

A Touch of the Vintage, A Taste of the Modern

Two years into the pandemic, we explore the lure of the homegrown holiday. PAGES 9, 10, 11



We are closed today on account of May Day. There will be no edition of the paper on Monday, May 2.

## **ED** seizes Rs 5,500 cr in Xiaomi assets over 'illegal' remittances



ED earlier questioned Xiaomi Global Vice Chief Manu

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) Saturday announced it had seized more than Rs 5,500 crore in assets from the Indian subsidiary of Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi, saying it had made illegal remittances to for $eign\,entities\,and\,shown\,them\,as$ royalty payments. The agency said it had seized

the sum from the bank accounts of Xiaomi Technology India Pvt. Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Xiaomi Inc., under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

It said the subsidiary had been making remittances to three foreign entities — one of which was a Xiaomi entity — "on the instructions" of its Chinese parent.

The ED has been probing the electronics company since February over alleged forex violations. It had also questioned Xiaomi's Global Vice President Manu Kumar Jain on April 13. Jain **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

## MOST UNDERTRIALS POOR, GRANT BAIL WHERE POSSIBLE: MODI

## PM: Consider use of local languages in courts, will help access to justice

CJI too for it, but says can't be done 'suddenly'; needs consultation, Law Minister says

**APURVA VISHWANATH& ANANTHAKRISHNAN G** NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

UNDERLINING THE need to "encourage the use of local languages in courts" since a large section of the country's population "finds it difficult to understand the judicial process and rulings of the court," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday that such a move would help the common man relate to the judiciary.

In subsequent remarks on the Prime Minister's suggestion. Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said it cannot be done "suddenly" but "over a period of time, I think, it will happen."

"This is a serious issue... It will take some time... There are lots of hurdles, bottlenecks, hiccups in the implementation of regional languages in High CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SUNDAY

**STORY** 

PAGE 5

His own

VOICE

The journey of

Independent MLA

Jignesh Mevani —

from lawyer-activist

to face of Dalit

politics in Gujarat



PM Modi and CJI Ramana at the conference of CMs and HC Chief Justices in Delhi. Praveen Khanna

## Centre says no to CJI plan for national infra panel, jobs for retired HC judges

Gen Manoj Pande becomes first

**Chief from Corps of Engineers** 

Agreement on state-level bodies with CMs, CJs, says Rijiju

MANOJCG NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

TWO PROPOSALS by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana didn't find favour with the Centre and some BJP-ruled states - at the conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers Saturday: a statutory authority at the national level for infrastructure

**KRISHN KAUSHIK** 

NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

GEN MANOJ Pande, who was

serving as the Vice Chief since

February, took over as the new

Army Chief from Gen MM

Naravane on Saturday on his re-

tirement. Gen Naravane had

taken over as the Army Chief in

January 2020, months before the

standoff with China in eastern

of a little more than two years.

charge to Gen Pande on Saturday

morning in Delhi. Gen Pande is

the most senior Army officer in

the country, and has spent the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

Gen Pande will have a tenure

Gen Naravane handed over

Ladakh began in May 2020.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 



West Bengal CM Mamata Baneriee and her UP counterpart Yogi Adityanath in New Delhi on Saturday. Praveen Khanna

By not doing job, executive and legislature are burdening courts: CJI

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G** 

STATING THAT "non-performance by the various wings of the executive" and "legislature not realising its full potential" are the "two major reasons" for the docket explosion in the country, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana Saturday underlined the need to increase the sanctioned strength of judges and fill existing vacancies to address the issue of pendency.

Addressing the 11th Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, CJI Ramana also spoke on the need for all organs of the State to "be mindful of the Lakshman Rekha"

Bihar CM says

row 'nonsense',

won't get into

loudspeaker

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 15 foreign militants among 62 killed in Valley this year, up from last year: Police

**DEEPTIMANTIWARY** 

NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

THE FIRST four months of this year have seen a big jump in the number of militants killed in Kashmir as compared to the same period last year. According to data available with the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Police, 62 militants have been killed in the Valley since the beginning of the year; 37 were killed in the first four months of 2021.

More importantly, 15 of the 62 killed this year have been identified as "foreign" militants (from Pakistan). In contrast, no foreign militant was killed in the first four months of 2021; in fact, the total number of foreign militants killed in the entire year was just 20 (total 168 militants killed in Kashmir in 2021).

Sources attributed the increase to better intelligence generation by the Intelligence Bureau, Research and Analysis Wing, and the Jammu and Kashmir Police, apart from increased operations. It is also indicative of greater push from across the border to foment trouble in the Valley, sources said.

"The recent success is a result of both good human intelligence and technical intelligence and focused operations. The conse**MILITANT DEATHS FACT-SHEET** 

62 militants killed in Kashmir from Jan-April this year; 37 killed in same period last year

15 foreign militants among those killed this year; no foreign militant killed in Jan-April 2021

168 militants killed in Kashmir in 2021, including 20 foreign militants

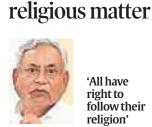
OF 62 KILLED this year, 39 LeT, 15 JeM, 6 Hizbul Mujahideen, 2 Al Badr

Source: J&K Police data

quence is that the survival rate of terrorists is drastically reducing. Of the 62 terrorists killed this year, 32 were killed within just three months of joining militancy," IG (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar told The Sunday Express.

Explaining the lower number of killings last year, a senior security establishment officer said: "This period last year saw India CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## After country's hottest March ever, avg April max for NW, Central India hits 122-year high



'All have right to follow their

SANTOSHSINGH PATNA, APRIL 30

**DISMISSING THE controversy** around the use of loudspeakers at places of worship as "nonsense" Rihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, an ally of the BJPled NDA, said on Saturday that his government will "not interfere" in any religious practice.

He said there is no question of taking down loudspeakers from religious places. "Yeh fizul ki baat hai. Bihar mein humlog kisi bhi dharm ke maamle mein hastakshep nahi karte hain. Sabhi ko apna dharm maanne ka poora adhikar hai (This is nonsense, In Bihar, we do not interfere in matters of any religion. Everyone has the right to follow their religion)," he said.

Nitish was speaking to reporters in Purnea, where he launched the country's first greenfield grain-based ethanol

His statement comes amid the drive launched by the Yogi Adityanath government in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh to remove "unauthorised" loudspeakers from religious places in a bid to "curb noise pollution".

**ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND** NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

THE AVERAGE maximum temperature over Northwest and Central India for April this year has been the highest in the past 122 years, India Meteorologica Department (IMD) data until April 28 show.

The average maximum over Northwest India and in the country as a whole in March was also the highest since 1900 Northwest and Central India began to experience early heatwave spells this year, with two such spells in March.

The average maximum temperature over Northwest India is likely to remain above normal in May as well, the IMD said in its forecast for the month issued on Saturday. Other parts of the country are, however, likely to witness normal to below normal maximum temperatures in May.

The ongoing heatwave conditions over Northwest and Central India are likely to reduce in intensity after May 1 under the influence of a western disturbance, the IMD said.

The average maximum temperature over Northwest India in April has been 35.9 degrees Celsius, 3.35 degrees above the long period average, which is considered the 'normal'. The average high for April 2022 has been 0.5 degrees Celsius higher than the previous record of 35.4 degrees recorded in April 2010.

The average high for this April

HOTTEST APRILS Average max temp since 1900 (Deg C) **NORTHWEST INDIA** 2022 2010 35.40 1999 1980 34.46 **CENTRAL INDIA** 2022 1973 37.75 2010 37.67 2016 37.62 2017 37.53



absence of rainfall

THE PRIMARY reason for the scorching weather has been the near total absence of rain since March this year. The western disturbances have been feeble, and the usual nor'westers that periodically put a lid on rising temperatures have not taken place.

over Central India has been 37.78 degrees Celsius, beating the previous record of 37.75 degrees recorded in April 1973.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Akali post-poll panel sees calls for overhaul of party, changes at top

Party workers seek end of 'family rule'; feel there is anger over 'corruption' by Badals, paid the price in Punjab polls

**NAVJEEVAN GOPAL** CHANDIGARH, APRIL 30

A COMMITTEE formed by the Akali Dal to analyse reasons for its rout in the recent Assembly elections has received overwhelming feedback for a complete overhaul of the organisational structure and changes in the top leadership. Sukhbir Singh Badal is currently the Akali Dal president. The panel had formed a sub-

committee of 13 members, further divided into two groups, to



Akali Dal Sukhbir

expedite the process. The members told The Indian Express that across constituencies, cadre had sought "badlaav (change)" in

leadership to revive the Akali Dal. The panel, set up on March 24, is likely to submit its report

within a fortnight. The party suffered a massive defeat in its second successive Assembly election, the results of which were declared on March 10, with its tally sliding from a low of 15 to just three in the 117member House. In only its second Assembly election in the state, the Aam Aadmi Party won with a large majority of 92 MLAs. in what was seen as a vote for change and against old, entrenched parties and leaders.

This appears to have been the response received by the Akali sub-committee too. Members said workers talked of **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

## Pinarayi writes to Nitish on basketball player's suicide, her coach is named in case

Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande with the

outgoing COAS General MM Naravane. PTI

**SANTOSH SINGH** & NIHAL KOSHIE

PATNA, NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

A DAY after Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote to his Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar asking for a "comprehensive and fair" investigation into the alleged suicide of a national level basketball player, Lithara KC, in Patna, a case of abetment of suicide was registered against a coach on Friday.

Lithara, 23, from Kunumal village in Vadakara, Kozhikode, was employed by the Railways under the sports quota and was posted at the Divisional Railway

Manager's office in Danapur, Bihar. She is reported to have died by suicide on the intervening night of April 25-26.

The coach is also a Railways' employee. "A case of abetment of suicide (Section 306 IPC) has been filed against the coach and Railways official following the complaint by her family. There are allegations of mental and sexual harassment, and it will be probed," said a police officer in

Raising the issue in a letter to Nitish on Thursday, Vijayan wrote: "Her relative had requested for a thorough probe into the incident of her untimely CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Some Bihar BJP leaders, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

## French Ambassador looks at India, Raghu Rai at France, in black, white and grey

## PAGE 1 ANCHOR

**AAKASHJOSHI** NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

US RAPPER Eminem may be a little removed from Raghu Rai, one of India's most celebrated photographers, and Emmanuel Lenain, France's Ambassador to India. Yet his words define, in a sense, the essence of *To France/In India* — a book of photographs by

Lenain and Rai. Seizing the moment, "to try and freeze and own it", as Eminem said, is what the two have done. In black-and-white photos spanning France (Rai's photographs, taken in 2019) and India

(Lenain's artistic journey

through a country hit by the

pandemic yet vibrant in its plu-

rality and chaos of 'jugaad'). "Black-and-white was not an easy choice to represent a country flooded with the fantastic colours," says Lenain. But he chose to go without colour, because "it creates an obligation to divine the forms that are hidden behind the noisy effervescence





Rai, too, prefers the stark truth that emerges with the medium. "Black-and-white photos can silence the noise

of colour," he says. Despite the lack of colour, or perhaps be-IN INDIA cause of it, Lenain's shots **EMMANUEL** of India during the pan-LENAIN & RAGHU RAI demic's devastating second wave, his celebra-Published by tion of the country as a Raghu Rai living thing, even its foundation

chaos, manage to capture the sheer scale of its diversity.

moved by the scale of the tragedy. Some of my staff, friends, and acquaintances lost their lives," says Lenain about what moved him to capture the tragedy as it un-TO FRANCE/ folded.

"I toured the city after work. The land adjacent to crematoriums, often car parks, were requisitioned to build makeshift lined up in perfect

the time I was deeply

geometry were dozens of CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Kolkata

A woman at a Delhi crematorium during the second Covid wave. Emmanuel Lenain; and (right) 'Paris 1998'. Copyright Raghu Rai

"As anybody living in India at

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#### PM

Courts," he said.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, who was present at a press conference with CJI Ramana, while responding to a query from The Sunday Express, said: "We are very positive towards encouraging use of local languages in the judiciary. It's a process which requires wider consultation with the judiciary. For usage of languages in the court, not only for arguments, but also for orders, judgments, we require the approval of the Chief Justice of India. That is why it needs wider consultation, and we will definitely have very positive consideration in this matter.'

While lower courts function in local languages and English, the High Courts and Supreme Court use English in their proceedings.

Speaking at the inauguration of the 11th Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts, Prime Minister Modi said: "A large population finds it difficult to understand the judicial process and rulings of the court. There is a need to simplify this and make it accessible. We just encourage the use of local languages in courts. This will ensure that the common man has faith in the judiciary."

Earlier, CJI Ramana had highlighted the need for some courts to conduct business in local languages. The Prime Minister endorsed the idea but said it will be a while before it actually happens.

"It will take a long time for that, but it will improve access to justice. Why can't medical and technical education be done in the mother tongue? Some states are already doing it," he said.

Stressing on the importance of access to justice, Modi said the government is working towards simplifying laws passed in Parliament for the common man to understand them. "Along with the actual legislation, if a simplified version is also passed in Parliament for the common man to understand, then he will not have to go to the court for interpretation of the law. The government is studying this issue,"

Underlining that a majority of undertrial prisoners in the country are poor or from ordinary families, he appealed to states to release them on bail wherever possible.

"Human sensitivity has to be at the heart of these things (status of undertrials). There are over 3.5 lakh prisoners in jails today who are undertrials. Amajority of these are poor or from ordinary families. There is a committee in every district headed by the district judge to look into this issue and wherever possible bail must be granted to them." he said.

He asked states to identify and repeal obsolete laws to improve the ease of living of citizens.

"In 2015, over 1800 laws v identified as obsolete. The Centre has repealed over 1450 laws while states have only repealed 75 laws. Since all the Chief Ministers are present here today, I appeal to you to identify these laws and repeal them. People are stuck in outdated legal regimes and if you repeal them, it will benefit citizens," he

Later at a press conference, CJI Ramana, speaking on the suggestion for use of local languages in court proceedings, said there have been demands for allowing use of regional language from states like Tamil Nadu. He said recently a senior politician had also mentioned Guiarat, but he had not received any represen-

"As of today, Hindi is the medium of language in most states... Earlier, a request came, if I remember, when I joined the Supreme Court... That was rejected by the Full Court of the Supreme Court. Thereafter, no concrete proposal came before the Supreme Court asking for allowing regional languages. Recently, this regional language issue has started. It has not reached... It has to come from various levels to the Supreme Court... It will take some time... There are lots of hurdles, bottlenecks, hiccups in the implementation of regional languages in High Courts," he said.

'The reason is sometimes some of the judges are not familiar with the local language. The Chief

## FROM PAGE ONE

Justice will always be from outside. The most senior judge will also sometimes be from outside. Secondly, we don't have that much technology or systems to translate the entire record to the local language or local language to English," he said. "Definitely, I hope that in the future, technology will take care of this... In one day, suddenly we cannot implement any reform or anything... Over a period of time, I think, it will happen."

#### CJI plan

development for the judiciary; and a plan to appoint retired High Court judges on an ad hoc basis to address the issue of shortage on the bench.

Instead, there was an agreement on setting up state-level bodies to address the infrastructural needs of courts. The Centre also agreed to consider the grant of a one-time additional financial assistance for infrastructure development to states after some initial reservations.

Sources said CJI Ramana had proposed that a CJI-headed National Judicial Infrastructure Development Authority of India be set up at the national level and a similar mechanism headed by High Court Chief Justices in the states. Some Opposition-ruled states like Kerala pointed out that a mechanism without encroaching into the rights of the states was

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said he had no objection to the proposal but argued that such an authority would not be needed if the Centre provides funds for infrastructure development of district courts.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, however, is learnt to have objected saying there was no need for such a special mechanism. He is said to have argued that the Centre was allocating funds and the executive would implement the development of infrastructure. Some BIP-ruled states took a similar position.

The differences led to lengthy discussions after which the proposal was withdrawn. But a mechanism at the state level would be set up, headed by either the Chief Minister or his representative and the Chief Justice of the High Court, to monitor spending of funds, implementation and follow-up ac-

Addressing a joint press conference with CJI Ramana at the end of the day's meeting, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said: "I'm happy that the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices have agreed that the body will be created at the statelevel with the involvement of the honourable Chief Ministers and the Chief Justices, or their nominees...we are ready to assist the state governments for creating judicial infrastructure at state-level, especially for the district courts,

The CJI said that the meeting deliberated on the setting up of the infrastructure authority which he had suggested in his letter dated October 10, 2021. He added that the meeting had

passed two resolutions Friday one of which was that "National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India along with complementary state bodies be created as special purpose vehicle that will act as chief coordinator as well as driving force for augmentation, creation of judicial infrastructure as per the proposals sent by Honourable Chief Justice of India to the Union Government". "After discussions, there was near unanimity amongst Chief Ministers in adopting the aforesaid two Chief Justices Conference resolutions relating to such bodies to be established at state-level...However, there was suggestion to include Chief Minister or nominee in the body at the state-level. Most of the states have agreed to adopt this model...", he said.

Another issue which came up was appointment of retired HC judges on an ad hoc basis to address the shortage of judges. The Centre objected to that proposal too after which the issue was de-

Sources said as many as 388 posts of High Court judges are lying vacant. In the Ahmedabad High Court there are 66 vacancies; followed by 37 in Bombay High Court; 37 in the Punjab and Haryana High Court; 33 in the Calcutta High Court; 26 in the Patna High Court, 25 in the Delhi High Court and 24 in the Rajasthan High Court.

The Centre reportedly said it had earlier told the SC that it was not in favour of appointing ad hoc judges to fill up vacancies. That option can be looked at if the work load is high even after filling up all the vacancies

Sources said the appointment of HC judges also came up for discussion with the judiciary pointing out that the appointment should be made within a specified time frame on the basis of the 1993 verdict in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association and Another vs Union of India case and a 2008 judgement.

Talking about pendency of cases, sources said West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee pointed out that a large number of politically motivated PILs are being filed against the government in the Calcutta High Court at the behest of a political party, taking away the valuable time of the Court.

Baghel said there should be better dialogue between CMs and Chief Justices. He said all issues can be resolved only through dialogue.

CMs of Punjab and Haryana Bhagwant Mann and MLKhattar referred to the need for establishing separate High Courts for the two states — in Chandigarh itself.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan suggested setting up a body at the panchayat level to resolve issues to address the issue of pendency. Kerala Law Minister P Rajeeve pointed out that the state has not received any financial support from the Finance Commission for digitalisation of High Court and subordinate courts. He demanded that the Centre grant funds to the states for such purposes.

(WITH ANANTHAKRISHNANG)

## Burdening courts

"It is the harmonious and coordinated functioning among the three organs of the State that has preserved and strengthened the democratic foundations of this great nation over the last seven decades. While discharging our duties, we all must be mindful of the Lakshman Rekha. The judiciary would never come in the way of governance if it were in accordance with law. We share our anxiety and concern regarding the welfare of the people," he said.

He stressed the need for creation of the National and State **Judicial Infrastructure Authorities** to address infrastructure deficiencies of courts.

Pointing to the distressing situation at the district level, the CII said: "The environment of some district courts is such that even lady advocates feel apprehensive about entering court rooms, let alone female clients."

On the rise in workload of the courts, he said "the 140-crore strong population of the world's largest democracy is bound to test its judiciary... no other constitutional court in the world hears such a wide range of issues in such large numbers"

Illustrating factors that contribute to the increase in litigation, he said farmers will not go to court if the tehsildar acts on their grievance regarding land or ration card, citizens won't look to courts if a municipal authority or gram panchavat discharges its duties, and there won't be land disputes which account for 66 per cent of pendency – if revenue authorities follow due procedure while acquiring land.

"It is beyond my understanding as to why intra and inter departmental disputes of the government or fights between PSUs and the government end up in courts." the CJI said, adding "it is a well acknowledged fact that governments are the biggest litigants, accounting for nearly 50% of the

Contempt petitions, which happen because decisions of courts are not implemented by governments for years together, are a new category of burden on the courts, he said, adding that "deliberate inaction by governments, despite judicial pronouncements, are not good for the health of

democracy". "The judiciary," the CJI said, "is also confronted with the issue of

#### the executive willingly transferring the burden of decision-making to it" and "at times, ambiguities in

gal issues". "Based on these examples, one can safely summarise that, often, litigation is triggered because of two major reasons. One is nonperformance by the various wings of the executive. Second is the legislature not realising its full potential... these are avoidable burdens on the judicial system," he said.

legislations also add to existing le-

On the pendency of cases, the CII said it is "often blamed on the judiciary". Pointing to the "huge workload on judges," he said "the number of cases filed and disposed of each day is unimagin-

Frivolous PILs, he said, are another reason for pendency. It began as a well-meaning concept but "these days, PIL has become a tool for those who want to settle political scores or corporate rivalry".

Speaking on "Indianisation of the justice delivery system", the CJI said this means "increasing accessibility by moulding the system to suit the needs and sensibilities of the Indian population" and this "calls for inclusivity, providing access to justice, removal of language barriers, reforms in practice and procedure, development of infrastructure, filling vacancies, augmenting the strength of the judiciary and so on".

"I am receiving many representations for introducing local languages in proceedings before the High Courts. I think the time has come now to revisit the demand and take it to a logical conclusion," he said.

Filling vacancies, he said, was an important factor in addressing pendency. "As of today, out of 1104 sanctioned posts of High Court Judges, there are 388 vacancies."

"The High Courts have sent around 100 names to the Government of India. They are yet to reach us." he said.

The CJI said that when the last such event was held in 2016, the sanctioned strength of judicial officers in the country was 20,811 as against 24,112 now -- an increase of 16% in 6 years. The corresponding rise in pendency in district courts during this period was from 2.65 crore to 4.11 crore, an increase of 54.64%, he said.

"As per sanctioned strength, we have just around 20 judges per 10 lakh population, which is (an) alarming low," he said.

### **Militants**

and Pakistan agree to resume ceasefire in February. Pakistan at that time was also facing considerable heat from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and so did not want to make headlines for the wrong reasons. This had an impact on infiltration. However, by mid-2021, the FATF pressure on Pakistan reduced even as Islamabad regained its geopolitical importance for the west due to developments in Afghanistan. This has given some elbow room to Pakistan. They have been pushing terrorists in the Valley since mid-2021. In fact, there is suspicion that most of the foreign terrorists be-

ing killed now infiltrated last year". Sources said Pakistan has also changed tactics by sending in small arms, smuggled through drones, and using overground workers to launch attacks on soft targets. "This keeps the terror pot boiling without making big headlines. It is also difficult to catch these people since they are not full-time militants; they have jobs and even return their weapons to the handler after completing a job," said a J&K Police officer.

### Gen Pande

majority of his career serving along the northern borders facing China. This is important as the two-year standoff with China remains unresolved.

Gen Pande is the first Army Chief who comes from the Corps of Engineers. He was commissioned in December 1982 in The Bombay Sappers.

He will be the 29th Army Chief, and all previous Chiefs have come from Infantry. Artillery or the Armoured Corps. In his 39-year career, Gen Pande has tenanted several sensitive positions at various levels. He commanded an Engineer brigade in the Western Theatre, as part of Strike Corps and

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in ICC Test Batting Rankings

an Infantry brigade along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. He also commanded a Mountain altitude region, and a Corps along she returned to Patna." He said Lithara's father husks the Line of Actual Control in

area in the Eastern Command. It was during Gen Pande's tenure as the Eastern Army Commander that 13 civilians were killed in a botched Army operation in Nagaland in early December, A Court of Inquiry was ordered by him, which has been completed but its findings have not been made public yet.

Division in western Ladakh's high-

counter-insurgency operations

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Gen Pande is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva, Ati Vishisht Seva and Vishisht Seva medals.

#### Xiaomi

was earlier Xiaomi's India head. A Xiaomi spokesperson said in a statement: "As a brand committed to India, all our operations are firmly compliant with local laws and regulations."

"We have studied the order from government authorities carefully. We believe our royalty payments and statements to the bank are all legit and truthful," the statement said.

The ED statement read: "The company started its operations in India in 2014 and started remitting the money from 2015. The company has remitted foreign currency equivalent to Rs 5,551,27 crore to three foreign based entities which include one Xiaomi group entity in the guise of royalty. Such huge amounts in the name of royalties were remitted on the instructions of their Chinese parent group entities. The amount remitted to other two US based unrelated entities was also for the ultimate benefit of the Xiaomi group entities.'

"Xiaomi India procures completely manufactured mobile sets and other products from the manufacturers in India. Xiaomi India has not availed any service from the three foreign based entities to whom such amounts have been transferred," the agency's statement said.

Xiaomi's said: "These royalty payments that Xiaomi India made were for the in-licensed technologies and IPs used in our Indian version products. It is a legitimate commercial arrangement for Xiaomi India to make such royalty payments... we are committed to working closely with government authorities to clarify any misunderstandings." WITH INPUTS FROM ENSECONOMIC BUREAU

### Basketball

death. It has been brought to my attention by one of her relatives that in their opinion no circumstances existed which would have led to Miss Lithara's suicide."

In a complaint filed at the Rajiv Nagar police station in Patna on April 27, Lithara's maternal uncle, Rajeevan, alleged that Lithara had been sexually and mentally harassed by the coach.

"Earlier, I was informed by Lithara that her basketball coach was involved in mental and sexual harassment, and he was putting pressure on her. Since he has influence in high places, she couldn't complain against him. I believe that because of the mental trauma of being harassed by the coach, Lithara committed suicide," Rajeevan said in his complaint.

When contacted, Rajeevan said: "When she came home for Vishu (Kerala new year, in mid-April), she seemed to be in a good frame of mind. We don't know if the coach troubled her again after

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coconuts for a living but has been unable to work due to a slipped disc. Her mother has been diagnosed with cancer.

Tamil Nadu 66-50 in 2018.

including state minister Janak Ram, have backed the UP government's move. "The UP government has taken the step of removing loudspeakers to curb noise pollution. It has gone by the rules," Îanak Ram said on Friday.

JD(U) minister Ashok Choudhary promptly hit back, saying, "There is no need to bring down loudspeakers from religious places. There are other ways to curb noise pollution."

While this was seen as yet another instance of leaders from the alliance partners snapping at each other, Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishore Prasad of BIP tried to play down the matter by saying that the NDA in Bihar is as "as strong as ever".

#### Akali

feedback exercise.

Among the issues identified by workers as reasons for the Akali loss were incidents of sacrilege of the Guru Granth Sahib, the death of two anti-sacrilege protesters in police firing in 2015, the pardon granted to Dera Sacha Sauda Chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh by the Akal Takht (the chief of which is appointed by the Akali Dal-controlled SGPC), and the reinstatement of the controversial Sumedh Singh Saini as DGP (removed following the firing on anti-sacrilege protesters). All these had hurt the Akali Dal which counts heavily on its Panthic credentials, the workers felt.

A member said there was resentment among party workers that they had to pay the price for the Badal family "monopolising

On whether the workers wanted changes at the top, Akali leader and chairman of the subcommittee Igbal Singh Ihundan said: "At this stage, we cannot say that. But, people want to see Akali Dal return to its basic ideology, to represent Punjab and Panthic issues. People are ready to support the Akali Dal again if it returns to its old traditions. We will address the shortcomings and present the Akali Dal in a new avatar."

Rakhra.

Lithara started playing basketball at the Kannur Division Sports School before moving to Thrissur. She was in the Kerala team that won the 32nd Federation Cup championship after defeating

#### Nitish Kumar

the need for democracy in the party and "collective leadership", instead of "family (read Badals) rule". The allegations of corruption against the Badals were dragging the party down, the workers said. Amember of the sub-commit-

tee said many told them that AAP's promise to give Rs 1,000 to every woman aged 18 or above had split Akali supporters, "with women family members of staunch Akali workers voting for AAP". While one group of the sub-committee interacted with party workers from Maiha and Doaba regions. the second covered the Malwaregion. Members said they covered over 90% of constituencies in the

the transport business".

The members of the original 12-member panel were senior

leaders like Balwinder Singh Bhunder, Charanjit Singh Atwal, Kaur. Prem Singh Chandumaira, Maheshinder Singh Grewal, Daljit Singh Cheema, Sikander Singh Maluka, Hira Singh Gabria, Gulzar Singh Ranike, Sharanjit Singh Dhillon, Janmeia Singh Sekhon and Surjit Singh

The 13-member sub-committee comprises, apart from head Jhundan, Ravi Kiran Singh Kahlon, Harinderpal Singh Chandumaira. Gurpartap Singh Wadala, sitting MLAs Manpreet Singh Ayali and Sukhwinder Singh Sukhi, N K Sharma, Parambans Singh Bunty Romana, Gurpreet Singh Raju Khanna, Virsa Singh Valtoha, Pawan Kumar Tinu. Robin Brar and Tirath Singh Mahla.

Many of the members in both the committees are considered very close to Sukhbir Badal.

#### Heatwave

The average night temperature over Northwest India too has been above normal in April -- the average minimum was 19.44 degrees Celsius, 1.75 degrees higher that the long period average.

Northwest and Central India saw "continuously scanty rainfall activity" in March and April, IMD Director General Dr Mrutvuniav Mohapatra said. Northwest India recorded rain deficit of around 89% in March and around 83% in April.

The deficit in the pre-monsoon rainfall over Northwest and Central India was because western disturbances were feeble and dry, Dr Mohapatra said. The six western disturbances recorded over North India were mostly feeble, and had moved across the higher Himalayas, according to the IMD. The last three western disturbances brought strong winds to parts of Delhi and dust storms over Rajasthan in April.

A total 146 instances of heatwave or severe heat wave conditions were reported across the country in this April, the most since 2010, when 404 such instances were reported. Parts of the country are currently experiencing heatwave conditions in a spell that began on April 27. The average high in April for the country as a whole was 35.05 degrees Celsius, which was 1.12 degrees above normal, and the fourth highest average April high since 1900. The highest average maximum temperature in April for the country as a whole was recorded at 35.42 degrees Celsius in 2010.

Northwest India is likely to continue to experience higher than normal maximum temperatures in May as well, Dr Mohapatra said. Northwest India includes Haryana, Delhi. Puniab. Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

Minimum temperatures are also likely to remain above normal in May, and warm night conditions are likely, he said. Parts of Northwest India, including some parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh, could see below normal rainfall in May, the IMD said.

For the country as a whole, rainfall in April was near normal. This was in contrast with March, which saw a rainfall deficit of 70.7% for the country as a whole. Rainfall  $in \, May \, is \, likely \, to \, be \, above \, normal, \,$ the IMD said.

#### Through lens rectangles of earth and ashes, de-

marcated by a simple edge of un-

Her family at home, elderly woman

tied up, robbed in Delhi: Police

cemented bricks, so close together that when cremations were at their peak, the heat made it impossible to walk. And just outside, along the pavements, logs lay piled up for hundreds of metres – preparations for the next day's battle. In

Muslim cemeteries, the sections

demarcated for Covid victims, cre-

ated with shovels, stood slightly

apart. There was the same out-

burst of grief everywhere." Lenain's portraits of people at the height of their grief, as they bury and cremate their loved ones remind us of the humanity of those who, without such records, may have just become another part of Covid statistics.

He manages to portray scale with a wide-angle, heavily-contrasted photograph of the many, constantly burning pyres at a Delhi crematorium. And then, he moves in, to the faces — often emotionally fatigued and resigned — of those lighting the pyres and digging the

While in In India, the diplomat turned a chronicler of crises, Rai whose photographs have been emblematic of the biggest headlines of contemporary India – pictures an homage to France.

"Photographing France, for me, was like a pilgrimage," he says. "It's the birthplace of the form, and Paris is one of the most photographed cities in the world. Marc Riboud, Henri Cartier-Bresson... so many photographers I admire

have captured the city." So in From France, a girl poses for a portrait for a street artist, as Rai photographs the process, capturing a first-world millennial partaking in an analogue joy.

Abaker, a homeless person, the bodies and smiles of a Pride Parade, the pathos of old artists, Rai's France is not the pale shadow of itself that many travellers now see — a city in love with its own past, a museum gift shop of sorts.

Lenain's portraits of India's youth, in contrast, show joy, dignity and despair in equal measure. "His sensibilities, especially for someone who isn't a professional, are remarkable," says Rai of Lenain.

The idea for the book (published by the Raghu Rai foundation and selected photographs from it are being exhibited at Alliance française, Delhi till May 26), came about at a dinner at the French Embassy in Delhi in Rai's honour after he was honoured as the first Laureate Photographer of Magnum Photos. "The ambassador asked if I would see his photos and I could see immediately that he was very passionate... He floated the idea for this book and over the next few months and years. I worked with him and the book is the result," says Rai.

Many of the diplomat's photographs are around themes that can be interpreted politically – a discarded statue of Hanuman on a river bed, crematoriums and graveyards during Covid, the "Kafkaesque" nature of how the country functions. Lenain, though, insists his chronicle isn't political: "There are two different worlds in my life: the world of politics, that can be from time to time harsh and cruel... and the world of art - infinite, where one tries to infuse a little dose of beauty. I enjoy tremendously the freedom that photography pro-**FULL REPORT ON** 

www.indianexpress.com

## Centre directs full availability of power to Delhi

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

THE NTPC and DVC (Damodar Valley Corporation), power producers which function under the Ministry of Power, have been directed by Union Power Minister R K Singh to ensure "full availability" of power to Delhi as per the requirement of the discoms. The distribution

companies are to get power as per their demand. GAIL India Limited is also making gas available from all sources to gas-based power plants in Delhi.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal yet again raised the issue of coal shortage on Saturday. "The electricity supply in Delhi is being managed by us (Delhi government). This problem is faced by

the whole country due to coal shortage," Kejriwal told reporters at the sidelines of an

Delhi Power Minister Satyendar Jain had also raised the alarm about depleting coal stocks at power plants that supply electricity to Delhi. Singh reviewed the coal stocks at thermal plants on Saturday.

According to data from the

Power System Operation

Corporation, the peak power demand in Delhi increased to 6,096 MW on Friday, a little higher than the nearly 6,000 MW recorded the previous

A statement from the Delhi government on Thursday had flagged the disruption of power from the plants at Dadri and Unchahar. The coal-based plants that supply power to Delhi are the ones at Dadri,

which supplies 728 MW; Rihand (358 MW); Jhajjar (693 MW); Singrauli (150 MW); Unchahar (100 MW); and Kahalgaon (180 MW), which operate under the NTPC. The DVC supplies 400 MW to Delhi the plants at Chandrapura and Mejia. The plants have sufficient coal stock reserves, and stocks are being replenished daily from domestic sources and imported ones, according to a communication from the power ministry.

The communication added that there has been no shortage of electricity supply to

In addition to power from the thermal power plants, Delhi gets electricity from the three gas turbine power stations in the city.

(with PTI inputs)

## **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

FOUR MEN broke into a 68-yearold woman's house in South Delhi's Anand Lok, robbed her jewellery worth Rs 3-4 crore at knife point, and tied her legs before fleeing. No arrest has been made so far.

The incident took place around 3.30 am on Saturday. DCP

'We received a PCR call in the morning from a house in Anand Lok, Defence Colony. The complainant, Ritika (68), said she and her five-year-old granddaughter were sleeping on the ground floor while her children and other family members were on the first floor. Around 3.30 am, she found four people in her room. They were looking for her almirah.

(South) Benita Mary Jaiker said,



During a spell of rain in Kolkata on Saturday evening. Partha Paul

## Relief from heat wave as rain lashes south Bengal

Temperatures drop by 4-5 degrees Celsius from nearly 40 degrees

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA. APRIL 30

PEOPLE IN south Bengal got some relief from an intense heatwave with first rain and thunderstorm of the season lashing Kolkata and surrounding areas on Saturday evening.

Temperatures dropped by 4-5 degrees Celsius from nearly 40 degrees, the meteorological department said.

and Bankura also saw thunderstorm and rain.

The Alipore meteorological office said that there will be no heatwave in the next four to five days. Temperature in the western districts will remain below 40 degrees, the weather officials said.

There was possibility of winds with a speed of 50-60 kmph in Kolkata, South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, East Midnapore and other places in Nadia district, they added. Moderate rain with thunderstorms were likely in these areas too.

## Trinamool MLA's PA, 2 aides held for duping people of Rs 16 cr: Cops

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA, APRIL 30

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS (TMC) MLA Tapas Saha's personal assistant and two of his accomplices were arrested for allegedly duping people of Rs 16 crore by promising them jobs, police said.

Saha, who is MLA from the Tehtatta constituency in Nadia district, denied having any association with the arrested suspect,

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

said that Diamond Harbour was districts followed it in terms of

Harbour Superintendent of Police (SP) office, the TMC leader said, "I can proudly say that what Diamond Harbour thinks today, rest of Bengal thinks tomorrow. In Diamond Harbour police district, area under a total of 13 police stations and even more outposts were monitored through CCTV cameras. Now, other police districts may have started using

"In some states, the adminisafter the Supreme Court's intervention. Unlike those places, jus-

NOTICE

NOTICE

Wy client, SRI SAMBHU NATH BISWAS, son of Late
Kali Charan Biswas, of 304, K.G.T. Road, P.O.
Bhadrakali, P.S. Uttarpara, District Hooghly,
PIN-712232, West Bengal, is interested to Sale All
that the piece and parcel of Bastu land properly lying
and situated in the District of Hooghly, under A.D. SR.
office and PS. Uttarpara. under the local limits of
Ward No.05 of Uttarpara-Kotrung Municipality,
Municipal Holding No.304, K, G.T. Road, Mouza
Kotrung, J.L. No.08, appertaining to R.S. Khatian
No.1325, corresponding to L.R. Khatian No.3543/1,
at C.S. and R.S. Dag No.3524 corresponding to
L.R. Dag Nos.6503, comprising of little more or less
07 Cottan 14 Chittacks and/or 12.6 Decimals of land
together with cemented floorings commercial pucca 07 Cottah 14 Chittacks and/or 12.6 Decimals of land together with cemented floorings commercial pucca structure measuring more or less 492 Sq.ft. for Shop Rooms, cemented floorings residential pucca structure measuring more or less 272 Sq.ft. and cemented floorings R.T. shed measuring more less 912 Sq.ft., and cemented floorings Tin shed structure measuring more or less 1008 Sq.ft. for Godown and more or less 1808 Sq.ft. for commercial Garage, TOGETHER WITH all fittings and fixtures and all necessary easement rights to the purchaser

The said Deed No.1965/1942 have lost from my client's custody on 06.03.2022 and my client has made a complaint with Uttarpara P.S. being G.D.E No.374 dated 07.03.2022.

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## Amit Shah on 3-day Bengal visit from May 4

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA, APRIL 30

**UNION HOME Minister Amit** Shah will be on a three-day visit to West Bengal from May 4 in a bid to rejuvenate the BJP cadres and stop infighting in the party's state unit ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. This will be Shah's first visit to the state since the 2021 Assembly polls.

According to the schedule, the senior BJP leader will arrive in Kolkata on May 4 evening and will go to Hingalganj in the North 24 Parganas district to attend a

**JUTE PRICE CAPPING** 

Border Security Force (BSF) function the next day.

Then he will go to Siliguri in north Bengal's Darjeeling district and address a public rally at the Railway Institute Ground. Later, he is likely to hold a meeting with representatives of different political and non-political organisations in Darjeeling on May 5.

The next day, he will go to the Cooch Behar district and attend a government programme at Tinbigha. He will return to Kolkata on May 6 afternoon and is expected to hold meetings with top BIP leaders of the state and then return to Delhi the



Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** 

strengthening the party organisation in the state. Since winning 77 seats in the Assembly polls last year and becoming the main Opposition in

same day. Sources said the Union

Home Minister's visit is aimed at

the state, the BJP has failed to win a single election in Bengal. Party MP Soumitra Khan, national vice president Dilip Ghosh and national secretary Anupam Hazra recently took jibes against the new state leadership under Sukanta Majumdar and criticised him for being "inexperienced". Besides, the party lost the Asansol Lok Sabha seat to the Trinamool Congress in the recent bypoll.

Dilip Ghosh, also a party MP, said "Though the main purpose of Shah's visit is to attend official programmes in the state, he will take stock of the law and order situation in the state. He will also hold meetings with party leaders from the state. He may precoming elections.'

The TMC said Shah's visit will have no impact in Bengal politics. Party state general secretary Kunal Ghosh said, "The BJP is struggling to maintain a balance between the party old-timers and newcomers. Shah is aware of his party's internal fighting and its defeat in Asnasol by a margin of over 3 lakh votes. In Ballygunge, their candidate lost her deposit. Now, there is a competition among the state BIP leaders over who will meet him. Therefore, his visit will have no

Trinamool Congress Abhishek Banerjee had surfaced,

following which Mamata

Banerjee's nephew had filed an

FIR against the agency. The matter

was taken up by a magistrate's

court in Kolkata. However, the

court asked for voice samples of

the ED officers reportedly heard

in the contentious clip. The

Kolkata Police then sent the court

order to the ED but allegedly with

certain editing.

Western districts like Purulia

identified as Prabir Kayal.

This is nothing but a conspir-

acy against me. I will resign as

MLA if any allegations against me

are proved," the MLA claimed.

Kayal, his accomplices Shyamal

Kayal and Sunil Mandal were ar-

rested by the state anti-corrup-

tion branch from Raidighi area of

South 24 Parganas district in a

had written to TMC general secre-

tary Abhishek Banerjee in this re-

Earlier, several alleged victims

raid on Friday night.

The meteorological department had earlier said that favourable rainfall conditions have been created in South Bengal. However, the Alipore weather office on Friday had forecast rain from Sunday. It has forecast thunderstorms in Kolkata and its suburbs on Monday and Tuesday also.

gard, it is learnt. The complainants are from Palashipara, Tehatta and Karimpur assembly constituen-

cies. They wanted their money

back since they got no job. A few days ago, Kayal was accused of defrauding a person of lakhs of rupees by promising him the job of primary school teacher in Malda district. According to the complaints, Kayal took money from unsuspecting people from 2016 to 2021 with the promise of giving them jobs.

BJP MP Arjun Singh called to Delhi day after his letter to CM **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

KOLKATA, APRIL 30 A DAY after he wrote a letter to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, seeking her intervention in the

raw jute price capping issue, BJP MP Arjun Singh was on Saturday called to Delhi. The development comes in the backdrop of Singh relentlessly "targeting" the Centre for al-

legedly neglecting the jute indus-

try's interest in West Bengal. Worried over Singh's receiving support from a section of Trinamool Congress leaders and growing proximity with his former party, the BJP central leadership in an effort to control the damage called Singh to the national capital to hold a meeting with Union textiles minister Pivush Goval.

Before leaving for Delhi on Saturday, Singh told reporters, "I received a call from the Union textiles minister (for the meeting). I don't know whether this has been arranged by the central party leadership, but my aim is to save the jute industry in West Bengal. It is a big industry here. If the industry suffers and people hold the Centre responsible for it, then why they would support us in the future? Why will they vote for me if I cannot save the industry?" Asked whether he would join TMC, Singh said, "I don't want to say anything on this. I have raised a pertinent issue concerning the people of my constituency. I have only raised an issue that concerns my state."

Singh in a letter to Banerjee on Friday urged her to intervene in the raw jute price capping issue, which is "affecting" the sector while terming the Centre's jute capping policy a "flawed" one. "I have written to the chief ministers of five states — West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Assam and Tripura - requesting them to flag the issue of capping raw jute prices. The entire jute industry is suffering because of it," Singh had said.

TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh said, "This shows the BIP and the Centre do not give importance to Bengal or issues concerning the state. He has been called (to Delhi) after he wrote a letter to the Chief Minister. The Centre came out of its slumber after he reached out to Mamata Banerjee. It's clear that they don't want to lose another MP, and thus, this development took place."

## Oppn slams CM, Kolkata Police over 'fabrication of court order'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA, APRIL 30

LEADER OF Opposition in the state Assembly Suvendu Adhikari on Saturday slammed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the police administration following the reports that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed an FIR against the Kolkata Police, accusing it of forgery and

fabrication of a court order.

The state government is using police to fabricate a court order. The police are misleading the ED by changing a court order. This is being done to put pressure on the ED, which is probing several cases in the state. Several police officers are involved in this. The police and the administration are compromising the judicial system. The central investigation agencies should now take action.

Adhikari If needed we will move the Calcutta High Court, demanding its intervention in the matter, said BJP MLA Adhikari lashing out

Leader of

Suvendu

Opposition

West Midnapore district. ED officials, in their FIR registered on April 20 with the Delhi Police, have claimed that a court order was tampered with in a bid to make its Joint Director Kapil Raj provide a voice sample without his consent. The Kolkata Police are yet to

at the police for their alleged act at

a press conference at Debra in

comment on the allegation. In 2021, an audio clip purportedly of ED officials discussing a coal smuggling case against

Although the court had asked for the voice sample, it also mentioned an important aspect – with his consent". Kolkata's Alipore court asked ED officials, especially Joint Director Kapil Raj, to appear before the Kolkata Police and provide voice samples with their consent. Kapil Raj is also supervising the investigations in the coal and cattle smuggling cases in which Abhishek Banerjee is under the scanner.

## TMC student wing protests fuel price hike

**PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA** KOLKATA, APRIL 30

OVER 700 activists of TMC's student wing assembled at the city's Rajabazar area on Saturday and staged a protest against the rise in

the prices of fuel and cooking gas,

before taking out a rally to

Shyambazar, holding cutouts of LPG cylinders in hand.

Trinankur Bhattacharya, the state president of Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP), said protests against "anti-people policies" of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre would continue in the state till the hike was rolled back.

"How will the 'aam aadmi' (common people) survive? The anti-people Modi government is hiking the prices of the cylinder, on one hand, making it costlier than gold, and fanning religious sentiments on the other. We will launch stronger movements if the hike is not rolled back," said

## Diamond Harbour a model district in policing, says Abhishek

KOLKATA, APRIL 30

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS (TMC) national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday a model police district and other police administration.

Inaugurating Diamond

CCTV cameras.' tration swings into action only tice is delivered promptly in Bengal. I urge media persons to share with the police any tip-off about a crime," he said.

Garage, TOGETHER WITH all fittings and fixtures and all necessary easement rights, to the purchaser Wis. D I JEWELS PRIVATE I IMITED, having its Registered Office at 127/14, B. B. Ganguly Street, P.O. Bowbazar, P.S. Muchipara, District Kolkata, PIN-700012, represented by its Director, SRI UDIPTO CHANDRA, son of Sri Uday Kumar Chandra, P-24, C.I.T. Road, Scheme Sz. PO. and P.S. Entally, District Kolkata, PIN-700014, and have entered into a registered Agreement For Sale being No. 01120 for the year 2022 of A.D. S.R. Utlarapara, Hooghly, which my client's father said Kail Charan Biswas and got by virtue a Deed being No. 1985 for the year 1942, recorded in Book No. 1, Volume No. 30, at pages from 248 to 250, of the Sub-Registration Office at Serampore, Hooghly, and my client have got the same through in heritance and subsequent deeds and Court's order.

Yours tru SANJEEB KARMAKAI

#### 55 new Covid-19 cases reported in state

Kolkata: The state on Saturday reported 55 new Covid-19 cases, which raised the tally to 20,18,260, a bulletin issued by the health department said. The toll remained unchanged with no fresh fatality due to the disease reported from any part of the state. As many as 24 recuperated from the infection since Friday, pushing the total recoveries to 19,96,693. PTI

NOTICE IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE

(JR. DIVN.) 2ND COURT CHANDANNAGORE MISC. CASE 11 /21 (T.Exn. 27/17 Maya Rani Chakraborty and other - VS -

> Kamala Maji and others This is to inform to the concer-

bersons inter - alia Op. no. 2 Smt Polly Maji and Op. no. 4 Smt. Nayanika Maji, wife and daughte of Dilip Kumar. Maji, both of Narua Panchanantala, P.O. & P.S. Chandemagore, Dist - Hooghly PIN- 712136. That the above Misc case arising out of the T.Exn No. 27/17 has been fixed for appearance of the Op. No.2 and praying for Police help in getting the delivery of possession of the suit property of the eviction suit being T.S. No.- 43/2000 decreed on 23.03.2010 The interested persons if desire to contest the said pelition Should appear

with in 30 days from the date of this publication, otherwise the said petition will be heard ex parte and necessary order will be passed accordingly. Mlima Chatterje

personally or through Ld. advocate

Seresdadar Bhaswati Reeves Advocate Civil Judge (Junior Division) 2nd Court, Chandemagore

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Tender document downloading & participation can be done or website:-www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC. case of any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above

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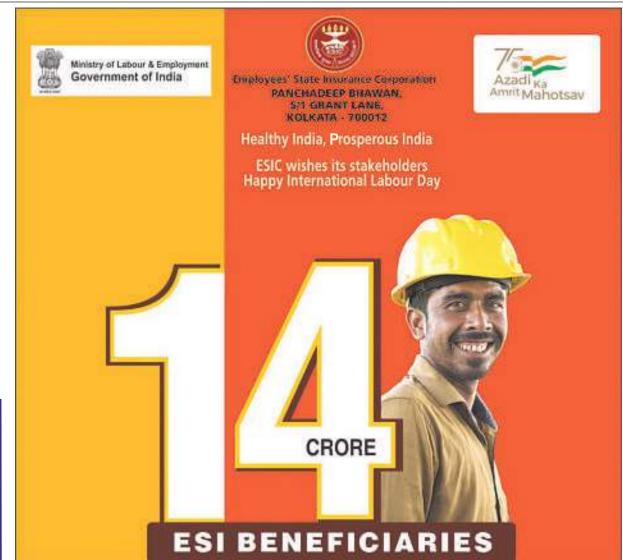
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Office of the Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagar Division, BBMP, PUB 7th Floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru- 560 001.

**CORRIGENDUM-01** 

Ref.: Tender Notification No.: EE/SGN/E-Proc/TEND/01/

2022-23 dated:20.04.2022, with reference to the above

tender notification, due to technical reasons, the dates has

Tender Documents

Last date for uploading

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All other terms & conditions remain unchanged

Dates already published

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagar Division

## Actress Madhabi Mukherjee stable, say doctors

**PRESSTRUST OF INDIA** KOLKATA, APRIL 30

VETERAN BENGALI actress Madhabi Mukherjee, who has been admitted to a hospital here due to old age-related ailments.

been modified as below:

SI. No. as per

Tender Notofication

Augmentation of

water supply

through borev

pipelines and

ground water recharge facilities

24, 30, 27, 28, 29, 49, 59 in

Sarvagnanagar Constituency (No.

of Works 010 Package -01.

in Ward No. 23,

network of

No: EE/SGN/TENDER-01/CORRI-1/2022-23

is haemodynamically stable, authorities of the medical establishment said on Saturday.

Haemodynamically stable means the blood pressure and heart rate of the patient are not fluctuating.

The reports of the tests, con-

Date: 30.04.2022

Modified

dates

02.05.2022

4.00 p.m.

onwards

13.05.2022

4.00 p.m

16.05.2022

at 4.30 p.m.

05.05.2022

at 11.30 a.m.

06.05.2022

07.05.2022

27.04.2022

at 11.30 a.m

ducted on the 80-year-old actress, who has a history of persistent anaemia and uncontrolled diabetes, are "within the acceptable range", a statement released by the hospital said.

"She will undergo a few more investigations to determine the

cause of anaemia. We are keeping a close watch on her health status," it said. Known to be one of the favourites of legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray, Mukherjee has acted in several critically acclaimed Bengali films, including 'Charulata'.

Government of Karnataka (Department of Infrastructure Development, **Ports & Inland Water Transport)** Port Office. Karwar-581302 Ph: 08382-221342 Fax: 08382-221528 E-mail: kwrport2016@gmail.com

No PAS/CR- 129/2017-18 Date: 29-04-202 **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** 

Rates quotations in sealed cover are invited by the undersigned fron Suppliers/ Manufacturers/ Contractors/ any interested parties who are having similar nature of work / supply experience for the items for Providing consultancy service for installation of Firefighting Equipments on line with OISD 156 requirements/ PESO standards for handling class A and B petroleum products at Karwar Port." For the vessels of 50,000 DWT & above.

For any other information and further details of specification contact the undersigned office. (1) Port Office, Baithkol Karwar-581302 (2) E-mail: kwrport2016@gmail.com (3) Phone & Fax No.: 08382 -221342 221528

Conditions: (1) The quotation shall be sealed and super scribed as Supply of pumps and accessories for installation of Firefighting Equipments on line with OISD 156 requirements/ PESO standards for handling class A and B petroleum products at Karwar Port" with reference to the enquiry and should reach this office on or before 06-05-2022 at 16.00 hours. (2) The bare rates and applicable GST is to be quoted separately. (3) Rate offered for estimation and tender evaluation purpose only and not for awarding work. (4) The sealed quotations will be opened on 06-05-2022 at 1700 hours. The interested offered persons may present at the time of opening. (5) The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without giving Sd/- Port Officer, Karwar



## ZOSARB, Kolkata

## **E-AUCTION**

ANNEXURE-E

21A, Sadananda Road, 2nd Floor, Kolkata - 700 026 **SALE NOTICE** Email: armcal@bankofbaroda.com

ANNEAURE-E
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/ MOVABLE PROPERTIES; "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

Sr/ Lot No.	Mortgagor (s)	Detailed description of the movable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price, EMD amount, Bid Increase Amount.	Status of Possession (Symbolic /Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time
1	M/s Rajlakshmi Guinea Museum Jewellers Pvt. Ltd. Authorised Officer: Name: Mr. Prakash Agarwal Mobile: 7980531671 Phone. No. 033-24196434	Gold, Silver, Platinum, Stones, Other Costume Jewellery at ZOSARB, Kolkata, 21A, Sadananda Road, Kolkata-700026. Particulars are as under: Gold Items: 1665.225 gms 22 Carat Gold, 26.405 gms 18 Carat Gold; Silver Items: 22304.85 gms, Silver Coin - 270 pcs.:1323 gms; Platinum: 585.648 gms, Precious Stones, Other costume Jewellery and other scrap items.	Rs.314035454/- with further interest and cost plus other expenses till date of payment. (minus amount realized through sale of assets earlier)	31.05.2022 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes)	Rs.92,30,000/- plus applicable GST 	Physical	23.05.2022 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 p.m
	M/s Rishi Infosys Authorised Officer: Name: Mr. Samir Prasad Phone. No. 033 24196434 Mob: 9712954192	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Flat no. Flat No. A/19,at 883 Jessore Road, Kolkata-55 standing in the name of Arindam Ghosh.     Equitable mortgage of Residential flat No. B/20 at 883 Jessore Road, Kolkata-55 standing in the name of Dipsikha Ghosh.	Rs.39089782.02 with further interest and cost plus other expenses till date of payment.	31.05.2022 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes)	Rs.34,72,000/- Rs.3,47,200/- Rs. 10,000/-	* Symbolic	20.05.2022 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 p.m
	M/s. Bangamata Rice Mill Authorised Officer: Name: Mr. Prakash Agarwal Mobile: 7980531671 Phone. No. 033-24196434	Property no. 1: Equitable Mortgage of Factory Shed land & Building including Plant and Machineries kept in below mentioned property Property Details: (a) L.R. Kh. No.1128 L.R. Plot No1422, J.L. No.63 measuring an area of 36 Decimals. (b) L.R. Kh. No.1128, L.R. Plot No1429, J.L. No.63 measuring an area of 10.40 Decimals. Total area of the land is 46.40 Decimals in the name of Banga Mata Rice Mill, situated at Mouza Saloon, P.S. Khandaghosh, Burdwan.	Rs.294.89 Lacs with further interest and cost plus other expenses till date of payment	31.05.2022 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes)	Property No. 1 Rs.72,12,600/- (It includes Value of plant & machinery Rs.14,27,400/-) + applicable GST for plant & machienery  Rs.7,21,260/-	Physical	24.05.2022 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 p.m
		Property no. 2: L.R.Kh.No1191, R.S, and L.R Plot NO3880, Class Rice Mill, Area -71 Decimal situated at P.S. Bhatar, Mouza Mohanpur within Bonpas village Panchayat in the name of Jatrik Agro Product Pvt. Ltd.			Rs. 10,000/-  Property No. 2  Rs.7,66,800/-  Rs.76,680/-  Rs.10,000/-		
4	M/s Life Style Authorised Officer: Name: Mr. Samir Prasad Phone. No. 033 24196434 Mob: 9712954192	ALL THAT piece and parcel of one shop room measuring about 570 Square Feet super built up area on the First Floor AND another shop room measuring about 570 Square Feet super built up area on the third Floor both together with undivided proportionate share of land of the building having its holding No.54/A/1, Jessore Road (North), Police Station - Barasat, Kolkata - 700124, within constructed on the land lying and situated at Mouza - Barasat, Parganas Anawarpur, J.L. No.79, Touzi No.146, R.S. No.261, Khatian no.585, appertaining to Dag No.124 District 24 Parganas (North), Kolkata-700124, within Barasat Municipality Ward No.9, registered in the office of the Additional District Sub-Registrar at Barasat, in the District of North 24 Parganas together with the proportionate and undivided share of the land whereupon the building stands and also with the easement of common users reservoir over the stair case measuring 14/10" length and 7" wide at the Eastside of the Building including the tank, pump machine and toilet. Building which is butted and bounded by North: 76 feet Jessore Road; South: Property belong to Jayapta Dey; East: 14 ' Municipal Road; West: Frankross Pharmacy	Rs.1,02,85,685/- together with further interest from 01/04/2018 thereon at the contractual rates together with interest,charges, until payment or realisation.	31.05.2022 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes)	Rs.55,00,000/- Rs.5,50,000/- Rs.10,000/-	* Symbolic	20.05.2022 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 p.m
5	M/s Ind Expo  Authorised Officer: Name: Mr. B N Bose Phone. No. 033 24196434 Mob: 9073377661	Office Space unit No 3A & 3B in 3rd Floor in G + IV storied building named :Krishna Plaza" situated at premises no. 268A, B. B. Ganguly Street, Kolkata-700 012.	Rs.13,85,29,291/- and interest, incidental expenses and other charges thereon.	31.05.2022 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes)	Rs. 64,28,000/- Rs. 6,42,800/- Rs. 10,000/-	* Symbolic	20.05.2022 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 p.m
6	Saundarya Fashion Traders Pvt Ltd. Authorised Officer:	All that piece and parcel of Commercial spaces on the 1st Floor of the multi storied building comprised of 02 unit, space being no A& B, admeasuring super built up area 2189 Sq. Ft and 1516 Sq Ft respectively, within the local limits of Chandan Nagar Municipal Corporation under Mouza-	Rs.4,82,67,121.00 with further interest and cost plus other expenses till date	31.05.2022 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m (With unlimited	Rs.68,00,000/- Rs.6,80,000/- Rs. 10,000/-	Physical	20.05.2022 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 p.m

#### A.D.S.R.O at Sealdah. 1. Mr. Praveen Shankar Gupta 2. Mr. Jay Shankar Gupta 3, Smt Mohini Gupta 4. Smt. Beby Gupta

Chandan Nagar Municipal Corporation under Mouza-

Chandannager, sheet no 2, JL No 1 R S Khatian No 297, L R

Khatian No 1924, under R S Dag No 529 corresponding LF

Dag No 674 measuring an area of 11 Chittaks and 28 Sqfl

and under R S Dag no 530 corresponding to L R Dag No 673

measuring an area of 6 Cottahs, 12 Chittaks, 3 Sqft totaling

an area of 07 cottahs 7 Chittaks and 31 Sqft under PS

Chandannager, in the name of M/s Saundarya Fashior

All that piece and parcel of plot of land measuring area about

45 decimal of land along with residential and commercial

structure which is lying and situated at Mouza Osmanpur, J

No. 44. RS Khatian No. 171/1, 170/1, 348, 129,178, Dag No.

650, 649, 651, PS - Chandipur, Dist - Purba Medinipur within

Jurisdiction of Kandapasara Brindabanpur Gram

Panchayat. Said property is butted and bounded by: By North: Other Plot of Land, By South: Other Plot of Land, By

All that piece and parcel of land and building (three storied) measuring 3 cottah 7 chittacks and 12 sq. Ft. more or less,

consisting of 6 rooms 2 kitchens and 2 toilets in each floor

together with staircase having total built up area of 4746 sq.

ft. approx. situated at premises no. 18B, Gorapada Sarkar

Lane, P.S. Ultadanga, Kolkata 67, Touzi No. 2833, Holding

No. 37D, within Mouza Ultadanga, Ward No. 13 within KMC

East: National Highway, By West: Other Plot of Land

Traders Private Ltd.

of payment

Rs.2.96.34.418.00

Plus unapplied

interest and

Rs 4.16.74.643.00

Plus unapplied

interest and

ncidental expense

and other charges

extension of

10 minutes)

31 05 2022

from 2 p.m

(With

unlimited

10 minutes)

09.06.2022

from 2 p.m

(With

unlimited

10 minutes)

Rs.3,55,50,000/-

Rs.35,55,000/

Rs.10,000/-

Rs.1,27,50,000/-

Rs.12,75,000/-

Rs.10,000/-

20.05.2022

11.00 AM

to 2.00

p.m

20.05.2022

11.00 AM

to 2.00

or detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on above noted contact nos.

tive Buyer has to provide Undertaking in the Bank's Format for possession Date: 01.05.2022, Place :- Kolkata

Name: Mr. Prakash

Mobile: 7980531671

M/s Maa Durga Aqua

Proprietor and Mortga

:Mr. Srimanta Jana

Authorised Officer

Borrower - . M/s Rani Sati Pulses Pvt Ltd

Director: 1. Mr. Praveen

Mr. Alok Thakur

033 24196434

Shankar Gupta

Mortgagor cum

2. Mr. Jay Shankar

Authorised Officer

Phone No. 033 24196434

Mr. Alok Thakur

**Probiotic Centre** 

Phone, No.

033-24196434

Authorised Officer , Bank of Baroda

## Boat capsizes in Bhagirathi,

Nabadwip: A woman and her 18month daughter were missing after a country boat carrying about 10 people capsized in the midstream of the Bhagirathi river near Nabadwip town in West Bengal on Saturday, police said. Police rushed to the area and a search operation was

The State Disaster Response Force was called to assist in the operation, the police said. Locals and fishermen res-

#### they were from Shyamnagar, others stated they were from Samudragarh in Burdwan, PTI

the boat, which along with an-

other was taking invitees to a

wedding ceremony from

mony at a house in Chaitanya

Colony at Nabadwip Prachin

Mayapur in Nadia. One Puja

Mahuri (24), who was missing,

had come to attend the marriage

function with her husband and

baby girl. While sources said that

There was a marriage cere-

Nabadwip to Mayapur, it said.

**Notice Inviting E-Tender** 

E-Tender Notice No. ET-38/WS/Eng/2021 dated 29.04.2022 Memo No. 58/WS/Eng/2021 dated 29.04.2022

More & Sweeper Colony of ward no-41 under Asansol Municipa

Please visit to website www.asansolmunicipalcorporation.com www.wbtenders.govt.in.

For details, intending contractors may also contact Eng. Dept. of this office and office notice Board.

**Executive Engineer** 

#### **NADIA 'GANGRAPE'**

## Local TMC leader held for 'evidence tampering'

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** KOLKATA, APRIL 30

THE CBI has arrested local TMC leader and father of the main accused in the case of alleged gangrape and subsequent death of a girl in Bengal's Nadia district, as he played an "active role" in tampering with evidence and intimidating her family members, a senior agency official said on Saturday.

Describing the local leader as an "influential person who knew about his son's wrong doings", the official said the TMC member was picked on Friday along with one of his friends, who aided him.

"The TMC leader had threatened and intimidated the family members of the victim by sending his men to their home in Nadia district. Our investigation found that he tried using his political contacts to ensure that the girl did not receive proper treatThe TMC member was picked on Friday along with one of his friends, who aided him, said police

ment when taken to hospital," the CBI official said. He destroyed evidence connected to the crime. the official told PTL "The accused also threatened the victim's family of dire consequences if they approached the police. He forced them to cremate the girl hastily," the agency official added.

A minor girl was allegedly gangraped during a birthday party at the house of the local leader's son on April 4. She bled to death later that night, according to her parents who lodged a police complaint on April 9.

At least six persons, including the father-son duo, have been arrested in connection with the case.

## Political parties play blame game over reports of Maoist resurgence

**PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA** KOLKATA, APRIL 30

AMID REPORTS that Maoists were trying to regroup in the Junglemahal area of West Bengal, their former stronghold, with

posters having resurfaced in some pockets, political parties in the state have taken to the blame game, maintaining that fears were being unnecessary fuelled by rival camps for individual gains. The Centre had warned of Maoist activities in Bengal earlier in the week, with the state police

Junglemahal — comprising parts of East and West Midnapore, Jhargram, Bankura and Purulia districts. "Security forces have been put on high alert. We are keeping a

having tightened its vigil in

close watch on the situation," said a senior police officer. Chief Minister Mamata

Banerjee, however, alleged earlier in the week that the posters were put up by BJP workers, and that a few television channels were creating "an atmosphere of fear" by giving the matter "unnecessary" coverage In the same breath, she also

said that at least five Maoists had entered the state from neighbouring Jharkhand in the recent past. Echoing her, TMC West Midnapore district president and MLA Aiit Maity said it was a ploy by opposition parties to create a "fear psychosis".

"The situation in Junglemahal is no longer conducive for Maoists activities as underdevelopment, which was the real issue of concern, has been resolved," he said.

Maoist activities ebbed in the state after 'Operation Green Hunt' was launched in 2009 with central and state forces jointly mounting attacks on the Left-wing rebels.

Kishenji, a CPI (Maoist) politburo member leading the rebel activities, was killed during a gunfire exchange with security personnel on November 24, 2011. Rebuffing his allegation, BJP's West Midnapore district president Tapas Mishra said it was a hoax generated on purpose to stop the opposition from carrying out work there.

He also said that there was no such concrete information that pointed toward the resurgence of ultra-wing extremism in the area. "We think this entire episode is a hoax to stop the opposition from  $carrying \, out \, their \, activities \, in \, the \,$ area. This could also be the fallout of infighting in the local TMC camp," he said.

CPI(M) West Midnapore district secretary Sushanta Ghosh, who had been at the forefront of tackling ultra-left terror in Junglemahal from 2008-to 2011, too, dismissed the speculation as a "cleverly crafted" tactic to stop democratic activities in the area.

#### "IMPORTANT" Whilst care is taken prior to

acceptance of advertising

copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

Kolkata

## woman, daughter missing

launched.

cued eight others who were in

### **ASANSOL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ASANSOL**

Name of the work:- Lighting arrangement by High mast light at Murgasol

Corporation

Asansol Municipal Corporation

### JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Indra Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur- 302004 Dated: 29.04.2022

No: JDA/EE&TAtoDir.Engg.-I/2022/D-153

## **NOTICE INVITING BID**

NIB No.: EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-I / 3 / 2022-23 Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given :

S. No.	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	A&F	Nature of Work	Last Date
1	JDA2223WLOB00035	1026.00		EE-Housing-I, Concessionaire for Repair/ Retrofit, Develop, Operate & Transfer (RDOT) by converting exiting Government funded vacant houses into Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) for period of 25 years 588 flats at Swapan Lok at Sikar Road, Jaipur.	08.06.2022

Details are available at Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in

Raj.Samwad/C/1233/2022-23 **Executive Engineer & TA to Dir. Engg.-I** 



#### **CONTAI BRANCH** Hatabari, P.O. Contai, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Contai, West Bengal, Pin - 721401 / E-mail: contai@bankofbaroda.co.in

[Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property only) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with

Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest, cost etc. thereon within 60 days from the date of the said notice The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below to exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the date mentioned below.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda, Contai Branch, District- Purba Medinipur for the amount and interest thereon.

The Borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the ecured assets 1) Date of Demand Notice SI Name of Borrower

No.	& Guarantor	Date of Possession     Outstanding Amount	Description of Immovable Properties			
1.	Borrower: Mr. Debashis Pradhan and Mrs. Kalpana Pradhan	1) 24.12.2021 2) 26.04.2022 3) Rs.9,99,704.99 (Rupees Nine Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Four and Paise Ninety Nine only) and interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.	name of Mrs. Kalpana Pradhan. The property is butted and bounded On the North by: House of Chittaranjan Pradhan, On the South by: House of Durgapati Nandi, On			
2.	Borrower: Mr. Sankar Chakraborty Guarantor: Mrs. Shipra Chakraborty	1) 09.02.2022 2) 26.04.2022 3) Rs.17,67,322.84 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Two and Paise Eighty Four only) and interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.	Equitable mortgage of all that undivided proportionate share of land LR Plot No. 18, total area of land 4.667 decimal, nature of land is Bastu as per ROR. Situated at Mouza-Karkuli, JL No. 263, KH No. 419/1, 440/1, 1390, P.S. Contai, Dist. Purba Medinipur. The property is butted and bounded On the North by: Property of Mr. Sukumar Chakraborty, On the South by: Property of Mr. Bhubati Bhusan Pahari, On the East by: Property of Amalende Sharma, On the West by: RS Plot No. 09 & 04.			
Dat	Date: 26.04.2022, Place: Contai Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroc					

### **GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN**

#### SUPERINTENDENT, MATHURADAS MATHUR HOSPITAL, JODHPUR (Attached with Dr. S.N. Medical College Jodhpur)

Tel No.:- 0291-2438655, e-mail:- supdt.mdmh.ju@gmail.com

GSTIN No. 08JDMH03999C1D0 (Superintendent, MDMH)

GSTIN No. 08JDHM06758D1D3 (RMRS, MDMH) No. :- Acc./MDMH/2022-23/6503

Short Term E-Tender No. 13 (2022-23) Online Bids are invited from eligible bidders i.e. Authorized Service Providers to provide various

Services at Mathuradas Mathur Hospital Jodhpur attached to Dr. S. N. Medical College Jodhpur as per tender condition. Tenders are to be submitted duly digitally signed in electronic format only on website <a href="http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in">http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</a>. The tender documents are to be downloaded from above mentioned website. Bidders who wish to participate in online bidding will have to procure digital signature certificate as per IT Act 2000 to sign their electronic bid. Bids which are not digitally signed will not be considered.

- 113	क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित	बोली प्रतिभुति	बोली शुल्क	प्रोसेसिंग	बोली दस्तावेज	प्री विड मिटिंग	बोली दस्तावेज	बोली शुल्क,	तकनीकी बोली
_   ·	सं.		लागत राशि	राशि ( EMD	( अप्रतिदेय )	फीस (रु.	डाउनलोड करने	हेतु निर्धारित	डाउनलोड एवं	प्रोसेसिंग फीस	खोलने की
			(रु. लाखों	का DD/BC)	(रु. में)	में)	एवं जमा करवाने	दिनांक व समय	जमा करने की	एवं बोली	दिनांक एवं
			में)	(रु. में)			का प्रारम्भ		समाप्ति की	प्रतिभृति राशि	समय
							दिनांक व समय		दिनांक व समय	कार्यालय में	
										भौतिक रूप से	
										जमा कराने की	
										समाप्ति की	
										दिनांक एवं	
										समय	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10
	1.	To provide cleaning	378.00	756000.00	400/-	1000/-	13.04.2022	22.04.2022	05.05.2022	05.06.2022	06.05.2022
		and sanitary					5.00 PM	5.00 PM	1.00 PM	4.00 PM	5.00 PM
		services at MDM									
- 11		Library Call, Landley Company Com-									1 1
- 11		Hosptial Jodhpur for									
		One years									

### Terms & Conditions:-

- DD/BC of Bid fee, Processing fee & Bid Security (EMD) of each item must be submitted in the office of the Superintendnet, Mathuradas Mathur Hospital, Jodhpur on date and time as mentioned above. In absence of which Technical Bid will not be Considerable
- 2. Technical Bids will be opened on prescribe date at Mathuradas Mathur Hospital, Jodhpur of those Bidder who has submitted DD/BC of Bid Fee, Processing Fee and Bid Security (EMD)
- 3. Bid Notice and Bid Documents are also available at http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or https://eprocrajasthan.gov.in

DIPR/C/6179/2022

Mathura Das Mathur Hospital

Jodhpui

Superintendent

Date: 13.04.2022

# SUNDAY STORY

O NATWARBHAI Parmar, 69, son Jignesh Mevani always seemed a touch too idealistic. "He would talk about bringing about a revolution and I would say such revolution happened only before 1947. He would then say, 'I am ready to go to jail'. In a sense, he prepared us for the worst," says Parmar, talking about the case that landed Mevani in the custody of the Assam Police.

"If they can take him to Assam for such a  $small\,matter, I\,can't\,imagine\,what\,they\,will\,do$ next. We are very scared of the BJP," adds Parmar, who retired as a clerk from the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation in 1987.

But many say Mevani's arrest on April 20 over a purported tweet against the Prime Minister and subsequent re-arrest on charges of assaulting a woman police constable have only served to highlight the ruling BJP's insecurities around the Dalit leader in an election year.

On Friday, while granting bail to Mevani, 42, Gujarat's only Independent MLA, a district court in Assam pulled up the state police for lodging a "false FIR" and "abusing the process of the court and the law".

Part of a youth triumvirate that was defined by its strident anti-BJP politics, Mevani, along with former JNU student leader Kanhaiya Kumar and Patidar leader Hardik Patel, had briefly raised the hopes of the anti-BIP camp. While Kanhaiya and Hardik joined the Congress, Mevani couldn't on technical grounds — as that would have meant losing his MLA seat from Vadgam. Though the BJP's storming back to power in the 2019 general elections, combined with the Congress's internal politics, ensured that the fightback has since dampened, Mevani's Independent status has meant that he has more manoeuvre room for his politics than the other two.

A source close to Mevani said, "Mevani follows Leftist ideologies to the core. He had no intention of joining the Congress, and it was tough persuading him, but agreed to align with the party only after Kanhaiya joined in Bihar."

Hardik, who was instrumental in bringing Mevani into the Congress fold, however, says, "The idea was to strengthen the party. As an Independent legislator, he cannot do as much as he can with the backing of a party...he can become the Congress's national Dalit face".

Born in 1980 as Jignesh Parmar in Ahmedabad, to where his father had moved from Meu in the mid-seventies, he later changed his surname to 'Mevani' (derived from Meu village) to keep alive his link with his roots.

After his schooling in the Asarwa area of Ahmedabad, Mevani enrolled in H K Arts College, Ahmedabad, to graduate in English Literature, where he was deeply influenced by educationist-activist Professor Sanjay Bhave and poet and theatre personality Saumya Joshi.

After a diploma in journalism, Mevani worked as a journalist in the Gujarati magazine Abhiyaan in Mumbai for two years. It was around this time that he studied the Gujarati poet Mareez, born Abdul Ali Vasi, who is often called 'the Ghalib of Gujarat'. He spent much of his time researching the poet's life and times, even visiting places in Mumbai associated with him — the research is likely fodder for a book in

Back from Mumbai, Mevani joined Jan Sangharsh Manch, the civil rights organisation founded by the late trade unionist and lawyeractivist Mukul Sinha, who took up cases for the 2002 riot victims. At Sinha's persuasion, THE SUNDAY PROFILE

## His own voice

A vocal critic of the BJP, Jignesh Mevani, Gujarat's only Independent MLA, is out on bail after 10 days in custody over a tweet on the PM. LEENA MISRA & PARIMAL DABHI on the man and his journey so far from his lawyer-activist days to being the face of the state's Dalit politics



Illustration: Shyam Kumar

Ahmedabad and unfurled the tricolour on Independence day. His slogan, "you can keep the cow's tail but give us back our land", was the first open challenge to the BJP in the state. Gujarat High Court lawyer and former IPS

officer Rahul Sharma, who has known Mevani since 2015-16 and who was associated with the Una agitation, recalls how the events then

taluka in Gir Somnath district, were flogged by

cow vigilantes. Mevani, until then a low-key

activist-lawyer, launched a march to Una from

pitchforked him on to the national scene. "We first held a meeting at Acher in Ahmedabad on July 31, where everyone condemned the (Una) incident. I put forth the idea that we should march to Una. We decided not

to call any big leader as that would overshadow Jignesh who is a very good speaker and communicator, and was emerging as a leader".

Sharma says the timing to launch Mevani as a Dalit leader was "just right" considering "several political leaders had come to Una only to give lip service." Besides, only a year ago, the young Hardik Patel had emerged as a leader from the Patidar quota movement, indicating there was space for new leaders.

Soon after the Una incident, Mevani launched the Rashtriya Dalit Adhikar Manch, a platform bringing together Dalit youth to fight for all marginalised communities. He also briefly joined the AAP but quit.

On September 28, 2021, coinciding with

the birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh, Mevani pledged support to the Congress, along with Kanhaiya Kumar, who joined as a member. Many said it would be a decision that

would mark the end of Mevani's fledgling political career, pointing to the wilderness that Hardik Patel and Kanhaiya find themselves in after joining the Congress.

Jayantilal Parmar, a member of the BJP's media team, while distancing himself from the case against Mevani in Assam, says, "As long as Mevani was independent, he was an effective Dalit leader. The minute you join the Congress, you compromise your ideology."

Parmar recalls how, when Mevani addressed a gathering in Chandkheda area of Ahmedabad after the Una flogging incident, 'even Dalit BJP leaders went to the meet, but they abandoned him after he joined Congress".

A senior Gujarat BJP leader had earlier told The Indian Express that the party is not particularly concerned about Mevani. "I don't think there is a specific ploy to tackle him. There are certain persons with whom our party does not bother negotiating at all and Mevani is one of them." One of the reasons the BJP may not be particularly interested in Mevani, as this leader said, could be because Dalits form only about 7 per cent of the state's population.

Another leader argued that Mevani holds little more than "nuisance value" for the BJP. "Politically he looked finished before these cases were registered against him. The cases have provided him oxygen. In Gujarat, he holds only nuisance value, but his voice holds importance in places with a strong presence of Dalits, Muslims and tribals outside the state."

Ramjibhai Bhikhabhai Parmar, 76, from Vagda village in Vadgam taluka, who has been a traditional Congress voter but voted for Mevani in 2017, says, "The Mukteshwar dam issue was one that dated back to the days before Independence, but Mevani managed to get Rs 19 crore cleared from the government and ensured water from the Narmada reached the dam. It's a feat that no BJP, Janata Party or Congress MLA could achieve.

Dismissing the allegations against Mevani, Ramjibhai says, "Jignesbhai refuses to dine at homes where the women are behind a veil... that's how progressive he is. And you think he would assault a woman constable?.

Through much of Mevani's political journey, his family has been a constant by his side. His entire family had joined him in the Una march. His father Parmar has participated in most of Mevani's rallies and also campaigned for him in Vadgam in 2017, taking charge of 20 villages. Parmar was also part of all the recent demonstrations seeking his son's release.

"We worry for him, but what can we do if this is the path he has chosen," says mother Chandraben, recalling how Mevani once rebuked her for telling journalists that he had "no intention of marrying". "Mummy, don't say that, I can marry, even at 50!," he had told her.

Talking of the police raid on their home on April 21, his father Parmar says, "The team searched the house, especially Jignesh's room, but found nothing. They had already seized his CPU from the MLA quarters in Gandhinagar and taken the mobile phones of two of his associates... We have gone only once to see his MLA quarter. His quarter was open to everyone - from students taking competitive exams to couples whose marriages were not endorsed by their parents. There was hardly any space for us.'

## **=TAKE5=** RISE IN LEMON PRICES

W KUMAR, 25 LEMONADE SELLER IN DELHI



'Despite rise in prices, I still sell a glass of lemon soda for Rs 30'

## 'I keep lemons in thermocol box with ice so they don't go stale'

A lemonade seller was beaten to death in Ghaziabad allegedly for using stale lemons to make the drink. Lemon prices have seen an unprecedented surge, with a single lemon retailing between Rs 10-15 in markets

#### **AMILBHATNAGAR**

How has the rise in lemon prices affected business? I have been running the stall for

10 years. The prices have never been this high. I used to purchase lemons at a wholesale price of Rs 100-150 per kg. It's now Rs 300 kg. So, I purchase less and sell fewer glasses.

With rising heat, is it tough to keep the lemons fresh? I purchase lemons in small quantities. Several stall owners use stale lemons and add sugar to mask the taste. When I have extra lemons,

I keep them in ice since I don't have

a refrigerator.

Has price of ice increased? I get my ice from a wholesale supplier. I keep it in a thermocol box but it is too hot these days and the ice melts fast. I have to purchase 4-5 kg of ice in a day. Earlier, it would cost me Rs 50-60, but now I pay Rs 100 for a day.

How have the sales been? With Covid-19 cases increasing, the footfall has reduced again. Once the lockdown was lifted, I had decent sales. When it gets hot, more

Have you merem. Have you increased the

No. I sell a small glass of lemon soda for Rs 30. Despite the rise in lemon prices, I haven't increased the cost. This is how I retain my loyal customers. I don't make much profit but I can sustain the business.



## 9.75 million hectares

Mevani studied law at Ahmedabad's DT Law

College and practised in the Gujarat High Court.

As lawyer, Mevani moved the court seeking

surplus government land for Dalits under the

constitutional expert the late Girish Patel and

the late Gandhian Chunibhai Vaidya – person-

alities who strengthened his Leftist ideology.

he would venture into areas where he would

have to confront headstrong people," says

2016, when four members of a Dalit family

from Mota Samadhiyala village of then Una

Besides Sinha, Mevani had had as mentors

"Some of his campaigns would scare us, as

The activism took a decisive turn on July 11,

Gujarat Agriculture Land Ceiling Act.

Mevani's mother Chandraben, 68.

Area under wheat in India during 1950-51, which has increased to 31.45 million hectares in 2019-20, as per Agricultural Statistics at a Glance, 2020

## 6.46 million tonnes

The total production of wheat in the country during 1950-51, which has increased to 107.59 million tonnes during 2019-20

## 663kg

The yield of wheat in the country in 1950-51, which increased to 3,421kg in 2019-20

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

## EAT. PRAY. STUDY. REPEAT.

Every weekend, Puja Sharma turns up at Patna's Kali Ghat by the Ganga to appear for free mock tests that she hopes will help her take a shot at a government job. The schedule is punishing, but like hundreds of other students, Puja knows a sarkari job is "all I want"

### **ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI**

FOR AS long as she can remember, Puja Sharma has had a "craze" for a government job. And a spot in the Railways is her "ekdum dream job (just my dream job)".

A year ago, that "craze" is what brought her to Patna from her hometown Jamshedpur, where her father works as a carpenter. "The pandemic has shown the difference between private and government jobs. Government jobs are stable, they get you respect. I want that. The study environment in Patna is more serious and I am hoping I can focus more here," says the 25-year-old, who has appeared for the exams thrice.

The eldest of three siblings, she is among hundreds of aspirants who have been gathering at the Kali Ghat by the Ganga every weekend to firm up their preparation for the competitive exam.

The mock tests at the ghats were started over two months ago by S K Jha, a mechanical engineer-turned-coaching teacher. Since his coaching classes for Railways and SSB aspirants, which he started in 2014, could only accommodate a little over a 1,000 students a batch, Jha started the 90-minute mock test sessions on the ghats. Anywhere between 5,000-10,000 students take the test every Saturday and Sunday morning.

Recently, as images from the ghats went viral – of several students sitting on the steps, their heads buried into their test papers – they told an India story, or more specifically, a Bihar one: of the struggles and despair that youngsters go through in their search for that elusive sarkari job.



Puja began preparing for the Railways exams soon after she graduated with a Bachelor's in Commerce from Jamshedpur Women's College. She had been taking home tuitions until then to support her family, earning Rs 5,000 a month. "I had cracked the state polytechnic exam and was being offered architecture. Through the college placement cell, I also got an offer for a call centre job. But none of it excited me. My maternal grandfather had a Group C Railways job and my uncle had a Group D job. They really inspired me," says Sharma.

She is glad she didn't take up the private job offers because her friends who did are busy with "grihasti (family and children)" now, with no careers

Her own journey since then, however, hasn't been smooth either. She has made three attempts at the Railways exam, but missed narrowly each time. "At the RPF Constable Recruitment test, I exceeded the running timing by 20 seconds and for my second attempt, I practised so much that I sprained my ankle a day before the test. Then, at the Railway Recruitment Boards Non-Technical Popular Categories Exam, I missed



the cut-off by three marks," she says.

With little money to spare for coaching, Puja had been preparing for the tests on her own in Jamshedpur, mostly through online tutorials. But after three unsuccessful attempts, she was sure she needed some help. "I had heard about free coaching for girls at Jha sir's institute in Patna but my parents were very apprehensive. No girl in my family had gone out of Jamshedpur... I spoke to some of my male cousins and they convinced my family," she recounts.

So last year, as the second wave of the pandemic subsided, she landed in Patna with her father and found a paying guest accom-

modation for Rs 3,500 a month - a big investment for the family. "But I have no other interests. Unlike other people my age, I don't watch movies or serials or go out... This is all I want, to be the first woman in the family to have a government job.'

Most of the aspirants who take these mock tests on the ghats are from underprivileged backgrounds, and Jha believes that the "lack of opportunities in the private sector" is the reason why residents of Bihar are fixated on government employment. "There are no jobs in Bihar. Nothing. And there is no skills-based education either. So what option do people have," says Jha,



Every weekend, hundreds of students take the mock test for Group D Railways examination at the ghats; (above) after four hours of coaching, Puja revises her lessons before going to bed. PTI/Express

adding that his idea to start free coaching classes for girls led to an increase in their numbers in his classroom. "There are about 350 girls now."

To ensure that her parents' investment in her future does not go waste, Puja follows a very strict" daily schedule: waking up at 5 am, praying to "surya devta (the Sun God)" and going for a run, taking mock tests with her study group, cooking all three meals between 9 and 11 am, and then rushing to a public library to study between 11-4 pm. This is followed by another four hours of classes at Jha's coaching centre, where she does questions on Reasoning, Math, General Knowledge and Science. At 8 pm, when she reaches home, she revises all her lessons, has dinner and then goes to bed. "Then repeat the next day," she laughs.

Puja also has to keep a close watch on her diet to stay fit for the physical tests. "I eat a lot of green vegetables, chicken and fish. But I don't make them in onion gravy, only mustard. It is healthier," she says, adding that at her home, too, being the eldest, she did most of the cooking.

When she can afford a break, Puja goes up to the terrace of her PG accommodation and takes in the view of the city, at times using this time to talk to her younger sister and mother. "Patna has a lot of garbage. I miss Iamshedpur, it is very clean. Also, people here speak very shuddh (traditional) Hindi, we speak a mix of Hindi and English. Yahan log bahut rengha rengha ke bolte hain (People here speak very slowly)," she says.

By her own admission, she doesn't have many hobbies, "but I want to improve my skills". "I like to listen to English songs and learn their lyrics. I recently picked up the lyrics of (Justin Bieber's) Let me love you. I am also learning astrology and numerology through YouTube videos," she says.

While in Jamshedpur, the 25-year-old had set up a YouTube channel, where she mostly reposted funny shorts, that has over 5,000 subscribers and worked as a local tourist guide too.

However, with the RRB-NTPC exam slated for July, all that has taken a backseat. "I got very good marks and rank without any coaching... Now I am working very hard. My own life, my struggles, keep me motivated. I will crack the exam. I am sure," she signs off.

GORAKHPUR TEMPLE ATTACK

had links with IS

**Cops: Accused** 

sympathisers

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

THE UTTAR Pradesh Police

claimed that Gorakhpur Temple

attack accused Ahmed Murtaza

Abbasi was in touch with ISIS

sympathisers and fighters and

was preparing to carry out a "big

weapons from security person-

An IIT-Bombay graduate, Murtaza (29) allegedly attacked

police and Provincial Armed

Constabulary (PAC) personnel

deployed at the temple with a

sharp-edged weapon while try-

ing to forcibly enter the shrine,

whose head priest is Chief

were injured in the attack.

Murtaza's father Muneer

Ahmed had maintained that his

accused in lone wolf attack style

attacked the security personnel

at the Shri Gorakhnath temple.

His main intention behind this

attack was to execute some big-

On the state government's

order, the state police's Anti-

Terrorist Squad (ATS) is investi-

gating the case. The agency had

invoked different sections of the

Unlawful Activities Prevention

The police claimed to have

Act (UAPA) against Murtaza.

"In a typical ISIS manner, the

son was under depression.

Three security personnel

Minister Yogi Adityanath.

nel on April 3.

after snatching

LUCKNOW, APRIL 30

## ED attaches actor's assets worth Rs 7 cr

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets amounting to Rs 7.27 crore belonging to Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez in connection with its money laundering probe into activities of conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar.

The attached assets include fixed deposits worth Rs 7.12 crore belonging to the actress.

"During investigation, it was revealed that Chandrasekhar had given various gifts worth Rs 5.71 crore to Fernandez from the proceeds of crime generated by criminal activities, including extortion. Chandrasekhar had put Pinky Irani, his long-time associate and co-accused in this case, to deliver the said gifts to her. In addition to these gifts, Chandrasekhar had also given funds to the tune of USD 1,72,913 and AUD 26,740 to the close family members of Fernandez out of the proceeds of crime through co-accused Avtar Singh Kochhar, an established and well known international hawala operator," an ED statement said.

"Chandrasekhar had also delivered cash to the tune of Rs 15 lakh to a scriptwriter on behalf of Fernandez as advance for writing a script of her web series project. This cash amount has also been attached." it added.

According to ED, it revealed that Chandrasekhar was contacting people spoofing calls to dupe them as the numbers reflecting on their phone were from government officers and he claimed to be a government officer offering to help people for a price.

**NAVJEEVAN GOPAL** 

THE PUNJAB government Saturday shunted out the top

brass of Patiala police, including

an Inspector General, even as the

district limped back to normalcy

with security personnel keeping

a tight vigil a day after clashes

between two groups over an

anti-Khalistan march left four

The police booked 25 ac-

cused by name so far in six FIRs

registered in connection with

Friday's incident and appre-

hended two more taking the to-

tal arrests to three. Mobile inter-

net and SMS services were

suspended from 9.30 am till 4

pm in the district. The AAP gov-

ernment transferred Inspector

General of Police (Patiala Range)

Rakesh Agrawal, Patiala Senior

Superintendent of Police Nanak

Singh and the Patiala superin-

tendent of police with immedi-

PATIALA, APRIL 30

people injured.



Jacqueline Fernandez

Adopting this modus operandi, Chandrasekhar "contacted Aditi Singh, wife of Shivinder Mohan Singh (formerly associated with Ranbaxy and Fortis Healthcare), by impersonating as Union Home Secretary, Union Law Secretary, officer from Prime Minister Office and junior officials and extorted more than Rs 200 crore from her over a period of one year on the pretext of contribution to party funds," an ED statement said.

ED investigations revealed that Chandrasekhar was running his illegal extortion business from Central Jail, Delhi, in connivance with jail officials.

"During investigation, searches were conducted under PMLA at various premises all over India and properties seized viz bungalow in Chennai, 26 cars, Indian currency, valuables, etc. valued at Rs 45 crore," the ED said.

The ED had earlier arrested Chandrasekhar and eight others, including his wife Leena Maria Paul, and even filed prosecution complaints.

"Investigation with regards to tracing the remaining proceeds of crime is in progress," the

Patiala violence: Despite intel, police failed

Police personnel at the site of the previous day's clashes, in

The government transferred Friday evening gave a dressing

Inspector General (Patiala down to Director General of

to gauge threats, social media build-up



## RAY'S WORLD

Visitors at an exhibition of photographs on Satyajit Ray's works and artifact on his birth centenary at the ongoing 27th Kolkata International Film festival at Nandan Complex in Kolkata on Saturday. Partha Paul

## 2nd phase of gold hallmarking from June 1

tory hallmarking regime

wherein an AHC has been set up

post implementation of the first

Thackerey)'s working president

for Punjab Harish Singla — the

outfit expelled him after the vio-

lence - announced Khalistan

'Murdabad March' to protest

against a call given by the out-

lawed Sikhs for Justice to hoist

pro-Khalistani flags outside gov-

ernment offices in Haryana and

Himachal Pradesh on April 29. A

few Sikh outfits declared to op-

correspondences, which suggest

that the confrontation was in the

making for a week. Specifically

for Patiala, but marked to other

police officers across the state as

well, a correspondence by

Assistant Inspector of Police

(AIG) Intelligence-2 Harcharan

Singh Bhullar, on behalf of

Special DGP (Intelligence)

Prabodh Kumar, read that on

Friday "70/80 workers of Shiv

Sena Bal Thackerey led by Harish

Singla has decided to take out a

'Khalistan Murdabad' march to

The Sunday Express accessed

pose the Sena's march.

AHC stands for Assaying and

phase of the order.'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

THE SECOND phase of the mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and gold artefacts will come into force from June 1, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said on Saturday.

In a statement, the Ministry

said: "The second phase of the consumer can get the purity of mandatory hallmarking will their unhallmarked gold jewellery tested. cover additional three caratages The AHC shall undertake the of gold jewellery/artefacts viz. testing of gold jewellery from 20, 23 and 24 carats... and 32 new districts under the manda-

common consumers on priority and provide a test report, which will assure the consumer about the purity of their jewellery. Four gold articles can be tested for Rs 200 and Rs 45 per article thereafter," the Ministry added.

## **Anurag Thakur** questions Punjab CM's capability to handle situation

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** GURUGRAM, NEW DELHI,

HITTING OUT at the AAP over the Friday's violence in Patiala, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur wondered who was in-charge of law and order in the Punjab as Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann "spent more time outside the state".

"There is a breakdown of law and order in Punjab. The chief minister is spending more time outside the state. We do not know who is looking after the law and order in the state." Thakur told reporters in New Delhi.

"Even before electi tions were raised about the intentions and capabilities of AAP. Their links with certain people were questioned too" Thakur said, adding that such questions about the ruling party in Punjab was a matter of concern as it was a "border state".

#### **MANGALURU**

### Man arrested for misbehaving with women at mosque

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** BENGALURU, APRIL 30

A 26-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested after he entered a mosque and allegedly flashed at women who were offering 'namaz' in the wee hours of Friday in Mangaluru, a coastal city of Karnataka.

Police identified the accused as Sujith Shetty of Karkala. The incident reportedly took place at Jumma Masjid in Mangaluru city around 2am when 'Laylat al-Qadr' programme was underway. Sujith allegedly entered a room and tried to hold hands of women and also flashed at them.

A 24-year-old woman filed a complaint against him on Friday afternoon after which Ullal police booked him under IPC Section 448 (trespass), 354 (Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any woman), 509 (Word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman), 295 A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs). He was later arrested and sent to judicial custody.

Sujith, who has studied till Class 12, previously worked as a home guard with the local police and was suspended eight days ago after he allegedly misbehaved with some women. "He has a history of misbehaving with women. In the past, some women complained of inappropriate behaviour on his part after Sujith forced them to take selfies with him. After his suspension, he started working at a bar in Mangaluru city. After his working hours on Thursday, he consumed alcohol and entered the mosque," a police officer said.

recovered several electronic devices at the instance of Murtaza. They scrutinized his social media accounts besides checking his bank accounts, e-wallets and financial transactions.

"With the evidences collected so far, it has come to light that Murtaza was in touch with ISIS sympathizers and fighters. He was also in touch with ISIS propaganda activist Mehdi Masroor Biswas through social media," said Prashant Kumar.

Mehdi Masroor, an electrical engineer from West Bengal, was arrested in December 2014 in Bangalore. The police claimed that Murtaza was under the influence of radical preachers of various terrorist organisations and was also impressed with Jihadi literature and ideology that support ISIS.

"It has also came to light during investigation that accused took a vow of terrorist organization Ansar-ul-Tawhid on a social media platform in 2013. The terrorist organisation in 2014 merged with the ISIS. The accused again took yow of ISIS in 2020," added Kumar.

ger incident using the snatched Murtaza had sent money to weapon," said Additional the ISIS to help them carry out Director General (Law and their activities, the police said. Order) Prashant Kumar in a press

"During scrutiny of his bank accounts, it emerged that he sent Rs 8.5 lakh to to ISIS supporters in different countries of Europe and America. To execute terror activities, he used to read online articles and watch videos on the internet related to weapons like AK-47 rifle, M4 carbine and missile technology," Kumar said.

## Kerala ex-MLA seeks boycott of Muslim eateries, booked

**SHAJU PHILIP** 

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. APRIL

A DAY after he alleged that drinks sold at Muslim-run restaurants in the state are laced with medicine that causes impotence, among other controversial comments, a case was lodged on Saturday against senior Kerala politician and former leader of Kerala Congress (M), PCGeorge, of mak-

ing hate speech. George said Muslims are starting businesses in non-Muslim areas to pocket money from people of other communities and called for boycott of such businesses. A six-term MLA and a former chief whip in the then UPA government, George made the remarks while addressing Ananthapuri Hindu Maha Sammelan, an event held under the aegis of Sangh Parivar, on Friday.



**PCGeorge** 

Restaurants run by Muslims should be avoided because they used a certain "drop that causes impotence," he claimed. "By ster-

ilising men and women, they

hope to seize the country," he said. George also repeated his earlier allegation that Muslims spit on food three times. "Why should we eat their spit? Their scholars say spit is perfume," he alleged. "Hindu and Christian women were reluctant to give birth to more babies. Muslim women are doing that very sincerely. I should congratulate them. They are moving towards the aim of seizing this Hindu

rashtra," he said.

## DMFT fund audit in Jharkhand's six districts flags 'gross misuse'

Patiala on Saturday. Harmeet Sodhi

Range) Rakesh Agrawal, Senior

Superintendent of Police Nanak

Singh and Superintendent of

Police (City) Harpal Singh. They

were respectively replaced by IG

MS Chhina, SSP Deepak Parikh

and SP Wazir Singh. The trans-

fers came amid reports that

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann

**ABHISHEK ANGAD** RANCHI. APRIL 30

THE FINDINGS of the first ever audit of District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) fund, collected under the provision of Mines Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, point to "gross misuse" and "presumptive fraud".

The audit was conducted by the Jharkhand's Principal Auditor General (PAG) in six districts, crore was collected as DMFT fund between 2015 and 2021. The audit was conducted between December 2020 and April 2022.

Mines Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act provides for the establishment of District Mineral Foundation Trust that will work as a non-profit body for the benefit of people affected by mining and related operations, using a part of the royalty collected from

Police (DGP) Viresh Bhawra for

not being able to tackle the situ-

ation, "despite a buildup and in-

following a curfew the night be-

fore and suspension of Internet

services during the day. There

was build-up after Shiv Sena (Bal

Things normalised Saturday

telligence inputs".

tractors. The PAG submitted its report to the Chief Secretary on April 22, auditing use of DMFT fund in Ranchi, Chatra, Lohardaga, Dhanbad, Bokaro and Hazaribagh districts. The audit team in its report expressed dissatisfaction, saying the "Mines Department restricted its access to crucial and primary records" for audit and it 'was a red flag to presumptive fraud and misappropriation".

## Tej Pratap launches May Day vatra without RJD support

"khalistan

**SANTOSH SINGH** PATNA, APRIL 30

counter the

Declaration Day".

TEJ PRATAP Yadav, the elder son of Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad, is launching a 'yatra' on Sunday to connect with farmers and labourers, a move being seen by many as "a step closer to parting ways with the The publicity material of his

programme though carries photographs of all top RJD leaders, including father Lalu

RWS\$5 Division, Kendrapara

O/PR - 25004/14/0024/2225

Prasad, mother Rabri Devi and brother Tejashwi Yadav, but the event has no backing of the party and is being organised by Janshakti Parishad, a voluntary group formed by Tej Pratap himself.

The RJD refused to react to Tej Pratap's Janshakti Yatra. A party spokesperson said: "We have been asked not to speak anything about him as it is often misreported and over-inter-

As per the plan, Tej Pratap will visit Karaai village of Bihta block of Patna to honour some farmers and labourers on the International Labour Day.

## India's 1st greenfield grain-based ethanol plant opened in Bihar

**SANTOSHSINGH** PATNA, APRIL 30

BIHAR CHIEF Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday opened the country's first greenfield grainbased ethanol plant in Purnea and said ethanol production will help reduce cost of petrol and generate employment.

The Rs 105-crore plant by Eastern India Biofuels Pvt Ltd is the first one developed since the Centre gave a go-ahead to Bihar's ethanol production and promotion policy-2021.

Nitish said on the occasion: We have made a start. We had been trying this since 2007. We had requested the then UPA government to give us the go-ahead when we received proposals for setting upethanolunits.... Now, 20 per cent ethanol can be mixed with petrol and diesel. The country will benefit immensely from ethanol production." State Industry minister Syed Shahnawaz Hussain added: 'Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have signed an agreement with 17 units with the approved capacity of 1080 kilolitre per day.

## C-191

#### **ROURKELA SMART CITY** LIMITED, Rourkela

Udit Nagar, Rourkela-769012,

Email: rourkelascl@gmail.com Letter No. RSCL/937/2022 Date. 29.04.2022

Mr. Sudhansu Sekhar Mohapatra M/s. Brahmani EngiconPvt. Ltd. 14/30 (2nd Floor)

Civil Township Rourkela-769004

Dist- Sundergarh, Odisha Mob No.: 9437116311, 8249769071 E-mail: brahmaniengicon@gmail.com

You were informed vide RSCL Notice No. 873 dated 22.04.2022 to

attend the Final Measurement of the project "Redevelopment of road from Panposh Chowk to Ambedkar Chowk including Streetscape, beautification, Landscaping, Intersection redesign, utility ducting and underground cabling in Rourkela" on dated. 29.04.2022 failing which ex parte measurement will be taken for closure of the project. Notice was also send to you through your E-mail id: brahmaniengicon@gmail.com and a copy of the notice was also pasted in your office door. Howeve till date you have not yet responded to the Notice. You are hereby given a last chance to attend the final measurement on dt. 06.05.2022 positively for the above work "Smart Road Phase-I" Agreement No. 13/RSCL/2019-20, failing which ex parte measurement will be definitely aken which will be binding on you.

> Chief Executive Officer Rourkela Smart City Limited OIPR-13080/11/0004/2223

#### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, KENDRAPARA. At : Ichhapur, Post : Shree Baladevjew, 0-149 Email: eerwsskendrapara@gmail.com

Identification No.RWS/109/2021-2022 Letter No. 3242 / Dated, 28/04/2022 3rd Corrigendum

rigendum has been made for the NET-109 invited ordine vide this office lette No. 1767 / Dated: 10.03.2022 with date for selling, classing, craffication and opening which was on at: 29.04.2022 (selling date), 17.05.2022 (drawing date), 02.05.2021 (clarification date) 18:05:2022 (opening date) as per 2hd comgendum has bee smended and to be resit as 17:05:2022, 01:06:2022, 19:05:2022 and 02:06:202 espectively as follows

No No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Apprx.) Rs. In Lakhs			V-50-50-50-50-50-50-50-50-50-50-50-50-50-
	Execution of New 70 LPCO RPWS Scheme to Boligade, flatspangs and Guludia on clubbed up mode under Mahakalapada Slock in the Desict of Kendrapara (JUM Funds)	304.62	10000	380 days	"A" and "Specials"
2	Execution of New 70 LPCO RPWS Scheme to Kaltunga, Kantillo of Mahakalapada Block and Mundillo of Derabish Block on clubbed up mode in the District of Kendrapara (JJM Funds)	316.04	10000	300 days	"A" and "Specials"
7				Soli (Er. B	K Nayak)

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA,** "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE **WORKS DEPARTMENT**

E-mail- ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P. (O)- 05/2022-23

. The Chief Engineer (World Bank Project), Odisha on behalf o Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below:

2. Nature of work

: Road works

3. No. of work : 03 Nos.

Tender cost

: Rs. 10,000.00 (on-line) Class of Contractor : Special / Super Class Contractor

6. Available of bid document in the

5.00 PM of 18.05.2022 7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt. 19.05.2022 at 11.30 AM

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further seen from https://tenderodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ lation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

> **Chief Engineer** World Bank Project, Odisha OIPR-34003/11/0007/2223

: From 10.00 A.M. of 30.04.2022 to

## DHFL-Yes Bank case: CBI searches premises of Mumbai realtors, Pune businessman

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** MUMBAI, APRIL 30

THE CBI on Saturday conducted searches on premises linked to Mumbai-based realtors Shahid Balwa and Vinod Goenka of DB Realty and Pune-based businessman Avinash Bhosale in connection with its case against DHFL and Yes Bank.

Sources said the central agency searched eight premises, including the residence and office of Balwa, Goenka and Bhosale.

On April 28, the agency had arrested Sanjay Chhabria of Radius Group of developers for an alleged role in the default of loan repayment to DHFL. The Radius Group owes Rs 3,000 crore to DHFL. The former co-founder of Yes

Bank, Rana Kapoor and the promoters of DHFL-- Dheeraj Wadhawan and Wadhawan are currently under arrest.

The CBI has found that after Yes Bank under Kapoor invested Rs 2,700 crore in DHFL in June 2018, DHFL sanctioned a loan of Rs 1,100 crore and Rs 900 crore to two companies owned by Chhabria without carrying out any due diligence.

## Indianness is citizenship, not caste

A FEW days ago, I was startled to read a screaming headline in several newspapers: *Indianness the Only Caste*. It was the headline of a story reporting the speech of the Prime Minister when inaugurating, virtually, the 90th anniversary celebrations of the 'Sivagiri Pilgrimage' held every year in honour of Sree Narayana Guru, a saint-philosopher who lived in Kerala (1856-1928).

My acquaintance with the Guru's teachings and a visit to Sivagiri had led me to believe that the Guru was resolutely *opposed* to caste as an identity and, throughout his life, fought against caste discrimination. The motto of his Ashram at Sivagiri was "Om Sahodaryam Sarvatra", meaning 'All men are equal in the eyes of God'.

## WRONG CHOICE OF WORD

Mr Modi is the Prime Minister of India that is a Republic under a Constitution that "we the people of India solemnly resolved to... give to ourselves". The Constitution acknowledges states, religions, religious denominations, languages, castes and untouchability (and promises to abolish the detestable practice). The Constitution also recognises citizenship acquired by several methods birth, descent, registration, naturalisation, incorporation of territory and migration (in certain cases). The word 'India' occurs in many Articles and the word 'Indian' appears in the context of Anglo-Indian, Indian State and Indian Independence Act, 1947. I did not find the word 'Indianness' anywhere.

Caste has only one meaning either in the English language or in any Indian language. It means *jati*, and brings to mind the innumerable evils that were associated — and are still associated — with the caste system. I understand the spirit in which the Prime Minister may have used the word, but the choice of the word was unfortunate and wrong.

## REJECT SINGLE IDENTITY

To equate Indianness with caste is dangerous. 'Caste' has rigid and retrograde rules. Under the rules, marriage is endogamous, and breaking that rule has cost many young lives. Caste distinguishes a group of persons and, more often than not, drives a wedge between two groups of persons. Caste loyalties and prejudices are stronger than religious loyalties and as fierce as religious prejudices. Until recently, religion was understated; caste was worn on the sleeve. Now, under the Modi government, both religion and caste are worn on the sleeve by many people.

Once caste is exalted, it brings to the fore the odious features of caste. Caste is insular, exclusive, has rigid and usually inflexible rules on marriage, food, dress, worship, etc. Caste attempts to create a single identity. If 'Indianness' is also aimed at creating a single identity, that is the polar opposite of diversity and pluralism. Like millions of fellow citizens, I reject the single

identity attempted to be created by the BJP.

The Prime Minister's statement prompted me to re-read the classic speech titled 'Annihilation of Caste' (that was prepared but not delivered) by Babasaheb Ambedkar. Here are some stirring passages:

"The effect of caste on the ethics of the Hindus is simply deplorable. Caste has killed public spirit. Caste has destroyed the sense of public charity. Caste has made public opinion impossible."

"There cannot be a more degrading system of social organisation than the caste system. It is the system which deadens, paralyses, and cripples the people, from helpful activity."

"There is no doubt, in my opinion, that unless you change your social order you can achieve little by way of progress. You cannot mobilise the community either for defence or for offence. You cannot build anything on the foundations of caste..."

Caste has perpetuated social and economic inequalities. In villages, especially, one's caste and the numerical strength of the caste (in the village or taluk or district) determines the social and political structure and the distribution of social influence and political power. Invariably, the latter determine economic opportunities. I have found that a simple thing like getting a patta (land title) or a bank loan or a government job is influenced by one's caste or the numerical power of the caste. Private sector is no better. Most jobs in the informal/unorganised sector or in the micro and small enterprises go to persons of the same caste as of the owner.

If we equate caste with Indianness, we will find ourselves on a dangerous slope. I have no illusion that caste consciousness or caste-based discrimination will vanish overnight, but there are encouraging trends toward getting rid of the caste system. Urbanisation, industrialisation, television and cinema, open economy, communications, out-migration, and travel (especially foreign travel) are breaking down caste prejudices. To equate Indianness with caste will reverse the progress made in the last few decades.

#### A REPUBLICAN APPROACH

Obviously, there is a quality in every Indian that can be described as Indianness. I shall not define or even try to describe it, but being an Indian is the ineffable feeling of belonging to one country. My conclusion that Indianness ought to be equated with citizenship is in accord with the idea of a Republic under a Constitution. A citizen who believes in the basic structure of the Constitution of India and owes allegiance to its fundamental tenets is an Indian.

We must wean Indians from caste loyalties and educate them to celebrate universally cherished values such as liberty and liberalism, equality, tolerance, secularism and democracy. 'Citizenship' is the true foundation for building a nation, sharing values, rights and duties, and achieving peace and prosperity. That will also be true Republicanism.

# Stop this violence

**TAVLEEN SINGH** 

Fifth

JUST BEFORE I sat down to write this piece, the head of the RSS made a very important statement. He said, "Violence does not benefit anybody. The society to which violence is dear is now counting its last days. We should forever be non-violent and peace-loving. For this, it is essential to bring together all communities and preserve humanity." Wow!! Who was this aimed at? BJP leaders who have weaponized the Hanuman Chalisa and turned the greeting Jai Shri Ram into a war cry? Hindu 'saints' declaring that genocide is the way to deal with Muslims? Bajrang Dal thugs who wander about smashing Muslim shops? Cow vigilantes who lynch Muslim dairy farmers and meat traders? Idiots objecting to iftar in the Army? Or the Prime Minister who has remained silent while his second term in office has been defined

by religious violence?
Whoever he was addressing, Mohan
Bhagwat deserves respect for saying what
he did. What is very hard to understand is
why it was not the Prime Minister who took
the lead in saying something about the deliberate targeting of the Muslim community by his chief ministers, ministers,
acolytes, Twitter warriors and party spokesmen. The deliberate targeting of India's
Muslims is the root cause of the violence.
There is no point in pretending that it is not,
because the world has noticed.

Last week, an official of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) said this in a briefing to the US Congress. "This environment that we're in its (sic) creating a situation in which there is a prolific amount of violence going on around India that is targeting and focused on mob violence, but also violence that is being tolerated (and) engaged in by officials at different levels that is being perpetrated... against Muslims (and) Christians."The USIRCF has recommended, for the third time, that India be designated as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) onthe US government's list of the world's worst offenders of religious freedom. This list includes Russia, China, North Korea,

Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Pakistan. week was Remembrance Day so the word genocide was mentioned a lot by more reckless and foolish critics of India and comparisons were invoked with Germany in the Thirties. The comparisons are ludicrous because India's Muslims constitute nearly 20 per cent of our population, and they are far from being helpless victims of a murderous State. They have shown the ability to fight back against repression every time they have faced it. This does not take away from the truth that the most vulnerable members of this community have been targeted.

Muslim shops and businesses have been brutally vandalized. Images of that gang of thugs lifting watermelons off a Muslim fruit vendor's cart and smashing them to the ground were viral on social media for days. It moved enough people for a fund to be started online. And there are many others. There was that bangle seller whose wares were smashed by another hate-filled mob because he was selling bangles in a Hindu area. Instead of the police arresting the vandals, he ended up in jail for allegedly molesting a Hindu girl.

If these stories of sundry, unemployed, unemployable youths wreaking hate-filled havoc were not bad enough, we now have BJP chief ministers and municipal officials demolishing Muslim homes with missionary zeal. Let us not pretend that most of the demolitions we have seen in Khargone and Delhi were not Muslim homes. Then there is that unstoppable stream of saffron-clad 'saints' who pop up every other day to demand genocide as the final solution to our Muslim problem. Is there some end goal that all this violence is leading to? Are there still responsible leaders in the BJP who believe that hate speeches and violence are going to drive Muslims out of India? Are there those who believe that this is the way to avenge the wrongs done to Hindus when

Muslims ruled India? If you listen to those promoted by the BJP's IT cell to spread hatred and verbal violence on social media, then there is someone somewhere in the highest echelons of the Indian government directing operations. If it is not the Prime Minister himself, then it is time for him to make his position absolutely clear as his RSS colleague has just done. What about a statement along these lines? The Indian Constitution guarantees the right to love, marry, work and worship to every Indian citizen and anyone who violates the Constitution will be considered a traitor. Included in this category of traitors should be those who respond to every act of violence by a Hindu mob with pictures of a Hindu being attacked by a Muslim mob.

Every time I have written in this column that violence against Muslims is causing serious damage to the fabric of India, I have been inundated with photographs of Hindus being killed by Muslims. And reminded about Hindu girls being abducted and forcibly converted in Pakistan. India is not Pakistan and to aspire to become Pakistan is pathetic and deeply stupid. So enough of this violence. If it does not stop, we are headed not towards a genocide of the Muslims but towards a civil war. Surely that is not what Narendra Modi would like history to remember as his legacy? If not, he must speak up as the RSS chief just did.

Kolkata

## Why they are afraid of Jignesh Mevani



THE BHARATIYA Janata Party acts like the bullock who thinks of himself as the owner of the farm. Least does it know that the real tamer of the bullock is the owner who is holding the leash. The owners in India's politics are the public who care about constitutional values and a rights-based republic where criticism and engagement are part of their existence in this federal country.

The government might think that since public memory is short, it will forget about Jignesh Mevani, Gujarat's Independent law-maker and convenor of the Rashtriya Dalit Adhikar Manch, or many like him illegally incarcerated, and move on to another crisis. However, they forget that such acts are etched into the public's minds, who will be emboldened to fight repression.

The arrest of 41-year-old Mevani by the BJP-ruled Assam Police highlights the growing repression by the BJP and its extended fears of a Dalit.

Mevani represents the state of the ordinary public, who look at him as their hero fighting for their rights. Though Mevani is an Independent legislator, he has a nationwide reach. As I write this column from New York, there is already a move within the diaspora and the international community to launch a campaign for Mevani.

To know Mevani better, we may have to visit some of the stories from his past. Mevani grew up in a lower-middle-class family of clerical parents. At a place that was a breeding ground for the oppressed castes to fall into the laps of Brahminism, Mevani could have easily been the trishul-wielding Dalit taking on the Muslims. But he was the produce of the Dalit tradition that could easily see the differences exercised in society. Mevani got trained in the field of democratic protests. A seasoned journalist, he matured into a Gramscian intellect who could easily move around the borders of the neglected, oppressed, privileged, and repressed. He wrote thoughtful essays and even spent time with serious scholarly initiatives that had an agenda for the future.

Mevani is a lover of Gujarati language, poetry, ghazals, culture, and the Gujarati pride that precedes the current darkness in disreputable chambers. The Gujarati story of modern times is not that of PR-created Vibrant Gujarat but of uncompromising Dalit Panthers movement, the literary exposes done by the Adivasi spaces, the forces of labour unions who ensured no commu-

corded to Adivasis over lack of land titles.

Mevani is a reason for the democratic celebration of an otherwise pessimistic, gloomy India. Even in his arrest, he invites celebration that an entire State machinery had to double down on an MLA living at the other end of the country, about 2,800 km away. It simply shows what the State's priorities and fears are. It is clear by now that the BJP is afraid of Mevani. And Mevani and his followers like it. It has further ensured his position as an indisputable leader that

nal riot took place in the state that borders

Pakistan. But this state has also witnessed

the tragic Hindu-Muslim binary, the preva-

lence of untouchability, and orphanage ac-

the country is desperate to embrace.

Mevani's mentors are those who came to Gujarat to organise workers and unionised them. He is among the rare breed of India's social activists-turned-politicians who understand land relations with caste violence intimately. He identifies his struggle in line with Dr Ambedkar and Dadasaheb Gaikwad, who launched a nationwide agitation for Dalit land rights. Mevani did the same in his home state that blatantly violated the Gujarat Agriculture Land Ceiling Act, which did not give 5 acres of surplus land to Dalits, as was mandated.

The State perhaps miscalculated the impact of Mevani's arrest. They have unduly acknowledged Mevani as a leading figure of the anti-BJP establishment. This arrest has already helped Mevani's political résumé. In a party like the Congress, to be a political prisoner is a passport to higher ranks. He will rise in the party and launch his diatribe against forces that are dividing India based on majority-minority, communalist-casteism. With elections round the corner, Mevani might as well be the face of

Gujarat that the Opposition wants to offer.

Mevani is not unknown to street struggles and fights with governments. He has reposed his faith in Rahul Gandhi, who he sees as a leader with genuine concern for the Dalits. Mevani has to survive two assaults—the BJP and Congress. If he succeeds on both fronts, India will have a leader to work with for several decades.

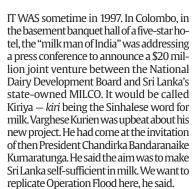
Suraj Yengde, author of Caste Matters, curates the fortnightly 'Dalitality' column

Considering the vast numbers of men





## Why Lanka's failed dairy experiment is glass half full



By then, I had been about a year or so in Colombo as the Sri Lanka correspondent of The Indian Express, long enough to realise that fresh milk was an exotic commodity, and milk powder ruled the market – rows of neatly stacked packs of full-cream milk powder on supermarket shelves, and in the refrigerated sections, tubs of creamy voghurt made with imported milk powder. and a full range of cheese, all flown in from Europe and Down Under. My lasting memory of a first meeting with a Tamil militant leader-turned-mainstream politician in Colombo is of him sitting in the basement of his well-guarded fortress-like home, his back to the wall with a clear view of the bunker's metal door, munching crackers with cubes of Kraft cheese

At the press conference, I had made bold to ask Kurien if he was aware of the import lobbies in Sri Lanka and how much of a fightback he expected from them. His reply was something to the effect that he had faced bigger challenges in India, and this was no problem at all.

Many times during a recent trip to Colombo, my mind went back to that brief encounter as I heard about the milk powder scarcity, secretive WhatsApp tipoffs from groceries to loyal customers about fresh arrivals, the jacked-up rates for a 400 gm packet, children having to go without milk, and tea *kades* offering only black tea.

Crippled by an acute shortage of dollars, Sri Lanka has restricted all its imports, including essential food items. At the time Kurien ventured into Sri Lanka, the country's annual milk powder import bill was \$60 million. In 2021, dairy imports accounted for \$317 million of Sri Lanka's total consumer goods imports of \$1.6 bn (the total imports in 2021 were \$21 bn, of which non-fuel imports were \$16bn).

Kiriya was never able to get off the



A market in Colombo is shut during the strike. *Reuters*; (below) A 1998 report in *The Indian Express* when Indian managers at Kiriya were forced to leave the factory

ground. Union action over wages, hours of work, hirings and firings kept the three MILCO processing plants non-operational or functioning at levels much less than their capacity as to make them unsustainable. Influential ruling party politicians controlled the unions (as an aside, two decades later, it was again trade unions that ensured that the Rajapaksa government cancelled the tripartite agreement with India and Japan for the joint development of the East Container Terminal by paralysing work at Colombo Port for weeks on end).

Indian NDDB officials who had been

sent over to run Kiriya were clearly unprepared for the extent of opposition. It was well understood by all that milk powder lobbies

powder lobbies were hard at work to ensure there would be no "white revolution" in Sri Lanka. On one particularly bad day, the Indian managers at Kiriya had to hastily leave the premises as workers set up a menacing chant of "India Go Back".

"All we know is that we are up against very powerful forces. The stakes are very high," one official told me at the time.

Various other reasons were also forwarded for Kiriya's failure — Sri Lanka does not have a pastoral tradition, its limited arable land cannot be used for growing fodder and grazing, and Sri Lankans love their coconut milk and have no special affinity to dairy milk, or cuisine that uses milk products. But Sri Lanka's milk consumption has steadily grown since the 1980s, when the

country introduced free market polices that opened the doors to unrestricted imports, and as the demand for milk grew among the country's urban wealthy.

According to an appraisal of the dairy sector commissioned by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Livestock Development and Estate Infrastructure and NDDB in 1998, the per capita consumption of milk and milk products in Sri Lanka, which was about 13 kg in 1981, had increased to 36 kg by 1996, low compared to India and Pakistan, but at the time close to the medically recommended 41.6 kg.

The dairy sec-

tor itself is tiny. There was some talk of strengthening it in the mid-2000s when the government's move to raise the

price of milk powder to set off the huge import bill met with political opposition. The plan included refurbishing the three MILCO plants that Kiriya had taken over and failed to turn around. But nothing came of it. Imported milk powder continued to fill the gap. Sri Lanka is to this day a great milch cow for the world's milk multinationals.

It is bitter irony that Colombo has put in orders for milk powder and dairy products under the emergency \$1 bn food and commodities credit line extended to it by India. That might be vindication for NDDB. In Sri Lanka, some see the present crisis as an opportunity to learn lessons about self-sufficiency at least in low-hanging sectors, including the dairy sector. It won't be easy but it is definitely worth a shot.

# On the LOOSE LEHERKALA

IT'S BEEN thirty years since the crossing, or technically, uncrossing of legs on screen scandalized the world, yet, the provocative scene from the movie Basic Instinct continues to be a frame of reference to mark seductive female behaviour. British Opposition leader Angela Rayner called out "sexism and misogyny" in political reporting after a newspaper article quoting her male rivals suggested that she moved her legs the way Sharon Stone did in the hit thriller, to distract Boris Johnson. The UK Prime Minister denounced the newspaper and tweeted in support of Rayner, "I deplore the misogyny directed at her anonymously today".

## Legs matter, more than they should

of stature who were diminished by #MeToo in 2017, one would imagine it would be too frightening for the high profile to indulge in bawdy sniggering about hemlines. The positive fallout of the #MeToo movement has been important corrections to language, and debates on what is deemed appropriate for public discourse. "Leg man" is the cringeworthy (and thankfully, redundant) term used to describe a male whose primary interest centres on womens' legs. It's gone out of circulation, as has "ass man", "locker room talk" and "boys will be boys". There is an unspoken consensus that any human being invoking these outdated terms deserves to be put in the dock for tardiness, alone. In today's world, a character on a sitcom could not be reduced to a specific body part like "Hot Lips Houlihan" from the beloved show *M\*A\*S\*H*. Yet, it seems to be impossible to keep female limbs, covered or bare, out of conversations, political and otherwise.

The mini-skirt has been visible onscreen in Hindi films since the 1960s. One of the first and most memorable images is of Dimple Kapadia wearing a polka dotted top with a short, black skirt in Bobby — perhaps the first "good girl" to flash ample leg in a movie (thereby, rescuing the mini from being the sole preserve of "fast" vamps). Skirts, shorts and bikinis are everywhere in popular culture, but over the years I have witnessed heated arguments between friends and teenage daughters on why they will attract the wrong kind of attention, by wearing a mini to a mall in Delhi. The fact is the lib-

eral attitudes within their homes are in sharp contrast with the reality of India outside, so whether girls may display limbs, exactly how much and where, remains a fraught topic in every household. Urban youth rightly feel entitled to selfexpression via clothing, however explicit; parents worry about safety and judgment.

As every woman will attest, it's unpleasant being ogled at or commented on. There are good reasons why powerful parliamentarians stick to sarees and salwar kameezes even in the dead of winter, when they would be much more comfortable in pants and a jacket. They know if they don't, they will have to endure insufferable remarks from all and sundry; barbs and ridicule on Twitter is a form of abuse too. More aggravatingly, the dialogue shifts from what they are doing, to what they are

wearing. One has to pick one's battles when the morality police are thriving.

For example, just last year the then Uttarakhand chief minister was forced into an apology after questioning the values of a successful professional, a mother of two, for wearing jeans with rips and gaping holes. The discordance between her attire and self had been too much to bear, so of course, the CM felt compelled to critique her appearance. The world finds it impossible to separate sexuality from women's clothing, as if the sole purpose of female sartorial choices is to seduce the crowd. It makes one wonder, if the pent-up rage of Basic Instinct's ice-pick wielding protagonist stems from the truth, that some things never change.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films

#### Market Watch

## OIL BENCHMARKS SEE WEEKLY GAIN

New York: Crude benchmarks Brent and US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) rose for the week and posted their fifth straight monthly gain. Brent ended the month up 1.3%, while WTI ended up 4.4%. On Friday, Brent closed at \$109.34 and US WTI at \$104.69. REUTERS

## POLITICAL PARTIES ENCASHED BONDS WORTH ₹9,836 CRORE SINCE 2018

## No polls, no problem for donors: Parties get ₹648.48 cr of electoral bonds in Apr

**GEORGE MATHEW** MLIMBALAPRII 30

POLITICAL PARTIES continue to get funds from benevolent donors even during the non-election period, as they received electoral bonds worth Rs 648.48 crore from donors this April, as per data from State Bank of India (SBI). With this, political parties encashed bonds worth a total of Rs 9,836 crore from various donors in 20 phases since 2018 when the electoral

bond scheme was introduced. As much as Rs 640 crore of bonds were with face value of Rs 1 crore each and Rs 7.90 crore of bonds were with face value of Rs 10 lakh each, SBI — the only bank authorised to sell these bonds said in reply to the RTI application filed by Commodore Lokesh K Batra (Retd). In the 20th phase, issued between April 1 and 10, SBI

**PRANAV MUKUL** 

NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

BENGALURU-BASED LOGIST-

ICS and delivery platform Swi-

ggy said it is commencing de-

ployment of drones on a trial

basis to make deliveries from

its grocery service Instamart.

For these trials, which will be

conducted in two phases, the

company has roped in four

Where is Swiggy

trials and which

operators would

Friday, the company

do this pilot?

conducting drone

'drone-as-a-service' operators.

said it will start the pilot for

drone deliveries in Delhi-NCR

and Bengaluru with immedi-

ate effect. This will be the first tranche of the pilot study that

will be conducted by Garuda

Aerospace Pvt Ltd in

Bengaluru and Skyeair

Mobility Pvt Ltd in Delhi-NCR.

It will be followed by the sec-

ond tranche of the trials that

will be conducted by a consor-

tium of ANRA and TechEagle,

and Marut Dronetech Pvt Ltd.

The second tranche will start

after "collating the learnings

EXPLAINED

640 bonds were of the value of Rs 1 crore each. These bonds were all encashed by political parties.

As per the provisions of the EB Scheme, only political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act. 1951 (43 of 1951) and have secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly, as the case may be, are eligible to receive electoral bonds.

SBI data shows that as much as Rs 420.98 crore worth of bonds were encashed at SBI's Hyderabad main branch, Rs 106.50 crore at New Delhi main branch, Rs 100 crore at Chennai main branch and Rs 18 crore at the Kolkata main branch of the state-run bank.

Two non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in India -Common Cause and Association

**SECTOR WATCH** 

**ONLINE AGGREGATORS** 

Swiggy drone tests

in Delhi, Bengaluru:

In phase 1, common

delivery point focus

#### DATA FROM STATE **BANK OF INDIA**

■ As much as ₹640 crore of bonds were with face value of ₹1 crore each and ₹7.90 crore of bonds were with face value of ₹10 lakh each. State Bank of India – the only bank authorised to sell them said in an RTI reply

for Democratic Reforms (ADR) have legally challenged the scheme that was started in 2018.

They, along with several other critics, have been alleging that the introduction of electoral bonds is "distorting democracy" in India. The Supreme Court has agreed to take up for hearing a pending plea political parties are eligible for redemption of electoral bonds.

According to ADR, in the case

of continuance of the scheme, the principle of anonymity of the bond donor enshrined in the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018 must be done away with, "All political parties which receive donations through Electoral Bonds declare in their Contributions Reports the total amount of such donations received in the given financial year along with the detailed particulars of the donors as against each Bond; the amount of each such bond and the full particulars of the credit received against each bond," ADR said in a report.

Donors gave Rs 1,056.73 crore in 2018, Rs 5,071.99 crore in 2019, Rs 363.96 crore in 2020, Rs 1,502.29 crore in 2021, and Rs 1,862 crore in 2022, SBI had said.

anonymously by donors and are valid for 15 days from the date of issue. A debt instrument, these can be bought by donors from a bank, and the political party can then encash them. These can be redeemed only by an eligible party by depositing the same in its designated account maintained with a bank. The bonds are issued by SBI in denominations of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10

lakh and Rs 1 crore. What has flummoxed observers is why people are donating funds through electoral bonds when there's no election on the horizon. Even major political parties have not disclosed the amount they received through electoral bonds. Further, as the bonds are sold through a public sector bank, the government would come to know who is funding which political party, critics argue.

## **Mandatory** testing: DoT exempts handsets,

New Delhi: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has exempted certain products including mobile user equipment, mobile handsets, and smart watches from the ambit of its mandatory testing 'MTCTE regime', removing a regulatory overlap that existed, an official re-

The exemptions will reduce the compliance burden and will enable the industry to roll out their products faster, it said. The Ministry of Electronics and IT carries out Compulsory Registration of specified goods - such as laptops, wireless keyboards, PoS machines and other electronic equipment - under the Electronics and Information Technology (Requirement for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012. PTI

# smart watches

lease said on Saturday.

Operational norms for FPIs, depository

participants tweaked **PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA** 

> CAPITAL MARKETS regulator Sebi tweaked the operational guidelines for depository participants (FPIs) pertaining to registration certificates of such foreign in-

NEW DELHI, APRIL 30

vestors and change in their name. The new guidelines will be applicable from May 9, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular on Friday.

According to the regulator, the framework has been modified pertaining to certificate of registration for FPIs and change in their name. With regard to registration certificate for FPIs, the regulator said the designated depository participant (DDP) will grant the certificate of registration, bearing the registration number gener-

ated by Sebi. In case an FPI has undergone a change in name, Sebi said the designated depository participant will effect the name change in the certificate after receiving such re-

"The DDP shall issue a letter and fresh registration certificate to such applicant acknowledging the change in name. Respective depositories shall make necessary

#### **FPI REGISTRATION** CERTIFICATE



■ With regard to registration certificate for FPIs, Sebi said the designated depository participant (DDP) will grant the certificate of registration, bearing the registration number

generated by Sebi

granted without prejudice to any tax liability/implication in India, Sebi said.

This comes after Sebi notified rules in January this year for generation of FPI registration number

by the capital markets regulator. Subsequently, the Ministry of Finance in March amended the Common Application Form (CAF), wherein both the depositories — NSDL and CDSL — have been allowed to host the CAF for FPI reg-

In order to operationalise the same, Sebi has decided decided to

## 'Semiconductor scheme a 20-plus year plan; global cos including India as core focus'

**Union Minister** 

the space. The larger ones have

completed the application

process, medium companies, in-

cluding many Indian ones, are

submitting their applications,

many of them are in the advanced

stage; it's an open process. Design

companies have shown a fabu-

lous response — we have excel-

lent responses from innovators,

youngsters, and startups, in line

incentives you have offered in

the semiconductor scheme.

could there be, in the future

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi very clearly said that this is

a 20-plus year plan. This is some-

thing which will be the founda-

tion of the economy. For this gen-

eration, this is as essential as we

considered electricity 20 years

with the expectations.

Apart from the financial

once things are up and

running, other benefits?

INTERVIEW: MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

nths have passed since the programme to invite semiconductor manufacturers to set up base in India was launched, Minister of Electronics & Information Technology ASHWINI VAISHNAW told SOUMYARENDRA BARIK in an interview that a decision as complex as setting up semiconductor manufacturing has a timeframe of 2-3 years and as India's ambitious scheme progresses, more global names are expected to come in. He also spoke about how the government plans to encourage domestic manufacturers to build capacity in this space.

Certain big names from the semiconductor space are still missing from the programme, they are yet to apply. Is there a push to make the scheme more attractive for them?

Almost all global majors have now included India as a core focus of their business plans. For any such complex and big investment decision, globally, the experience has been that the timeframe for them has been two to three years. These majors are evaluating, they have visited, they have met, they have understood what we are doing, and they have appreciated our plans. As it progresses, we should have more names coming in. It's just four months since the programme was launched, so there's huge

Apart from the global majors, are you exploring to encourage more companies from within the country?

Our programme had space for

completed the application process, medium companies, including many Indian ones, are submitting their applications...' both large and mid-sized compaback. So it is going to be a longterm programme and as we learn nies, along with creating talent in

Our programme had

mid-sized companies,

talent in the space. The

along with creating

larger ones have

space for both large and

from this first programme, we will tweak it and take it forward. Could there also be some

certain kinds of raw materials or end products for that? There is already a policy of giving preference to make in India. So as and when we start the production, we will tweak that pol-

restrictions on importing

icy accordingly. There have been reports that a new Data Protection Bill would be formulated. Do you

have any comments on that? The entire process has gone through a very detailed process. The data protection principles are very clearly set out in the world. Starting from GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) as the first journey, there are so many countries (that have worked on it). So can we make new principles?

## FISME plans collateral-free **MSME lending** platform

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBALAPRIL 30

AIMED AT fulfilling the need for urgent funds, a digital lending platform is being created to provide access to collateral-free capital unto Rs 25 lakh to m and medium enterprises

(MSMEs). The platform is being set up by the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) and Eqaro Surety Pvt Ltd,

a provider of financial guarantees. A memorandum of understanding in this regard was signed by Prashant Patel, president of FISME, and Vikash Khandelwal, CEO of Egaro, in Delhi recently.

"Lending has traditionally been collateral based. This unique, first time in India initiative will help MSMEs get easier access to credit backed by a surety guarantee without the need to put up col-

laterals," Khandelwal said. According to Patel, it is like an overdraft facility, initially pegged at Rs 25 lakh, which could be tapped anytime from anywhere should an MSME need funds.

Former Secretary, Department of Financial Services, DK Mittal termed the initiative "path-breaking", adding, "Lack of collateral is the single biggest bottleneck that small entrepreneurs face in accessing institutional funds and obviating the need for asset-based collateral by sureties can revolutionise MSME lending.'

#### people's Instamart deliveries to their doorsteps? Not yet. Swiggy is conduct-

from the first tranche".

Will drones be carrying

ing the pilot to evaluate the feasibility of drones for the 'middle mile' use case. This means that the drones will be used to replenish stocks between seller-run dark stores, and from a store to a common customer point. A delivery partner will then pick up or-

Garuda Aerospace will conduct the tests in Bengaluru and Skyeair Mobility in Delhi-NCR

ders from the common point and deliver them to the customer's doorstep.

What are the regulations pertaining to

> The most important factor of drone deliveries beyond visual line of ations - has not

drone deliveries?

been allowed by the government yet. But last year, the Ministry of Civil Aviation granted conditional exemption to 20 entities, including Swiggy, the ANRA consortium and Marut Dronetech to conduct BVLOS experimental

#### Are there other delivery companies involved in drone operations?

In India, several drone operators have partnered with state governments and other authorities to conduct trials of vaccines and healthcare supplies deliveries through drones, Logistics services company Delhivery last December announced acquisition of California-based Transition Robotics, which develops drone platforms. Globally, internet giant Alphabet's drone delivery unit Wing recently delivered its first consignment in a major US metropolitan area by supplying boxes of medicines from Walgreens in Dallas, Texas.

## used cars first-time buyers'

As much as 55% of the buyers on its platform during the March quarter were first-time car-buyers, used car retailer Spinny has noted in a report

'Over 50% people buying

26% were women among the total number of buyers on the platform **MOST PREFERRED BRANDS** 

with used car segment nearly WITH 31 YEARS of average age, most used car buyers are in the age

were Maruti, Hvundai and Honda.

bracket of 25-40 years INTERMSOF

80% people buying used cars preferred manual geared vehicles

20% opted for automatic transmission

Entry-level buyers are getting squeezed out due to increasing **new car prices** Source: Spinny; Compiled by ENS Economic Bureau

RISING FUEL PRICES

NOTWITHSTANDING, OF THE USED CARS SOLD ON

## FEL: Total borrowings at ₹4,543 cr

Mumbai: Future Enterprises (FEL), another Future group company, on Saturday said it has total outstanding borrowings of Rs

4,542.96 crore as of March 31. This takes the total outstanding borrowings disclosed by Kishore Biyani-led Future Group

companies to Rs 11,017.94 crore. Earlier on Friday, three Future Group companies - Future Retail (FRL), Future Lifestyle Fashions (FLFL) and Future Supply Chain Solutions (FSCS) — had stated their total outstanding borrow-

ings stood at Rs 6,474.98 crore. As of March 31, FRL had a total outstanding of Rs 4,876.88 crore, while that of FLFL was at Rs 1,181.98 crore and FSCS at Rs 416.12 crore, the companies had said in separate stock exchange updates.

Under regulations, the firms said that they were not classified as "large corporates". Further details of the borrowings were not immediately disclosed. FE

## Compare realisations outstanding with liquidation: RBI Deputy Guv on IBC

Mumbai/Ahmedabad: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao on Saturday said comparing the outstanding loan amounts with the value realised may not be a 'reasonable indicator' to assess the bankruptcy law's effectiveness.

Admitting that there have been concerns, Rao said one needs to understand that the value of the asset may have already deteriorated by the time it comes up at the courts, and added that one should compare the realisations with liquidation, which is the best possible alternative for lenders.

"We miss the fact that in a public auction-based resolution model, the extent of haircut represents a discount the market demands in continuing to invest in an insolvent borrower. Since significant value deterioration may have happened to the assets of the insolvent borrower, comparison with the outstanding amount may not be a reasonable indicator to evaluate the effectiveness of the

### 'Need framework to study impact'

New Delhi: Corporate Affairs Secretary Rajesh Verma, at a two-day conference on IBC on Saturday, pitched for having a framework to study the impact of the legislation. PTI

resolution," Rao said, at an international research conference on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) organised by Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) in collaboration with Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

At the same event, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh said evolving with changing scenarios will be crucial for IBC as it could become the most potent instrument in driving proactive responsible behaviour among lenders and prove to be a boon for the economy. PTI

\$6 billion of stock in Occidental

Petroleum Corp, where it already

had a \$10 billion preferred stock

\$11.6 billion to buy insurance

company Alleghany Corp, and

bought \$4.2 billion of HP Inc stock.

Buffett has also committed

#### arrangements for DDPs to provide fresh registration certificate as an acknowledgement from its database including a statement that the name change has been

## modify the operational guidelines. Russia makes last-minute

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** 

NEW YORK, APRIL 30

RUSSIA HAS staved off a default on its debt by making a lastminute payment using its precious dollar reserves sitting outside the country, US Treasury officials said.

The amount of the payment was not disclosed, but earlier this month Russia's finance ministry said it tried to make a \$649 million payment due April 6 toward two bonds to an unnamed US bank — previously reported as JPMorgan Chase.

tions imposed for Russia's invasion of Ukraine prevented the payment from being accepted, so Moscow attempted to make the debt payment in rubles.

bond payment to avoid default

The Kremlin, which repeatedly said it was financially able and willing to continue to pay on its debts, had argued that extraordinary events gave them the legal footing to pay in rubles, instead of dollars or euros.

Investors and rating agencies, however, disagreed and did not expect Russia to be able to convert the rubles into dollars before a 30-day grace period expired next week, leading to speculation that Moscow was heading to-

Russia has not defaulted on its foreign debts since the Bolshevik

ward an historic default on its

Revolution in 1917, when the collapse of the Russian Empire led to the creation of the Soviet Union. The governing body over credit default swamps - insur-

ance contracts designed to protect against default — had ruled already that Russia was in default. Treasury officials, who de-

clined to be named because they weren't authorised to speak on the record, said Russia tapped into its foreign currency reserves currently sitting outside the country to make Friday's payment.

Kolkata

## BRIEFLY —

#### Banks' Q4 New Delhi: The Q4FY22 net

profit of IDFC First Bank was Rs 343 crore and that of Yes Bank was Rs 367 crore.

### **CBDT**chief

New Delhi: CBDT Chairman JB Mohapatra retired Saturday even as a government order for appointment of a regular head is awaited.

### 'Vedanta chip'

New Delhi: Vedanta is in talks with banks to raise up to \$3 billion in debt for chip and display manufacturing plans, sources said. PTI

## QUARTERLY OPERATING PROFIT LITTLE CHANGED FROM A YEAR EARLIER Berkshire buys over \$51-bn of stock in Q1

#### **JONATHAN STEMPEL** OMAHA (NEBRASKA), APRIL 30

WARREN BUFFETT'S Berkshire Hathaway Inc dove into equity markets in the first quarter, spending more than \$51 billion on stocks including a much larger

stake in Chevron Corp. Berkshire, which Buffett has run since 1965, also said on Saturday quarterly operating profit was little changed from a vear earlier, with some businesses able to fend off supply chain disruptions. Geico, the car insurer, posted an underwriting loss.



chairman Warren Buffett (left) and vice chairman Charlie Munger. Reuters file

The Omaha, Nebraska-based company also said it repurchased \$3.2 billion of its own stock in the quarter, but none in the first three weeks of April. Berkshire's disclosures suggest

that Buffett has finally found large new uses to dispose of Berkshire's cash pile, which shrank more than \$40 billion to about \$106 billion. The Chevron stake grew to

\$25.9 billion as of March 31 from just \$4.5 billion three months earlier, as oil prices surged higher following Russia's invasion of That came on the heels of

Berkshire's purchase of well over

Berkshire ended March with \$391 billion of stocks, more than half of the company's \$712 billion overall market value. Other businesses include the

BNSF railroad, Berkshire Hathaway Energy, and a variety of manufacturing and retail operations including See's Candies and Dairy Queen ice cream. REUTERS

At that time, tightened sanc-

## THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE



INSIDE

Tea. Tibet and Treasure

Writer Madhulika Liddle on learning the art of lingering in Kangra Valley



**ALSO READ** Footprints on the Page

Writer Stephen Alter on travelling into the well-worn pages of old favourites in uncertain times and how it can be both rewarding and unexpected



Two years into the pandemic, our idea of holidays has changed. In these times of social distancing, the solitude of hills and the restorative quiet of mountains appear more tempting than ticking exotic destinations off bucket lists. In this special issue, we explore the lure of the homegrown holiday, where time stops still and one can get off the social-media bandwagon to take in the Arcadian pleasures of the non-urban life.

First up, a writer in search of new memories in old haunts

Sandip Roy

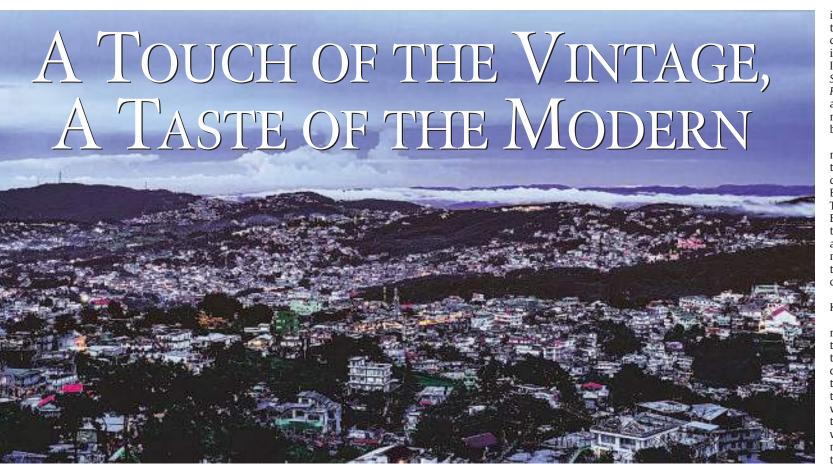
I WENT back to Shillong to find a pineapple soufflé.

I had had it as a little boy at the grand old Pinewood Hotel. It was served inside a whole pineapple that had been hollowed out and, in my memory, it was divinely airy and delicious, like a cloud of sophistication on a plate.

Decades later, the sprawling Pinewood Hotel is still charming, if a little faded. The room key (there is no smart key here) is large and old-fashioned and one needs to jiggle the lock as if opening a treasure chest. A plaque outside the hotel says it was established in 1898 and was owned till World War II by a Swiss couple, Mr and Mrs Peruz. Prior to 1947, only Westerners were allowed inside. I like to imagine the pineapple soufflé came from Mrs Peruz's dog-eared cookbook.

When I post a picture on Instagram of the hotel, lit up at night with strings of twinkling yellow fairy lights, it unleashes a rush of Bengali nostalgia. Every Bengali on my Instagram feed, it seems, has stayed at the Pinewood hotel when they were in third grade. And it's frozen in that vintage.

Shillong, which the British nicknamed the Scotland of the East, has always carried that whiff of picture-postcard nostalgia about it. There is still the same little white bridge in the middle of Ward's Lake, the artificial lake in the middle of town, with the fat red, black and orange carp swimming below, just like it was there when I was a boy. Even now when I order a cup of black tea, it comes with two cubes of sugar on the side,



GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN Shillong lit up in twinkling night lights

instead of a sachet, triggering memories of a time when even sugar cubes felt sophisticated. The little airport, a touch of modernity, is quaint, more bungalow than airport. When I read Indranee Ghosh's food memoir, Spiced, Smoked, Pickled, Preserved: Recipes and Reminiscences from India's Eastern Hills (2021) about growing up in Shillong, it jived with my recollection of a place that was in India but somehow not of India at the same time.

In her memory, Shillong was where her mother made quince jam from the fruit in their yard, and Ketumama grilled freshly caught river trout and they all listened to the Bertie Wooster radio series on the BBC. There was also ethnic unrest, the infamous Bongal Kheda (Drive out the Bongals) agitations of Assam that began in 1960, violence against those perceived as outsiders. But now, the air of cute cosmopolitanism seems to be back with Bob Dylan festivals, Shillong choirs and peach wine.

The best thing is there is no

Kangchenjunga There is a Shillong Peak but at 6,433 ft it's no snow-capped Himalayan peak and thus there is none of the tension of getting up at the crack of dawn just in case the Himalaya deigns to oblige us with a sunrise. Instead, there are waterfalls and living root bridges that can be seen at any time of the day, women in tribal weaves selling yellow betel nuts and pig haunches and wiggling silkworm larvae at the labyrinthine lewduh market. If you go at the right time of the year, there are cherry blossoms blooming everywhere like pink and white clouds.

» CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE



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Coorg Mysore Bengaluru (7D) 44000 - 46000 Kerala (6D) 36000 - 38000

Andaman (7D) May 22, 29 - 63000

## **Women's Special Tours**

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**Couples Only (for middle-age couples)** Leh Kargil Pangong Nubra (9D) July 9 - 66K Shimla Manali Manikaran (8D) May 24 - 48000

YOLO Adventures (for 18-35 year olds) Leh Nubra Pangong Hanle (10D) May 31 - 73K Pahalgam Gulmarg Sonmarg Srinagar(10D)June 2-69K

YOLO Adventures (for 10-55 year olds) Pahalgam Gulmarg Sonmarg Srinagar(10D)June 24 - 69K Meghalaya Shillong Cherrapunjee(8D)May 28 - 70K

## Honeymoon Special Tours (for young couples)

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Leh Ladakh Manali Kashmir (15D) July 15 - 90K Leh Ladakh Manali (11D) July 15 - 76000 Lahaul Spiti Chandrataal (12D) June 2, 23 - 66K Kashmir to Kanyakumari (40D) Nov 12 - 200000

Road Trips-Bharat Jodo Paryatan Abhiyan

Amritsar Attari Wagah Border (4D) 29K - 32K Statue of Unity+Narmada Tent City (3D) 28K - 30K

Young Explorers (for 8-18 year olds)

### Seniors' Special Tours (golden age celebration for 55+)

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# Together They Stand

The Badami caves are an ensemble of shared thought and skill

Rinku Ghosh

HE SOARING volcanic rocks of Badami get their name because they look like giant almonds piled haphazardly - terrifying, fiery, burning like embers, breaking through the earth's crust. It is in these caves that the Chalukyan kings gave full play to the theory that size does matter with their sculpted figures breathing down our puny human lives. Look at any of the faces here long enough and one would feel they would nod at any moment, probably frozen now by a spell of

Badami saw an efflorescence of the Indic way of life and by the time the Chalukyas made it their capital (mid 6th century), it had not only become a commercial hub but also a centre of learning, finding a place in Ptolemy's Guide to Geography of the mid-second century.

Be it art, sculpture, literature, performance arts and intelligent discourses, their military might was overwritten by a certain excellence of the mind. The liberalism of the Chalukyas made Badami the greatest exhibition of public art, an assemblage of shared thought, community life, exchange of ideas, celebration of talent and skill. There's a harmony like no other. Shaivite, Vaishnavite and Jain sculptures find their place in cavernous halls, tiered above one another. Shiva appears as a dancer in the form of Natya Shiva, documenting all the postures that make up



**ROCK ON** 

Shaivite, Vaishnavite and Jain sculptures stand in harmony

our Natyashastra. With nine arms on the left and nine on the right, you would find all the 81 postures of Bharatanatyam as we know it. We see Ganesha dancing, here he is quite fit and doesn't have a potbelly.

The two fusion forms of Shiva are significant harmony symbols, one as Harihara, half himself and half Vishnu, signifying the coming together of two religious sects, and the other of Ardhanarishwara, a surgical union of the male and female halves. The perfect union results in a new, harmonised generation represented by playful children all around, sleeping, crawling, tossing and turning.

There's Varaha (an avatar of Vishnu), holding Bhudevi (Mother Earth) aloft in one hand, his feet stomping the netherworld, the fury so apparent that it would appear the mural would crack from side to side. Equally striking is Narasimha, who abandons his destructive anger for a more indulgent half-smile, resting his hand on a royal sceptre. The beautiful yakshis are perched like birds in brackets, ready to step out and resume a conversation they had stopped aeons ago.

Meanwhile, Mahavira sits silent, unmoved, drawing from the gust of fresh air from the surrounding Agastya lake. Time has peeled off the pilaster, the wind has weathered the rocks, the sun has bleached rocks into differing shades of red, the striated layers run into each other, creating their own mosaic. Yet in the end, Mahavira stands tall. Unperturbed and sentient. More than words, the Chalukyan kings still speak to us.

## Tea, Tibet and Treasure

In Kangra, where spirituality and culture converge, the scent of tea wafts in the air and the Dhauladhar mountain range awaits seekers

Madhulika Liddle

N A sunny day in June 2019, we – my husband, our daughter and I — visit Kangra Fort. We have forgotten how hot even Himachal can get in peak summer, but a bottle of water from a shop outside the fort tides us over. Kangra Fort, the largest  $fort in the \, Himalayas (and \, the \, eighth \, largest \, in \,$ India) is a behemoth, not lightly approached.

The story goes that the Kangra Fort was built shortly after the battle of the Mahabharata, by a maharaja of the Katoch dynasty (the erstwhile ruling family, still connected to the fort). Over the following centuries, it accumulated vast amounts of wealth donated to the highly venerated Ambika Devi Temple in the fort.

Of course, that treasure couldn't be hidden for long, and word spread. Over the years, one invader after another attacked Kangra Fort with an eye on its wealth. Alexander, some believe, was one of those; Mahmud of Ghazni definitely was (and he took many camel-loads of treasure back to Ghazni). Mohammad bin Tughlaq attacked, and then, Jahangir; so did Ranjit Singh, who – like Jahangir before him, and the British after — succeeded in capturing the fort.

On a hot afternoon, over a century after a cataclysmic earthquake destroyed much of the fort (in 1905), there's no sign of the wealth. The fort's walls march up the mountainside, past a 300-year-old peepal tree, to the ruins of the royal apartments, at the pinnacle. Intricately carved panels stand tall beyond the huge circular bases of van-

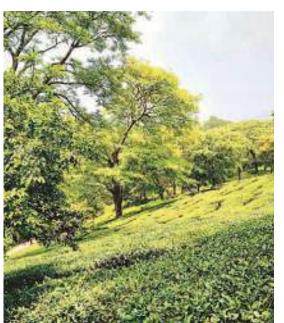
And all around loom the mountains of Kangra. The most populous district of Himachal Pradesh, this is a land not just of cedars and snow, but much more. Tea, for one, which grows in green carpets blanketing the hills. Palampur, where we stay at the Taragarh Palace — once owned by the royal family of Kashmir, now a heritage hotel — is where the tea is at its most visible. Tea estates spread over the hills, the bushes abutting the road. Reetha trees, shady and laden with soap nuts, spread overhead, and red-billed blue magpies, bright-eyed and long-tailed, hop about.

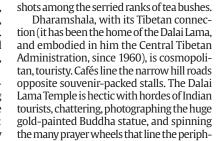
In the grounds of the Taragarh Palace, more natural beauty awaits. Potted plants abound, but there's more: a blurring of garden and wilderness – pink orchids hang, jewel-like, from a chinar tree; purple sunbirds flit, and babblers hop about in the shell ginger beside the swimming pool.

The coolness and the serenity envelop us even at the tea factory and gardens of the Wah Tea Estate. A cheesy name for a tea, I think (what? Wah, Wah? Instead of Wah, Taj?). But our guide, provided by the estate, explains. The estate is named for the (now Pakistani) town of Wah, hometown of Sikandar Ali Khan, who established this tea estate in 1857. The estate. sprawling across 500 acres, still flourishes, though no longer owned by the Khan family. The brewed tea, of which we are given several samples to taste, is imbued with the sunlight, the piney fragrance, the spirit of Kangra.

Tea is also grown in the district headquarters at Dharamshala (and its adjoining McLeod Ganj). But that seems to me more like tea for tourists than for the tea industry: the gardens here are compact, selfie-friendly ones beside the highway. Five minutes out of your car is all you need to get some great







ery of the prayer hall. The Norbulingka Institute, which nur-





tures the arts and crafts of Tibet, is somewhat touched the surface. But, at each of the relimore refinedly touristy, perhaps because you need a sensitivity to appreciate the effort that goes into keeping alive a tradition in danger the Gyuto Tantric Monastery in Dharamshala, of annihilation. We wander about, admiring the atmospheric Church of St John in the the work of the artisans and their apprentices: the metallurgy, the painting, the woodcarving, all exquisite.

We spend just 10 days in Kangra on this trip. Too little for more than a tantalising taste of the area. The Buddhist monasteries, the apple orchards, the tea gardens, the views of the snow-capped Himalayas: we have only just

gious sites we visit — the Ambika Devi Temple at Kangra Fort, the Dalai Lama Temple and Woods at Dharamshala — I offer up a prayer, not just for the usual peace, good health and blessings, but that the powers that be may allow us to return to Kangra. Again and again.

Madhulika Liddle is an author based in the NCR. Apart from historical fiction and short stories, she also writes on food, cinema and travel

## A Touch of the Vintage, A Taste of the Modern



MEMORIES IN SEPIA The charming Pinewood Hotel

»FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

THE CHERRY blossoms here bloom in November, unlike the sakura of Japan which ushers in spring. They are now the backdrop to cherry blossom festivals of music and literature. The trees are a newer addition and, unlike many new touristy additions, they are actually pretty, not tacky. But what feels really different now is instead of pineapple soufflé and Ward's Lake nostalgia I get to learn about more local lore. The writer Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih, author of the Funeral Nights (2021), talks about the legend of the bored Khasi convict who started digging a hole in the ground which ultimately became Ward's Lake, although it got named after a sahib, not the convict. He takes us not to the tourist trap of Elephant Falls but the Mawphlang sacred grove with its stories of brown bull sacrifice and leopard and snake omens. The young guide is awestruck because Nongkynrih is part of his school syllabus. He tries to impress us by finding a leaf with a perfect little heart cut in it by some insect. Later, we realise every guide "spots" the same leaf and the same rudraksha. If Nongkynrih realises the subterfuge, he graciously says nothing. In the hush of the forest, a few touristy touches are forgivable. It just means that next time I go to Shillong, I might still find the rudraksha bead and the leaf with a heart-shaped hole.

Unlike that pineapple soufflé, I had a pineapple georgette which turned out to look like a bar of soap. But the local pork thali in Police Bazaar was better than remembrance of souffles past, Perhaps, it's just a reminder that one needs to make new memories in old places.

The writer is a novelist and the author of Don't Let Him Know

### **Syed Saad Ahmed**

I NEVER thought I would be so eager to navigate 700 steps. But amid the wave of revenge travel in August 2021, I visited Mount Abu with a friend — my first vacation since the pandemic began. A hilly honeymoon destination and a watering hole for tipplers from the dry state of Gujarat, Mount Abu was deluged with tourists. But where there's a hill, there's a way.

So, instead of the more popular attractions, we went to Gomukh, a holy spring on the city's outskirts. The descent to Gomukh only offered views of tree canopies and the spring was dry. But as we were returning, I saw a trail penetrating the dense forest. More encouragingly, arrow markers were painted on rocks along the path, signalling a tantalising terminus.

Here, the flora was more diverse than along the staircase to Gomukh. Thanks to image-recognition apps, I could put names to fruits, flowers and fungi I had never known existed. There were kidney-shaped mushrooms that radiated an orange gradient from the centre. These were reishi, used in traditional Chinese medicine. A white flower with lacy strands hemming its petals turned out to be a member of the gourd family. The apps made me feel like an intrepid naturalist, but they could not identify the most bizarre creature I came across: 10-foot-tall clumps of thick grass with lacerating edges. They seemed like gargantuan spiders that would start crawling any moment.

But the joy of discoveries was tinged with unease. We were deep inside the Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary, a rich sloth bear habitat. Every rustle conjured visions of chancing upon a bear and the gory repercussions. There were two of us, but we disagreed on how to deal with a charging beast. I suggested we stand our ground while my friend advocated running for our lives.

The telltale sign of human presence plastic and litter are omnipresent across Mount Abu — was conspicuously absent along the route. We kept walking into massive webs, though thankfully, we missed the spiders even

## A Whole New World

MYRIAD HUES

(Clockwise from top)

Temples within the

Kangra Fort; view of

the snow-capped

Himalayas; the

Norbulingka

Institute; tea

gardens; prayer

wheels at the Dalai

Lama temple

Mount Abu might be a touristy hill station, but it offers plenty of roads less travelled



OFF THE TRAIL

(Clockwise from top) Nakki Lake; Craig's Path; Sage Gautam's Temple





coursing down the mountain slope. At one of these junctions, I spotted a scaly stripe on a

as we brushed off the tingling strands.

boulder. On closer inspection, it turned out to be a three-foot-long moulted snakeskin! Further ahead, a rustling began that wouldn't stop even when we or the wind did.

The track crisscrossed dry stream beds

The sound seemed to be getting closer. I was apprehensive until a partridge peeked at us and darted, screeching in alarm. I am glad it was just a bird, for we wouldn't have been much good at either fight or flight. As the trail went uphill, the thick forest canopy gave way to cloud-studded skies. On reaching the mountaintop's edge, we spotted

a saffron splash amid the sea of green below. It turned out to be the destination the signs were pointing to — a small temple built on a platform cut into the slope. Its architectural embellishments and stone carvings suggested antiquity. I later discovered that it was the temple of Gautam, a sage who is said to have done penance here. As a squall hit my face, it struck me that it

had been almost two years since I saw such an expansive vista. The streams, check dams and woods stretching beneath my feet were a stark counterpoint to my neighbours' houses, which was largely the "view" I had had since the pandemic. This inspired me to climb every mountain

and search high and low for panoramic outposts. On a guided trek along Craig's Path, I took in the whole city, built around Nakki Lake. Expectations were low from the banal-sounding Sunset Point, but the smouldering skies kept me glued to the clifftop. A forest clearing with a solitary temple en route to Agneshwar Mahadev reminded me of the alpine meadows I had camped in before the pandemic.

When it comes to Indian mountains, the Himalayas get the most attention. But four days in Mount Abu left me besotted with the Aravallis. For at every turn, I had come to expect a surprise — or at least, a stunning view.

 $Syed\,Saad\,Ahmed\,is\,a\,writer\,and\,a$ 

## TRAVEL

## FOOTPRINTS ON THE PAGE

In uncertain times, travelling into the well-worn pages of old favourites can be as rewarding as sojourns into destinations old and new

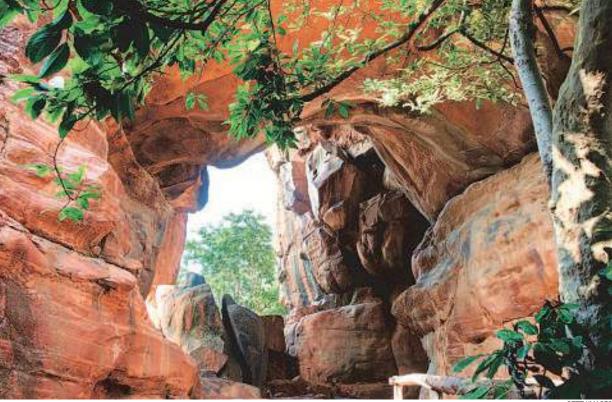
Stephen Alter

VERY BOOK is a journey. This cliché has never been more apparent for me than it was during the recent and, hopefully, receding pandemic. Over the past two years, while most of the world was in lockdown, I finished writing one novel and began work on another, each of which transported me to places both familiar and unknown.

After starting the first book, Birdwatching (2022), I had planned to visit Gangtok and Kalimpong, where some of the incidents in my story take place. This trip was scheduled for March 2020, but with the tragic and terrifying spread of the virus, I was forced to cancel tickets and rely on published sources as well as my imagination. The second book, Death in Shambles, retraces an earlier journey to a fictional hill station, Debrakot, which was the setting for my first novel, Neglected Lives (1978). Written 45 years ago, when I was all of 20, that book described a romantic, youthful escape into the mountains, while this time Debrakot serves as a backdrop for a darker, more disturbing quest.

As I've often said, I write with my feet, particularly when it comes to travel memoirs. The process of composing a novel is similar to extended treks I've taken in the mountains. It is accomplished in regular stages of approximately 1,000 words a day. Each morning, when I sit at my desk, I set off on a path I haven't explored before. The keyboard on my laptop provides stepping-stones along the route. One word leads on to the next and sentences progress into paragraphs until I finally reach a suitable halt and set up camp for the night. When writing fiction, I seldom know where I'm headed. Most writers don't plot out the endings of stories in advance but allow their creative instincts to guide them. While wrong turns and detours are part of the wandering process, corrected or revised in later drafts, the final destination remains uncertain until the concluding chapter.

Of course, many novels like EM Forster's A Passage to India (1924) or Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan (1956) are structured around journeys. Italo Calvino's If on a Winter's Night a Traveller (1979) also comes to mind, a modern classic in which the act of reading (and writing) provokes an unpredictable itinerary of events, mapped out within the pages of Calvino's book itself. Not long ago, I reread Sunil Gangopadhyay's Aranyer Dinratri (1968, Days and Nights in the Forest) translated into





ROCK AND STROLL

(Clockwise from top) At the Unesco world heritage archaeological site of Bhimbetka rock shelters in Madhya Pradesh; the Giant Wild Boar Rock; a leopard at Satpura Tiger Reserve; Pachmarhi in the Satpura range



English by Rani Ray (2010), who suggests in her introduction that the book was inspired by Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* (1957). The novel begins with four young men boarding a train without tickets or any predetermined destination in mind. On the advice of an anonymous stranger, they get down at a remote station in the jungle. Over the course of a few days, they explore this semi-wild land-scape, through the lens of urban alienation

and discontentment. After reading this novel, I also re-watched Satyajit Ray's film adaptation (1970), which recreates, in vivid blackand-white, the shadowy, disturbing sense of a dislocated, rootless journey.

Soon after travel restrictions were eased,

at the beginning of this year, I felt an urge to

set out for places I'd been dreaming of visiting during the enforced hiatus of the pandemic. Wildlife and wild spaces have always attracted me, and like the characters in Aranyer Dinratri, I set off into the forest. Heading for Pachmarhi and Satpura Tiger

Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, I spent a week in the jungle, searching for wildlife and visiting prehistoric rock shelters where ancient forest dwellers painted pictorial epics on the walls of caves. Thousands of years ago, these nomadic hunter-gatherers felt a need to narrate their adventures through images committed to stone. They recount the pursuit of prey, acts of bravery and cowardice, as well as victory and celebration. Like all good hunting tales, the rock art contains elements of exaggera-

tion and embellishment, like the image of a giant boar, with horns as well as tushes, who chases away a terrified hunter. Being a writer and a traveller, I felt an immediate kinship to these visual storytellers who lived itinerant, unsettled lives in the Satpura and Vindhya Ranges that border the Narmada Valley.

Whenever I travel, I choose a book to carry with me. In this case, I had consciously picked an old favourite, Hugh Allen's *The Lonely Tiger* (1960), which describes wildlife in the Satpura region. Amid the verdant jungles, I came upon living creatures

from Allen's stories as well as species depicted in the cave paintings. Encountering a magnificent male leopard on one of my outings, as well as a sloth bear with cubs, I felt I had finally escaped the confinement and isolation of the past two years. Here were timeless tales that I could follow into an uncertain, uncharted future.

Stephen Alter lives and writes in Mussoorie. His most recent book is *Birdwatching: a novel* 





Mehsana is home to Gujarat's most loved and most preferred Shankus Waterpark. Whether you are planning to take a break on weekends or just relax with your family, Shankus is a home for a perfect waterpark experience. So, what makes Shankus one of the best waterparks, not just in Gujarat but in India & as well as across the globe? The answer to this lies in the legacy that Shankus Group is carrying forward even today.

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# 12 THE WORLD



FRANCE

### Macron Promises More Aid To Ukraine

Pesident Emmanuel Macron said France would step up military and humanitarian support to Ukraine during a phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday, Paris said. Macron reiterated his "strong concern" over Russia's bombing of Ukrainian cities and the "unbearable situation" in the southeastern Ukrainian port city of Mariupol, the French presidency added in its statement.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. AP

## **NORTH KOREA**

#### Kim warns: Can 'preemptively' use nuclear weapons

Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned again that North Korea could preemptively use its nuclear weapons if threatened, as he praised his top army officials for a massive military parade in Pyongyang this week. Kim expressed "firm will" to continue developing his nuclear-armed military so that it could "preemptively and thoroughly contain and frustrate all dangerous attempts and threatening moves, including ever-escalating nuclear threats from hostile forces, if necessary," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said on Saturday. KCNA said Kim called his military officials to praise their work during Monday's parade, where the North showcased the biggest weapons in its nuclear arsenal.

#### **AUSTRALIA PM Morrison** decries China's interference

Sydney: Australia's Prime Minister accused China on Saturday of "form", or a record, on interference in foreign politics, after his home minister said Beijing's unveiling of a security deal with the nearby Solomon Islands was timed to influence an election. With most polls showing Scott Morrison's conservative coalition headed for a loss in the May 21 election, it has sought to highlight its national security credentials, such as a tough approach

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

### Lawmaker quits after viewing porn in House

London: A British lawmaker from the governing Conservative Party has resigned after admitting he watched pornography on his phone in the House of Commons chamber. Neil Parish, an MP since 2010, announced his decision on Saturday after pressure from members of his party who sought to defuse sleaze allegations before Britain holds its local elections on May 5. Parish, 65, stepped down after what he described as a moment of "madness." He said he was trying to look at a tractor website, but stumbled into a porn site with a similar name and watched it for "a bit."

## RUSSIAN STRIKE HAS KNOCKED OUT ODESA AIRPORT: KYIV

## Ukraine fights to hold off Russian advance in south and east Donbas

**AP& REUTERS** 

KHARKIV, APRIL 30

UKRAINIAN FORCES fought Saturday to hold off a Russian advance in their country's south and east, where the Kremlin is seeking to capture the industrial Donbas region. A Russian missile strike at the airport in the southwestern port of Odesa has damaged the runway and it can no longer be used, the Ukrainian military said on Saturday.

The UN continued trying to broker an evacuation of civilians from the increasingly hellish ruins of Mariupol. Russian state news outlets reported Saturday that 25 civilians had been evacuated from the Azovstal steelworks, though there was no confirmation from the UN or Ukrainian officials, Russia's RIA Novosti news agency said 19 adults and six children were brought out of the plant, but gave no further details.

Vladimir Meanwhile, Yermakov, Russia foreign ministry's head of nuclear non-proliferation, said all nuclear powers must stick to logic laid out in official documents aimed at preventing nuclear war, adding that Moscow believes risks of nuclear war should be kept to a minimum.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview that Russian and Ukrainian negotiators talk "almost every day." However, he told Chinese state news agency Xinhua that "progress has not been easy." Lifting sanctions imposed on Russia is part of peace negotiations, which are "difficult" but continue daily, Lavrov added.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy acknowledged as much in his nightly address. "If the Russian invaders succeed in realising their plans, at least in part, they will still have enough artillery and aircraft to destroy the entire Donbas. Just as they destroyed Mariupol," he said.

## Germany takes Italy to ICJ over Nazi grant claims

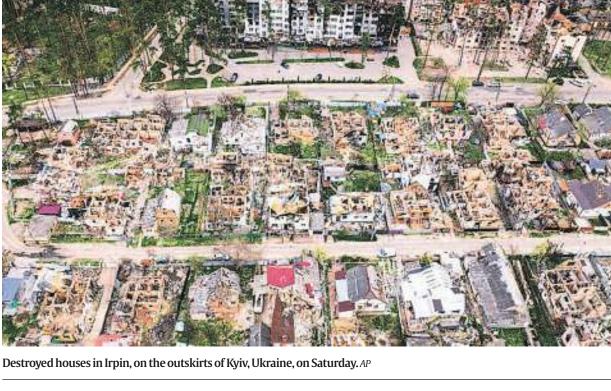
REUTERS

THE HAGUE, APRIL 30

GERMANY HAS filed a case against Italy at the highest UN court because Rome continues to allow victims of Nazi war crimes to claim compensation from the German state even after an earlier ruling that such claims violated international law.

Germany's application to the ICJ published on court website late on Friday, says Italy continues to allow compensation claims to be brought in domestic courts despite the ICI's 2012 ruling that this violated Berlin's right to immunity under international law.

Berlin says there have been over 25 new compensation claims filed in Italy against the German state for damages arising from Nazi crimes during World War Two. Germany says it has filed the case at the ICJ now because an Italian court has said it will decide by May 25 whether to force a sale of buildings, some of which house German cultural, archeological and educational institutions.



## Moscow stole several hundred thousand tonnes of grain: Ukraine

**REUTERS** KYIV, APRIL 30

**KJMVARMA** 

injured people.

BEIJING, APRIL 30

AT LEAST 39 people were miss-

ing and 23 trapped in a six-

storey residential building col-

lapse in China's central Hunan

province, authorities said on

Saturday. Chinese President Xi

Jinping has ordered all-out ef-

Five people have been res-

forts to rescue the trapped and

**COVID MILESTONE** 

Shanghai/Beijing: Shanghai said on

Saturday it had detected no new

daily Covid-19 cases outside quar-

antine areas, marking a milestone

in its battle to contain the virus,

which has paralysed the city of 25

million and put residents in the

quiet at the start of a five-day

Labour Day break, with residents

Streets in Beijing were eerily

capital Beijing on edge.

RUSSIAN FORCES have stolen "several hundred thousand tonnes" of grain in the areas of Ukraine they occupy, Ukraine's deputy agriculture minister said on Saturday.

Speaking to Ukrainian national TV, Taras Vysotskiy expressed concern that most of what he said was 1.5 million tonnes of grain stored in occupied territory could also be stolen by Russian forces. Ukraine's foreign ministry

accused Russia on Thursday of stealing grain in territory it has occupied, an act it said increased the threat to global food security. Agriculture minister Mykola Solskyi said grain theft had in-

creased in the last two weeks. "I hear this from many silo owners in the occupied territory. This is outright robbery. And this

is happening everywhere in occupied territory," the ministry quoted Solskyi as saying.

He said such a situation could

**CHINA: OWNER OF 6-STOREY RESIDENTIAL BUILDING DETAINED** 

Over 20 trapped, 39 missing in Hunan

building collapse, Xi orders rescue efforts

cued and admitted to nearby

hospitals. The six-story building

toppled at noon on Friday in

Changsha city's Wangcheng dis-

trict, state-run China Global

more survivors as 39 people were

reported missing. At least 23 have

been trapped. The owner of the

emergency management, in a

video conference on Saturday

No new case reported in Shanghai

anxious that authorities would

impose further restrictions dur-

ing a holiday when many typi-

cuss the break in Covid transmis-

sion at their daily news confer-

ence, but social media cheered

the news. "Shanghai has finally

reached zero at the community

level!!! May Shanghai wake up

Shanghai officials did not dis-

cally travel or socialise.

Huang Ming, minister of

building has been detained.

Rescuers were searching for

Television Network reported.

create food problems in areas that are currently not controlled.

"There will soon be a wheat harvest in the south. But farmers in this situation may well say: 'Here are the keys to the tractor go collect it yourself, if you want'," Solskyi said.

The Kremlin denied Ukraine's allegations, saying it did not know where the information was coming from. The agriculture ministry said on Friday that six regions in Ukraine had completed their early spring grain sowing despite

called for an inspection of work

safety to prevent further acci-

dents. "Related departments should launch a crackdown on

illegal and irregular building ac-

tivities such as unauthorised

construction and unauthorised

alteration of the main structure

to prevent collapses and other

similar accidents," Huang said.

Councilor Wang Yong led a team

to Changsha to guide rescue and

as soon as possible!!," said one

On Saturday, health authori-

ties said there were close to

16,000 sealed-off areas in

Shanghai, with more than 4 mil-

lion people prevented from leav-

19 deaths for Friday, down from

Shanghai reported 47 Covid-

REUTERS

ing their homes.

52 a day earlier.

post on the Weibo platform.

emergency response.

On Saturday, Chinese State

## Cop killed, 5 injured in 2

More bodies found

Kyiv: Ukrainian police said

on Saturday they had found

the bodies of three civilian

men in the Bucha district

north of Kyiv, bound and in

some cases gagged, with

several gunshot wounds that

police said indicated they

for long. Bullet wounds were

found on the extremities of

their bodies. Each of the men

was shot through the ear," po-

lice said. Moscow rejects the allegation.

"The victims were tortured

in Bucha, carry

torture signs

had been tortured.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PESHAWAR, APRIL 30

blasts in Pak

A POLICEMAN has been killed and five others injured in two separate blasts in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said on Saturday.

A police constable was killed and another was injured when an improvised explosive device detonated close to the main gate of Nisatta police station in Charsadda on Friday, district po-

lice officer Suhail Khalid said. The injured policeman was shifted to the district headquarters hospital. His condition is said to be stable now, Khalid said. No militant group has claimed re-

sponsibility for the attack. In another attack, four people were injured when a roadside explosive went off in Bajaur tribal district of the province on Friday. Police said the injured were shifted to district headquarters hospital, where the condition of the injured was critical. The critically injured persons were later referred to a hospital in Peshawar.

#### MONKS DEMAND GOVT'S RESIGNATION

## Will prove majority in Parliament next week, says Lankan **Opposition leader**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** COLOMBO, APRIL 30

A SENIOR leader from Sri Lanka's Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) on Saturday said his party will prove their majority in Parliament next week for the no-confidence motion against the government led by the Rajapaksa family, according to a media report.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has asked the Opposition to show their majority by garnering the support of 113 lawmakers in the 225-member Parliament to form the interim government.

"Everyone will be able to see that we command a majority next week and I will not reveal how we are going to do it as of now," Daily Mirror quoted SJB MP and Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella as saying. "President should resign

from his post and then constitutional reforms should follow to ensure checks and balances among the pillars of the government," he said. Another SJB MP Mujibur

Rahman, who was also present during the press conference, said his party will also push for impeachment against the President. "We have not given it up," he said. Meanwhile, Buddhist clergy

on Saturday held a key convention and warned that people would be influenced to reject all politicians if PM Mahinda Rajapaksa did not resign to make way for an interim government to resolve the political and economic crisis in the country. Rev Prof Olaganwatte

Chandrasiri read out the monks' order after over 1,000 monks staged a protest march demanding the government to act according to their letter addressed to the President dated April 4.



demanding President resign outside President's office in Colombo. AP



THE ECONOMY of the nation melted down after a large 2019 tax cut by President Gotabaya drained government coffers and Covid hit the lucrative tourism industry. Foreign reserves fell 70% over the past two years to \$1.93 billion, leaving Colombo struggling to pay for essentials. Colombo hopes it can conclude the IMF aid talks in about six months but it cannot control how long negotiations will take.

"Unless action is taken to empower Parliament by pruning the excessive powers of the president, unless the PM resigns immediately to make way for an all party interim government, we would be compelled to rally the public to tell them to reject all politicians," the order read out by Prof Chandrasiri stated.

## Aspects of Nehru and Mountbatten letters can stay redacted: UK tribunal

**ADITIKHANNA** LONDON, APRIL 30

CERTAIN ASPECTS of the personal diaries and letters involving Lord Mountbatten, the last Vicerov of India, his wife Edwina and India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, at the heart of an appeal to decide whether they can be fully released for open public access, will remain redacted after a UK tribunal ruling.

Judge Sophie Buckley presided over the UK First-Tier Tribunal (Information Rights) appeal to determine the fate of some redacted sections of diaries and correspondence dating back to the 1930s.

The three-member tribunal concluded recently that Southampton University did not "hold" any correspondence entitled "letters from Lady Mountbatten to Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of the newly independent India (33) files, 1948-60), along with copies of his letters to her" as part of its Broadlands Archive and was only



Jawaharlal Nehru with Edwina Mountbatten. Express File

"physically safeguarding the papers" on its premises.

"The information was not owned by the University, and its use was restricted both in contract and in practice to physically safeguarding the papers. This is akin to the papers being held by an expert storage company," the tribunal decision reads. "Matters have moved on considerably since the decision notices... and the vast majority of the Mountbatten Papers have now been made public," it points out.

### COUNTRY HAS 3 WAYS OF CALCULATING AGE, OFTEN ADDING A YEAR OR TWO TO GLOBAL STANDARD. INCOMING PRESIDENT AIMS TO CHANGE THAT

## Age just a number: Millions of S Koreans could soon get younger...on paper

JIN YU YOUNG SEOUL, APRIL 30

WHEN LEE Jae-hye goes to the US. she is 30. When she's back in South Korea, she is 32. "It's so confusing," said Lee, a video producer in Seoul who frequently flies between the two countries.

That is because South Korea counts people's ages three ways, often adding a year or two to the international standard. This can present situations ripe for confusion, since age determines roles in the social hierarchy and is important in legal milestones such as when one has the right to drink or vote. It undergirds mundane tasks like filling out official paperwork, and it is key to figuring out how to address elders.

But soon, nearly 52 million South Koreans may step into the world of Benjamin Button, shaving up to two years off their ages (if only on paper), if Presidentelect Yoon Suk-yeol keeps a campaign promise to scrap the nation's unique system.

On April 11, Lee Yong-ho, an official with Yoon's transition team, announced plans to proceed with the change. Yoon, who takes office in May, hopes to do so by making a change to South Korean civil code by the end of next year.

Lee said the shift would reduce confusion and make communication easier, domestically and internationally. It would also help eliminate "unnecessary social and economic costs," he said.

The exact origins of the Korean age system are hard to trace, stemming from long-held beliefs, said Yoon In-jin, a professor specialising in urban sociology at Korea University.

"We can't know or remember the origins of our Korean customs," he said. "It's just the way we have done things."

Here's how the three ways of counting age work.

Under the first, and most widely used, method — often simply called "Korean age" people are considered a year old



A recent survey found strong support in South Korea for adopting the international standard for determining age. NYT

at birth, and they add a year to their age every Jan. 1. This applies even to an infant born on, say,

Dec. 31, who would be considered 2 years old the very next day. In other words, the birth year, not the date of birth, determines someone's age. This method is the one most commonly recognised in social situations.

The second is the one the rest of the world uses: starting the count from zero at birth and adding a year on every birthday. The third, and least common, method is known as "year age." Like the international system, it starts from zero at birth, but it adds a year of age every Jan 1 so that baby born on Dec 31 would turn 1, not 2, the following day. This method applies to laws such as the Military Service Act — which sets the age of compulsory conscription — and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which decides when children begin school.

Such age-counting methods were previously used in other places with Confucianist traditions, such as China and Taiwan, but South Korea is the only nation that still recognises them, according to Suh Chan S, a professor in the department of sociology at Chung-Ang University in Seoul.

Yoon Suk-yeol's push to change the system has wide public backing. In a survey published in January by the polling company Hankook Research, 7 of 10 adult respondents supported getting rid of the age system.

Forty percent said the change would ease conflicts within the jority, 53%, said reducing confusion at the administrative and legal levels was a good reason to pass Yoon's proposed change "People in Korea don't like

country's social hierarchy. A ma-

having a younger person be their superior at work," he said. Yoon In-jin doubted that aban-

doning the Korean age system would lead to broader social changes anytime soon, "From a sociology perspective, customs are so deeply rooted in a society that change won't happen overnight," he said. "The change is desirable, but we'll have to see." But other Koreans do not see any benefit to changing the age system, or the hierarchy that underlies it.

## Real romp to record-extending 35th La Liga title

**REUTERS** APRIL 30

REALMADRID won a record-extending 35th LaLiga title after two first-half goals from Rodrygo spurred them to a 4-0 home victory over mid-table Espanyol on Saturday.

The win also made their Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti the first manager to capture titles in each of Europe's top five leagues -England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France.

Rodrygo's double put Real 2-0 up at the break before Marco Asensio added a third after 55 minutes and LaLiga top scorer Karim Benzema sealed the points in the 81st.

Captain Benzema lifted the trophy after coming off the bench late in the second half as Ancelotti rested several regular starters with Real hosting Manchester City in their Champions League semi-final second leg on Wednesday trailing 4-3.

Real have 81 points with four games to go. They are 17 points ahead of secondplaced Sevilla and 18 clear of Barcelona, who have a game in hand, and needed a point against Espanyol to clinch the title with almost a month of the season remaining.

It was a record-breaking day for defender Marcelo, who won his 24th piece of silverware with Real to leapfrog Gento as the player with the most trophy wins in the club's 120-year history.

Madrid's LaLiga triumph capped a remarkable milestone for Carlo Ancelotti on Saturday as the Italian became the first manager to capture titles in each of Europe's top five leagues — England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France. His winning run began with steering AC Milan to the Serie Atitle in 2004, before triumphs in the Premier League with Chelsea in 2010, Ligue 1 with Paris St Germain in 2013 and Bundesliga with Bayern Munich in 2017 followed.



Marcelo and Karim Benzema (above) lift the La Liga trophy. Twitter/realmadriden

#### **MIHIR VASAVDA** MUMBAI, APRIL 30

THE BIZARRE sequence of events would have dumbfounded even the best of satirists.

In mid-2019, fuming over the exclusion of shooting from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, Indian Olympic Association general secretary Rajiv Mehta suggested that the country boycott the edition altogether. What seemed to be a stray remark snowballed into a major dispute after the organisation's president, Narinder Batra, proposed that India should withdraw from the colonial' Games for good.

The twin statements were enough for the Commonwealth Games Federation top brass to embark on a firefighting mission to the Indian Capital. After a day of hectic parleys, the two sides came out of the meeting room with no resolution in sight - the CGF insisted shooting had no place on the official Birmingham Games programme, and Batra said the option of withdrawal was still not off the table.

Just then, Mehta broke the awkward silence with an announcement that surprised most. India, he said, was 'willing to host the CWG' in 2026. Somehow, the IOA ended up expressing interest to host the very event they wanted to snub. On the dais, CGF president Louise Martin couldn't suppress her smirk, perhaps realising that the threat of a boycott was nothing but posturing.

In less than 100 days, the Birmingham CWG will get underway without shooting. And to rub salt into India's wounds, the sport along with wrestling and archery – isn't on the initial list of the 2026 CWG as well. Last week, yet again, IOA shot off a letter to Martin, 'strongly' recommending the inclusion of these three sports. The CGF, so far, hasn't even bothered to reply

It might be a populist move to protest shooting's removal from the CWG. But frothing over the omission of a sport whose long-term future at the Olympics itself looks bleak has exposed the lack of imagination and foresight of the IOA bosses

"Shooting has a serious problem (to stay in the Olympics) with its lead pellets," says playerturned-sports executive Manisha Malhotra. "If shooting gets out, then what happens?"

Instead, she adds, India has to start diversifying its interests. "You can't keep sticking only to shooting, wrestling, archery for medals. You'll never pass the medal tally you aspire to if you don't look at new sports and infuse money into new sports," she says.

Having the distinction of working closely with India's two Olympic gold medallists, Abhinav Bindra and Neeraj Chopra, Malhotra knows how to be the best. It isn't by crying 'conspiracy' when a sport you are good at is dropped from an event in which the level is lower than even your national championship. It's by being proactive and anticipating what the future might look like.

#### **Lesson from Down Under**

In April 2013, the Australian Sports Commission, in a report titled 'The future of Australian Sport', noted how some sports were

#### **SPORTLINE**

IOA frets over shooting's exclusion from CWG, and is slow to adapt to the changing dynamics of multi-discipline events as well as lacking in participation in major games

## India needs to change its game plan



Illustration: Suvaiit Dev

going 'from extreme to mainstream.'

"International associations for skateboarding and rock climbing are making substantial efforts to have these included as Olympic sports in the future," it remarked. The country had already started building 'two skate parks per week' before the study was published, making the sport accessible to thousands of

In 2016, skateboarding was officially included in the Tokyo Olympics. And when the sport made its debut at the delayed Games last year, Australia turned out to be the only country other than Japan to win a gold medal.

#### Contrasting approaches

On the same day when skateboarding was inducted into the Games, surfing, too, was added to the programme. The water sport has retained its place for the Paris Olympics as well as the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

But six years after it became an Olympic sport, the Surfing Federation of India, which is affiliated to its world body, is yet to be recognised by the government and the IOA. Government recognition, according to the National Sports Code, is 'necessary to represent the country.'

For half a decade, surfing has been wading through bureaucratic waves. According to the Sports Code, at the time of applying for recognition, 'the Federation/Association should have affiliated Units in at least 2/3rd of total States/UTs of India.'

"We need around 24 affiliated state units but the issue is there are just nine coastal states and four such union territories in India. Since we haven't been able to fulfil that clause, our recognition is pending. But we have had a constructive dialogue with the government and are hopeful of a positive outcome during our next meeting with them in May," says SFI president Arun Vasu.

#### **Evolving Olympic programme**

The situation in surfing is symptomatic of the larger trend, where India's Olympic bosses have been unable to anticipate changes to a

rapidly-evolving Olympic programme, thus playing catch-up. India has already experienced this once with hockey, in which it took 40 years for the country to return to the Olympic podium after being reluctant to accept changes

Hockey India has learnt a lesson and been prompt to embrace 5s, a format likely to become part of the future Games. But the same can't be said of other disciplines.

Five sports made their debut at the Olympics in Tokyo last year, and there was Indian representation in none. Breaking is the new addition to the programme at the Paris Olympics, and as per the World DanceSport Federation data, there are only four active breaking athletes in India, where the national federation isn't recognised by the IOA

For LA 2028, cricket is on the radar and there are reports of beach wrestling being included in the programme to complement the mat version, ala volleyball and beach volleyball. "There's a whole slice of wrestling society that does sand dangals. So, we should do an analysis of how that can translate to beach wrestling, and start grooming those wrestlers now. There needs to be someone who sits down and strategises," Malhotra says.

It isn't just about the changing Olympics. Some of the newer sports might come and go, as it happened with karate and rugby 7s. But even among the core disciplines, India's participation rate is abysmal.

Since the turn of the century, the country has not sent athletes in almost half of the sports. At the Sydney Games, India competed in just 13 out of the 28 sports. In Tokyo, the country's athletes qualified in 18 out of 33 sports, competing in only 69 out of the 339

Between them, athletics, swimming, cycling, gymnastics, wrestling, and canoeing account for 171 gold medals, 50 per cent of the total medals on offer. The top Olympic nations, including the US, China and Russia, have largely concentrated on these sports for a major chunk of their medals.

Of the six, India can only claim to be a serious player in wrestling and has a negligible presence in the other five. Chopra's gold and Dipa Karmakar's fourth place in Rio are exceptions in athletics and gymnastics; quite literally one in a billion in their respective sports.

#### Lack of focus

The failure otherwise is largely down to a lack of patience to take a long-term view. In that sense, cycling has been an outlier. No Indian has qualified for the Olympics in the sport, which had the third-most medals on offer in Tokyo after swimming (49) and athletics (48), since 1964. That, if the Cycling Federation of India is to be believed, could change in the ongoing cycle; their confidence rooted in a robust youth programme that has groomed a bunch of junior world champions, who are now finding their feet at the senior level.

Viren Rasquinha, also a player-turnedsports executive, underlines the need for a focused approach. "One strategy is to participate in more sports at the Olympics. That's completely different to winning medals at the Olympics. To win more Olympic medals, you need to focus, and to focus, you have to delete, not add. There's no right or wrong in this, it's about your priorities – to win more Olympic medals, you have to go deeper into fewer sports," the former India hockey captain says.

India's strategy isn't defined. And perhaps, that's the reason shooting assumes so much significance. At Tokyo, it was seventh on the list of sports that offered the most gold medals, with 15. It's a different story that India could not challenge for even one for two Games in a row. The health of the sport, Malhotra says, is better gauged by the participation levels at national tournaments and by that logic, shooting - which attracts thousands - has depth many sports would envy.

It's all the more reason not to fuss over the sport's omission from the CWG. "We should be looking at doing really well at the World Championships, Asian Games... especially in sports like shooting and wrestling," Rasquinha says. "India has reached a stage where we should be looking at the larger picture, rather than worry about CWG.'

## BRIDGE

♦ 763

**8743** 

**♠** QJ43 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH **₩**AKQ **♦** 854 **♣**A010 SOUTH ♠ AK **10974** 

South rejected his partner's invitational 3S bid and West got off to the lead of a trump. What should East do with this lead?

The West Hand: S-95 H-8652D-AQ10C-K96 The South Hand: S-108762H-3D-KJ92C-J52

The first thing East should do is win the trick with the king, not the ace. South knows he is missing the ace and king but West does not know that. If East wins with the ace, West will think declarer has the king and West will try to envision a hand that is consistent with this information. After winning the first trick, East should decide if it is best to take the ace of spades too and if not,

East knows something important. West did not lead a diamond. West has to have something good in diamonds because if South had all the honors, he would have bid a game. But West does not have the AKx or the KQx because West would have led a diamond honor with either of these holdings. East should win the first trick and switch to a diamond. The reason for this is that it may require more than one diamond lead from East to get the job done. and the only entry East has is in the spade suit

ns is satisfying. West does have one of those diamond holdings that require East to lead the suit twice. Having kept his second spade honor East is able to get in twice to maximize the tricks and the result is down one Had East cashed two spades, the result would have been minus 140 instead

SOUTH

♣ AQ8

**9**8

♦ J32

Pass

NORTH	
<b>♠</b> J32	
<b>Q</b> 1043	
◆ A105	
<b>♣</b> KJ6	

Pass

Pass

♣ AQ942 WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH 15 1NT Pass 1H

West led East's suit, putting the ten of spades on the table. You have eight top tricks and may be able to set up another trick in hearts. Even diamonds might produce a second trick. You have to start somewhere. You have to ewhere. What do you do at trick one?

Pass

## **SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2371**

- A difficult bet on the race course (8) Made a systematic recording of
- events, etc (6) 10. Habitually inactive, lazy (8)
- Bitterness; ill feeling (8) 13. Makes a sudden attack on (6)
- 15. Graceful bird (4) 16. Is far far superior ? (10)
- 19. Orderly; not haphazard (10) 20. Called (4)
- 23. Formal procedure (6)
- 25. Terse or pithy saying (8)27. Registered (8)
- 28. Higher ranking (6) 29. Flaunts (5,3)
- 30. Not go to bed (4,2)
- 1 Basements (7) Annaba natives (9)
- $Sleeping\,visions\,(6)$ Peel (4)
- Shoes, slippers, etc (8) Belief system (5)
- Affirms (7) 11. Barbaric (7)
- 14. Is very economical (7) 17. Steadiness (9)
- 18. Fiascos (8) 19. Thoroughfares (7)
- 21. Jelly-like sweet (7) 22. Truthful (6)
- 24. Trunk(5)
- 26. One bit of foliage (4)
- CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS
- Joined Grace in chorus (6) 4. Oppressive cops tied in knots (8)9. Part of the foot, a well-drilled one
- apparently (6) . A worker in bed (8
- 12. High-ranking official with money meeting endless resentment (5,3) 13. The lizard turned again, grabbing you, it seems (6)
- 15. Carry it out with very little Dutch money (2,2)
- 16. Instrument noted for precision
- 19. Appalled by one overwhelming political defeat, landladies
- increased their rents (1,9) 20. Unidentified flying objects responsible for this exploding of us
- 23. Old Bob gives friendly direction to the crowds (6) 25. Like a much-thumbed book or its

DOKU

S

town(8) 30. One has no right to follow oriental  $thinking\,in\,Cornwall\,(6)$ 

28. Some trippers I could see coming from an old country (6)

29. Doesn't agree to be dispatched into

27. In strange store, Eva dines excessively (8)

- 1. Starting woefully in debt, turned up outside for somewhere to sleep 2. Country in Chad regularly chasing
- $leading\,actor(5,\!4)$ 3. Extremely clever somewhat in part
- Teaching science exercise extremely dully (8)
  7. Girl available at any twist and turn

5. He's up in the church (4)

- 8. Fish on a vessel at the end of a drive
- 11. Books on which organists may lay their hands ?(7)
- $14. \ Girl \, with \, gentle \, cardinal \, (7)$ 17. Not the popular time to get away

to sleep when a woman comes

18. Eliot's hero needs somewhere

6

9

- 19. Secretly fly sailors to swindle daughter (7)
- 21. A cider's mixed in a cocktail
- 22. A record holder (6) 24. Wild years of rock down under (5) 26. Let it stand for hat child lost (4)

#### Solutions to 2370 QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Remarking, 6 Get

up, 9 Cacti, 10 Gapeworms, 11 Photog 12 Mesh, 14 Lioness, 15 Scrimps, 17 Compose, 19 Incense, 20 Tact, 22 Conclusive, 25 Overblown, 26 Irate, 27 Swore, 28 Youngster. Down: 1 Recap, 2 Microcosm, 3 Rhinoceros, 4 Ingress, 5 Gypsies, 6 Gown, 7 Torte, 8 Post-haste, 13 Precluding, 14 Locations, 16 Mendicant, 18 Economy, 19 Inconnu, 21 Credo, 23 Emeer 24 Oboe. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Antiquary, 6 Henry, 9 Ranji, 10 Hold water 11 Deep Purple, 12 Ida's, 14 Spin out, 15 Gourami, 17 Rescues, 19 Epistle, 20 Pips 22 Umbrageous, 25 Impeaches, 26 Opine 27 Gapes, 28 Weak-kneed. Down: 1 Acrid, 2 Tanneries, 3 Quid pro quo, 4 Athirst, 5 Yule log, 6 Hawk, 7 Noted, 8 Yorkshire, 13

Tuning fork, 14 Strapping, 16 Authorise, 18

Somehow, 19 Eurasia, 21 Pep up, 23 Stead

5

8

## If it's your Birthday

### **Sunday May 1**

hreshold is high and you can become intolerant of people who fail to excite you. Today it is up to you to put forward some positive proposals. Give the priority to your creative gifts.

### Monday May 2

You're heading for an emotional phase. Loyalty could be your greatest strength over the coming year but compromise when you need to.

#### Tuesday May 3 It's a day for careful planning and

measured responses, for getting jobs done, while keeping your options open.

### Wednesday May 4

An enthusiastic Moon provides the perfect foil for your cautious spirit, dampening your ardour, but also enabling you to make rational decisions

### Thursday May 5

An emotional misunderstanding lies in the past, although some amusing consequences might still be on the way. If it's your turn to say sorry, then clear the air ready for a bright new year.

## Friday May 6

Emotions are high and your ideals are strong. Both today, and over the next year, you could be encouraged to fight for your principles. You may embark on a new struggle, perhaps in defence of a partner.

### Saturday May 7

You might be faced with wonderful opportunities to boost your prosperity, but let them slip through your fingers. What you need to do is play to your strengths.

9 4 5 1 2 3 8 7 6

5 3 1

#### YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) If you've been sitting on the fence and generally

prevaricating, seize an overdue chance to settle a personal matter. Helpful movements by Saturn will nteract Mercury's obstructiveness and assist you to see the serious side of even the riskiest enterprise.

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Partners' real

achievements and success are bound to give you pleasure as the year begins, although, whether you will be so pleased with your own progress is another matter. In many

significant time for you, but the position is not yet clear. GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

respects this is a deeply

There's no particular reason why you shouldn't make outrageous

decisions, but you should understand that, as long as your planetary ruler, Mercury, is so intriguingly placed at the beginning of the year, you may not express yourself as well as you might.

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Surprising

happenings may have had your mind working along unfamiliar lines, but your current planetary picture goes some way towards restoring a greater sense of balance. Test

your ideas out on other people

over the coming weeks before

#### putting them into practice. LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)



linked to professional affairs. Remember, you are responsible for guaranteeing your material security as you enter your next twelvemonth cycle.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) When, in the distant



configurations prompted you to take stock of

your financial situation, they helped lay the foundations for what must, and will, be a confident period. People who have your interests at heart may continue to question

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) This is an unusual period when the

prepared to allow you to get on with your life, unmolested by lack of sympathy from other people. This week, s very pleasant to be reminded that you're in control, but also that your emotional state is improving.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)



honest and equal relationship. But, if you settle for confrontation, you must be prepared to come off badly and recreate a past you thought had gone forever. It will soon be time to get on with the next stage of your most personal plans.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22) Serious Saturn is sending you solid

support over the coming week. You will have time to establish new initiatives and relationships very soon but, in the meantime, you will be given a second shot at something you failed to accomplish last year.

#### delays worth the wait. CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) All those personal arrangements which

That alone makes all recent

seemed unlikely a while ago will come to seem more desirable as time passes. Recent decisions may have been highly complicated yet, rest assured, you'll have a chance to change your mind soon, perhaps helped by a new friend or colleague as last week

#### gives way to this. AQUARIUS (Jan 21- Feb 19) Friendly



involvement in a group fighting for a common cause, will become an attractive proposition. Familiarise with changing circumstances and you will know what to do next.

#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) As you face the

coming period, it's clear that, careerwise, everything is conspiring in your favour and if,

in the short term, you meet more than your share of obstacles and burdens, you can be sure that, in the long run, you're being primed for great success.

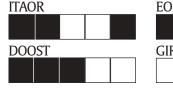
Kolkata

### JUMBLED WORDS

3NT

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

Answer: Not everybody trusts paintings but people believe **photographs**. - Ansel Adams



**EORHPP** 

SOLUTION: RATIO, STOOD, HOPPER, RICHTS

To solve a Sudoku puzzle

every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in rows and in each of the

Difficulty Level 3s

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s =

8 3 3 9 6 4 8 5 4

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4820 8 2 6 4 7 9 7 1 3 8 6 5 9 4 2 3 6 9 7 5 1 2 8 4 2 5 8 9 3 4 1 6 7 174286359 6 8 1 3 9 7 4 2 5 4 3 7 5 1 2 6 9 8 5 9 2 6 4 8 7 1 3

**Indian Premier League** DC vs LSG, 3.30pm, SRH vs CSK, 7.30pm, Live on Star Sports Network

## Jadeja quits captaincy, Dhoni takes 'responsibility in the larger interest of CSk'

**SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY** 

KOLKATA, APRIL 30

RAVINDRA JADEJA has relinquished Chennai Super Kings captaincy, handing it back to MS Dhoni, the franchise has confirmed in a statement. According to a team official, the decision was taken after CSK's last game in this IPL, against Punjab Kings, which the team lost by 11 runs.

The four-time champions are languishing at eighth in the table, with just two wins

CSK chief executive Kasi Viswanathan confirmed that this has been purely a cricketing decision, taken at a meeting attended by Jadeja, Dhoni and the team management (head coach Stephen Fleming). "This is a decision taken by the team management and Jaddu, a decision which we have now published in the press. Team officials didn't have a say in this, only the team management. Jaddu expressed his desire to relinquish captaincy and give it back to MSD, who is taking up the responsibility in the larger interest of the franchise," Viswanathan told The Sunday Express.

Dhoni had given up the CSK captaincy before the start of this year's IPL, with an eye to the future. In fact, the franchise's retention policy – Rs 16 crore and Rs 12 crore for Jadeja and Dhoni respectively - also had the latter's approval. The idea was that the former captain would mother-hen his successor, allowing him to grow into the job. Jadeja has been reverential towards Dhoni and he didn't hesitate to lean heavily on the ex-skipper for on-field decisions. However, the allrounder's form this year – 112 runs five wickets from eight matches prompted him to have a rethink. Despite a very slow start, there's still belief in the camp that a strong back-end run in the tournament is possible.

The CSK press release stated: "Ravindra Jadeja has decided to relinquish captaincy to focus and concentrate more on his game and has requested MS Dhoni to lead CSK.

"MS Dhoni has accepted to lead CSK in the larger interest and to allow Jadeja to focus on his game."

#### Impact on Jadeja

There were two reasons why, even after Jadeja took over, Dhoni was often seen making a number of field changes and talking to bowlers. Letting one of the world's sharpest cricketing brains make some decisions for you isn't a bad idea. Also Jadeja, being the best all-round fielder, was needed to man the ropes during certain phases in the game.

But when the losses mounted, the buck stopped with the new captain.

The handing over the reins back to



an ideal replacement for Dhoni.

Dhoni seems like a smooth transfer of power but what effect it will have on Jadeja will be closely watched.

He could revel in the freedom of being

unshackled from responsibility. Not having field settings, bowling changes on his mind could help him focus entirely on what he is good at - impactful cameos and sharp bowling spells. Sometimes just the idea of having to lead a side can weigh heavy on the mind of a match-winner, more so when things are not going the

Or the resignation could have a detrimental effect on his confidence.

When Jadeja took over, he was seen as an ideal replacement for Dhoni. He was multi-skilled, had the experience of playing at the highest level and was seen as someone who could think on his feet and handle the pressure. By stepping down, he should not start thinking of himself as a lesser player or one who was not good enough at reading the game when the team needed him to be at his sharpest best. The team has still won only two of their eight games and Dhoni too would welcome a smart field change suggestion or batting reshuffle idea from Jadeja.

His India captaincy credentials have taken a hit but Jadeja himself should continue to believe in his abilities, as an allrounder and a street smart cricketer. Chennai have been hit by injuries too, have played lacklustre cricket at times. The team management believes there is still time for a turnaround with Dhoni back-in-charge and have one eye on a top-four finish at the end of the league phase.

Yet Dhoni being back in helm will only paper over the cracks.In the long run CSK will now have to find a new leader. They are likely to go back to Jadeja, 33, and Dhoni is at the very end of his career. Dhoni has taken over in the 'larger interest' of the team. But he and everyone at CSK know they need to find someone quickly to fill

### **BRIEFLY** -

### Pujara scores second double ton for Sussex



Sussex: He left for the UK in search of some runs and open the door for an India come-

Puiara has already done more

than that, scoring his second double century for Sussex in the County Championship Division Two here on Saturday. Pujara made 203 and faced 334 balls, in which he hit 24 fours. The senior India player was batting overnight on 107, which helped his side take a substantial lead against Durham, who were all out for 223 in their first innings. Thanks to Pujara's effort, Sussex extended their dominance on the third day of the match, their innings ending at 538 for a massive lead of 315 runs. With Sussex enforcing follow-on, Durham were 38 for no loss in their second essay, still trailing by 277 runs. The out-of-favour India batter, who is in sparkling form, is making most of his county stint. He now has scored two hundreds and as many double centuries in his five innings.

## Madappa, Rashid seal Asian Games berth

Bengaluru: Viraj Madappa and Rashid Khan kept their nerves and held their rivals at bay to earn the coveted Asian Games berths in golf after a gruelling five-round affair, here on Saturday. From the women's section, amateur Avani Prashanth booked her ticket to the Games. Avani continued her imnal round of 1-under 71 and finished ahead of Jahanvi Bakshi, who, after four identical cards of 69, shot 70 on the final day. Madappa, who shot each of his five rounds under par with cards of 66-68-71-69-67, pipped Rashid to the post as four best rounds were counted and for that he was two ahead. Sixteen men competed for two berths in the men's section and 11 women competed for one berth. Anirban Lahiri and Shubhankar Sharma, the top two world ranked Indians among men, and Aditi Ashok and Tvesa Malik, the top two world ranked women were given direct

berths into the Asian Games teams.

**SYNOPSIS:** *Ice men Miller & Tewatia* get Titans over the line after Kohli gets a long-awaited fifty at relatively pedestrian pace

**TUSHAR BHADURI** 

GUJARAT TITANS have made a living out of sealing improbable chases in their first Indian Premier League season. Rahul Tewatia, David Miller and Rashid Khan never consider a cause as lost. They were in similar situation against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Saturday, but the confidence of having done it on a regular basis recently meant it never seemed they ever doubted they would achieve their target. Miller and Tewatia again showed that they have ice in their veins as the target of 171 was achieved with three balls to spare for a six-wicket win.

#### Ice men seal deal

A requirement of 13 runs off seven balls will be considered in the chasing team's favour, though the fielding side will not feel it is out of the game. Harshal Patel has made his name as a death-overs merchant in the IPL, but Tewatia more or less settled the issue by charging down the pitch on the last ball of the 19th over and hitting beyond the wide mid-on boundary. It was all too easy for them in the 20th over as two boundaries proved there were hardly any

RCB had been in the game for a significant duration of the chase but as the match entered the final few overs, recent results – Bangalore were coming off two pretty orall but one of their games - definitely played on their minds.

Whenever the asking rate seemed to be going to worrying levels, Miller and Tewatia somehow found the rope, regardless of who was bowling. The unbroken 79run stand was picture-perfect chasing.

The 51-run start provided by Shubman Gill and Wriddhiman Saha was steady rather than spectacular. In fact, Gill seemed to be struggling to raise the tempo, and when skipper Hardik Pandya also fell for a low score coming at No. 4, it seemed RCB had a chance to turn the corner.

At 95/4 in the 13th over, Faf du Plessis may have fancied his chances, but as has been the norm this season, Titans found a route to victory and it were the usual sus-

## Titans brook no challenge

Gujarat pull another match out of tricky situation as Royal Challengers found lacking again

**IPL TABLE** 

<b>TEAM</b>	M	W	L	PT	NRR
GT	9	8	1	16	0.377
RR	9	6	3	12	0.450
LSG	9	6	3	12	0.408
SRH	8	5	3	10	0.600
RCB	10	5	5	10	-0.558
DC	8	4	4	8	0.695
PK	9	4	5	8	-0.470
KKR	9	3	6	6	-0.006
CSK	8	2	6	4	-0.538
MI	9	1	8	2	-0.836

#### Kohli plays second fiddle

Even the greatest need a helping hand from time to time. Virat Kohli had been going through a lean phase for a long time and needed time in the middle. He got a few boundaries away early, but

there were more than a few dot balls amidst them. The lack of runs coupled with the early dismissal of du Plessis prompted Kohli to play largely on the balls' merit.

Rajat Patidar hadn't done much of note till Saturday, but took the initiative as the pitch looked flat and Royal Challengers needed a substantial score after Du Plessis became only the second captain in the tournament to bat first on winning the toss, just to avoid fieldng in the oppressive Mumbai afternoon heat.

Kohli's initial battle with Mohammed

Shami was a riveting one. The former India captain hit a few to the fence when the seamer strayed, but there were a few playsground, a flick off the pads and a top edge over short fine leg got Kohli going, but soon it was Patidar taking chances down the ground, regardless of the bowler's reputation.

He took risks against Rashid Khan and showed innovation against Alzarri Joseph as Kohli was content turning the strike over with hard running. A punch past the nonstriker, standing tall at the crease, was the best shot from the youngster.

Kohli got his first half-century after a long time, but whoever would have witnessed his 58 from 53 balls including six fours and a six - off a Lockie Ferguson's low full toss will not be convinced that he is back anywhere near his best.

He could be crucial for RCB going into the business end of the league phase, but Kohli struggled, or maybe chose not, to go full



Rahul Tewatia (43off 25) forged an unbroken 79-run stand with David Miller to chase down RCB's target of 171 with ease.

#### Virat Kohli got his first halfcentury after a long time - 58 from 53 balls

throttle even after reaching his milestone. After Patidar got out after a well-made 52 off 32 balls, the innings sort of stagnated and it even worked in RCB's favour when Kohli missed a low Shami full toss that hit the base

It put the onus on Glenn Maxwell and Dinesh Karthik, but the latter didn't stay long and the Aussie's innings was short and sweet (33 off 18). It fell to Mahipal Lomror to hit a few boundaries in the last two overs to take the team to a defendable score, which wasn't adequate against the Titans' might.

There was also a bizarre moment in the last over of the RCB innings when Lomror was reprieved after one of his aerial shots was adjudged to have hit an overhead cable despite Miller taking an outfield catch. The delivery was ruled a dead ball.

**Brief scores:** Royal Challengers Bangalore 170 for 6 (Kohli 58, Patidar 52, Sangwan 2-19) lost by six wickets to Guiarat Titans 174 for 4 (Tewatia 43\*, Miller 39\*, Shahbaz 2-26, Hasaranga 2-28)

## MUMBAI INDIANS BREAK THE DUCK FINALLY

Mumbai Indians played for pride and they would be happy to finally get on the board with a five-wicket victory against Raiasthan Royals on Saturday, A win on the back of eight consecutive defeats is way too little and way too late, but at least, the five-time champions have broken their duck in this IPL. A good, collective bowling performance to 158/6. Kumar Kartikeya, the debutant left-arm spinner, was impressive and returned with 1/19 from his four overs. Riley Meredith worked up good pace, hit los Buttler on the helmet with a sharp bouncer and bagged 2/24. Then, MI chased down the target via an 81run third wicket partnership between Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma. There were jitters in the camp when Surya perished after scoring a 39-ball 51 and Varma departed a couple of deliveries later. Even in the final over, when only four runs were required for victory, Kieron Pollard's dismissal had kept MI on the edge. But Daniel Sams hit the first ball he faced for a six and the MI fans were dancing in the

aisles.Royals dedicated this game to their departed legend, their iconic former captain Shane Warne. A win would have been a fitting tribute. They would hope that the defeat doesn't break their momentum. Earlier, Buttler's purple patch continued, as he scored 67 off 52 balls. About a month ago, at DY Patil Stadium, he had scored a fixture against MI. Pitches were fresh then. Surfaces have become a tad jaded now. No wonder that Buttler's innings today, at the same venue, against the same opponents was different. For a substantial period, he went at less than run-a-ball before hitting four consecutive sixes against Hrithik Shokeen. Ravichandran Ashwin scored an enterprising 21 runs off nine balls and unleashed all his variations while bowling. But it was MI's night. **SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY** 

**Brief scores:** RR 158 for 6 (Buttler 67, Meredith 2-24, Shokeen 2-47) lost by five wickets to MI 161 for 5 (Suryakumar 51, Varma 35, Ashwin 1-21)

## Livid about penalty point, Sindhu loses to Yamaguchi after dictating terms

**SHIVANI NAIK** APRIL 30

AKANE YAMAGUCHI won 30 points after one was gifted to her by the referee, while penalising PV Sindhu for taking too long to serve in the second set. Sindhu was comfortably leading 21-13, 14-11 in the semifinals of the Badminton Asian Championship at that juncture. The Indian reckons the referee's penalty which got the score to 14-12 in the mid set, impacted her to such an extent, that she went on to lose the match 21-13, 19-21, 16-21 in 66 minutes. Sindhu could win only 21 points after that roiling episode as against the Japanese

It can safely be said in hindsight given Sindhu's long argument with the chair, that a set and 14-11 up against the reigning World Champion, wasn't as comfortable a cushioning as Sindhu would've liked. Because her mind couldn't move on from what she viewed as gross unfairness, and said as much later. The semifinal was lost in the head at the halfway stage, and the trigger was clearcut.

A little backgrounder to the day's aggravation: Sindhu won the toss, chose a favourable drift side of the court and completely dominated Yamaguchi in the opener as the Japanese struggled with her control on the shuttle lengths and a range that had gone

Sindhuled 8-2, 10-5, 12-6, 14-8, 18-11 and 20-13 - a comfortable lead. It is the best mindspaces to be in against the World No.2 who's won the World Championship and All England: create as big a buffer in the score as possible to parry Yamaguchi off.

The first hint of Yamaguchi finding her radar came in the second set latter half, when while still trailing 12-9, the Japanese started pinning Sindhu to the backcourt and started playing deceptive drops to the forecourt. At 12-10, Sindhu challenged unsuccess-

fully for a backline call that went in Yamaguchi's favour. Sindhu responded typically with increased hand-speed on 13-10. It was at the next point that the camel's back caught a synaptic twitch. In a long, fast-paced rally that followed, Yamaguchi retrieved with wild throwing of

her short arms on both flanks to win the point at 13-11. The 2-point game was too close for Remember, Sindhu had survived a match point in 3 arduous sets in her 77 minute Round 1 match, beaten He Bingjiao in an emotional

wringer again in three in quarters, and was

bracing for a possible final against Korean



PV Sindhu lost 21-13, 19-21, 16-21 to Japanese World no 2 Akane Yamaguchi in the semifinals of the Badminton Asia Championships.

nemesis An Se Young (though the Korean lost to the Chinese Wang). Anyone would've wanted to wrap up the semis in straight sets, but here was Yamaguchi, calmly climbing back into the contest. Sindhu took it to 14-11 but had received prior warnings for delaying her serve by the umpire, but this one cost her

Yamaguchi isn't the most still of serve receivers, and was fidgeting, while Sindhu took even longer to get the rally started. It's here that the umpire asked her to return the shuttle and gave a point to Yamaguchi. It bordered on the harsh, though wasn't out of the rulebook, with prior warnings. Sindhu raised her arm in dissent, and argued saying, "Sir I was ready, she wasn't." The chair was unmoved and Yamaguchi got the serve. 14-12. The argument went longer than the ordinary - and badminton isn't exactly known for players' defiance. Feeling hard done by legitimately owing to the point penalty (and narrowing of the gap), Sindhu visibly imploded from thereon.

Yet, this is Sindhu. And she sent a brutal smash piercing to make it 15-13. But the concentration had been tampered with and Sindhu dragged out the bad patch, by stabbing the shuttle into the net and losing the deft touch, to concede the lead at 15-16 with net errors. The next bunch of returns sailed wide and long as it reached 17-19, but an agitated Sindhu still had the crackling energy to smash from mid-court to level at 19-all.

Yamaguchi kept her wits to eke out the narrowest of cross net tumbles and force a decider at 21-19. Sindhu was still in the fight, but too buzzed with a wounded frame of mind.

"The umpire told me you are taking too much time. And even the opponent wasn't ready at that point. But the umpire suddenly gave her the point. It was really unfair," she told Badminton Asia, later. "I think that was one of the reasons I lost I felt. I mean that was my feeling. At that minute, 14-11 and you never know. I mean, It could've been 15-11 and all of a sudden it was 12-14 and she took continuous points. And it was very unfair. Maybe you never know I could've won the match and played the finals I felt. And I told the chief referee, he's come and said it's already done. I mean as a chief referee, he should've made sure what was the mistake done. Seen the replay. And done something about it," she said.

The 15-11 Sindhu speaks of was one of the many possibilities that could have panned out. What did happen though was a decider where Yamaguchi took an early lead from the notso-helpful side - a clear giveaway that Sindhu

was still stewing over the episode. Having found her own range, now Yamaguchi was her usual retrieving self, with wild cross swats slapping at the shuttle at whichever angle catching her fancy and troubling Sindhu. She sent down the most imbalanced one-legged hop smashes at 8-6, and kept sending deep, clean smashes to the back-

Sindhu is a fighter and in the biggest revamps of her games for the past 6 years, stomps around the net with conviction. She would employ a net-press to come within 14-17 of Yamaguchi. Yet, there was that added unsettling edge to her strokes, trying too hard, over-hitting, rushing that was a remnant of her upset mind, and which wouldn't allow her to settle. Knowing she held the lead for the match, she needed someone to tell her to calm down and get past the episode. But having worked so hard to get into that position to finish it in two, she simply didn't look like she had the poise to again fight in the decider.

Rallies got longer as the score reached 14-19, but Yamaguchi was too assured and solid in her game by now to be thrown. For some time now in the pressure matches against top players, Sindhu has shown her reluctance to switch to Plan B if A comes undone. Shifts in momentum are inevitabile against the likes of Yamaguchi and Tai Tzu Ying, and Sindhu makes enough errors to know she can absorb a 14-11 to 14-12 situation. A calm head is a non-negotiable against the Top 5 who keep it together and can be broken only if she doesn't get frayed. But such was her rage at the unfairness of her penalty, that the towering Sindhu allowed a long shadow to fall on her game to lose a semifinal.

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