster, is a punt. "If I was still in the broadcasting business, I would have said that the WPL is a good boat to miss, because if it succeeds, it does not change the universe. If it fails, it will stretch your balance sheet. The WPL is not a must-have thing. It will get one-fourth or one-fifth of the attention of the men's game." Harish Thawani, the founder of Nimbus Sport, the former rights-holders for Indian cricket, said. "But is it going to completely flop? My answer is 'no'. But is it going to become one of those things to look forward to like the men's IPL?"

The extent of success of the WPL's first season will determine if Viacom overpaid for the broadcast rights, says industry watchers.

Vinit Karnik, head of sports, Esports and Entertainment, GroupM (South Asia), was a consultant for Royal Challengers Bangalore, one of the three IPL teams that successfully bid for a WPL side.

"Take the example of the IPL. After the first couple of years, the media rights value got corrected upwards. This happened as IPL became a successful media property delivering high reach and viewership. Hence



Viacom18 will pay the BCCI Rs 7.09 crore per WPL game. Sportzpics

Like every start-up, the WPL has its unknowns. With a separate window before the IPL, it will have to stand on its own feet.

women's cricket will need to be built bottom-up and marketed well. The first season is going to be very crucial in determining the value paid by Viacom for the media rights," Karnik said.

Will more women watch?

If Viacom/Reliance telecasts the WPL for free, like the FIFA men's World Cup last year, the sale of advertisement slots becomes even more crucial.

This being the first-ever WPL, the demography of the target audience is unclear. Not everyone is buying the hypothesis of more women watching because it is the Women's Premier League. An untested statement with odds stacked against it, is how Thawani puts it. "The percentage of women watching the WPL hasn't risen significantly even now. When Sony was the broadcaster, about six years back, women's viewership was between 27 to 30 percent. But we have to understand the composition. This is not standalone viewership. This is women watching with their families or male members. When you go to the stadium, you will see women but (a majority) are there as part of a family activity," Thawani said.

"Even if there was a grain of truth that more women would want to watch the women's IPL, my answer is 'no', unless the man of the house also wants to watch it. About 92 percent of homes in India have a single TV," Thawani said.

Viewership data of IPL consumption on the phone is 'five to seven minutes', according to Thawani, and most of it by those in transit. "People will say that women can always watch it on the phone. But nobody is using it as a first device. If you are sitting at home, show me an audience which has a TV but prefers to watch IPL on the phone."

What ads will work?

Ad guru Prahlad Kakkar says it's time to revisit the advertisement campaign of Virginia Slims, the cigarette brand launched in the late 1960s aimed at women. The tagline 'you have come a long way, baby', struck a chord. "I would sell their (women cricketers') sheer grit about competing in a man's world and proving themselves over many years. The line for them would be the Virginia Slims' line. Any product that has arrived can build on this line," Kakkar said.

The 'hathoda chhap' (sledgehammer) approach of selling machismo will work in the IPL but not in WPL, Kakkar believes.

"For men, it is about 'is your six-pack better or my six-pack better'. For women, you are looking at multiple levels...nuanced advertising. That means sensitivity, compassion, humour and real courage. If advertisers are smart, they must keep these touch points

in mind," Kakkar added.

The growth of the women's game is a golden opportunity for new brands to come on board, Karnik reckoned.

"When you are building women's cricket, you are also creating a new category of advertisers who normally won't advertise in men's cricket but may look at women's cricket a little differently. We can expect to see FMCGs, healthcare, fashion, beauty and grooming etc to leverage women's cricket as this format is also expected to attract and engage women audiences," he said.

Smaller companies may also jump at the chance to advertise during a cricket match, according to Santosh N, Managing Partner, D and P Advisory.

"In the IPL, the ad slots go for Rs 17-20 lakh for 10 seconds, which is exorbitantly high for some of these small companies. But with WPL, the ad slots could be significantly cheaper."

Were teams too costly?

Looking at an excel sheet won't give the answer to whether franchise rights for teams went for too much, Karnik said. The big picture is the valuation story.

The five teams were sold for Rs 4,669 crore, with Adani Sportsline successfully bidding for Ahmedabad (Rs 1,289 cr), the highest amount.

"In 2008, Mumbai Indians approximately paid Rs 446 crore for a men's team which was unheard of in India at that point of time. Cut to 2022, Lucknow Super Giant was bought for INR 7,090 crore. That's the value unlock sport delivers over time. Hence, one looks at valuation of an asset over a 10-year period to build value and hence profit and loss may not always be the right yardstick to measure these investments," Karnik said.

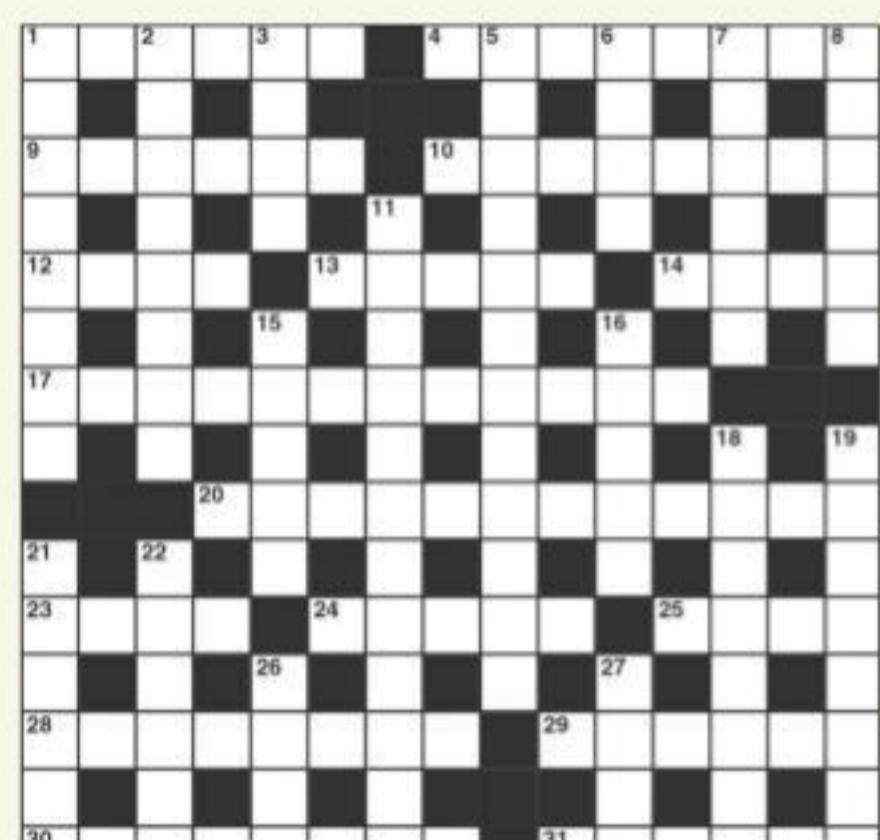
As per the agreement, the revenue sharing model between the BCCI and the franchises is 20:80 for the first five years. The five franchises will get Rs 25-30 crore per season because of the broadcast deal. They, however, have to pay franchise fees to the BCCI.

Another red flag Thawani raises is the WPL window, scheduled for March, clashing with the period reserved for the home series for men. This year, the Australian men's team is touring India in February and March. WPL ratings will be hit, Thawani said.

"The women's game is interesting but like in most women's sports, the athletic standards are not the same as male standards. Tennis is the only one where there are somewhat reasonable ratings compared to men, but only in the Grand Slams. And no matter what you do, you are not going to find a woman fast bowler who bowls at 90 miles per hour."

—WITH VENKATA KRISHNA B

CROSSWORD 4965



ACROSS
1 The gold glow of chestnut (6)
4 Maybe one isn't a countryman (8)
9 He insists on minutiae and bursts into a tantrum (6)
10 Lines roughly measured? (8)
12 Having less she would be unsparing (4)
13 It bubbles forth somehow (5)
14 The prosecutor has to act. See foot of the column (4)
17 Serious Australian sextons? (12)
20 Unable to say why you can't solve a crossword? (4,3)
23 Conceited fellow given to publicity (4)
24 Change me inside and out (5)
25 Cliff shows where he was hurt (4)
28 He may go from one side to the other (8)
29 Nowhere near being unapproachable (6)
30 On the sly perhaps but in a sincere way (8)
31 Port is used in making a toast (6)

DOWN
1 The strength of the current? (8)
2 Support for a retired person (8)
3 A step up the ladder (4)
5 Plot for play (6,6)
6 Wild revel in indoor gymnastics (4)
7 Raid on raid perhaps (6)
8 Victory was doubly his (6)
11 A regular poser no doubt (7,5)
15 Make progress in friendly relations (3,2)
16 Developed in the wrong way (5)
18 Possibly price a ring - to us it's valuable (8)
19 Needy and greedy take a new turn I see (8)
21 It makes clothes hard to wear (6)
22 Clergyman taking a point to heart may be fired (6)
26 Food produced in layers (4)
27 He has a right to receive information (4)

Solutions Crossword 4964: Across: 1 Serum, 4 Stories, 8 Rob, 9 Testament, 10 Banshee, 11 Ibsen, 13 Shocks, 15 Static, 18 Sedan, 19 Portrait, 21 Prospered, 23 Ida, 24 Andante, 25 Emery. Down: 1 Scribes, 2 Robin Hood, 3 Match, 4 System, 5 On a diet, 6 Ice, 7 Satan, 12 Satirine, 14 Kingpin, 16 Crybaby, 17 Sparse, 18 Sepia, 20 Ridge, 22 Odd.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Mars has now commenced a new cycle which is going to lift your morale, but only if you turn your attention to all unfinished business and leftover tasks. The burning question is: how can you possibly make the most of all your many talents?

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

From now on you will have to move very carefully, behind the scenes, doing your best without being spotted. Exercise discretion in the near future. Also, if a friend or partner lets you down, don't be too hard on them; they might have no choice.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

This should be a somewhat sensitive day, on the other hand, your confidence should be growing. The golden rule is never to take offence, and always realise that little slights may be unintended. Partners really are in need of your care and understanding, so you'll have to be patient.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You are undoubtedly well aware of certain emotional undercurrents, and it's thanks to your intuitive skills that you're more in tune than many other people with the choices that should now be faced. That doesn't mean that you'll come up with the right answers, though, so tread carefully.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Don't expect any let-up in the pressure in the long-term, even if today's stars are more relaxed than usual. You should realise that any friction can be turned to good use, giving you the excuse to make long-overdue improvements, especially at work.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

This is one occasion when partners may be better equipped to take control. At work employers should be listened to and obeyed, although they in their turn should recognise your role as a conciliator. It's all a matter of mutual respect, and of striking the right balance.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The best relationships at the moment are those based on joint interests, and the happiest social life is that built on good conversation. Make sure you know your legal rights. And don't give anyone the wrong idea about your intentions.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

The cycle you're now entering is one which warns you about the danger of burning yourself out, but offers you the chance to get your physical well-being together, cleaning up your diet, improving your exercise and tackling niggling chronic complaints.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Partners and business associates will eventually reveal facts which you think they ought to know. However, when it comes to dealing with people in authority, extracting the truth may be like getting blood out of a stone. That doesn't mean that you shouldn't continue to try.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Areas of your life which are now being spotlighted indicate exactly where you should streamline your affairs and how you should reorganise your relationships. Consider any and all changes at home, no matter how radical. You never know, they might receive a warm welcome.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Circumstances beyond your control may now force you to abandon certain schemes, or at least reach a major compromise. Family plans are still in a state of some uncertainty, while domestic entertaining looks favourable. Take advantage of any opportunities for pleasure.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Other people may not intend to mislead or deceive you, and what you mistake for opposition, could in fact be support. If someone seems to be standing in the way, it may be that they are somehow forcing you to make a response which is very much more mature than in the past. They may even deserve your thanks.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.
Doing what you love means ___ with things you ___ - David Shore (7,4)

CMAEO

BRIEFLY

Vijay retires from international cricket

Chennai: Out-of-favour India player Murali Vijay on Monday announced he was retiring from international cricket. The right-handed batter who featured in 61 Tests, 17 ODIs and nine T20 Internationals last played for the country in the Perth Test against Australia in December 2018. His Test debut was against Australia in the 2008-09 season at Nagpur as a replacement for Gautam Gambhir. He featured in first-class and List A cricket for Tamil Nadu late in 2019. As far as professional cricket is concerned, he last turned out for Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League in 2020. PTI

Satwik-Chirag pull out of Thailand Open

Bangkok: Commonwealth Games champion Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will miss the Thailand Open Super 300 badminton tournament after the former failed to completely recover from his hip injury suffered recently. Satwik had sustained the injury during the India Open Super 750 tournament earlier in the month and was forced to withdraw midway from the tournament in New Delhi. "It hasn't healed yet, so won't be playing Thailand," Chirag, one half of the world number six pair, said. "Mostly we are targeting All England Championship now," he added. PTI

McIlroy wins third Dubai Desert crown

Dubai: World number one Rory McIlroy won his third Dubai Desert Classic title on Monday after he shot a final round of 68 to finish at 19-under overall, beating Patrick Reed by one stroke. Reed finished with a commendable final-round score of 65 which included an eagle on the par-five 10th hole but bogeyed the 16th to post 18-under overall. In response, McIlroy kept his cool and birdied the last two holes - including a wedge to 15 feet and a downhill putt on the 18th - to celebrate his first title on the DP World Tour since November 2019. REUTERS

Smith bags fourth Allan Border medal

Sydney: Australia run machine Steve Smith clinched his fourth Allan Border Medal on Monday, becoming only the third player, after Ricky Ponting and Michael Clarke, to achieve the feat. Smith polled 171 votes, while nearest rival Travis Head managed 144, to claim Australian cricket's greatest individual honour which he had previously won in 2015, 2018 and 2021. Former captain Smith racked up 1,524 runs, which included four hundreds, during the voting period and was crucial to Australia's rise to number one in the test rankings. REUTERS

Andhra reach quarters on pluck & little bit of luck



Our effort and intention towards playing Ranji Trophy this year was to win against any team that comes our way. Obviously there is a lot of planning and strategising that goes around it, but most importantly I feel is the attitude that has made the difference."

HANUMA VIHARI
ANDHRA CAPTAIN

we were done with the game, we left for home. And once the first innings was tied, the interest came back. But even then, I wasn't so sure because I thought both (Maharashtra and Mumbai) would go for an outright win because they had nothing to lose. Eventually how it panned out worked perfectly for us," Vihari said.

When their quarter-final clash begins at the Holkar Stadium on Tuesday, all of this will count for nothing. They are not only up

against history, but are also against a team that is showing no vulnerability under head coach Chandrakant Pandit. So naturally, Andhra will enter the contest as underdogs, which in a way should work for them. With focus being elsewhere, they have thrived this season, evident in their wins against Tamil Nadu and Saurashtra. The win against TN, came against nowhere, as they pulled off a victory from the jaws of defeat.

Unlike some of the other teams, Andhra hardly had any preparatory camp before the Ranji Trophy began. Vihari made his switch from Hyderabad to Andhra only a few days before the season began. In fact, they had just a couple of days time to put the act together, as Vihari and head coach Yere Goud focussed more on building a culture where winning the title has become their ultimate target.

"Our effort and intention towards playing Ranji Trophy this year was to win against any team that comes our way. Obviously there is a lot of planning and strategising that goes around it, but most importantly I feel is the attitude that has made the difference. I just told the players that if you are playing the Ranji Trophy, the sole purpose should be winning the title. Winning the trophy should be our goal... it can happen this year or next or in three years. But that should be the ultimate goal and we should work towards it. There should be a purpose behind every practice session," Vihari said.

Although they have long been in the shadows of Hyderabad, the landscape has been changing in the past decade. Be it making the knockouts of the Vijay Hazare

Trophy or Ranji Trophy, Andhra are giving talents to the national side. Apart from Vihari, there is KS Bharat and in the last Under-19 World Cup, they gave Sheik Rasheed a player who is earmarked as a future star. With a good mix of experienced players and youngsters - Rasheed, Nitish Kumar Reddy - in the mix, Andhra have been able to click together as a unit.

"If you see Andhra cricket, we have been playing consistent cricket only in patches. The target was to bring that consistency into us - be it with bat or ball. Even as a captain it was important for me to keep them in the right space and back players and give a consistent run. We (myself and coach) worked out perfectly as to how to go about this season especially about giving chances to youngsters who deserve it and are ready to play. So when you back the guys with the right attitude, it showed in the results."

"To have four outright wins in this group is quite a challenge. Each time we took the field we were always looking for the win, and not just be happy with three points. Even if we had not qualified, we thought we were on the right track for next season. Eventually things went our way and I feel things went our way only because we played good cricket," Vihari added.

Next up is Madhya Pradesh, a team that has been together for a while and knows what it needs to win. Vihari though is quietly confident. "They have a very good coach and are playing in their own conditions. We just have to stick to the process that got us here. That is the most important thing."

REAL TO FACE BARCA IN CUP SEMIS

Real Madrid will face bitter rivals Barcelona in the Copa del Rey semi-finals after the draw was made at the Spanish FA's headquarters on Monday. Osasuna will clash against Athletic Bilbao in the other semi-final. REUTERS

Reid the scapegoat for India's embarrassing World Cup show

Australian helped India to a podium finish at Olympics but the administration has turned the heat on him



Graham Reid, who has been working with a pacemaker since 1996, used the COVID break to stabilise Indian hockey. PTI

Jodhpur may become new IPL venue this season

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

JODHPUR'S BARKATULLAH Khan Stadium might be added as a new venue for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season. It is learnt that top officials of the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) have orally expressed their desire to host a few IPL games there to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Jaipur's Sawai Mansingh Stadium is the home for IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals and with the upcoming season to be played on the home-and-away format again, the association wants to have a few games at the new venue.

The Indian board, however, will send a team to assess the venue and submit its report to the IPL Governing Council, who will ask the RCA whether IPL games can be held at Jodhpur or not.

"It's a verbal request. We have been told that RCA has rejuvenated the stadium, and have asked us if we can consider Jodhpur as a new venue for a few IPL games. The board will take a call on it only after the reccie team submits its report," a source in the BCCI confirmed.

To host an IPL game, the association has to provide certain basic facilities at each venue.

However, BCCI's major concern for the Jodhpur ground is the boundary size, which they feel is not up to the required distance.

The RCA had staged a few first-class games at Jodhpur this season. Ranji Trophy games were played at the venue after a gap of nearly two decades, when Rajasthan hosted Chhattisgarh and Services. The stadium has a capacity of 30,000 and was a venue for Legends League Cricket last year which was played under lights and attracted a packed house for veteran games.

The IPL will be a 10-team affair this season and each state association will get at least nine home games post the Covid-19 pandemic.



Sachin to felicitate U-19 team

Batting icon Sachin Tendulkar will felicitate the Indian U-19 women's cricket team for winning the inaugural ICC U-19 T20 World Cup at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

"It is with great delight I share that Bharat Ratna Shri @sachin_rt and @BCCI Office Bearers will felicitate the victorious India U-19 team on Feb 1st in Narendra Modi Stadium at 6:30 PM IST," BCCI secretary Jay Shah tweeted. "The young cricketers have made India proud and we will honour their achievements." The Shafali Verma-led India thrashed England by seven wickets in Potchefstroom, South Africa in the final to claim the first-ever ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup. Incidentally, it is India's first-ever ICC title in women's cricket. PTI ADDS

on the ball and it rolls over the sideline rather than going to someone who is standing in front of the net."

With Reid feeling it is 'now time to step aside and hand over the reins to the next management', this phase of his project remains incomplete. And given that it will be the next logical step in the evolution of the team, it is safe to assume it will also be on top of the agenda of his successor, who won't have a lot of time to ease into the demanding role.

No time to breathe

This is a busy year for India with matches almost every second month, including tours to England and the Netherlands, but everything the team does will be designed to win the gold medal at the Asian Games.

The multi-discipline event, which got postponed to September-October 2023 due to the pandemic, will provide teams with the first shot to book an Olympic berth, which goes to the winners. The resurgence of South Korea, the sheer doggedness of Malaysia and a banana skin team in the form of Japan will make India's path to the Asian Games final trickier than expected – and lest we forget Pakistan who, despite their troubles, are always in the mix.

"I have the utmost respect for the Asian Games, how difficult a tournament it is," Reid had said last week.

With Reid gone, India's task to reclaim the gold medal they won in 2014 just got tougher.

CAN SAURASHTRA BEAT PUNJAB WITHOUT JADEJA, UNADKAT AND PUJARA?

Bengal, Karnataka start favourites in other Ranji Trophy quarters

Bengal vs Jharkhand at Eden Gardens, Kolkata

For the second consecutive season both teams face-off in the quarterfinals. They entered the knockouts in contrasting styles and Bengal start as favourites thanks to an all-round squad that includes the experienced skipper Manoj Tiwary and Anustup Majumdar who are looking to get their hands on the trophy. With a potent attack at disposal, they should challenge Jharkhand on every front, who come into the game on the back of a defeat to Karnataka. Jharkhand need to play out of their skin to upset Bengal.

Saurashtra vs Punjab at SCA Stadium, Rajkot

The absence of Cheteshwar Pujara, Jaydev Unadkat and Ravindra Jadeja has made this an even contest. This has been a mixed season so far for Saurashtra who defeated Mumbai but went on to lose to Andhra and Tamil Nadu. So going into the match, they need to bring

their A game against a young Punjab side, who have reached this far thanks to a combined show. None of their batsmen have had a standout season and similarly their bowlers have just about done the job. Yet they have managed to get this far. Conditions at Rajkot will test the young batting line up led by Abhishek Sharma.

Karnataka vs Uttarakhand at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bangalore

At the outset it looks a lop-sided contest with the hosts expected to make the semi-finals. Apart from having a wealth of experience in their ranks, Karnataka know how to close out crucial moments and have won titles in the past. With a potent attack that can pick 20 wickets, they are a force to reckon with in any condition and even more so at home. For Uttarakhand, this is a massive test. Starting the season with wins against Nagaland, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh gave them a head-start and gaining first-innings lead against Uttar Pradesh, Baroda and Haryana put them into the quarters.

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS & HOTSTAR

From 9.30 am onwards

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, JANUARY 30

SINCE THE start of the last decade, Andhra have made it to the Ranji Trophy quarter-finals only twice. The first time was in 2014/15 when they lost to Maharashtra. In 2019/20, they lost out on the first-innings lead to Saurashtra. And now they are here again, hoping to get third time lucky as they take on defending champions Madhya Pradesh at Indore with a hope of making the semi-finals for the first time.

Placed in Group B alongside Saurashtra, Mumbai, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Assam and Hyderabad, Andhra were not even fancied to qualify at the start. And even when the last round of league matches began last week, Andhra were rank outsiders to make the quarterfinals. They were in the fourth spot with Maharashtra and Mumbai ahead of them. When they defeated Assam by an innings in their last match to get a bonus point, they were still not assured of a place. Resigned to fate, some of the players had already left for home, fully believing the season was over as the probability of Mumbai and Maharashtra ending with the same first innings total being very small.

"We had one per cent chance to qualify for the quarterfinals when the last round began," Andhra captain Hanuma Vihari told The Indian Express. "Once we ended up with 7 more points to the tally, we had done our part. The probability of both teams ending on the same total was very less. So once we