JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

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Greater Centre-state alignment, policy stability needed for investments: CII chief

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

CONFEDERATION OF Indian Industry (CII) president and Tata Steel CEO & MD, TV Narendran, told The Indian Express on Monday that "greater alignment" between the Centre and states, and policy stability, are "very important" to encourage investments in the country.

Narendran's remarks come at a time when Centre-state relations have been strained over revenue and economic issues -the latest point of contention being the demand for the Centre to share revenue from the privatisation of airports with states.

The CII chief also said that the Russia-Ukraine war has presented Indian steel exporters with an opportunity in the light of "space vacated by Russia and Ukraine" in the sector, Russia and Ukraine are the fifth and 12th largest steelmakers in the world, respectively, and cumulatively account for around 10 per cent

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

How does Paris Handle



TV NARENDRAN **CII PRESIDENT**

of the global steel trade.

Speaking about the scenario in India, Narendran said: "Obviously for the industry, greater alignment between Centre and states and policy stability are very important. Particularly when you look at foreign investors, they struggle even more to understand these complexities. At a very broad level, if you want to encourage investments, alignment is very important. But as CII, we operate with 65 offices across the country and engage with the states and the Centre. If there is something that CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PM Narendra Modi with President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen in New Delhi on Monday. PTI **DEFINING MOMENT, SHE SAYS AT RAISINA DIALOGUE**

War in Ukraine will deeply affect Indo-Pacific region, says EU chief

Modi listening, von der Leyen urges global community to 'support our efforts'

THE WORLD



RUSSIA HITS RAIL, **FUEL FACILITIES; U.S. SAYS MOSCOW FAILING IN WAR AIMS**

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

WITH PRIME Minister Narendra Modi listening, visiting European Commission President Ursula von der Leven on Monday described the killings in Bucha as 'severe violations of international law" and said what is happening in Ukraine will impact the Indo-Pacific region.

She said the outcome of the war will not only determine the future of Europe, but also "deeply affect the Indo-Pacific

region and the rest of the world". "For the Indo-Pacific region, it is as important as for Europe, that borders are respected, and that spheres of influence are rejected," she said, while addressing the Raisina Dialogue. The core principles that underpin peace and security across the world, she said, are at stake in Asia as well as in Europe.

The Prime Minister attended the event, but did not speak. Foreign Ministers of Poland. Argentina and several other countries too attended the event. "This is a defining moment.

sponse today will decide the future of both the international system and the global economy. Will the rights of might dominate, or the rule of law? Will there be constant conflict and struggle or will there be a future of common prosperity and lasting peace?" she said. This is why we are doing all

Our decisions these days will

shape decades to come. Our re-

we can to help Ukraine fight for freedom. This is why we need to impose massive, sharp and effective sanctions. Sanctions are never a standalone solution...

This is why we have designed the sanctions in a way to sustain them over a longer period of time, because this gives us leverage to achieve a diplomatic solution that will bring lasting peace. And we urge all members of the international community to support our efforts for lasting peace," she said, in an oblique reference to soliciting Delhi's

A former Defence Minister of Germany, President von der Leven said, "We all see the rising challenges to our open and free CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Tamil Nadu passes Bills to empower state govt to appoint V-Cs in 13 universities

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, APRIL 25

IN WHAT's likely to open a new front amid escalating tensions between Governor RN Ravi and the DMK-led state government, the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday passed two Bills empowering the government to appoint Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs) to 13 state universities. While the Opposition AIADMK and the BJP opposed the Bills, BJP MLAs walked out of the House.

The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Act, 2022, which covers 12 universities in the state, substitutes the expression "Chancellor" in the original Act with "government" with regard to both appointment and removal of V-Cs. A separate Bill to amend the Chennai University Act, 1923 [Chennai University (Amend-

delay in clearing Bills. ment) Act, 2022], with similar

intent, was tabled and passed

up new

THE BILLS, an apparent

bid to curtail Governor's

are set to escalate ten-

Earlier, the state boy-

by the Governor to

role in V-C appointments,

sions with the Governor.

cotted events organised

protest against alleged

by the House. The Governor is the Chancellor of 13 universities in the state, with the Higher Education Minister being the Pro-Chancellor.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Elon Musk reaches agreement to acquire Twitter for \$44 bn

ASSOCIATED PRESS SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL 25



billion, the company said. The outspoken Tesla CEO, the world's wealthiest person, has said he wants to buy Twitter be-



cause he thinks it's not living up to its potential as a platform for "free speech." He says it needs to CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

report in hand, Sonia sets up action group for revival of Cong

MANOJCG NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

WITH THE report by an internal panel on the roadmap presented by election strategist Prashant Kishor and various other suggestions from party leaders in hand, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday moved to set up an empowered action group for overseeing the rollout of organisational decisions for the party's revival in the run-up to the 2024 general elections.

The party also announced that it will hold a brainstorming session — Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir – on May 13-15 at Udaipur in Congress-ruled Raiasthan, with about 400 leaders expected to attend.

The decision to set up an empowered group is being seen as a classic Sonia Gandhi move, sending many signals.

According to party sources, all the "actionable points" that will flow from Kishor's presentation CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Kishor roadmap LS Speaker asks Maharashtra govt for details of MP Navneet Rana's arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, APRIL 25

LOK SABHA Speaker Om Birla has sought details from the within 24 hours on the arrest of independent MP Navneet Rana in Mumbai, after receiving a letter from the Amravati lawmaker that she had been subjected to 'inhuman treatment" by the police following her "illegal" arrest two days ago.

According to sources, the de-



Navneet Rana, Ravi Rana

tails of the incident were sought by the Speaker through the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

In her letter to the Lok Sabha Speaker, the MP accused Mumbai Police of not providing her drinking water in custody while allegedly citing her "neechi zaat" (lower caste), and busing her on the basis of caste

While there was no official response to the allegations, a senior IPS officer from Mumbai Police told The Indian Express that CCTV footage at the Khar station, where Rana was lodged after her

Granted bail, Mevani re-arrested for 'assaulting' woman police officer

TORA AGARWALA

Barpeta district on the basis of a complaint by a woman police of-



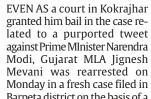
Being targeted, says Jignesh Mevani

Superintendent of Police (SP)

(81/2022) was registered on the basis of a complaint filed at the Barpeta Road police station by a woman police inspector from Kokrajhar on April 21 -- the morning after Mevani was arrested from Gujarat's Banaskantha district. "He is currently in police custody in Barpeta Road and will be

Made with 10 precious herbs arrest and statements from other inmates in the lock-up "will Beneficial in: CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 Improving eyesight,

GUWAHATI, APRIL 25





ficer who accused him of "assaulting" her and "outraging her modesty"

Confirming the arrest, Barpeta

produced in court within 24 hours," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Cataract,

Glaucoma,

Macular Degeneration











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Beneficial in macular

No farmers or dealers at Mamata govt's flagship mandis, dept rents out space

ANCHOR

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA, ATRIMITRA& JOY PRAKASH DAS PURBA BARDHAMAN

HOWRAH, HOOGHLY, APRIL 25

IT WAS a flagship scheme of the Mamata Banerjee government, a year after it came to power in West Bengal in 2011 on the strength of its anti-land acquisition agitation. The Krishak Bazars or farm mandis announced across the state were meant to burnish the Trinamool Congress government's pro-

farmer credentials.



At the Krishak Bazar in Howrah district. Partha Paul

Ten years later, the spaces with modern amenities meant to provide a platform for farmers to deal directly with buyers, with

the hope of getting them the proper price for their commodities, house - according to where you visit — a local MLA's office, an office of an alleged syndicate in soil supply, automobile repair shops, garment stalls, a dentist's chamber etc. Rust covers machines such as weigh bridges meant for agricultural produce, and the toilets are broken.

Only twice a year, when the state government procures paddy at these establishments, do the mandis come alive. At many places, officials admit that space has been rented out to shops by the Regulatory Market Committee of the Agriculture Marketing Department.

In most Krishak Bazars, farmers and dealers complain of wrong location. The sites were mostly decided by the Agriculture Marketing Department.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022

Musk

be transformed as a private company in order to build trust with users and do better at serving what he calls the "societal imperative" of free speech.

Twitter said it will become a privately held company after the sale is closed.

"Twitter has a purpose and relevance that impacts the entire world," its CEO Parag Agrawal said in a tweet. "Deeply proud of our teams and inspired by the work that has never been more impor-

Musk describes himself as a "free-speech absolutist," although he hasn't been exactly clear what he means by that. In a recent TED interview, the billionaire said he'd like to see Twitter err on the side of allowing speech instead of moderating it. He said he'd be "very reluctant" to delete tweets and would generally be cautious about permanent bans. He also acknowledged that Twitter would have to abide by national laws governing speech in markets around

Musk himself, though, regularly blocks social media users who have criticized him or his company and has used the platform to bully reporters who have written critical articles about him or his company.

Twitter's board at first enacted an anti-takeover measure known as a poison pill that could have made a takeover attempt prohibitively expensive. But when Musk outlined the financial commitments he'd lined up to back his offer of \$46.5 billion -- and no other bidders emerged -- the board opened negotiations with him.

While Twitter's user base of more than 200 million remains much smaller than those of rivals such as Facebook and TikTok, the service is popular with celebrities, world leaders, journalists and intellectuals. Musk himself is a prolific tweeter with a following that rivals several pop stars in the ranks of the most popular accounts.

Musk is the world's wealthiest person, according to Forbes, with a nearly \$279 billion fortune. But much of his money is tied up in Tesla stock -- he owns about 17% of the electric car company, according to FactSet, which is valued at more than \$1 trillion -- and SpaceX, his privately held space company. It's unclear how much cash Musk has.

Musk began making his fortune in 1999 when he sold Zip2, an online mapping and business directory, to Compaq for \$307 million. He used his share to create what would become PayPal, an internet service that bypassed banks and allowed consumers to pay businesses directly. It was sold to eBay for \$1.5 billion in 2002.

That same year, Musk founded Space Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX, after finding that cost constraints were limiting NASA's interplanetary travel. The company eventually developed costeffective reusable rockets.

In 2004. Musk was courted to invest in Tesla, then a startup trying to build an electric car. Eventually, he became CEO and led the company to astronomical success as the world's most valuable automaker and largest seller of electric vehicles.

EU chief

society. This is true for the technological and the economic domain. But it is also true for security... The core principles that underpin peace and security

FROM PAGE ONE across the world are at stake in

Asia as well as in Europe." She said "Russia and China have forged a seemingly unrestrained pact".

"They have declared that the friendship between them has no limits. That there are no forbidden areas of cooperation. This was in February this year. And then the invasion of Ukraine followed. What can we expect from the new international relations?" she

She said the images coming from Russia's attack on Ukraine have shocked and are shocking the whole world.

Recalling her visit to Bucha earlier this month, she said, "I saw with my own eyes the bodies lined up on the ground. I saw the mass graves. I listened to survivors of an atrocious crime Kremlin's soldiers committed. These are severe violations of international law -- killing innocent civilians, redrawing borders by force, subjugating the will of a free people. This goes against core principles enshrined in the UN Charter. In Europe, we see Russia's aggression as a direct threat to our secu-

"We will make sure that the unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine will be a strategic failure," she said.

Earlier in the day, India and the European Union decided to establish a "Trade and Technology Council" (TTC), a "strategic coordination mechanism" that is aimed to "tackle challenges at the nexus of trade, trusted technology and security".

This was the key outcome after von der Leyen and Modi held their bilateral meeting.

Sources told The Indian Express that with Beijing's increased use of trade and technology as a coercive tool, there is growing agreement with partners to cooperate on trade and technology

The TTC is an important format in EU's calculus, and the only other country with which the grouping has a TTC is the US. It was announced in June '2021, and has started functioning through 'working groups".

"Today, our relationship is more important than ever. We have so much in common. We are vibrant democracies, we both support wholeheartedly the rules-based international order and we have both large economies, and we are both facing a challenging global landscape. For the European Union, the partnership with India is one of our most important relationships for the coming decade and strengthening this partnership is a priority," she said.

"I am thinking of three main topics - trade, technology and security. That is why I am pleased that today Prime Minister Modi and I have agreed to establish an EU-India Trade and Technology Council. The EU has only one TTC so far – with the US, and I think it is telling that we now establish the second one with India. Also. because India is technologically a powerhouse, and in the trade sector we need to unleash an enormous amount of untapped potential." she said.

A joint statement said, "Both sides agreed that rapid changes in the geopolitical environment highlight the need for joint indepth strategic engagement. The Trade and Technology Council will provide the political steer and the necessary structure to operationalise political decisions, coorto the political level to ensure implementation and follow-up in areas that are important for the sustainable progress of European and Indian economies.

Soon after the Assembly election rout in March, a section of the

G 23 had officially told the lead-

ership that the "only way for-

ward" is to adopt a model of "col-

lective and inclusive" command

and decision making at all levels.

It is to be seen how many mem-

bers of the G 23 will find a place

On Monday, before announc-

ing the setting up of the "empow-

ered action group-2024," Sonia

Gandhi met members of the

committee that studied Kishor's

presentation, including F

Chidambaram, Ambika Soni,

Privanka Gandhi Vadra, Digvijava

Singh, Jairam Ramesh, Mukul

Wasnik, K C Venugopal and

times to discuss the roadmap be-

fore its report was submitted to

the party chief last week. Kishor

was also called in during their de-

entation have not been made

public. But last Thursday, an 85-

page "presentation" did the

rounds on social media, which

suggested that Kishor had report-

edly proposed to the Congress

leadership last year that a non-

Gandhi as party chief would have

a "high" impact. Kishor dismissed

the document as "an old/fake

presentation" that has "nothing

to do with the ongoing discus-

Monday, Congress communica-

tions chief Surjewala said that

based on discussions between

Sonia Gandhi and the commit-

tee's members, she "has decided

to constitute an empowered ac-

tion group 2024 in order to ad-

dress the political challenges

after the Indian Political Action

Committee or I-PAC, which was

founded by Kishor, signed a con-

tract with the Telangana Rashtra

Samithi (TRS) for the 2023

Assembly elections. Sources said

senior Congress leaders are upset

over I-PAC entering into a contract

with a political opponent at a time

when Kishor was in talks with

their own party. Kishor has main-

tained that he currently has no

storming session in Rajasthan,

Surjewala said the focus will be

on the political and economic sit-

uation, and the challenges they

and well-being of kisans (farm-

ers) and khet mazdoors (farm

labourers). Scheduled Castes.

Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, religious

and linguistic minorities and

women, social justice and em-

powerment and youth will also

be discussed in detail. In addition.

matters relating to organisational

restructuring and strengthening

will be examined. The Chintan

Shivir will also deliberate on the

broad strategy of the Congress for

the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," he

has given representation to sev-

eral G 23 leaders in six other

groups that the party has set up

for drafting resolutions that will

be discussed and passed at the

Mukul Wasnik will be convenors

of two committees, while

leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad,

Anand Sharma, Shashi

Tharoor, Manish Tewari and

Akhilesh Prasad Singh are

members of different groups.

political resolution will be

headed by Leader of

Opposition in Rajya Sabha

Mallikarjun Kharge, and will

have as its members Azad,

Tharoor, Ashok Chavan, N

Uttam Kumar Reddy, Gaurav

Gogoi, Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka,

Pawan Khera and Ragini

would be drafted by a commit-

tee chaired by former finance

minister Chidambaram. This

Siddaramaiah, Anand Sharma,

Sachin Pilot, Manish Tewari,

Rajeev Gowda, Praniti Shinde,

Gaurav Vallabh and Supriya

discussions on issues related

to farmers and agriculture

would be headed by Hooda.

This committee includes

Chhattisgarh minister T S Singh

Deo, Shaktisinh Gohil, Nana

Patole, Partap Singh Bajwa, Arun

Yadav, Akhilesh Prasad Singh,

Geeta Kora and Ajay Kumar Lallu.

tion on issues related to "social

and empowerment" will be

headed by Salman Khurshid. Its

members are Meira Kumar,

Digvijaya Singh, Kumari Selja,

Nabam Tuki, Sukhjinder Singh

Randhawa, Naranbhai Rathwa,

Anto Antony and K Raju.

A committee to draft a resolu-

Another committee to lead

include

will

panel

The economic resolution

The committee to draft the

Bhupinder Singh Hooda and

brainstorming session

Significantly, Sonia Gandhi

"Issues relating to the welfare

Speaking about the brain-

The meeting took place a day

Speaking to reporters on

The contents of Kishor's pres-

The group had met several

Randeep Surjewala.

in the empowered group.

CII chief

is impacting investments or the industry sentiments, then we work with both the states and the Centre to find a solution."

On the airports issue, the Tamil Nadu government's new industrial policy states that if an airport run by Airports Authority of India (AAI) is privatised, states should get a share in revenues earned by the company. The Indian Express reported on Monday that Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have supported this

Earlier this year, several states had also flagged concerns over the capital expenditure push directed at them in the Budget 2022-23, suggesting that this could end up mortgaging their fiscal independence and sovereignty to the Centre for an extended period.

According to Narendran, India also has "great potential to be a big steel exporter because most of the big steel exporting countries don't have the strength" that the country has in the form of "raw materials and a large market".

"Now the opportunities are more in Europe, Middle-East, Africa because that's a space vacated by Russia and Ukraine who export about 45 million tonnes of steel. So, India's exporting there. Of course, Europe has quotas so it's not like unrestricted exports but that also continues to trigger the interest in investing in India to add capacity...that's a great opportunity for Indian exporters, we will continue to be there," Tata Steel's top executive said.

Responding to a question on the incremental opportunities for India as a result of the conflict, Narendran said that the country has grown to export 20 million tonnes of steel from 10 million tonnes earlier.

That is only 15-20 per cent of what India produces. If you look at Japan or Korea, they export 30-40 per cent of what they produce. That to me is the potential. The current exports are also limited by the fact that demand in India is quite strong, so we need to keep building capacity faster than the demand growth in India so that we can export," he said.

Around 45 per cent of the steel produced in Russia and around 75 per cent in Ukraine are exported to other nations.

Kishor roadmap

and the report of the eight-member panel will be flagged for implementation by the empowered group. The composition of the group has not been announced but sources said if Kishor joins the party, he could be one of the

Party leaders say the decision to set up such a group indicates Kishor will not have a free hand. It also means that all the suggestions made by Kishor may have not been accepted. The eightmember panel has also given its own set of recommendations, and the empowered group will now find a middle path.

The setting up of the group also seeks to address the main demand of the G 23 leaders who have been arguing that key party decisions were being made in a unilateral manner, in an indirect reference to the Rahul Gandhi-Priyanka Gandhi Vadra duo.

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Virat Kohli reclaims top positio

gen paged Assentia's Seve Smith I mark tack to the bo. I position in the

in ICC Test Batting Rankings

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EXPRESS AUDIO EV scooter fires,

Roorkee violence, and

PM's J&K visit

In this episode, we discuss the recent rise in EVs catching fire in India and the govt's guidelines regarding the same, the Roorkee violence on Hanuman Jayanti, and PM Modi's promise to the youth of Kashmir

Wasnik, with Ajay Maken, Tariq Anwar, Ramesh Chennithala, Randeep Singh Surjewala, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Netta D'souza, and Meenakshi Nataraian as members.

A committee on youth and empowerment will be headed by newly appointed Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring. Its members are Youth Congress president BV Srinivas, NSUI president Neeraj Kundan, Krishna Byre Gowda, Krishna Allavaru, Alka Lamba, Roji M John, Abhishek Dutt, Karishma Thakur and Angika Dutta.

Rana's arrest

prove that her allegations are not true". Rana was moved to the Byculla women's prison on Sunday evening.

The officer also said the police had not received any communication from the Union Home Ministry on Rana's arrest till late in the evening.

Rana and her husband Ravi Rana, who is an independent MLA, were arrested on Saturday from their Mumbai residence after declaring that they would recite the Hanuman Chalisa outside Minister Uddhav Thackeray's home in Bandra. The move was apparently aimed at building pressure on the Shiv Sena-led state government on the issue of loudspeakers being used at places of worship.

The two were subsequently booked in two FIRs lodged on charges of sedition, promoting enmity and assaulting a public servant to prevent discharge of

In her letter to the Speaker, Rana, who represents a reserved SC constituency, wrote: "I made several and repeated demands for drinking water throughout the night, however no drinking water was provided to me throughout the night. To my shock and disbelief, the police staff present told me that I belong to Schedule Caste and hence they will not give me water in the same glass. I was told 'Neechi Zaat ke logon ko paani nahi dete'. Thus, I was directly abused on the basis of my caste and it is only for this reason that no drinking water was pro-

She wrote: "Further, when I wanted to use the bathroom in the night, the police staff present paid no heed to my demands. I was again abused in the most filthy language and several abuses on the ground that I belong to Schedule Caste were hurled at me. I was told that we don't let people from Neechi Zaat Scheduled Castes use our bath-

Incidentally, in June 2021, the Bombay High Court had cancelled Navneet's caste certificate while describing her claim as "fraudulent". Her appeal against the order is pending in the Supreme

In her letter to the Speaker, Rana wrote: "I emphatically state that I have reason to believe that the police action against me and my husband is only on the directions of the Chief Minister Shri Uddhav Thackeray. Under the circumstances, I am forwarding this representation to you as the guardian and custodian of the dignity of the Lok Sabha and its members to kindly look into the

Rana also sought action against senior officers for her arrest. "I, hereby, demand the strictest action to be taken against the Commissioner, Mumbai Police, concerned Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), concerned Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) and the police staff," she wrote.

Asked about the allegations, the IPS officer said: "In order to ensure such allegations can be countered, there were CCTV cameras in the police station where she could be seen. We will also be recording statements of other inmates, who were also given water along with her, to prove that her allegations are not true."

Tamil Nadu Bills

Appointing V-Cs to state universities used to be the prerogative of the Governor. The practice is for the Governor to pick the V-C from among three names selected by a search panel. Once the amendment is implemented, the government will give its assent for the V-C pick, leaving the Governor with no role. Also, while earlier the Governor appointed the V-C search panel, the government will do so once the new law comes into force.

The 'Statement of Objects and Reasons' of the Bills also says that the secretary in charge of finance will be among the syndicate members in all the universities.

The Bills come at a time when ties between the DMK government and Governor Ravi appear fraved - earlier this month, the DMK-led state government boycotted events organised by the Governor to protest against the alleged delay in clearing several Bills passed by the state Assembly. The two Bills passed on Monday, too, will need the Governor's nod.

The amendments will empower the government to appoint V-Cs in 13 state universities -Chennai University, Madurai Kamaraj University, Anna University, Bharathiar University, Bharathidasan University, Mother Teresa Women's University, University, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Periyar University, Tamil Nadu Open University Thiruvalluvar University, Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University and Annamalai

While appealing to the House to support the Bills, Chief Minister M K Stalin said that even in Guiarat, the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, V-Cs are not appointed by the Governor, but by the state.

The Bills cited the Gujarat University Act. 1949, and the Telangana Universities Act, 1991, as laws that allow state governments to appoint V-Cs. It also referred to the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000, where the V-Cs are appointed by the Chancellor with the state government's concurrence. WITHPTIINPUTS

Jignesh Mevani

Mevani has been booked under IPC Sections 294 (obscene acts and songs in public place), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt).

Mevani allegedly "misbehaved, used slang words and touched her inappropriately,' Assam Special DGP (Law and Order) G.P. Singh told The Indian Express. "The case is now under investigation," said Singh.

In her complaint, the woman police officer has said that Mevani uttered slang words" at her when she was escorting him, in a government vehicle. from Guwahati airport to Kokrajhar on April 21. When she asked him to "behave properly", he got "agitated and used most slang words," she has said.

"He pointed a finger towards me, tried to frighten me, and pushed me on my seat with force. He thus assaulted me during the execution of my legal duty of being a public servant and outraged my modesty by touching me inappropriately while pushing," she has said in her complaint. According to the FIR, two other police officers, including Surjeet Singh Panesar, Additional SP(HQ) Kokrajhar, were present in the ve-

The alleged assault took place when the vehicle was crossing Simlaguri, in Barpeta district. "We carried out a proper investigation after receiving the complaint," said Sinha.

Mevani's lawyer and senior advocate, Angshuman Bora, said it was a "completely false and fabricated" case. "There was no mention of this during the arguments in court yesterday... that he has allegedly mishandled a lady police officer. Where has this come up from suddenly?" asked Bora, adding that Mevani would be produced before the Barpeta Chief Judicial Magistrate on Tuesday. "We will now move for bail there," he said.

Bora said the Barpeta police personnel had arrived with a warrant on Monday morning, but did not divulge further details. "We were not told the context of his rearrest, we just knew the sections because it was mentioned in the warrant," he said.

While being taken away in a van from Kokraihar to Barpeta district, Mevani told reporters that the BJP and RSS were trying to "tarnish his image" and "target" him to "systematically destroy" him. "They did it with Rohit Vemula Chandrasekhar Azad and now they are targeting me. They have serious problems with Dalits. We believe in the Indian Constitution. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was targeted by Savarkar, and Modi is targeting Jignesh Mevani," he told re-Mevani, an Independent MLA

who had pledged support to the Congress last September, was arrested by the Assam Police from Guiarat on April 20 following a complaint filed against him by a local BJP leader in Kokrajhar regarding a purported tweet from his account against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In Kokraihar, he was sent to

police custody for three days. On Sunday, he was produced in the chief judicial magistrate's court in Kokrajhar, which reserved judgment on his bail petition. While the Assam Police had sought 10 days' custody, Mevani's lawyers had argued that there was no prima facie evidence for the charges" against the MLA and the whole case was "concocted."

On Monday, the court granted him bail on furnishing a bond of Rs 30,000, saying that the statement (Mevani's tweet) "prima facie does not represent any class, community, religious group of people, race, language". "I do not find reasonable

ground to hold the accused in detention for the offence under Section 120 B/153 A.of IPC R/W Section 66 of the IT Act only for the sentence that Mr Narendra Modi worships and considers 'Godse as God'." the order said. "The IO (investigating officer) can proceed with this investigation even if the accused is released on bail," it said.

Flagship mandis

On February 3, during an administrative meeting, the CM acknowledged problems with the Krishak Bazars, saying these were 'not being utilised properly". Minister of Agriculture Marketing Department Biplab Mitra told The Indian Express, "It is true that identification of spots for the mandis was not proper in some cases. But in each of these mandis, huge land and money are involved, so we are trying to make them viable.

In total, 186 Krishak Bazars have been constructed across the state, each over an average 3 acres of land, at a cost of Rs 1,080 crore. The amenities created include rest houses for farmers, godowns, weigh bridges, help centres, parking and other facilities.

The Indian Express visited six such Kisan Mandis in Howrah, Hooghly and Purba Bardhaman districts - the agricultural hubs of Bengal -- as well as the nearest private markets for farm products.

Purba Bardhaman district

The Krishak Bazar in Raina block houses a two-storey whiteand-blue(theTMCcolours)building with a poster marking it out as the 'People's Welfare Office' of TMCRaina MLA Shampa Dhara. The concrete auction platform is desolate, but like the TMC MLA's office, a tea shop, some automobile repair shops and a garage, a jewellery shop and a dentist's chamber are bustling.

A senior official in the District Agricultural Marketing Department says with "no takers" among the farmers or dealers, Those who approach us, be it for non-agricultural purposes, we rent out the space to them. It is better than nothing.'

The owner of one of the automobile repair shops, Maidul Haque Malik (40), says the complex houses 22 shops. "We pay rent of Rs 3 per sq ft monthly, apart from Rs 1,000 per sqft paid in advance," he says, adding they don't have any papers for it. Malik adds that the MLA's of-

fice has been there since he opened shop at the complex. "We have never seen farmers or wholesalers come here. But we have seen the MLA and her fol-MLA Dhara, who is also the 'Sabhadhipati' of the zila parishad

in Purba Bardhaman which runs the mandis, says she no longer uses the building as her office. "I had an office there to serve people," she says. On the mandis lying unused, Dhara says: "It is not right to say

that Krishak Bazars are not being

used. Twice a year, the state government procures paddy." A senior official of the district agricultural marketing department says the problem is the communication gap. "Farmers and dealers are unwilling (to come) to a majority of the Krishak

Bazars in the district. We should make them more aware of the benefits.'

Hooghly district

At the deserted Adisaptagram Krishak Bazar, only two shops are open, with some trucks and minivans parked outside. One is an airconditioned shop with sofas, in the other a group of youths are playing carrom.

One of the youths says he and his friends run a business renting out trucks and mini-vans. "This place has never been used as a mandi. The godowns are also empty, but sometimes the administration keeps EVMs here when there are polls.

Locals claim a syndicate runs its operations, supplying soil from the Krishak Bazar, Tapan Dasgupta, TMC MLA from Adisaptagram and former agricultural marketing minister, denies this. "I have cleared all those things, Before 2021 (the Assembly polls), I removed the syndicate offices from Krishak Bazar with the help of police."

About the mandi, Dasgupta says: "We tried to set up a market for bananas, but the farmers found no buyers and left. It is true that the location is not helpful."

Manoj Chakraborty, 'Krishi Karmadhakshya' of Hooghly zila parishad, says this problem is widespread, "In 18 blocks, 16 farm mandis have been set up, but in a majority, the markets are not functional. That is because their locations are wrong."

Hooghly district/Singur

The Krishak Bazar here is a different story. It is named after Tapasi Malik, who was allegedly raped, murdered and set on fire during the anti-land acquisition agitations in 2006 against the Tata Nano project.

This Krishak Bazar works as a store and procurement centre for "Sufal Bangla", a state government initiative to provide subsidised vegetables and fruits to localities through stalls, trucks and mini-vans.

Staff member Shankar Kotal says, "Farmers from areas like Nalikul, Singur, Gopalnagar, Bilayetpur sell their produce here. We package it and send to the 66 stalls of Sufal Bangla in different parts of the state."

Kotal says prices are fixed and uploaded daily, and they procure as per the same. West Bengal Labour

Minister and Singur MLA Becharam Manna says it's hard to say what plagues the Krishak Bazars. "In Singur, it is a success, but I do not know why it (the concept) failed in a majority of places."

Kolkata

WRITEBACK

RESPONDING TO The Indian Express April 23 report 'To ease supply strain on coal stocks, Railways to boost rakes", Rajiv Jain, Additional Director General (Public Relations), Ministry of Railways, said it did not present the correct perspective about the efforts to transport coal taken by Indian Railways.

"Indian Railways has taken proactive steps to ensure continuous supply of coal to power houses," Jain said in a statement, noting that the railways "has been a prime supplier of coal to all power houses and has taken substantive measures in year 2021-22 and the current month of April to augment the coal supply to power houses.' "During the year 2021-22,

Indian Railways has augmented the transportation of coal through Railways by a record 111 million tonnes and loaded a record 653 million tonnes of coal as compared to 542 million tonnes in the previous year i.e. a growth of 20.4 per cent. Further, during the period September 2021 to March 2022, loading of coal to power sector was augmented by 32 per cent in just two quarters. In April 2022, Indian Railways has taken many steps to prioritise the loading of coal to the power sector which has led to increase in supply of coal of more than 10 per cent within one week time," the statement said.

It said that the railway had prioritised movement of coal trains and was conducting intensive monitoring of all trains during the entire cycle from loading to movement and finally unloading leading to a reduction in transit time of coal trains to long distance power houses by 12-36 per cent. The statement also said the railways had prioritised the movement of coal to long distance power houses which was reflected in a 7 per cent increase in average lead (distance travelled) of coal trains between April 18 and April 22 compared to the first 10 days of the month.

"Indian Railways is fully geared up and has mobilised all resources to ensure that sustained high level of coal supply is maintained to powerhouses and is committed to lift all domestic coal that is brought to the sidings/ good sheds by the coal companies and imported coal brought to the ports by the power gener-

Our Correspondent replies:

The Indian Railways has not disputed the contents of the April 23 report, including the fact that the average number of railway rakes transporting coal to powerhouses had decreased from about 409 per day in March to about 380 in the first two weeks of April, despite the ongoing issue of low coal stocks at ther-

The railways also said it was planning to boost the number of rakes used to transport coal from current levels. "To ensure swift supply of coal across power plants, additional trains and rakes by Indian Railways have been initiated to augment press release last Monday confirming it was increasing rakes to boost supply of coal to power houses as mentioned in the report.

ating companies," the statement said.

mal power plants.

transportation of coal through its network," the Ministry of Railways said in a

> The committee on organisational matters is being headed by

WEST BENGAL

JALPAIGURI

Minor girl who set herself on fire dies

Victim alleged threat to withdraw rape bid complaint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, APRIL 25

A MINOR girl succumbed to her injuries on Monday after fighting for life for more than 10 days at a hospital following a suicide attempt in the Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal, the police said.

The girl set herself ablaze on April 14 after she was allegedly threatened by some persons to withdraw a complaint alleging molestation and attempt to rape. She was admitted to a hospital in Siliguri.

The girl died around 5:30am today," said a police official.

The victim's father has demanded a CBI probe into the circumstances leading to her death. "My daughter is no more. Her only mistake was that she had the courage to file a complaint. We want CBI probe into the case," he told mediapersons.

The victim in her complaint to the police had said that the 25year-old man attempted rape after molesting her when he found her alone at her house in February. When she raised an alarm, he escaped from the spot, she had said.

According to sources, the accused after securing bail allegedly started threatening the

girl to withdraw her complaint. On March 13, two people went to her house and threatened to kill her and her family members following which she set herself on fire the next day, receiving more than 65 per cent burn

Four persons, including the 25-vear-old who allegedly molested the girl and his brother, have been arrested in the case for abetment to suicide charges, it is

"All the four persons involved in the case have been arrested and are in jail custody," said Jalpaiguri superintendent of police (SP) Debarshi Dutta.

Bengali films best, but lack branding: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, APRIL 25

THE BENGALI cinema is the "best in the world" though it lacks a strong branding, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee claimed on Monday.

Inaugurating the 27th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) at the Nazrul Mancha auditorium in the city, the CM appealed for considering the Bengali cinema as an industry and directed the top government officials to call film investors from across the country to the next edition of the Bengal Global Business Summit that concluded recently.

She also asked veteran actor and Trinamool Congress MP Shatrughan Sinha, who was the chief guest at the film festival, to draw investors from Bollywood to invest in the Bengali cinema. Sinha, a former BJP Union minister, was recently elected from the Asansol Lok Sabha constituency.



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Trinamool Congress MP Shatrughan Sinha, MLA Babul Supriyo along with actors Prosenjit Chatterjee, Dev Adhikari and others at the inauguration of the 27th Kolkata International Film Festival on Monday. Partha Paul

Thirty six international movies will be screened at the Nazrul Tirtha centre from April 26 to May 1 as part of the film festival

"The Bengali cinema has its place of pride. This is the reason why these many foreign filmmakers agreed to come here to partic-

ipate in the film festival. Finland specially came with a lot of films that we will showcase here," the CM said. Also, a simultaneous ex-

It will be inaugurated on April 26 by KIFF chairman Rai Chakraborty. This is the concluding year of Ray's birth centenary. The birth centenary programme of Ray could not be held due to the pandemic. Banerjee said, "We created a film museum which will also help showcase our film culture. The Bengali cinema has a huge talent pool while Bollywood has lots of money and investors. If Bengali

Satyajit Ray will be held at the

Nandan and Nazrul Tirtha centres.

films can get that, they will also achieve a certain level. I will request Shatrughan ji to help the Bengali film industry by bringing more investments from Bollywood." The films, she said, have the potential to earn revenues. "Livelihoods of a number of people are directly linked with this industry. We forgot to include film industry in our business summit. Moreover, Bengal is bestowed with scenic landscapes for film shoots," she said.

CATTLE SMUGGLING. POST-POLL VIOLENCE CASES

TMC's Mondal seeks time to appear before CBI, sparks war of words

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, APRIL 25

CONGRESS' TRINAMOOL Birbhum district president and chief minister Mamata Banerjee's close aide Anubrata Mondal has written to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seeking time till May 21 to appear before the federal agency in connection with cases of cattle smuggling and post-poll violence in West Benga

This is the first time that the 61-year-old TMC strongman has agreed to face the agency sleuths who were informed through an email.it is learnt. Mondal's lawyer. who visited his client at his residence on Monday, said his health has deteriorated. "If they (agency) wish, they can record his statement at his residence," the



TMC leader Anubrata Mondal has sought time till May 21

Mondal's repeated evasion of the CBI summons has raised a debate in political circles of West Bengal. On Monday, BJP national vice president Dilip Ghosh said that Mondal will be "safe in jail". He said, "The moment the CBI summons him, he runs to hospital. His name is involved in a lot of cases. Either he will have to live in hospital or in jail. But he will be safer in jail as he might get killed outside as he knows who all in the TMC benefited from

Taking a strong exception to

Ghosh's statement, TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that his party (BJP) should rather concentrate on their internal issues. TMC leader Joy Prakash Maiumdar said, "The CBI should call Dilip Ghosh and interrogate him instead. It seems he knows a lot of things." The CBI had summoned Mondal soon after the Calcutta High Court upheld a single-judge bench order in the first week of this month. The court refused to grant him protection from arrest in the cattle smuggling

On April 6, Mondal got admit-

Soon after he was discharged from the hospital on April 22, the CBI sent him two summons - one in connection with the cattle smuggling case and another with post-poll violence probe.

ted to the state-run SSKM Medical College and Hospital.

ANIS KHAN DEATH

File objection to SIT report in a week: HC to student leader's kin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, APRIL 25

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Monday directed deceased student leader Anis Khan's father Salem Khan to file within a week an affidavit raising an objection to a report filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the West Bengal

Khan's lawyer Bikash Bhattacharya submitted in the court that the report could at best be described as an "inquiry report" rather than and an "investigation report".

government.

Name & Address of

S/o. Gaurishankar Mohatta

3A, Darpan Rayan Tagore Stree 4th Floor, P. O. Beadon Street P. S. - Jora Bagan Kolkata - 700006

Mrs. Sarita Mohta W/o. Pawan Mohatta

Both are residing at

Mrs. Alladi Kisku

Probhati Kisku

D/o. Jiten Kisku

Dakshin Pallash

Majipara, Palash

Bijpur, North 24

arganas, n - 743195

86/A/2. Maharaja

Also at : Nabadisha Apartmer

Flat No. 12, 2nd Floor

On the last date of hearing, the SIT had submitted in the court an



Anis Khan was found dead on April 13

82-page "investigation progress report" suggesting that Anis' death was non-homicidal in nature. Anis, a student leader of Aliah University, was found dead in front of his house in Amta in the early hours of February 19 under mysterious circumstances.

His family has alleged that he was murdered by the police. Claiming that four persons had come to their place on February 18 night in police and civic volun-

A) Amount Due as of

A) Rs. 9,90,592.00 (Rupees

Nine Lakhs Ninety Thousar

Five Hundred Ninety Two)

only under Loan A/c. No. PHR000500264538 due as

on 23.04.2021 (this amoun

A) Rs.10,24,264.00

Rupees Ten Lakhs Twenty Four Thousan

Two Hundred Sixty

Four) only under Loa

PHR000501790631

due as on 28.04.2021 being the amount due

on termination of the

interest till 28.04.2021

agreement (the amount includes

3) 28.04.2021

23 04 2021)

B) 24.04.2021

C) 21.04.2022

teer uniforms, Khan's father alleged that Anis was pushed off the third floor of their house. The family has been demanding a CBI investigation into the death The court had earlier taken suo

moto cognisance of the case and termed the incident as "grave and shocking". It, however, refused to order a CBI inquiry in the matter and

asked the state government-appointed SIT to continue with The HC had also maintained that the investigation will be done

under the supervision of the Howrah district judge The bench of Justice Rajsekhar Mantha adjourned hearing in the

matter till May 12.

3. (A) Madhabi

Recruitment Notice

SAINIK SCHOOL KAPURTHALA (PUNJAB)
CBSE AFFILIATION NO 1680001

Phone No- 01822-230184

1. The Recruitme	ent of the following posts as per o	letails given below:-
<u>Particulars</u>	01 x PEM/PTI cum Matron (Contractual for 01 year)	01 x Driver (Reqular)
Reservation	01 x OBC (For Female only)	01 x OBC
Last date for submission of application form	May 2022	
Pay	Rs 58,819/ (Consolidated)	Pay 19900-63200 Level 2, cell 19900
Essential Qualification	Essential Qualification. Bachelor of Physical Education (B.P.Ed -four Years Degree Course) OR Three Years Graduation + One Year B.P.Ed Diploma. OR B Sc Physical Education, Health Education and Sports + one year B.P.Ed Diploma. (i) Experience of working in a residential public school in same post and knowledge of computers. (i) Participated in International / National/ State Sports Competitions (ii) English Communication Skills.	Essential Qualification (i) Matriculation (j) Driving Licence (Heavy). Desirable Qualifications Ability to converse in English will be considered an additional qualification.
Age	21-35 years	18-50 years
Fees along with application form	General / OBC - Rs 500/- SC/ST- Rs 250/- for all the posts	

PEM/PTI will have to perform additional duties of Matron for girls hoste too. For detailed advertisement and application form, please visit school website: www.sskapurthala.com
The school administration reserve

erves the right to cancel all or any of the

File affidavit on suspended BJP MLAs' plea: HC to Speaker

on Monday directed the West Bengal Assembly Speaker to file affidavit-in-opposition by May 2 on a petition by Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari and four other BJP MLAs challenging

MALDA BLAST

Five arrested:

national child

rights panel

seeks probe

KOLKATA, APRIL 25

police said on Monday.

FIVE PEOPLE have been arrested

in connection with the crude

bomb blasts in West Bengal's

Malda district in which five chil-

dren were injured on Sunday,

The five arrested people are lo-

cal residents, Superintendent of

Police Amitava Maiti said. The

condition of two children, who

were critically injured and admit-

ted to Malda Medical College and

Protection of Child Rights has,

meanwhile, written to the West

Bengal government and sought

an investigation into the incident.

The Commission has asked the

state Chief Secretary and the

Director General of Police (DGP)

to submit an action-taken report

ensure remedial action to prevent

such incidents in future.

It also asked the top officials to

On Sunday, five boys aged be-

tween 8 and 9 years got injured as

some crude bombs exploded at a

mango orchard in a village of

Malda district. Three of them sus-

tained grievous injuries and were

admitted to the Malda Medical

College and Hospital, while two

were admitted to a health centre.

fusing the crude bombs

discovered underneath a tree be-

side a local mosque and scanning

the area to find out whether there

are more such explosives in

the vicinity.

A bomb disposal squad is de-

within 10 days.

The National Commission for

Hospital, is stable, he said.

ENS& PTI

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court their suspension from the House for the remaining period of the session for alleged misconduct.

Two other BJP MLAs, who had also been suspended from the House on an earlier date during the same session, had moved a

Careers

separate petition and a similar order directing the Speaker to file affidavit-in-opposition was passed.

Justice Rajasekhar Mantha directed the Speaker to file separate affidavits on two petitions stating his position by May 2. PTI

AXIS BANK LTD.

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest Enforce Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Axis Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interes (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) to epay the amount mentioned in the notice along with contractual rate of interest plus penal intere charges, costs etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice. The Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s), having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the

Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s), in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has take section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned herein after. The Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s), 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 the **Axis** Bank Ltd., for an amount mentioned in the notice along with interest thereon and penal interest

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of th SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the

			(C)	Date of Possession
1. Mr. Liton Sil S/o. Paran Krishna Sil 2. Mr. Paran Krishna Sil S/o. Annada Sil Both are at - 157, Satin Sen Pally Sarsuna, Thakurpukur Kolkata - 700071 Also at : 313, Sarsuna Main Road, P. S. Behala, Ward No. 127 Kolkata - 700061	measurir be the s comprise Behala, a apperta No. 317 Municip Sarsuna Behala, local lim Corporat (South) bounded E.P. No. E. P. No.	piece and parcel of land g1 Cottahs 14 Chittacks ame a little more or less d in Mouza - Dakshin J. L. No. 16. E. P. No. 157, ining to R. S. Dag (P), lying and situate at al Premises No. 313, Main Road, under P. S. Ward No. 127, within the its of Kolkata Municipal ion, District 24 Parganas which is butted and tas On the North - Land of 154, On the East - Road, West - Land of E.P. 159.	Lakt Hun unde PHF 21.0 inclu 21.0 Rs. Elev Tho only LTR 21.0	
1. Mr. Kanailal Sasmal S/o. Late Prafullya Kuma Sasmal 2. Mrs. Shiuli Sasmal Wo. Kanailal Sasmal Both are residing at 2/21B, Mahendra Banerj Rabindranagar, P. O. and Parmashree, Kolkata - 700 Also at: Premises No. 1 2nd Floor, Joyrampur Jal Ward No. 129, P. S Pa Kolkata - 700060.	ee Road, d P. S 0060 950-A, a Road,	All that one self-corresidential flat, being the Second Floor, containing of Rooms, 1 Kitchen cum room, 1 bath and privy, h Covered area 505 sqfts r less of a G+III storied be lying and situated at Premises No. 1950A, Joy Jala Road, under Ward No Kolkata Municipal Corr (S.S. Unit), Police S Parnashree, Kolkata -700	Entire of 2 Bed dining aving a more or ouilding, K.M.C. rrampur 129 of oration Station	A) Rs. 8,41,671.00 (Rupees Eight Lakhs Forty One Thousand Six Hundred Seventy One) only under Loan A/c. No. PHR000501719392 due as on 19.04.2021 (this amount includes interest applied till 19.04.2021). B) 19.04.2021 C) 21.04.2022

All that the unit/flat No. 2A, on

the South East side of the 2nd Floor, measuring about

an area of 992 Square Feet of

the building under premises No. 336A, S. N. Roy Road,

et KMC Ward No. 118, P. S.

All that piece and parcel of one self-contained flat being No. 12, in the 2nd floor, North East

side. Iving and situated at premises No. 86/A/2.

Maharaja Nanda Kumar Road, Kolkata - 700036, consisting of 2 Bed Rooms, one

Kitchen, 1 Dining Space, One Balcony and One

Bath and Privy having 563 Sq. ft. including super built up area more or less and undivided

proportionate share demarcated portion of the

property, within the Municipal limits of Baranagar, P. S. - Baranagar, District – North 24

Parganas, with proportionate undivided right

and interest in the land measuring about 3 Cottahs 14 Chittacks 24 Sq. ft on which the said

obligations in respect of common areas and facilities along with right of easement in all

common areas. Boundaries of the Premises

of Smt. Bela Debnath & Ashalata Debnath

building is created and built and also rights and C) 25.04.2022

North - By the common passage, South - By the building of Singrai Sarer East - By Maszid & 12 feet Maharaja Nanda Kumar Road, West - By the hous

Behala, Kolkata - 700038

State Bank of India Central Recruitment & Promotion Department Corporate Centre, Mumbai Phone: 022-22820427; Fax: 022-22820411

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date for receipt of application is 15 days from

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SBI ON CONTRACT BASIS
Applications are invited from Indian Citizana for the following pasts an

	tract Basis	g posts or
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ii.	Senior Special Executive- Program Manager Contact Centre	4
iii	Senior Special Executive- Customer Experience, Training & Scripts Manager (Inbound & Outbound)	2
iv	Senior Special Executive- Command Centre Manager	3
v	Senior Special Executive - Dialler Operations (Outbound)	1

Eligibility criteria (age, educational qualification, experience etc.), requisite fees and other details are available under Advertisement No CRPD/SCO/2022-23/05 on Bank's website https://bank.sbi/web/careers along with a link for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fee. Candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement ensuring their eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees.

DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEE 13.04.2022 TO 04.05.2022

For any query, please write to us through link "CONTACT US" \rightarrow "Post Your Query" which is available on Bank's website.

Place: Mumbai General Manager Date: 13.04.2022 (RP & PM)

Date: 26.04.2022 Place: Kolkata **Authorised Office** RECALL NOTICE U/S 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and **Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002** Borrower/Guarantor (A) Account Name (A) Limit **Mortgaged Property Details** (B)Account name with address (B) Outstanding Number (Type) As On Date

पंजाब नैक्नल बैंक 🚺 punjab national bank

(C)Branch Name (C) NPA Date (A) Asia Begam W/o 1. Asia Begam W/o (A) ₹ 35,00,000.00 Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building Rahaman (B) ₹ 22,46,586.98 in the name of Mrs Asia Begam situated (B) 0882306921565. (Borrower) Plus charges and at Mouza Qtr No B9. NTPC, PTS further interest WB. (Housing Loan) Purban, WB, PIN 732215 on 15.03.2022 732202, JL No 77, RS Khatian No 339, 2. Motiur Rahaman S/o (C) 31.03.2021 (C) Khejuria LR Khatian No 1082, Plot No 112/740 measuring total area of 4 decimal of Borrower) land. Classification Bastu in connection Vill & Po - Salabatganj with Deed No i-3438, 3439, 3440, 3444, PS – Manikchak Dist– Malda, PIN-732202 3445, 3448, 3449, 3450 for the yea 1991. Boundary:

North Majed Ali; Sourh:Ataur Rahman East: Macadam Road; West: Own Land W/o (A) ₹ 23,50,000.00 > Hypo of Plant & Machinery, Stocks

Recall Notice

2. (A) Sumana Tanuja Enterprise Sushanta Kumar Roy (B) ₹ 24,34,351.40 > Equitable Mortgage of Land and Plus charges and Building in the name of Tanuja Roy W/o (Borrower) (Proprietorr) interest Sushanta Roy situated at Mouza (B) 0678250306676 Chhoton Mishra further w.e.f 01.03.2022 Niamatpur, JL No 23, Khatian No Old Cash Credit) (Guarantor) Susanta Roy S/o Lt (C) 13.01.2022 1267, Present LR 3399, Plot No 4798 (C) Netaji Market (067820)Samar Ch measuring total area 24.00 Decimal (Guarantor) Classification Bastu, DST Malda, Deed No i-5976 for the year 2010 at Gokulnagar Kamat, PO Niamatpur, PS All are resident of At Gokulnagar Kamat, PO English Bazar, Dist Malda, PIN 732101 Niamatpur, PS English

Boundary: Bazar, Dist Malda. PIN North: Jyotish Mandal; Sputh: Surer Mondal; East: PWD Road; West: Narer Mondal

1. Ashim Kumar Sarkar (A) ₹ 22,98,000.00 Equitable Mortgage of land and Building S/o Nirendra Nath Sarkar (B) ₹ 23,94,744.32 in the name of Mr Nirendra Nath Sarkar Dashakarma (B) 0236250201445 Vill Biplabi Market PO (Cash Credit) PS on 04.03.2022 & Dist (C) 31.03.2021 0236300002322 Gangarampur, (Housing Loan) Dakshin Dinaipur, 733124 2. Nirendra Nath Sarkar (C) Gangarampur (023620) S/o Late Sri Nani Gopal Sarkar (Guaranotor)

Plus Charges and Mouza Rajibpur, PS Gangarampur, Dis Khudiram further interest as Dakshin Dinajpur, JL No 84, Plot No 973, Khatian No LR 6758, Area 0.035 Acre, Nature Bastu, Deed No 2856 of 1985. Boundary: North: Common Passage; South: Mrinal

Kanti Roy; East: 6 Ft Wide Road; West

Vill - Rajibpur, PO & PS Gangarampur, Dakshin Dinajpur, 733124 (As delivery of Demand Notice sent vide post to all or any one of the above mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s failed, hence this notice is being published)

Reg: Credit facilities availed by above mentioned borrowers Borrower(s) Mentioned in above table have availed credit facilities (As described above) which was guaranteed b

guarantors as mentioned above.

ue to non-payment of instalment/ interest/ principal debt, the account(s) has/have been classified as Non Performing Asset as per Reserve Bank of India guidelines. We demand/recall the entire outstanding together with charges and further interest due under the above facilities. We are also invoking guarantee vide this notice. To secure the outstanding under the above said facilities, security interest was created in respect properties/ass

mentioned against their name(s)/account(s): We hereby call upon said borrowers/guarantors to pay the outstanding amount with charges and further interest a he contracted rate until payment in full within 60 days (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notice. Ir default, besides exercising other rights of the Bank as available under Law, the Bank is intending to exercise any or all of the powers as provided under section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"). The details of the secured

asset/s intended to be enforced by the Bank, in the event of non payment of secured debt by you are mentioned in above table against respective borrower(s)/guarantor(s)' name(s) /account(s). Your attention is hereby drawn invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time

available to you redeem the secured assets Please take notice that in terms of section 13(13) of the said Act, you shall not, after receipt of this notice, transfe by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured assets above referred to, without prior written consent of the Bank. You are also put on notice that any contravention of this

statutory injunction/restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence. If for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realised shall be deposited/remitted with/to the Bank. You will have to render proper account of such realisation/income.

We reserve our rights to enforce other secured assets. Please comply with this demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of non-compliance, furthe needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequences

This notice is issued without prejudice to the bank taking legal action before DRT/Court, as the case may be. For Puniab National Bank **AUTHORISED OFFICER** Chief Manager, Circle Sastra Malda

Kolkata

Kashmiri students walk out of Agra jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

THREE KASHMIRI students, who were languishing in a Agra prison for want of guarantors even after being granted bail by the Allahabad High Court in a sedition case about a month ago, finally walked out of the jail on Monday evening.

The students - Arsheed Yusuf, Inayat Altaf Sheikh and Showkat Ahmed Ganai — were arrested on October 26 last year allegedly for raising pro-Pakistan slogans after Indian team's T20

Nasir Khuehami, spokesperson of the J&K Students' Association that has been assisting the students in their legal battle, said: "They have suffered a great deal, from being roughed up at the Agra Sessions Court to facing recurrent delays in hearings. Finally, the students were released on Monday evening. There was delay in their release for want of guarantors. They

now return home." Noting that it was entertaining the bail application directly, which was an "exceptional circumstance", Judge Ajay Bhanot, in his court order had said: "The unity of India is not made of bamboo reeds which will bend to the passing winds of empty slogans. The foundations of our nation are more enduring. structible unity of India. Constitutional values create an indissoluble Union of India. Every citizen of the country is the custodian, and the State is the sentinel of the unity of India and the constitutional values of the nation."

The fact that people were travelling long distances within the country for education was something to celebrate, the court had said.

"Students travelling freely to different parts of the country in quest of knowledge is the true celebration of India's diversity and a vivid manifestation of India's unity. It is the duty of the people of the hoisting state to create enabling conditions for visiting scholars to learn and live the constitutional values of our nation. It is also the obligation of young scholars to imbibe and adhere to such values."

The students had been booked under IPC sections 124 A (sedition), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 505(1)(B) (with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public, or to any section of the public), and 66-F of the Information Technology Act, for allegedly sending WhatsApp messages "against the country" after the cricket match. The chargesheet had also been filed under the

CID summons Congress MLA

Bengaluru: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probing the irregularities in the recruitment of police sub-inspectors (PSIs) has summoned Congress MLA Priyank Kharge to appear before it with evidence. Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said on Monday.

However, the state unit of the Congress has directed Kharge against appearing for the exam-

On Saturday, Kharge released an audio clip in which two persons were reportedly discussing getting a PSI job by paying money. A day after the incident, Kharge received a notice from the CID to appear before the investigating team and share the

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

details he had. ENS

Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, (Patiala) CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number: 96461-08405)

PSI recruitment scam: Karnataka

Dy. CE/Projects under THERMAL DESIGNS ORGANISATION PSPCL, Patiala Shed No. T-2, Thermal (D) Shakti Vihar, Patiala invites tender notice for Utilization of Dry Fly Ash at GGSSTP, Ropar. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 27.04.2022. (11.00 AM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at

C-145/22

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD [A CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING] JA CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING 8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh, 0172-4601812

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice for inviting e-tenders for allotment of Built-up Dwelling Units/Commercial Units in U.T. Chandigarh

It is hereby notified for the information of general public that e-tenders are invited for the sale of Built-up units. All the Commercial Units and Residential Units are being sold on Free-Hold basis. Etenders are invited individually for each of Built-up Unit.

. The E-Tender process is open for all the citizens of India as well as NRIs/PIOs above 18 years of age. The persons already having any property (Residential or Commercial) can also participate in the

The Built-up Units shall be allotted to the highest eligible bidder quoting above the reserve price of the Unit. The GST will not be applicable on the consideration/premium of the unit.

3. All willing participants may visit the official website www.chbonline.in to understand the detailed procedure for submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and e-bids. The Terms & Conditions and the detailed List mentioning localities/sectors of Built-up Units and reserve price can be downloaded from the official website of the Chandigarh Housing Board i.e. www.chbonline.in In order to submit e-bids, every prospective bidder is required to get himself/herself registered at https://etenders.chd.nic.in.

Slickers have been pasted at each of the Built-up Unit for better identification and Site Offices have been provided at different Sectors/Location to facilitate inspection by the prospective bidders. The location of each of the unit on google map, address of the Site Offices and contact details of the officials are available on the official website www.chbonline.in. The days specified for the inspections

ofthi	a units are as under:-			
Sr. No.	Built-up Units			Days for inspections (10.00A.M. to 5.00 P.M.)
1 1	Residential Units on Free-Ho	d Basis	29	Saturday & Sunday
11 (Commercial Units on Free-Hold Basis			Salurday & Suriday
6. Sc	hedule of dates for e-Tend	ier of th	e Units:	Name of the last o
Sr. No. Event Date & Time				ate & Time
Starting date and time From the bid authorisation (10)			26th Ap	r#, 2022

Closing date and time Till to 25th May, 2022 (upto 10:00A.M.) for bid submission

Chief Accounts Officer Chandigarh Housing Board, Chandigarh WEAR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, WATCH YOUR DISTANCE.

Sedition case: Three Governor seeks reports from Kerala universities over exam goof-ups

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

KERALA GOVERNOR Arif Mohammad Khan on Monday sought reports from Kerala and Kannur universities on the recent goof-ups in examinations.

At University of Kerala, answer key was distributed instead of the question paper during the BSc Electronics supplementary exam in February this year. At University of Kannur, three exams scheduled last week had to be cancelled after the question papers were found to be a repeat of previous year's. Also, another exam on Monday (April 25) had to be postponed for the same

Raj Bhavan officials said the Governor has sought a report from the V-Cs of the two universities on the goof-ups. "Action will be taken on the basis of the reports. This is a routine intervention of the Raj Bhavan in the university matters," an official

Referring to the slips at the University of Kannur, Khan had told the media in Delhi on Sunday: "This is a clear sign of incompetence. Somebody should take the responsibility. The higher education sector in Kerala is in doldrums, even though the school education is the best in the country. Someone should take moral responsibility for the mistakes.'

Last week, the University of Kannur conducted two exams of psychology (graduate programme) and the question papers turned out to be a repeat of

the previous year. Adding to the embarrassment, the same mistake resurfaced in Botany exam on Saturday. Subsequently, the university also postponed the April 25 degree exam of philos-

Kannur university V-C Prof Gopinath Ravindran said a subcommittee has been tasked to probe the matter. "They will give the report on Tuesday. The report will be discussed by the Syndicate, which will take action against those responsible for the goof-ups. Since question papers are prepared in complete secrecy, we have to look into the entire sequence of events, to find out how this embarrassing situation emerged. All cancelled exams have already been rescheduled for next month," he said.

Earlier, University Controller of Exams Dr P J Vincent had taken moral responsibility for the bungling, saying "the teachers involved in the process will be blacklisted".

At University of Kerala, the answer key was distributed instead of the question paper in the fourth-semester BSc (Electronics) exam in February. However, the blooper came to light only recently when the answer-sheets were sent for eval-

Kerala University Controller of Exams Dr N Gopakumar said a probe has been ordered. "The mistake happened for a supplementary exam which was taken only by a single student. However, we are seized of the gravity of the blunder and appropriate action will be taken based on the probe report," said

Man beaten to death over suspicion of theft; 9 arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, APRIL 25

THE AURANGABAD city police have arrested nine persons, including two sons of a former Shiv Sena Corporator, for allegedly beating a man to death over suspicion of stealing decorative lights last week.

According to the police, the incident took place on April 21 in CIDCO area of Aurangabad.

The police said, the victim, 30-year-old Manoj Awhad, worked as a caretaker at the Meghwal Hall in Aurangabad, which was being run by Sagar Kharat, a former Sena corpora-

Kharat, his brother, a decorator, and six others assaulted Awhad over the suspicion of stealing a halogen light.

The accused also recorded the assault which got leaked on As per the FIR registered by

the victim's mother, they learnt about the incident after the victim"s brother received a video of the assault and they went to look for him at the hall but couldn't The family then approached

the police and showed the video when they learnt that one of the accused had taken Awhad to hospital where he was de-"Except one, all the accused belong to backward class. We

have arrested all the accused," said a police officer. The Aurangabad city police have clarified that the lynching

took place over the suspicion

BALLIA PAPER LEAK CASE

Not enough evidence, journalists get bail

Local journalists to carry on protest unless all charges dropped

ASAD REHMAN

LUCKNOW, APRIL 25

THE THREE journalists arrested in Ballia in connection with the leak of Class XII English examination paper have been granted bail after police failed to find adequate evidence of their alleged involvement in the crime.

Police have also withdrawn IPC Section 420 (cheating) that the trio had been booked under due to lack of evidence.

While Ajit Ojha was granted bail by the district court on Monday in the last of the three cases he had been booked, a lower court had granted bail to Digvijay Singh and Manoj Gupta on Friday in the two cases

Ojha and Singh are employed with Amar Ujala, and Gupta with Rashtriya Sahara newspaper. Ballia District Inspector Of Schools (DIOS) Brijesh Mishra is among 52 people arrested so far in the case.

The three had told the media that they were arrested for reporting on the paper leak.

Advocate Akhilendra Kumar, who represented the journalists, told The Indian Express, "Police had to withdraw the section related to cheating (IPC 420) against Ojha since they didn't have any evidence to prove that he was involved in the paper leak (case). Police had invoked that section in a wrongful manner...and to save themselves."

Government counsel (criminal), Ballia district, Sanjiv Singh confirmed that all three journalists have been granted bail.

"Ajit Ojha was granted bail on Monday in the case lodged at Kotwali, while he was already granted bail by a lower court on Friday (in the other cases). The other two were granted bail by a lower court on Friday," he told The Indian Express.

Three cases were lodged at Kotwali, Nagra and Ubhaon police stations. While Ojha was booked in all three cases, the other two were booked in the cases lodged at Nagra and Ubhaon police stations. Superintendent of Police.

Ballia, Raj Karan Nayyar said the section for cheating was dropped since there was no evidence to back it. Nayyar said: "We dropped

the section for cheating against Ojha on Monday, as we could not link the school where he was an invigilator to the paper leak. Initially, DIOS (Brijesh Mishra) had indicated that the school where Ojha was an invigilator was involved in the leak, and so was Ojha. We had the school under scanner, but so far we have not got any evidence to link the school to the paper leak."

He said police are still waiting for forensic data on the mobile phone of the other accused persons, and will proceed further once the details are in. "We had earlier withdrawn the sec-

tion for cheating against the other two journalists."

On March 30, the Class XII English paper of Uttar Pradesh Board examination was cancelled in 24 districts after news of the paper leak emerged in Ballia district.

The three journalists were arrested on March 31. While journalists in Ballia began protests against the arrests on April 4 and formed the Sanyukt Patrakar Sangharsh Morcha (united journalists' front) to lead the protest against the administration and police, a journalist, who is part of the Morcha, on Monday said that their agitation will continue until cases against the three are dropped and the DM and SP are removed. On April 15, local journalists started a relay hunger strike outside the DM office, which entered the 11th day on Monday. "Our struggle and hunger strike will continue. The way are colleagues were humiliated and arrested shows badly on the whole fraternity," the journalist quoted above said.

"We will only end the protest once the three are cleared of all charges." The Morcha seeks removal of District Magistrate Indra Vikram Singh and SP Raj Karan Nayyar for "framing the journalists in the paper leak case". After his arrest, Ojha had alleged that he was "framed" after the DM and DIOS had requested him to send the leaked question paper; he was arrested subsequently.

Former Home Secretary, who quit over Babri demolition, dies at 85

MANOJ MORE&

SUSHANT KULKARNI PUNE, APRIL 25

DR MADHAV Godbole, the Union Home Secretary who took an early retirement in protest against the Babri Masjid demolition, died of cardiac arrest at his home in Pune on Monday. He was 85.

Godbole breathed his last around 10 am and his last rites were performed at 2 pm, his family said in a statement.

The former bureaucrat is survived by his wife Sujata, son

Rahul, daughter Meera, and their families. Posted as Secretary of the Home and Justice departments, Godbole quit in March, 1993, barely months after the Babri demolition, ending his service 18 months earlier than scheduled. "The reason was quite clear."

he had told The Indian Express after a special CBI court acquitted all 32 surviving accused in the demolition case. "My recommendation to dis-

miss the then Kalyan Singh-led UP government was not accepted (by then PM Narsimha Rao)..."

The acquittals had taken



Dr. Madhav GODBOLE 1936-2022

Godbole aback. He had told The Indian Express: "This, despite the fact that we had placed all facts before the Supreme Court, which was hearing the case even before the Babri Masjid was demolished. The hearing was on a dayto-day basis and we were updating the court regarding what was happening on the ground. The reports of the Intelligence Bureau... placed before the Supreme Court... had said there was a conspiracy to demolish Babri Masiid, Yet, the Special

acy...This is surprising." He had recalled how even the

court says there was no conspir-

Liberhan Commission, set up in 1992 to probe the mosque demolition, had pointed to a conspiracy. "[The Commission] had sub-

mitted its report after a strenuous exercise ... in 2009. It described how the conspiracy was hatched and named the parties and leaders involved in it. The speeches and TV footage were also made available by the commission. But it seems the court has not taken cognisance of the report." Retired IAS officer Mahesh

Zagade described Godbole as "one of the most disciplined and upright IAS officers." "I had an opportunity to work

closely with him... In the 1990s, he was in the state Finance Ministry and I was in Home Ministry. He was strictly against unnecessary government expenditure and pressed hard for using public money judiciously for development projects," Zagade said. Godbole, Zagade added, was

"no-nonsense officer" who never buckled under pressure from politicians. "He backed good things and stood all that was in the public interest," the former IAS officer added.

Regd. Office.: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry No.: MQP-198/2022-23/PR Dated: 25.04.2022 CE/Meeting, PSPCL, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender fo rocurement of 400 no. -/5 Amp. 11KV/110V. DLMS Compliant AC. 3 Phase 4 wire CT/PT operated fully Static and AMR compatible HT Tri vector Feede Energy meters (CATEGORY A) of accuracy class 0.2S and Empanelment o echnically eligible firms for private sale of above material. For detailed NIT & ender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 25.04.2022. (02.00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. DELHI OFFICE OF THE CE (W) PROJECTS-I THROUGH DY. SUPTT. ENGINEER (Proj.) W-IX, ASHOK VIHAR, OVERHEAD TANK: DELHI-110052 Tel: 011-27303265 Email id: projectwater9@gmail.com

Tender Fees (Rs.) (non-Earnes Money (Rs.)

Note: Any further amendment/corrigendum made in this NIT will be uploded and can only be seen on website nttp://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in. Advt. No. J.S.V. 57(2022-23)

Naresh Kumar Dargan erintending Engineer (Proj.)W-I "STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

copy, it is not possible to verify contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of ransactions with companies ssociations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore ecommend that reader nake necessary inquiries pefore sending any monies o

0-126

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, **RWS&S DIVISION, KENDRAPARA**

At: Ichhapur, Post: Shree Baladevjew, Email: eerwsskendrapara@gmail.com Identification No. RWS/ 104 /2021-2022 Letter No. 3159/ Dated 20.04.22 3rd Corrigendum

This corrigendum has been made for the NIT-104 invited online vide this office letter This configendant has been inacted in the Ni F104 in white duffine vide this other letter. No. 1525 / Dated. 04.03.2022 with date for selling, closing, clarification and opening which was on dt. 22.04.2022 (selling date), 12.05.2022 (closing date), 25.04.2022 clarification date) 13.05.2022 (goening date) as per 2nd corrigendum has beer amended and to be read as 04.05.2022, 21.05.2022, 06.05.2022 and 23.05.2022

SI No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost(Apprx.) Rs. In Lakhs		Class of Bidder	Cost of Tender Paper	Period of comple-tion
1.	Execution of New 70 LPCD RPWS Scheme to Derakeshpur, Mantripada and Nuahat on clubbed up mode under Derabish Block in the District of Kendrapara. (JJM Funds)	268.27	Nil	"B" & "A"	₹ 10000	330 days
2.	Execution of 40 LPCD Retrofitting RPWS Scheme to Raghudeipur of Derabish Block and Gogua of Mahakalapada on clubbed up mode in the District of Kendrapara, (JJM Funds)	₹ 322.02	Nil	"A" & "Special"	₹ 10000	360 days

(ER. B.K. NAYAK) **Executive Enginee** RWS&S Division, Kendrapara

ring installation of 4 Nos. tubewells and Providing/ laying & inte-ter lines to Augment water supply by extraction of ground wa lar and adjacent area in Vikas Puri AC-31 Constituency

ROURKELA SMART CITY LIMITED, Rourkela Udit Nagar, Rourkela-769012, Email: rourkelascl@gmail.com Letter No. RSCL/873/2022 Date: 22.04.2022

Mr. Sudhansu Sekhar Mohapatra M/s Brahmani Engicon Pvt. 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. 741 dated 06/04/2022 to implement the project "Redevelopment of road from Panposh Chowk to Ambedkar Chowk including Streetscape, Beautification Landscaping, Intersection redesign, utility ducting and underground cabling in Rourkela" failing which the award of work of the project will be terminated. The Notice was sent to your postal address through Registered Post but the same has been returned with the observation that the addressee is absent. The 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. However till date you have not yet responded to the Notice. You are hereby informed to attend the final measurement on dt: 29/04/2022 positively for the above work "Smart Road Phase-I" Agreement No. 13/RSCL/2019-20, failing which ex parte measurement will be taken which will be binding on

> Chief Executive Officer Rourkela Smart City Limited

acting on an advertisement ir **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE**

No. 1118 /WE, Dt:- 20.04.2022 e-procurement Notice :- "Building Works." :- Rs. 352.05 Lakh and 433.92 Lakh (Approximate)

No of Work

:- 15 (Nine) Calender Months including rainy seasor Time for completion :- 2 (Two) Nos Summary for key dates

is provided below Date & Time of Last Date & Construction Will be 18.05.2022 N.C.B. No 30.04.2022 13.05.2022 up to 5.00 P.M. Works Circle

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in Any other changes/corrigendums may be seen only in

Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Balasore

OIPR-25105/11/0005/2223

SR. No.	HAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTAC DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	ALL-IN-ONE-COMPUTER WITH NIGAM'S TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION	21.04.2022	EMD 21ACS	uhbvn.org.in, etenders.hrv.nic.in	9988779248 centre@uhbxn.org.in
2	UHBVN	LT PVC UN-ARMOURED CABLE OF SIZE 2CX10 SQ, MN AS PER NIGAM'S TECH. SPECIFICATION NO-CSC-191/R-1/DH/UH/P6D/2021-22 AND AS PER RELEVANT IS ALONGWITH IT'S AMENDMENT.	22.04.2022 13.05.2022	END 2 LACS	uhbyn.org.in, etenders.hry.nic.in	9517702223 certmä uhbvn.org.in
1	UHBYN	ALL-IN-ONE-PRINTERS WITH NIGAM'S TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION.	20.04.2022 11.05.2022	EMD 1.08 LACS	uhbm.org.in, etenders.hry.nic.in	9988779248 cemm@uhbwn.org/in
4	UHBVN	HEAVY DUTY PRINTERS (ALL-IN ONE) WITH NIGAM'S TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION	31.04.2022 12.05.2022	EMD 1.35 LACS	ufitivin.org.in, etenders.hrv.nic.in	9988779246 centra@uhbvn.org.in
ś	UHBVN	ALL-IN ONE UPS WITH NIGAM'S TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION	21.04.2022	END 19400/-	ubbyruarguru etenders.try.mic.in	9988779248 commit ultipyr.org.in
6	UNDVS	ALL-IN-ONE-COMPUTERS WITH NIGAM'S TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION	22.04.2022 13.05.2022	EMD 2.02 LACS	uhbvn.org.in, etenders.hry.nic.in	9988779248 cemm@uhbwn.org.in

OIPR - 13080/11/0003/2223 WAREHOUSING FOR EVERYONE केन्द्रीय भण्डारण निगम CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION (A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय कोलकाता /REGIONAL OFFICE : KOLKATA AN ISO 9001:2015 & 14001 : 2015 : BS OHSAS : 18001: 2007 ORGANISA CMC BUILDING, PHASE-I, 6TH FLOOR, NEW MARKET COMPLEX, 15N, NELLIE SENGUPTA SARANI, KOLKATA-700087 PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Estimated Last date of Cost (Rs. In Lakhs) of tender to toilet block at CW-Import Export (W.B.) etailed tender notice along with conditions of contract and notice inviting e tender may be seen ar wnloaded from the CWC website: www.cewacor.nic.in or e-tender website: www.cwceprocure.com P Portal http://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app. Further Corrigendum/Addendum to this tender, if any, v ned on web**site www.cewacor.nic.in** or e-tender website www.cwceprocure.com or CPP por **EXECUTIVE ENGINEE**

KONNAGAR MUNICIPALITY Konnagar, Hooghly E-Tender has been invited by Chairman, Konnagar Municipality from bonafied resourceful Contractors/ Agencies for " Construction of Storm Water brick surface Nikashi drains in different wards under Konnagar Municipality". For details please visit www.wbtenders gov.in. E-Tender ID: 2022 MAD_377941_1-6. Bid Submission Start Date : 26/04/2022 at 11 am. Bid Submission Closing Date: 11/05/2022 at 6 pm. Bid Opening Date: 14/05/2022 at 4 Chairman Konnagar Municipality

Kolkata

GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



WILL HE, WILL HE NOT?

Will the Congress suspend or expel senior Punjab leader Sunil Jakhar from the party? And what action will it take against K VThomas, the party veteran from Kerala? The disciplinary action committee of Congress is meeting tomorrow to take a call on violations of party line by these two leaders. While Thomas had replied to a showcause notice issued by the panel, defending his decision to attend a seminar organised by CPI(M) in Kerala, Jakhar has not bothered to reply so far.

On Their Mark

While the pandemic and the lockdown had cast a shadow over the Narendra Modi government's anniversary celebrations for the last two years, BJP is still contemplating on how it should celebrate the eighth anniversary coming up next month. Senior BIP leaders met at the party headquarters on Monday to decide on that. While the meeting, also attended by Union ministers Anurag Thakur and Raieev Chandrasekhar. did not take any major decision, it was the first one to discuss the celebrations. The party is learnt to be keen to have "unique" programmes to mark the occasion. The meeting was also attended by senior BJP leaders Arun Singh, Vinay Sahasrabuddhe and Anil Baluni, among others. Last year, the party had confined the celebrations to Covid-19 relief campaign and village outreach programmes.

OUIT TWEET

RJD chief Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav on Monday created a flutter by announcing that he will soon submit his "resignation" after meeting his father. "I followed in my father's footsteps and gave respect to all party workers. I will submit my resignation soon after meeting my father," the former Bihar education minister tweeted.

16 YouTube channels blocked for spreading 'hate, fake news'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

THE MINISTRY of Information and Broadcasting on Monday blocked 16 YouTube news channels for allegedly spreading misinformation related to India's national security, foreign relations and public order.

It blocked 10 Indian and six Pakistan-based YouTube channels using emergency powers under the IT Rules, 2021, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 2021.

The blocked social media accounts include six Pakistanbased and 10 India-based YouTube news channels, having a cumulative viewership of over 68 crore. It was observed that these channels were used to spread fake news over social media on matters related to national security. India's foreign relations, communal harmony in the country, and public order. None of the digital news publishers had furnished information to the Ministry as required under

Rule 18 of the IT Rules, 2021," the Ministry said in a statement on Monday. It said the content published

by some of the India-based YouTube channels referred to a community as terrorists, and "incited hatred among the members of various religious communities". "Such content was found to have the potential to create communal disharmony, and disturb public order," it said.

It cited examples, including false claims related to announcement of a pan-India lockdown due to Covid-19, thereby threatening the migrant workers and fabricated claims alleging threats to certain religious communities.

"Such content was observed to be detrimental to public order in the country. You Tube channels based in Pakistan were found to have been used in a coordinated manner to post fake news about India on various subjects such as the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir, and India's foreign relations in the light of situation in Ukraine, etc," it said.

Maharashtra urges Centre for law on loudspeakers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, APRIL 25

ASSERTING THAT it cannot remove loudspeakers installed at religious places, the Maharashtra government on Monday asked the Centre to come up with rules regarding the use of loudspeakers across the country.

The government stance was conveyed by Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil after an all-party meeting over the issue. BIP leader Devendra Fadnavis and MNS chief gave a skip to the meeting which was attended by deputy CM Ajit Pawar, and Aaditya Thackeray. Addressing the media after the meeting, Walse Patil said, "We request the Centre to come up with a law that will be applicable across the country. It will ensure that situations like these do not arise anywhere in the country."

Thackeray said, "It was also decided at the meeting that a delegation from the state will meet the Centre and hold discussions on

Walse said loudspeakers have been operating in the state on the basis of the Supreme Court's circulars.," he said

Walse Patil added that if they decided to restrict the use of loudspeakers at mosques, they would also have to look at their use during bhajans, kirtans, Ganpati processions, and Navratri. "There cannot be separate rules for people belonging to different communities." he said.

He added, "Maintaining law and order is the responsibility of the state. If anyone tries to disrupt the law and order, we will have to take necessary action. Based on our discussion in the meeting, it was agreed that the priority was to maintain peace and harmony

Fadnavis told the media: "The

MVA government's political arrogance has left no room for communication. As a result, the BIP has to take the route of struggle to combat the high-handedness of the arrogant government."

Cops use drones, fences to block protesting teachers' march to CMO

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, APRIL 25

THE POLICE in Vijayawada and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh have deployed drones to keep a watch on protesting teachers from gathering outside the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) at Tadepalligudem on Monday, officers said. Several leaders and representatives of teachers' unions have been detained ahead of the 'Chalo Tadepalligudem' call given by the unions demanding that the state government withdraw the contributory pension scheme (CPS).

Hundreds of police officers are also checking vehicles going from Vijayawada and Guntur towards Tadepalligudem and allegedly detaining those headed to the protest, according to

An official said they were only preventing potential troublemakers from reaching the protest site. Barricades and razor wire fences have been put up on all roads leading to the CMO.

The Andhra Pradesh Teachers' Federation has called for the protest as the state government has been delaying the repeal of CPS, which, the teachers claim, adds to their financial burden.

SEEKING FAIR PROBE

No infringement

Centre tells TN

New Delhi: Days after the Tamil

Nadu Assembly adopted a reso-

lution against the Common

University Entrance Test (CUET)

for admission to undergraduate

courses taught in central univer-

sities, the Centre has tried to allay

the state's concerns saying there

is "no case for infringing upon the

rights of the states and Union

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin said the

state Assembly felt that any en-

trance exam based on the NCERT

syllabus would not provide an

equal opportunity to all students

who had studied in varied state

board syllabus across the country.

veyed by Union Education

Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

through a letter to his Tamil

Nadu counterpart K Ponmudy

The Centre's stand was con-

The resolution moved by

Territories" through the test.

on CUET,

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya outside the Home Ministry on Monday. He was part of a BJP

SIT to probe the alleged assault on him in Maharashtra. Praveen Khanna

delegation from Maharashtra that met MoS (Home) Nityanand Rai, urging him to form an

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JAIPUR, APRIL 25

AMID THE political row over six

questions on the Congress in the

Class XII Political Science exam of

the Raiasthan Board of Secondary

Education (RBSE) held last week,

the Union Ministry of Education

on Monday sought a response

from the Ashok Gehlot-led C-

ongress government in the state.

School Education and Literacy has

written to the Rajasthan

Additional Chief Secretary

(School Education), attaching a

news clipping on the issue. In its

communication, the ministry re-

ferred to media reports on the

question paper, "which is self ex-

planatory". "Request that the

comments/ inputs of the state

government on the news item

The Centre's Department of

Disturbing state of affairs: HC raps police on attack at Delhi CM house

SOFI AHSAN

NEW DELHI. APRIL 25

THE DELHI High Court Monday rapped the Delhi Police for its "failure" to prevent vandalism outside Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence during the protest held by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha last month and said that the force needs to seriously look at its efficiency and functioning. The security arrangements

made by the police were inade-

quate, said the court while terming the lapse serious and asking the Commissioner of Police to ascertain the reasons behind it. "This kind of an incident happening at the residence of any constitutional functionary, whether it is the Chief Minister, it could be a judge of the High Court or Supreme Court, it could be any other union minister or anyone. This is a very disturbing state of affairs that this kind of a thing could in the first place occur or such miscreants should succeed in their endeavour," said the division bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Navin Chawla. It added, "Some responsibility has to be fixed so that there is remedial action taken. It has happened today, it could happen tomorrow. Because this is a very important facet of



On March 30, members of BJP's youth wing staged a protest outside CM Kejriwal's residence. Archive

democracy. Irrespective of our ideologies... Just like we say that the Prime Minister is the Prime Minister of the country, nobody can say he is not my Prime Minister. It is the constitutional office we are concerned about. It is not the question of A individual or B individual."

The court made the observations after perusing a sealedcover status report filed by the police in response to Aam Aadmi Party MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj's petition seeking constitution of a Special Investigation Team for an independent probe into the attack.

On March 30, the members of BJP's youth wing broke through police barricades outside Kejriwal's residence and slammed the main gate.

After reading the report, the

court noted that police had prior information about the protest and denied permission for it. It further said police had made security arrangements and put up barricades at three places.

"The first barricade is breached, the second is breached and the third is breached. So what kind of bandobast did you have in place? If people could breach three barricades, then you need to seriously look at your efficiency, your functioning?" said the court.

The court said it was clear "there has been a failure" on part of the force to prevent the inciand asked the dent, Commissioner of Police to look into the laxpse and submit a report. It also asked if any additional force was sought when the barricades were breached.

SC agrees to hear pleas challenging Art 370 removal after vacation

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider listing after summer vacation the pleas challenging the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 which had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justice Hima Kohli took note of the submissions of senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for one of the petitioners, that the plea needed an urgent hearing in view of the delimitation exercise being carried out in the state.

"This is the Article 370 matter. The delimitation is also going on," the senior lawyer, appearing for interveners Radha Kumar (academic and author) and Kapil Kak (retired officer of the Indian Air Force), said. "Let me see." CII Ramana said. adding, "This is a five-judge matter. I will have to reconstitute the

general elections in India?"

"How many seats did the

Congress win in the 1984 Lok

Sabha election?"; "Who gave the

slogan 'garibi hatao'?"; "The gen-

eral election of 1971 proved to be

an election for restoration of

Congress. Explain the state-

ment."; "Under what circum-

stances did the Congress contest

the 1967 General Election and

what mandate did it get?

Rajendra Gupta had said question

paper was made as per the

NCERT syllabus and a panel of ex-

perts had prepared it. The NCERT

Class XII Political Science text-

book — Politics in India since

Independence — has two chap-

ters dealing with the Congress:

"Era of one-party dominance"

and "Challenges to and restora-

tion of the Congress system".

RBSF Public Relations Officer

Explain"

BJP readies for 2024 polls with booth-level plan

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

ROLLING OUT a blueprint of the party's strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, a team of senior BJP leaders has identified around 74,000 booths across the country for strengthening hold in some, and to gain ground in others it has not been able to win so

The majority of these booths are in the southern and eastern states, sources said.

The four-member team headed by BJP vice-president Baijayant Panda has already worked on a strategy to cover all the booths spread across 2,300 Assembly constituencies where the party has an MP or an MLA while identifying more booths in 100 Lok Sabha constituencies that the BJP candidates could not win so far, sources said.

"We have identified 73.600plus booths where the plan will be rolled out. Basically the aim is to strengthen the booths in the constituencies where the party has already won to retain them and to make more strongholds, we will be working on 100 more Lok Sabha seats where the party has not won. The mission is to maximise the party's reach and electoral wins," said a member of the team.

The team, also consisting of BJP general secretaries CT Ravi and Dilip Ghosh and party's Scheduled Castes (SC) cell head Lal Singh Arya, is expected to tour across the country to roll out their strategies in the coming three months. The committee met on Monday at the party headquarters. Once the blueprint is ready, BJP national president J P Nadda is expected to launch the mission officially,



BIP chief I P Nadda is expected to unveil the document next week. File

which is likely to be next week. "The committee will be work-

ing with the party MPs and MLAs - 2,300 of them – across the country, state presidents and district presidents in the coming three months. "We have to ensure that the BIP does not lose any of the seats it has already won. There will be training sessions and frequent meetings for those in these booths," said the leader. Known for its elaborate elec-

tion preparation much in advance, the BJP had identified around 115 constituencies as "new catchment area" in 2016 that the party had never been able to win ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The party had worked in those constituencies in six states — Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala — and the Northeast. Although the party could not make considerable gains in the southern states like Tamil Nadu. Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, the party had improved its position in Odisha and West Bengal in 2019 Lok Sabha polls. In Odisha, the party won eight seats, and bagged 18 from West Bengal. The party had only one of the 21 seats from Odisha and two of the 42 from West Bengal in the 16th Lok Sabha. In Telangana, it increased its tally from one to four in the last

Jharkhand: ex-CM Das alleges Soren got land allotted in wife's name

RANCHI, APRIL 25

FORMER JHAKHAND Chief Minister (CM) Raghubar Das on Monday alleged that CM Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana Soren got 11 acres of land in Ranchi's Bijupara industrial area, even as the CM himself holds the Industries portfolio.

In a press conference, Das said: "Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana Soren has been given 11 acres of land in an industrial area in Ranchi. This is at a time when Soren is currently the Industries Minister and he has used his position to get his wife the land. He is supposed to give answers.'

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said: "We will respond on Tuesday.'

Das said that CM's political representative Pankaj Mishra and press advisor Abhishek Prasad used their position to get mining leases, when Soren holds the Mining Department portfolio.

"Abhishek Prasad got the lease in the name of one Shiv Shakti enterprise in Sahebgani district of 11.70 acre land on April 8, 2021. According to the govt papers, Rs 90 lakh investment has also been made in this mining area. Pankaj Mishra had been given lease in the name of Mahakal stone in

Sahebhanj area. The government ner," Das alleged.

Calls made to Abhishek Prasad did not elicit any response. Pankaj Mishra could not be contacted.

Das also said that the state government has removed the religion column from the caste certificates-for Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribe castes-- which is proving harmful for the tribals who follow 'Sarna religion'. Sarna is not an official code in Jharkhand and Soren had written to Home Minister Amit Shah to include Sarna as a religion code in census.

'The BJP government had added a religion column in caste certificates so that Sarna tribals may benefit from it in jobs... Under pressure from Missionaries they seem to have been removed...." he said referring to the previous state government.

Earlier this year, Das had released documents which stated that the CM had obtained a mining lease in Ranchi area and a Letter of Intent had been issued in June last year. It also stated that in September, the CM had obtained environmental clearance for the same.

In February, a petition was filed in the Iharkhand High Court in the matter. On April 8, during the hearing, Advocate General Rajiv Ranjan said the state had committed 'a mistake' and the lease has since been 'surrendered'

more active as the BSP inked an

alliance with the Samaiwadi

Party (SP) for the polls and was

'Good listener': Mayawati's likely heir hits ground for Rajasthan poll prep the ropes of politics. He became for next year. The party won six

LALMANI VERMA

LUCKNOW, APRIL 25

SEEN AS someone who may succeed Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati as the party's leader, her nephew Akash Anand is now on a tour of Raiasthan to gain an understanding of the party's organisational strength.

Earlier this month, the 31year-old participated in a 13-km 'Swabhiman Sankalp Yatra" in Alwar on the birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar, Anand, according to party insiders, is supervising the BSP's preparations for the Assembly elections scheduled seats in Rajasthan in 2018.

Last month, after a rout in the Uttar Pradesh elections, the BSP chief had tasked Akash with visiting different parts of the state to collect "truthful progress reports on the activities of the party" and encourage vouth workers.

"He is a good listener," said a BSP leader who did not wish to be identified. "He interacts with workers too, apart from officebearers. During the recent UP Assembly polls, he held some meetings with youths. In other states, he has been meeting senior leaders. Behen ji (Mayawati) is grooming him for the long



Questions on Cong in Class XII

ment," it said.

exam: Centre writes to Rajasthan

may please be sent to this depart-

Additional Chief Secretary in the

Rajasthan government's School

Education Department, did not

respond to calls or text messages.

Education Ministry described the

intervention as "routine", adding

that the Centre has only sought

information and "it should not be

perceived to be anything more

than that". However, such inter-

ventions on state board exams,

which come under the purview

of the state governments, are rare.

BIP had accused the Congress

government of "politicising edu-

cation". The questions on the

Congress included: "Discuss in

brief the Congress as a social and

ideological alliance"; "Which

party dominated the first three

After the exam on April 21, the

An officer in the Union

Kumar Goyal,

Akash Anand

term. Whenever he visits any district for a party meeting, he is accompanied by at least two coordinators from the respective state who brief him about the local political scenario and introduce him to the local cadre."

Other insiders said Akash was active in the party's decisionmaking on issues related to the youth and social media. He was given the responsibility of the BSP

campaign in Punjab and Uttarakhand during the Assembly elections and addressed several rallies. "Under the guidance of Behen ji, Akash is now focusing on Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Recently, he visited Rajasthan thrice and MP once. He is regularly having closed-door meetings and online meetings with youth from across India," said a BSP functionary.

Akash is the son of Mayawati's younger brother and BSP number two Anand Kumar. He completed his schooling in Delhi and his MBA degree in London. He returned to India in 2017 and in May that year accompanied

Mayawati to Saharanpur where a Thakur-Dalit clash had occurred. Four months later. Anand and Akash were officially introduced to BSP workers. It came a few months after the BJP won the state elections and the BSP ended third with 19 seats. A BSP leader recalled that the party president introduced Akash to him and his colleagues, saying, "This is Akash, he has completed his MBA from London and now will look after the party's activities."

eral elections, Akash received media attention after Mayawati announced that her nephew would join the BSP movement to learn

seen attending the alliance's political rallies. At the time, Akash was also credited with getting his aunt to Twitter. When the Election Commission banned Mayawati from campaigning for 48 hours, he addressed his first rally in Agra. Akash was joined by SP president Akhilesh Yadav and Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) president Aiit Singh, both BSP allies at the time. He was appointed BSP national coordinator in June 2019, officially marking his rise in the

In the run-up to the 2019 gen-

party hierarchy. Kolkata

WORDLY WISE

TO MAKE A GREAT FILM YOU NEED THREE THINGS -THE SCRIPT, THE SCRIPT AND THE SCRIPT."

—ALFRED HITCHCOCK

The Indian EXPRESS

∽ FOUNDED By ∽

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CUT AND PASTE BJP

Sedition FIR to police visits, Opposition parties in government are using BJP toolkit to target critics. That's a big self-goal

EWIND, FOR A moment, to this: A few days ago, in a spectacular show of overreach, Assam Police flew to another state to arrest a legislator over a tweet. The arrest of Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani – he has been rearrested since, after a Kokrajhar court gave him bail on Monday — for a tweet critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi under severe sections of the IPC and the IT Act is theatre of the absurd at its best, or worst. It raises, yet again, serious questions of police excess, and its abject servility to political bosses. It reiterates that BJP governments, at the Centre and in the states, are not above weaponising the harsh law against dissenters and political opponents. It underlines that at risk are constitutionally protected fundamental freedoms, and that playing fast and loose with due process to target some potentially affects everyone. The continuing drama over Mevani is chilling for another reason as well – it shows how supine the Opposition has become.

It may be necessary to cast a wider look to see why the non-BJP parties are looking so effete in the face of transgressions of citizens' rights and freedoms by the state. When these parties are in power, they are complicit in the very acts they accuse the BJP of. Or, they simply lack the conviction to take a principled stand. The response of the AAP, after the bulldozers rolled into Northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri, affected by communal violence only days ago, is illustrative. Senior leaders sought to lay the blame on two groups — Bangladeshi nationals and Rohingya — that the BJP had also sought to target. They were being settled across India by the BJP to stage riots, they said, mouthing bizarre nonsense with a straight face. It is not just in Delhi, however, that the AAP plays by the BJP's book. Last heard, its newly elected government in Punjab had sent the Punjab Police to the doorsteps of at least three critics of AAP convenor and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal — former AAP leader Kumar Vishwas, Congress leader (also formerly AAP) Alka Lamba, and Delhi BJP's Naveen Jindal.

It's not just the AAP. In Maharashtra, ruled by the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government, Mumbai Police has arrested and slapped a sedition charge on Ravi and Navneet Rana, MLA and MP respectively, for apparently nothing more than raising the ante against CM Uddhav Thackeray on the Hanuman Chalisa-Azaan row. And in Chhattisgarh, the Supreme Court had to step in last year to reprimand the Congress government for its alleged misuse of the sedition law — it pointed to the "disturbing trend" of sedition cases against officials seen to be loyal to preceding regimes after a change of government. The non-BJP parties may or may not pay an electoral price for this politics. But their many concessions and abdications are taking a wider toll - they are shrinking the space for an alternative politics, they are constricting its possibilities. Framing a counter to intolerance or communalism that also touches a popular nerve needs imagination and courage. By cutting and pasting from the BJP's toolkit, Opposition parties undermine themselves — and are coaccused in lowering the bar on individual freedoms.

Paris reprieve

Macron's victory has held off the xenophobic, insular right-wing in France. Going ahead, he has large challenges to address

CROSS EUROPEAN CAPITALS, there is understandable jubilation at Emmanuel Macron's victory in the French presidential election. Internationally, he has cultivated the image of being a pro-market, pro-Europe centrist under whose leadership the French economy and Paris's role in geopolitical affairs have become more salient. He has played a prominent role in the Ukraine crisis, and managed the economic fallout of the pandemic – growth returned to France quickly and unemployment is at its lowest in the last few years. The spectre of a Marine Le Pen presidency — with her $anti-EU, anti-globalisation, xenophobic politics-no doubt\ helped\ Macron\ consolidate\ the$ centre as well as gain votes from the left. Yet, at best, Macron's victory may be temporary. By all accounts, disillusionment with the government and market economy, and cleavages within the country, have only deepened in this election.

The far-right has made its largest-ever showing and Macron's voteshare has declined considerably since 2017. In the first round before the run-off between the president and Le Pen, Jean-Luc Melenchon, the primary left candidate, won an impressive 22 per cent of the vote. Between them, Le Pen and Melenchon have captured the disenchanted French vote — framed by the "gilet jaunes" protests that rocked the country in 2018 and 2019. Macron's retooling of France's labour laws, the increasing divide between the countryside, working classes and the rest of the population and the steady rise in cost-of-living have taken the sheen off the liberal project he represents, as well as the form of globalisation he has championed.

However, the French president's victory has, in a time of great flux in Europe and the Indo-Pacific, provided a measure of temporary stability. The Ukraine crisis and China's rise will require a concerted response from liberal democracies in the region. For Delhi, too, Paris's outward orientation has been beneficial — France has been a supporter of its position regarding a rules-based order in Asia and strategic and economic ties between the two countries have deepened. The French far-right has risen on a squarely anti-globalisation platform, funneling the anxieties of the disenfranchised outward as well as against the migrants within. And Le Pen and others have expressed admiration and support for authoritarian rulers. For much of his first term, Macron ignored the issues raised by those who have felt victimised by globalisation and pro-market economic policies. For a liberal France and a stable Europe, he must build bridges with those people in his second term.

THE STORYTELLER

John Paul was an important voice of middle-of-the-road Malayalam cinema in the 1980s

HE 1980S AND 90s were a fertile period for the Malayalam film industry. A new crop of directors and scriptwriters who were willing to experiment with new narrative styles and a middle-class audience had emerged. John Paul, 72, who passed away last week in Kochi, was an important voice of this school

of cinema.

Paul wrote close to a hundred screenplays in a four-decade long career, which were directed by a new generation of directors who made their mark in the 1980s and thereafter — Bharathan, Mohan, IV Sasi, Balu Mahendra, Satyan Anthikkad, Sibi Malayil, Kamal. A majority of these — among them Chamaram, Marmaram, Ormmakkayi, Palangal, Athiratram, Revathikkoru Pavakkutty, Yatra, Oru Minnaminunginte Nurunguvettam, Unnikale Oru Kathaparayam and Chamayam – were both critical successes and box-office hits. $Along\,with\,M\,T\,V as udev an\,Nair\,and\,Padmarajan,\,script\,writer-directors,\,Paul\,wrote\,some$ of the best remembered roles in Malayalam cinema in the 1980s – Gopi in Revathikkoru Pavakutty and Sandhya Mayangum Neram, Nedumudi Venu in Oru Minnaminunginte Nurunguvettam and Vidaparayum Munpe, Murali in Chamayam, Mammootty in Yatra, Zarina Wahab in Chamaram, Mohan Lal in Unnikale Oru Kathaparayam.

Paul had become a scriptwriter in 1980 by accident. Most of his scripts had a tender love story as their core. They resonated with the moral world of middle-class Malayalis, who embraced these films. In the last few years, Paul had few films and he had turned to writing and TV talks. The world of 1980s Malayalam cinema comes alive in the dozen or so books he wrote. Like most of the heroes he created, Paul was a much loved person in the industry who walked into the sunset with few complaints.

Delhi & Brussels



After Ukraine, India is recalibrating its great power relations. Europe is ending its long geopolitical holiday

C Raja Mohan

THE RE-ELECTION OF Emmanuel Macron as the president of France on Sunday has sent a sigh of relief across Europe and North America. Delhi too is pleased with the return of Macron. who laid a strong foundation for India's strategic partnership with France.

Victory for Marine Le Pen, Macron's opponent, would have dramatically complicated the geopolitics of Europe. If the Russian aggression against Ukraine challenges the existing European regional order, Le Pen's challenge to Macron underlined Moscow's expansive influence in the internal politics of European nations. Le Pen, like so many other right-wing leaders in Europe, has close ties to Vladimir Putin. Many of them are deeply hostile to the European Union. Le Pen's victory would have not only altered France's international trajectory, but also shaken the EU to its political core.

Unlike the Soviet Union, which sought to shape European politics though left-wing parties, Russia today influences European politics through right-wing parties. That Le Pen got nearly 42 per cent of the popular vote reflects the growing challenge to mainstream politics. European establishments now have no choice but to double down on confronting Putin.

Russia's threat to the regional and domestic order in Europe is among multiple factors shaping Delhi's intensifying engagement with Brussels. Although India and the EU have talked of a strategic partnership for two decades, they have struggled to realise it. Three major external factors are facilitating the transformation of India's ties with Europe.

The first is the Russian question. As the war in Ukraine dominates Delhi's conversations with visiting European leaders this week, India's reluctance to condemn Putin's aggression might suggest nothing has really changed that Delhi is tied inseparably to Moscow and is at best "neutral" in Russia's conflicts with the West, During the last few weeks, Delhi has insisted that its silence is not an endorsement of Russian aggression. India's position has continued to evolve. Delhi's repeated emphasis on respecting the territorial integrity of states is a repudiation of Russia's unacceptable aggression.

There is no question that the Ukraine invasion has put Delhi in acute strategic discomfort amidst the escalating conflict with China. For India, a normal relationship between Russia and the West would have been ideal. There is no question that the Ukraine invasion has put Delhi in acute strategic discomfort amidst the escalating conflict with China. For India, a normal relationship between Russia and the West would have been ideal. But Russia's confrontation with the West comes during India's rapidly expanding economic and political ties to Europe and America. Delhi might be sentimental about India's historic Russian connection but it is not going to sacrifice its growing ties to the West on that altar. Russia's declining economic weight and growing international

isolation begins to simplify

India's choices.

But Russia's confrontation with the West comes during India's rapidly expanding economic and political ties to Europe and America. Delhi might be sentimental about India's historic Russian connection but it is not going to sacrifice its growing ties to the West on that altar. Russia's declining economic weight and growing international isolation begins to simplify India's choices.

Meanwhile, geographic proximity and economic complementarity have tied Europe even more deeply to Russia. The EU's annual trade with Russia at around \$260 billion is massive in comparison to India's \$10 billion. Unlike India, Europe's societal connections with Russia are deep-rooted. A range of leaders in Europe, including Macron, have been advocating a historic reconciliation with Russia and Moscow's integration into the regional secu-

Putin's reckless invasion of Ukraine has compelled Europe to embark on a costly effort to disconnect from Russia. This is particularly true for Germany, which has cultivated strong commercial ties with Russia. With Putin locked in a long and unwinnable war in Ukraine, Russia is condemned to pay a heavy price for his folly and is bound to emerge as a terribly weakened power.

The war in Ukraine has certainly presented a major near-term problem that needs to be managed by Delhi and Brussels. Yet, they also find themselves in the same policy boat — of trying to reduce reliance on Russia. And over the longer term, a diminished Russia is bound to become less of a complicating factor in India's engagement with Europe.

For nearly a century, India's Russian connection had complicated Delhi's ties to Europe. If the Russian revolution of 1917 inspired large sections of the Indian national movement, the partnership with Moscow dominated India's international relations during the Cold War. That phase is drawing to a close.

Second is the China question that adds a new imperative to India's partnership with Europe. Contrary to the mythology in Delhi that Russia has been pushed into China's arms, Moscow has been deepening ties with Beijing for more than two decades triggering many anxieties in Delhi. In June 2021, Joe Biden had met Putin in Geneva with an offer to explore a productive relationship with Russia. Putin, however, made a conscious choice to turn to China instead. In February, Putin traveled to Beijing to announce a partnership "without limits". Whether Russia was pushed or jumped into Chinese arms makes no difference to India. India has no option but to manage the consequences of the Russian decision. In the last two decades, China has emerged as a great power and now presents a generational challenge for Indian policymakers. That challenge has been

made harder by Putin's alliance with Xi Jinping. As Delhi strives to retain a reasonable relationship with Moscow, Europe emerges as an important partner in letting India cope with the China challenge. This is reinforced by Europe's own rethinking on China.

For more than two decades, Europe pursued relentless economic engagement with China, without a reference to Beijing's longterm political ambitions. Thanks to the growing problems of doing business with Xi's China, Beijing's geopolitical alliance with Moscow, and the rapid deterioration of Sino-US relations, Brussels is ready to invest serious political capital in building purposeful strategic ties with India. Delhi is ready to reciprocate.

Finally, there is the American question. Until recently it appeared that Europe's calls for "strategic autonomy" from the US were in sync with India's own worldview. But the Ukraine crisis has underlined the US's centrality in securing Europe against Russia. In Asia, Chinese assertiveness has brought back the US as a critical factor in shaping peace and security. The US, however, is not looking for weak allies in Europe and Asia. Washington wants a strong $Europe\, taking\, greater\, responsibility\, for\, its\, own$ security; it would like Delhi to play a larger role in Asia and become a credible provider of regional security. Above all, America wants India and Europe to build stronger ties with each

The Ukraine war has persuaded Delhi to recalibrate its great power relations and has compelled Europe to end its long geopolitical holiday. For the first time since independence, India's interests are now aligning with those of Europe. Together, Delhi and Brussels can help reshape Eurasia as well as the Indo-Pacific.

The writer is senior fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express



MINDING THE GAP IN PANDEMIC

Inequity in access to vaccines and treatment can compromise fight against Covid

Ayoade Alakija

THIS WEEK, I will be joining several leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, at the Raisina Dialogue in India to discuss the challenges of our time and how inequity is an exacerbating force. From the ongoing pandemic to the climate catastrophe to the rising conflict that is transforming geopolitics, humanity is locked in a downward spiral, reversing which requires a sense of purpose from leaders. If we don't tackle inequity and the dangers of greedy nationalism, we'll be failing to draw lessons from what happened in the last few years.

The greatest wrong of the pandemic is the inequity in the rollout of health tools. In many lower-income countries, a combination of blatant greed, a runaway pandemic and disinformation that undermined a number of excellent vaccines led to more than a million preventable deaths. Waves of the virus have taken a huge toll on our health workers and led to backsliding on virtually every other health challenge.

With more than 80 per cent of adults in India vaccinated, the country is close to meeting WHO's target of vaccinating 70 per cent of the entire population by summer. Future waves of the virus cannot be ruled out. At the Raisina Dialogue, I will argue that this is the moment to double down on sharing health tools fairly.

In lower-income countries, where the vast

increase vaccine-based immunity is before an outbreak. Therefore, a huge effort should go into raising the immunity of the general population starting with vaccination — and boosting — of the most vulnerable. It's unfair that breakthrough treatments - including antivirals like Paxlovid that was endorsed last week by WHO — are still only available in a handful of countries.

The most effective time to

majority of people are still unvaccinated, there's a real risk of a surge that could knock out health systems and push back efforts to tackle malaria, measles and polio. The push on Covid should now be on vaccinating the vulnerable and wider population to build the wall of immunity that has allowed rich countries to open up their economies and societies. Using India as a model to strengthen manufacturing in lower-income countries is also key to ensuring a more even distribution of health resources and mitigating the risk of rich countries hoarding supplies.

The most effective time to increase vaccinebased immunity is before an outbreak. Therefore, huge effort should go into raising the immunity of the general population starting with vaccination -- and boosting - of the most vulnerable. It's unfair that breakthrough treatments - including antivirals like Paxlovid that was endorsed last week by WHO — are still only available in a handful of countries.

Treatment equity is as important as vaccine equity. It's also critical that people are allowed access to tests so that their treatment begins early. Some will say it's not possible to overcome the barriers to access in low-income countries in Africa, But I can assert that it is being done and it's the only way to protect health systems in the medium- to long-term.

We must also look at the root causes of the challenges we faced in the first place. Manufacturing vaccines and treatments in re-

gional hubs would make a big difference and help get these game-changing health tools to all countries quickly. It's positive to see WHO's mRNA hub in South Africa producing its own mRNA vaccine prototype for Covid, but we can't settle for this.

With pharmaceutical groups unwilling to share technology, it's clear that new rules are needed to ensure that profit is not prioritised. It is critical that the World Trade Organisation's discussions on waiving intellectual property rules progress quickly and the outcome actually improves access to Covid-19 tools.

The crisis in sharing health tools that led to millions of preventable deaths is an important background for any new pandemic accord. We need to set in place systems to ensure that lifesaving health tools are shared fairly and effectively. If a fourth dose is good enough for people in rich countries, then there shouldn't even be a debate about vaccinating people in lowincome countries with their primary doses. The pandemic is not over and our future response must be based on the principle that a life in New Delhi has equal worth to a life in New York

The world faces its greatest challenge since the founding of the UN after the Second World War. Historic challenges need historic leadership and time is not on our side.

The writer is co-chair of Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT)-Accelerator



APRIL 26, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

ISRAEL-EGYPT PARLEYS

ISRAEL HAS WITHDRAWN from the Sinai peninsula, which it captured after the 1967 war, after 15 years of occupation. The Israeli flag was lowered at Sharm-al-Sheikh after a brief ceremony. A multinational peacekeeping force has begun monitoring the border area. A detailed agreement on the demarcation of the border in the Taba area in the Gulf of Agaba in the south has been reached, according to Israeli sources, but its details have not yet been disclosed. Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, said his country would make no more concessions to Egypt and it would increase the number of its settlements

in the occupied territories. Meanwhile Palestinians in several parts of the occupied West Bank staged demonstrations in protest against the continued negotiations between Israel and Egypt on Palestinian autonomy.

PUNJAB TALKS

THE TALKS BETWEEN the Centre and the Akali Dal (Longowal) are likely to be resumed following the latter's decision to defer its agitation against the digging of the Satluj-Yamuna link canal and the Ravi-Beas water accord. Sources indicate that the talks are likely to begin in the third week of May. Intermediaries who were actively associated with bringing the Akalis to the negotiating table are reported to be optimistic about the response from the leadership.

UK in South Georgia

BRITISH MARINES LANDED in South Georgia and recaptured the Falkland dependency from Argentina who ran up the white flag of surrender, Defence Secretary John Nott announced. Flanked by a beaming prime minister Margaret Thatcher outside her 10 Downing Residence, Nott said British forces "have successfully taken control Grytviken" the island's main port on its northeast coast. He said no British casualty had been reported. "At present, we have no information on Argentine casualties," he said.

- DAWN, PAKISTAN

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022

THE IDEAS PAGE

Justice for the silenced

Supreme Court order cancelling bail of prime accused in Lakhimpur Kheri deaths upholds right of victim to be heard



REKHA SHARMA

THE SUPREME COURT order cancelling the bail of Ashish Mishra and his consequent surrender before a local court have not only served the cause of justice but also given confidence to the victims that their voices will not be silenced as was done by the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. During the hearing of the bail application, the counsel for the victims got disconnected from the online proceedings, and he moved an application for a rehearing which was not considered. Holding that a victim has an unbridled participatory right, from the stage of investigation till the culmination of the proceedings, and that such a right is substantive, enforceable and another facet of human rights, the apex court expressed its disquiet over the manner in which the high court failed to acknowledge the right of the victims to be heard.

It may be recalled that Ashish Mishra is the son of Ajay Mishra Teni, a minister of state for home affairs in the Union cabinet. He allegedly, along with his aides, drove an SUV, with two others vehicles in tow, into a group of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri district in UP, as they were walking back after protesting against the three farm laws, and allegedly also opened gunfire from inside his vehicle. This resulted in the death of four farmers and one journalist, with the driver of the SUV and two more killed in the clash that followed and several others injured.

It also needs to be recalled that notwithstanding the ruthless manner in which the farmers were mowed down, and despite the fact that the incident caused widespread outrage and clamour for the arrest of Ashish Mishra, who was named in the FIR as the prime accused, the UP police made no effort to arrest him. The police treated him with kid gloves, and during the so-called investigation summoned him not as an accused, but as a witness. He was arrested only after the matter reached the Supreme Court on a letter written by two advocates, and after the court had made scathing observations about the manner in which the investigation was conducted, compelling it to appoint an SIT headed by a retired judge from another high court to carry out further investigation.

None of these facts was found grave enough to merit consideration by the learned high court judge. He instead laid undue emphasis on only one fact, namely, that no fire injury was found on any of the deceased. Castigating the high court, the Supreme Court in its order said that "instead of looking into aspects such as the nature and gravity of the offence; severity of punishment in the event of conviction; circumstances which are peculiar to the accused or victims; likelihood of the accused fleeing; likelihood of tampering with the evidence and witnesses, and the impact that his release may have on the trial and society at large, the High Court had adopted a myopic view of the evidence and proceeded to decide the case on merits." The Supreme Court has remitted the case to the high court for considering the bail application afresh, but



C R Sasikumaı

it has fallen short of giving a further direction that it will not be heard by the same judge. Given that the judge virtually ignored all the principles that a court needs to keep in mind in the matter of bail, it would have been just and fair if the Supreme Court had also given a specific direction that the matter would not be heard by the same judge. In view of this ambiguity, let us hope and trust that the chief justice of the concerned high court would entrust the case to a different

The Supreme Court while cancelling the bail gave one week's time to the accused to surrender. This long period of freedom to a person with powerful links, and the backing of the State machinery, is disconcerting.

The order also throws light on another disturbing fact. It observed that the high court demonstrated tearing hurry in entertaining or granting bail to the accused. The reasons are obvious, and need not be stated explicitly. But then, this has not happened for the first time. Often, the cases of the high and mighty are taken up for hearing out of turn, sometimes in a matter of a day, while others with little or no means languish in jails for years. Is it not time that the Supreme Court issued directions to the high courts, and also to its own registry, to collate, and furnish information about how

Often, the cases of the high and mighty are taken up for hearing out of turn, sometimes in a matter of a day, while others with little or no means languish in jails for years, waiting for their turn to be heard. Is it not time that the Supreme Court issued directions to the high courts, and also to its own registry, to collate, and furnish information about how many bail applications or habeas corpus petitions concerning civil liberties and constitutional rights of the people to life and liberty are pending and since when?

many bail applications or habeas corpus petitions concerning the civil liberties and constitutional rights of the people to life and liberty are pending and since when? The information must also explain why some cases received precedence over others. We are living at a time when the state and its instruments, and those enjoying their patronage, are trampling with impunity over the fundamental rights of the people to life and liberty. In these trying times, the beleaguered citizens turn to the courts for relief. Let no one feel that they are the children

The Chief Justice of India recently visited Jallianwala Bagh and wrote in the visitor's book, "Jallianwala Bagh manifests the strength and resilience of the people of this country. This serene garden is symbolic of the great sacrifice made in the face of tyranny. It serves as a reminder of the heavy price paid for freedom, which we must always cherish and protect.' These are poignant words. The Chief Justice is the first citizen of the judicial fraternity, and people look towards him and his worthy colleagues when their freedom is in danger at the hands of the s tate. Hopefully, the courts will not disappoint.

> The writer is a former judge of the Delhi High Court

A continuing exclusion

"Even while accounting for rhetorical flourishes that are part and parcel of politics, former prime minister Imran Khan has often shown a muddled

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

understanding of militancy in Pakistan."

Reservations accorded to Dalits from Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist communities should be extended to their counterparts from Muslim, Christian groups



CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT AND PHILLIP VARGHESE

AN INTER-MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE has recently taken place to reassess the possibility of setting up a national panel to look into the merit of the demand to extend Scheduled Caste (SC) status to Muslim and Christian Dalits. After Independence, the Constitutional Order of 1950 listed SCs and STs using the list mentioned in the Government of India (Scheduled Castes) Order of 1936. The order specified that no person professing a religion other than Hinduism could be deemed as a member of a Scheduled Caste community. The idea was that religions other than Hinduism did not have a caste system.

This argument can no longer be defended for two reasons.

First, the order was amended in 1956 to include Sikh Dalits and again in 1990 to include Buddhist Dalits, notwithstanding the fact that these religions were supposed to not observe caste discrimination.

Second, Muslim and Christian Dalits are as affected by caste discrimination as Hindu Dalits. They are primarily Dalits and their Muslim and Christian identity is secondary, as evident in several cases of atrocities against Dalits. The majority of the victims in the Kandhamal, Karamchedu, and Tsundur massacres and in the recent incidents of violence reported from Tumakuru, Belagavi, Mandya, and Bagalkot in Karnataka were Dalit Christians. These victims were attacked not because they were Christians but because they were "untouchables" who had converted to Christianity. Despite converting to Christianity, their socioeconomic status had not improved. In fact, it had worsened because, in the process, they lost access to positive discrimination.

This is also evident from the few available surveys.

In 2008, a study commissioned by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) and co-authored by Satish Deshpande and Geetika Bapna — "Dalits in the Muslim and Christian Communities — A Status Report on Current Social Scientific Knowledge" showed that Dalit Muslims, who represent 8 per cent of their community and Dalit Christians, who constitute 23.5 per cent of their community, were over-represented among the poor of India. In rural India, 39.6 per cent of the Dalit Muslims live below the poverty line and 46.8 per cent of the Dalit Muslims in urban parts of the country are below the poverty line. The corresponding figures for Dalit Christians are 30.1 and 32.3 per cent. By contrast, 29.2 per cent of Muslims in rural India and 41.4 per cent of Muslims in urban parts of the country are BPL, Rural and Urban Dalit Christians below the poverty line were 16.2 and 12.5 per cent respectively.

Dalit Muslims and Christians have sometimes been forced to bury their dead in separate cemeteries. Churches have segregated against Dalit Christians in the past.

The Sachar Commission Report ob-

 $served \, in \, 2006 \, that \, the \, social \, and \, economic$ situation of Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians did not improve after conversion. In 2007, the Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission Report recommended that the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, should be revised to delink SC status with religion, and religion-neutral status should be given to all Dalits and Scheduled Tribes. It also suggested a sub-quota of 8.4 per cent for minorities within the OBC quota of 27 per cent, as well as a reservation for Dalit minorities within the Scheduled Caste quota of 15 per cent.

The Mishra Commission report and the National Commission for Minorities report were tabled in Parliament in December 2009. Both were in favour of extending constitutional protection and safeguards to Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims that are available to their counterparts who profess Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism. Governments have, however, not acted on these recommendations.

They have argued against these reports — despite the empirical evidence they have collected - citing the paucity of disaggregated data on Dalit Muslims and Christians and contesting the validity of conversion records across generations. This contradicts the fact that 20 states have extended benefits to Dalit Muslims and Christians under the OBC category, following the Mandal Commission's recommendations. The continued exclusion of Muslim and Christian Dalits from the benefits of reservation, solely on the basis of religion, violates the equality provisions of Articles 14, 15 and 16 of the Constitution. Reservation, according to the Constitution, relies on criteria such as social status, standing in the community, marginalisation, discrimination, violence and social exclusion.

How can one explain the government's obstinacy? It's something that dates back to 1950. Among the few things that keep Hindu Dalits from converting is that they retain the benefits of reservation. If reservation becomes universal, they would be less hesitant to accept the materialistic offers given by missionaries for converting. This could lead to a fall in the numbers of the country's Hindu population - something that worries a lot of Hindu organisations.

While the Constitutional Order of 1950 could be amended regarding Indian religions like Sikhism and Buddhism, the same relaxation of the rule cannot apply to "foreign religions"—this is a clear indication that communalism is now influencing this important issue. Besides, giving Dalit Christians and Muslims access to reservation would make the competition tougher for Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist Dalits. Therefore, these groups do not lobby in favour of their brothers from Dalit Christian and Dalit Muslim communities.

In January 2020, the Supreme Court accepted a petition filed by the National Council of Dalit Christians on the matter. But the judiciary has not yet given its ruling on the contentious issue of reservation for Dalit Christians and Muslims.

Jaffrelot is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute, London. Varghese is assistant professor, Department of Political Science & International Studies, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi

Leave it to Hanuman

The problem isn't communalism, but refusal to see another reality

Vamsee Juluri

IT IS IRONIC that Pratap Bhanu Mehta's recent article is titled 'With eyes wide open' (IE, April 22). The real nature of the abyss may be obvious to everyone else, but what he presents is the view of a small class of people who have made it their sole virtue to keep their eyes firmly shut.

This descent into the abyss did not begin with Ram Navami or Hanuman Jayanti. Nor with some attack on the idea of India a few years ago

The fall that Mehta tries to pin on Hanuman and Ram is an old, colossal and, worst of all, unnatural one.

The Hindu revivalist writer Ram Swarup's phrase — one god, two humanities or many gods, one humanity – describes the dilemma succinctly. Two thousand years of monotheistic cultural imperialism have left only India and a few other nations with their old gods still standing. That is the big picture. Not "democratic backsliding". Or even "clash of civilisations".

One might say it's in the past. But is it? When I search for "Ram Navami" or "Hanuman Jayanti", I see a spate of images that seem to have escaped Mehta's sight altogether. I see a 16-year-old boy named Shivam Shukla with his head smashed in by a rock, struggling to breathe through a tube in a hospital bed. I see a woman crying for her home which has been set on fire. I see news of Hindu processions being attacked in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal and New Delhi.

I see unnecessary pain and suffering.

I do not see a "new Hinduism" as Mehta says. Instead. I see a world where the divergence between reality and truth is so deep that no one cares to reach across the epistemic or digital divide any more.

For someone who has decided that the problem is Hinduism, no number of Hindu boys in hospitals, temples destroyed or prayer songs silenced will change their understanding.

For someone who has decided the problem is Islam, no amount of condemnation of Hinduism or charges of communalism will change their assumption either.

We have two parallel reality industries now — an older one which works in the denial of Hindu pain, and a newer one which prospers in the selective stoking of it for political gains. If we pretend only one matters - or worse, that the other doesn't exist - we are no better than those we critique.

I do not see the need for Hindu youth to celebrate outside mosques with flags and swords. Yet, I cannot say they are the only ones doing it when video clips appear of Muslim youth apparently having done the

Tit-for-tat turf battles? A warped form of the American "Take Back the Night" sort of civic campaign? What is this public negotiation really about? And what happened to the spirit of Ishwar-Allah (or Ram-Rahim, as we used to sing in Prasanthi Nilayam)?

But I see a different trajectory than Mehta does, perhaps. For him, that spirit is gone, shredded by "communalism", which is synonymous for him not with "Hindu Nationalism" or "Hindutva", but just "Hinduism". That fig leaf of a distinction is

This unintentionally honest admission reveals much about how "communalism" is understood in India. As Sufiya Pathan, a researcher with Ahmedabad-based Centre for Indic Studies, has written, the term began to be used about India only in the 1920s. It presented itself not as a European idea, but as an innate condition of India — of religion in India, to be precise. And not just any religion, but the religion that happens to be that of the "majority", naturally, which has the burden of demonstrating "tolerance" at all costs.

And how exactly is Hinduism to do that? "The West," writes Pathan, "did not see religious reform or the eradication of religion as a solution to its own inter-religious strife," but saw reform as a return to a purer form of the church, always. But in India, "reform' meant the opposite, and it still does.

It means Hindu eradication. Destroy the "idols". Raze the temples. Silence the festivals. Reduce Rama and Krishna to guilt-professing memes. An elephant is abused somewhere? Just make a weeping Ganesha meme refusing puja from his worshippers, as if they were the ones who abused it. A woman is assaulted? Blame the inadequacy of goddessworship in preventing it, as if lands that destroyed their own age-old goddess images have somehow smashed patriarchy.

And where the misappropriation of images of the gods doesn't suffice, simply make up new stories about them that no devout Hindu has before, and then demand, on the basis of these new legends, a ban on this or that "Aryan invader" festival.

Mehta and others see only the 75-yearlong history of a secular republic being broken down. Others see the 2,000-year-long history of survival against the odds.

For Hindus who keep their eyes open, every day now is like The Darkening Age, Catherine Nixey's study of the destruction of the indigenous traditions, temples and libraries of the old "pagan" world by Christianity. The only change is that in the old days it was in the name of one god, and now it's in the name of progress or development.

And yet, for Hindus who follow Hanuman and Rama there remains a sense of hope. Politicians and ideologues may make spectacles or targets of Hanuman, But in the end, Hanuman is still what every Hindu wants to be in relation to the feet of Sita and Rama, not to some passing political episode.

Just say, "Jai Hanuman", Mr Mehta, and leave it to him. You can't surely believe in his beautiful and elegant spirit from the Sundara Kanda, and also believe he's just a hateful trope now, can you?

The writer is professor of media studies at the University of San Francisco

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

END DIVISIONS

THE GROWING POLARISATION that has been witnessed between our two main communities recently is deeply disturbing. We saw what havoc this polarisation created decades ago, resulting in the division of India. Under no circumstances can we afford for polarisation to grow again, as that can only bring death and destruction in its wake. Any outstanding problems such as hijab, azaan and loudspeakers must be sorted out peacefully between the two communities. Provocative speeches, mostly from fringe elements on both sides only add to the atmosphere of confrontation and should be avoided. As chairman of the Temple of Understanding India Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting interreligious harmony, and on my own behalf, I appeal to all concerned to step back for a moment and reorient their activities in a non-confrontational manner.

Rule bound

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Reskilling society' (IE, April 25). The writers have meticulously laid out a pragmatic solution to the unemployability crisis. The introduction of degree apprenticeship will

Karan Singh, Delhi

undoubtedly boost a university's efficacy. Quite a noteworthy common denominator serving as an impediment to the successful implementation of similar proposals for bringing reforms in diverse domains is the government's web of anachronistic regulations and policies. These are incongruous to the demands and the atmosphere of the 21st century. India is indeed a bird whose freshness of life lay in its freedom to fly and not in the constraints of a cage

Abhinandan Bhatia, Amritsar

STILL IN TROUBLE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Poverty and politics of freebies' (IE, April 25). It is somewhat premature to speak about reducing food security based on the poverty reduction estimates of the World Bank and IMF, which are based on pre-Covid data and have been contested by several experts. It is again too early to talk of a bounce-back of the economy in the current environment of rising inflation and global insecurity. Food subsidies must be persisted with till there is real improvement in poverty levels. In the absence of any other social security, this is the least that should be done for the poor. **Hemant Contractor,** Pune

#ExpressExplained

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

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

States vs Centre on VC selection: rules, friction

Tamil Nadu has passed two Bills proposing to take away the Governor's powers to appoint VCs of state universities. Which other states have done this, and why?

SOURAV ROY BARMAN

NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

THE TAMIL Nadu Assembly passed two Bills on Monday that seek to transfer the Governor's power in appointing Vice-Chancellors of 13 state universities to the state government, currently led by the DMK. Chief Minister MK Stalin said the Bills were required as the Governor was disregarding the state government's opinion on the appointments of VCs, an argument also made by states such as Maharashtra and West Bengal in the past.

A look at the rules guiding the appointments of VCs across states reveal wide variations, leaving the field open for dispute, particularly in cases where there are sharp political differences between the state and the Centre, which appoints the Governors.

What are the highlights of the two Bills?

The Bills passed in Tamil Nadu stress that "every appointment of the Vice-Chancellor

shall be made by the Government from out of a panel of three names" recommended by a search-cum-selection committee. Currently. the Governor, in his capacity as the Chancellor of state universities, has the power to pick a VC from the shortlisted names. The Bills also seek to empower the state government to have the final word on the removal of VCs, if needed. Removal will be carried out based on inquiries by a retired High Court judge or a bureaucrat who has served at least as a Chief Secretary, according to one of the Bills.

Are other states trying to curtail the Governor's role in appointing VCs?

Yes. In December, the Maharashtra Assembly passed a Bill amending the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016. Under the original Act, the Maharashtra government had no say in appointment of VCs. If the changes take effect, the Governor will be given two names to choose from by the state government, currently ruled by the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress, following a panel's suggestions.

In 2019, the West Bengal government, led by the Trinamool Congress, took away the Governor's authority in appointing VCs to state universities. It has also hinted at removing the

Governor as the Chancellor of the universities. In Left-ruled Kerala, the Governor alleged that the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of Kannur University was done against his wishes. The BJD government in Odisha has also tried to bring appointments to state universities under its control. But it has been challenged by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

What is at the root of the differences?

In West Bengal, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, the elected governments have repeatedly accused the Governors of acting at the behest of the Centre on various subjects, including education. The regulations, which differ from state to state, are often open to interpretation and disputes are routine.

In fact, the Tamil Nadu Bills make a case for giving the state government the upper hand in the VC appointment process by citing the examples of Gujarat and Telangana. "It is considered that in line with the aforesaid (Gujarat, Telangana) State University Laws, the Government of Tamil Nadu should be empowered to appoint the Vice-Chancellors of the State Universities," both Bills state.

In Karnataka, Jharkhand and Rajasthan, state laws underline the need for concurrence between the state and the Governor. The terms "concurrence" or "consultation" are absent from state legislation in most cases.

What is the UGC's role in this?

Education comes under the Concurrent List, but entry 66 of the Union List - "coordination and determination of standards in institutions for higher education or research and scientific and technical institutions" – gives the Centre substantial authority over higher education. The UGC plays that standard-setting role, even in the case of appointments in universities and colleges. According to the UGC $(Minimum\,Qualifications\,for\,Appointment\,of$ Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018, the 'Visitor/Chancellor" — mostly the Governor in states — shall appoint the VC out of the panel of names recommended by search-cum-selection committees. Higher educational institutions, particularly those that get UGC funds, are mandated to follow its regulations. These are usually followed without friction in the case of central universities, but are sometimes resisted by the states in the case of state universities.

What are the rules in Gujarat and Telangana?

The Gujarat University Act, 1949 states that "the Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the State Government from amongst three persons recommended by a (search-cum-selection) committee". The Telangana Universities Act, 1991 states that the search committee shall "submit a panel of three persons to the Government in alphabetical order and the Government shall appoint the Vice-Chancellor

from out of the said panel".

Last month, setting aside the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat's SP University by the state government, the Supreme Court made some key observations.

What were these observations?

A Bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna said "any appointment as a Vice Chancellor contrary to the provisions of the UGC Regulations can be said to be in violation of the statutory provisions, warranting a writ of quo warranto". It said every subordinate legislation of the UGC, in this case the one on minimum standards on appointments, flows from the parent UGC Act, 1956. "Therefore, being a subordinate legislation, UGC Regulations become part of the Act. In case of any conflict between state legislation and central legislation, central legislation shall prevail by applying the rule/principle of repugnancy as enunciated in Article 254 of the Constitution as the subject 'education' is in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution," it ruled.

How self-replicating mRNA Covid-19 vaccines work, and what trial results show

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A SELF-AMPLIFYING mRNA vaccine — one in which the delivered RNA multiplies inside the body - has shown promising results against Covid-19 in ongoing phase 1/2/3 trials. The vaccine, ARCT-154, has been developed by Arcturus Therapeutics Holdings, based in San Diego, California, and its trials are in progress in Vietnam. It offered 95% protection against severe Covid-19 and death, and 55% against Covid infection, Arcturus said in a press release.

WHAT IT MEANS: An mRNA vaccine. such as those from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, use messenger RNA that encodes the spike protein of the coronavirus. In other words, the mRNA directs the cell to produce

copies of the spike protein, so that the immune system will recognise the spike if and when actual infection takes place, and mount a response.

A self-amplifying mRNA vaccine is an improvement on the traditional RNA platform. It encodes four extra proteins in addition to the vaccine antigen, and these enable amplification of the original strand of RNA once it requires a smaller dose.

THE TRIAL: It enrolled over 19,000 adult subjects in Vietnam, including individuals at higher risk of severe complications of Covid-19 disease. The Phase 3 placebo-controlled vaccine efficacy portion of this study enrolled over 16,000 participants. An analysis between 7 days and 56 days after completion of a twodose vaccination series demonstrated 55% vaccine efficacy for protection against Covid-19, the release said. These cases were detected during an outbreak in Vietnam when the Delta and Omicron variants were dominant.

The analysis of severe Covid-19 disease (including deaths) included 43 severe cases. Forty-one cases occurred in the placebo group and two in the vaccinated group, demonstrating vaccine efficacy of 95%, the release said. Nine deaths were reported in the placebo group, and one in the vaccinated group, whom the company described as an older age group participant who was also at increased risk of severe Covid-19.

ADVERSE EVENTS: The incidence of unsolicited adverse events in the two groups are comparable, the release said. No cases of myocarditis or pericarditis were reported; however, the company

conceded that the study is not large enough to reliably observe these events given their extremely rare frequency of occurrence.

Adverse events collected in diaries of study participants (solicited adverse events) for seven days following each vaccination demonstrate that the majority of these events were mild or moderate in severity, it said. The majority

inside the cell. The basic advantage is that of solicited adverse events resolved within

the 7-day window of observation. **IMPLICATIONS:** The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines against Covid-19 are the only two mRNA vaccines available so far. "The new vaccine may come with significant advantages: easier storage, along with lower cost because its 'selfamplifying' design allows for smaller doses", Science magazine said.

However, the magazine noted, much of the world has already been vaccinated, and the Arcturus vaccine may be making its debut too late, at least for primary vaccination.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IMF's reduced growth forecast

The International Monetary Fund's latest World Economic Outlook has rolled back growth prospects for the world and for India. What are the reasons, and how does the outlook differ for advanced and other economies?

UDIT MISRA NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

LAST WEEK, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) report. The IMF has rolled back the economic growth prospects for the global economy as well as for India.

What is the WEO? Why is it significant?

The IMF was established in 1944 in the wake of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Today its membership covers 190 countries. As an organisation, it provides loans around \$ 1 trillion is available for lending to its member countries apart from providing expert guidance and surveillance to ensure economic and financial stability in the world economy. Twice each year — in April and October - the IMF releases the WEO in which it details the state of the global economy and its forecast for the near future; it also provides "updates" to these two WEOs in July and January. The WEO reports are a good way to assess the current state of the global economy as well as to help countries prepare for the threats and opportunities before them. It is for this reason that they are keenly studied across the world.

What does the latest WEO say about global growth?

The IMF projects a sharp fall in the global economic growth rate.

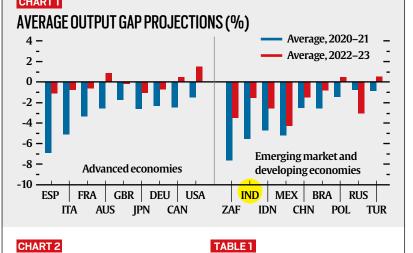
"Global growth is projected to slow from an estimated 6.1 per cent in 2021 to 3.6 per cent in 2022 and 2023. This is 0.8 and 0.2 percentage points lower for 2022 and 2023 than in the January World Economic Outlook Update," it states. Beyond 2023, global growth is forecast to decelerate even more, to about 3.3 per cent.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is the key reason for this gloomy outlook.

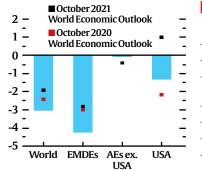
Apart from the fact that growth is decelerating, the IMF has yet again underscored that this "drag on output is expected to be more salient in emerging market and developing economies".

For instance, the US is expected to reach its pre-pandemic trend output path by 2022. In other advanced economies, the shortfall relative to the pre-pandemic trend will narrow.

To be sure, in the October WEO too, the IMF had pointed to the "dangerous divergence in economic prospects" between advanced economies such as the US and



EMPLOYMENT LOSSES RELATIVE TO PRE-PANDEMIC TREND, 2024



SHARES IN AGGREGATE **GDP & POPULATION**

Advanced economies	42.1%	14.0%
United States	15.7%	4.3%
Germany	3.3%	1.1%
United Kingdom	2.3%	0.9%
China	18.6%	18.4%
India	7.0%	18.1%
Russia	3.1%	1.9%
Nigeria	0.8%	2.7%

GDP POPULATION

emerging economies such as India. In particular, it had highlighted that employment growth was likely to lag the output recovery.

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook

The April WEO states that thanks to the Ukraine conflict and its wide-ranging ramifications, this divergence could be reinforced.

Charts 1 and 2 (above) from the latest WEO bring this out. Chart 1 shows the output gap - that is the difference between the actual and potential GDP. As can be seen, on average this gap is higher for emerging economies such as India and especially for 2022-23. The same holds true for employment losses (Chart 2) as of 2024 when compared to the pre-pandemic "trend". These, too, underscore how emerging economies are more badly affected. It is important to note that the comparison here is with the pre-pandemic "trend" and not the pre-pandemic "level" of the total GDP of a country.

What about inflation?

Because of the disruptive impact of the war in Ukraine, prices of several commodities have skyrocketed, creating a massive surge in inflation across the world.

"Inflation is expected to remain elevated for longer than in the previous forecast, driven by war-induced commodity price increases and broadening price pressures,' states the WEO.

Here too, the emerging economies are worse off. "For 2022, inflation is projected at 5.7 per cent in advanced economies and 8.7

points higher than projected in January". The IMF has been less than sanguine about the risks. The report states that "risks

per cent in emerging market and develop-

ing economies — 1.8 and 2.8 percentage

are large and to the downside". These include a worsening of the war, a worsening of geopolitical tensions, a resurgence of the pandemic, increased social tensions, a worsening slowdown in China, higher inflation expectations, higher interest rates etc.

What does the IMF say about India's growth prospects?

When compared to its January update, the IMF has dialled down India's GDP growth by 0.8 percentage points. This is the second sharpest revision in Asia, and one of the sharpest anywhere in the world. However, despite this revision, IMF expects India to grow at 8.2% in 2022-23, making it the fastest growth rate across all the major economies in the world. It is more than twice the average growth rate of both the advanced economies (3.3%) and the emerging economies (3.8%).

Does that mean there's nothing to worry about for India on the growth front?

When it comes to economic growth, each country faces — to borrow a term from cricket — a different "required run rate". The pace at which a country must grow depends largely on how well-off an average citizen of that country is. As such, while it appears that different countries are competing with one another, more often than not, each country is competing with its past self.

Table 1 brings out this point more clearly. The columns detail a country's share of the global GDP and its share of the global popu-

Countries that have a much higher share in the global GDP than their share in the global population — for example, all the advanced economies — are the prosperous ones.

Countries whose share of the global population far outstrips their share in global GDP - such as India and Nigeria — are the ones that face the highest required rate of GDP growth.

While India has over 18% of the global population, its share of the global GDP is just 7%. In the real world, this reflects as low levels of per capita income and consumption as well as high levels of unemployment and social unrest. In other words. India not only has to grow at a much faster clip than the rest of the world but also has to do it sustainably for decades.

Against 91st Amendment: PIL targets Cabinet status for Goa's Rane

MAYURA JANWALKAR PANAJI. APRIL 25

THE HIGH Court of Bombay at Goa on Monday said "arguable issues have been raised" in a PIL challenging the "lifetime status of the rank of Cabinet minister" accorded to Pratapsingh Rane, a six-time Chief Minister of Goa and a legislator for 50 years.

The unprecedented status was conferred on the octogenarian Congress leader this January by the state's earlier BJP government. Days after the announcement. Rane backed out of the Legislative Assembly election, even though he had already been declared the Congress candidate from his bastion of Poriem. His daughter-in-law Deviya Rane debuted from the seat on a BJP ticket and won by the highest margin in the state.

According to lawyer Aires Rodrigues, who has filed the PIL, this is the first time that any state government has taken such a step. The PIL was admitted on Monday, and a division bench of Justices M S Sonak and RN Laddha will hear the case on May 2.

What is the "lifetime status of the rank of Cabinet minister" granted to Rane?

On January 6, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced that the Cabinet had decided to accord this special status to Rane. "Mr Pratapsingh Raoji Rane, former Chief Minister and former Speaker (of the Goa Legislative Assembly) has completed 50 years as a legislator. The Cabinet has decided that in future also, those who complete 50 years and hold posts like CM and Speaker, like Pratapsingh Rane, will be given the Cabinet status even after their retirement." Sawant said.

The decision was taken a little more than a month before the February 14 Assembly elections. Earlier, a congratulatory motion had been passed in the Assembly for Rane, who first won the Sattari seat in 1972 and never lost an election thereafter.

What is the basis of the legal challenge?

Rodrigues has asked the High Court to quash the January 7 notification regarding 'lifetime status of the rank of Cabinet minister" to Rane. He has contended that Goa has a 12-member Cabinet, and the Cabinet status on Rane raises the number of Cabinet ranks to 13, which is more than the ceiling mandated by the Constitution.

Stating that the very purpose of the 91st Amendment was to prevent jumbo Cabinets and the resultant drain of public money, Rodrigues has contended that the lifetime status granted to Rane was a "back door entry in wilful disobedience of the mandate of law".

The Constitution (91st Amendment) Act, 2003 inserted clause 1A in Article 164 which says "the total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State shall not exceed fifteen per cent of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State... provided that the number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister in a State shall not be less than twelve". There



CM Pramod Sawant felicitates Pratapsingh Rane on completing 50 vears as MLA in the Goa House in March 2021. Twitter @DrPramodPSawant

are 40 seats in the Goa Assembly.

Rodrigues told the court on Monday that as a Cabinet minister for life, Rane would be entitled to a staff of 12 (including OSDs, support staff, peons, and driver) which would cost the exchequer Rs 90 lakh a year. The Cabinet rank would also entitle him to government accommodation, vehicle and unlimited free travel for him and his spouse, Rodrigues told The Indian Express.

The PIL stated: "Before granting the lifetime Cabinet status, the Cabinet did not obtain financial sanction from the Finance Ministry as required... The resolution was also tailor made to benefit only the Respondent no. 3 (Rane) for obvious reasons.'

So why did the BJP take this decision?

In December 2021, the Congress had declared Rane as its candidate from the Poriem seat. Soon afterward, Rane's son and then state Health Minister Vishwajit Rane (who retains the portfolio in the current government), said that he would contest against his father on the BJP ticket. Vishwajit, an undefeated five-time lawmaker from the neighbouring Valpoi seat,

ad left the Congress in 2017 to join the BJP. At a public rally that same month, the

BJP's Goa election incharge Devendra Fadnavis said that his party would soon receive "blessings" from the senior Rane. Fadnavis had earlier met Rane and sought the "blessing" that he should leave the Poriem seat for Vishwajit and the BJP.

The Ranes, who are among the politically most influential families in Goa, hold sway in the Sattari taluka, of which both the seats of Valpoi and Poriem are part.

There was some speculation initially about a possible father-son poll duel in Poriem. Eventually, Rane's decision to back out was seen as Vishwaiit having prevailed over his father. While Vishwajit himself remained in Valpoi, his wife Deviya made a sensational debut in Poriem, bringing the

seat to the BJP for the first time. The PIL states that Rane, a Congress candidate at the time, was granted lifetime Cabinet status because he "was capable of toppling the ruling party's apple cart in Poriem, a mala fide strategy was adopted...to offer him a carrot not to contest elections"



⑨ \$105.13 **3** 76.64/USD **②** ₹65,443 Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of April 2

SENSEX: 56,579.89 ▼ 617.26 (1.08%) NIFTY: 16,953.95 ▼ 218.00 (1.27%) NIKKEI: 26,590.78 ▼ 514.48 HANG SENG: 19,869.34 ▼ 769.18 FTSE: 7,375.88 ▼ 145.80 DAX: 13,967.82 ▼ 174.27

10 INDUSTRY BODIES WRITE TO PM

Coal priority for thermal plants: Non-power seeks supply parity

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

LOW DOMESTIC coal supplies to the non-power sector — as the government prioritises coal transportation to thermal plants with low stocks — has prompted the industry to appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for more equitable

distribution of the dry fuel. As many as 10 industry bodies noted that low fuel supply to the non-power sectors, such as aluminium, steel, and cement, had compelled players to procure coal at significantly higher prices in the open market and purchase power from exchanges, further inflating the cost of power. The call from the industry comes at a time when 85 of the 150 thermal plants, which use domestic coal. are facing critically lower stock levels that have forced states to procure expensive power from exchanges. This has also led to power cuts in several states, including Puniab, Harvana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and



THE CALL from the industry comes at a time when 85 of 150 thermal plants, which use domestic coal. are facing critically lower stock levels that have forced states to procure expensive power from exchanges. This has also led to power cuts in several states, including Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra

Andhra Pradesh.

"The situation has aggravated to such a level that may compel many industries to cut down on production or force closure," the group of 10 associations including Aluminium Association of India, Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association and Coal Consumers'

to the Prime Minister. The representation noted that the dispatches of coal from Coal India had fallen to captive power plants (by 32 per cent), steel (27 per cent), cement (14 per cent) and sponge iron (20 per cent) sectors, compared to FY20 when they should have increased under normal circumstances. The government has been prioritising coal deliveries to thermal power plants since September 2021, as power stations have been facing issues of low coal stocks due to greater power demand, amid low supply from imported coal-based power plants. The letter called for a more equitable supply of coal between the power and nonpower sector consumers, noting that the supply to the non-power sector was much lower than the 25 per cent of supplies allocated to them under Central guidelines,

ing pending. "The ongoing situation has

leading to over 4,000 rakes of coal

deliveries to the industry remain-

ing an unwarranted increase in power demand and leading to an avoidable inflationary impact on economic stakeholders," the let-

Aluminium, steel and cement producers rely on captive power plants that use domestic coal to generate power for their own consumption. The average Market Clearing Price of power in the Day Ahead Market on the India Energy Exchange has been at or near Rs 12 per unit (kilowatt-hour), the highest permitted level, for the past five days. The letter added that keeping captive plants idle was creating an overall system inefficiency in the form of unnecessary coal transportation and higher specific consumption in units due to low-capacity utilisation and was contributing to raising the cost of finished goods. The rise in the price of imported coal and higher power demand, due to the economic recovery post Covid, are key causes for lower levels of coal stocks at thermal plants, ac-

'LIC IPO set to open on May 4'

MALINI BHUPTA

LIFE INSURANCE Corporation's (LIC's) initial public offering (IPO) is set to open on May 4 and will close on May 9. The anchor book is slated to open on May 2 but the issue will open for retail investors two days later, as May 3 is a holi-

day on account of Eid. Investment bankers said that the government has cut the issue size to Rs 21.000 crore and the issue is now valued at 1.1 times its embedded value of Rs 5.4 trillion. In September 2021, the government had appointed Milliman Advisors to value the country's largest insurer and arrived at an embedded value of Rs 5.4 trillion. Embedded value is the measure of consolidated shareholder value of an insurer. Historically, listed private sector insurers have traded at

2-3 times their embedded value. Market experts said the valuation leaves a lot on the table for in-

The issue size was cut from the earlier proposed Rs 65,000 crore as market conditions turned negative after Russia attacked Ukraine.



LIC building, Mumbai. Investment bankers said that the government has cut the issue size to ₹21,000 cr. File

tizzy. In March this year, market experts had urged the government to price the public issue at attractive valuations for it to sail through in the current market conditions. With better pricing and 10 million policy-holders opening demat accounts to get a further discount on the IPO price, the issue would not hit hurdles, bankers feel.

LIC had filed its draft papers for IPO on February 13. The government had time till May 12 to launch the IPO without filing fresh papers with the Securities and

'Industry can't have unfair expectations on interest rate cycle'

THE INDUSTRY cannot have "unfair expectations" in terms of the interest rate cycle as central banks across the world are now tightening monetary policies, CII president and Tata Steel CEO & MD TV NARENDRAN said, In an interview with PRANAV MUKUL and AANCHAL MAGAZINE, speaking about the impact of the pandemic on the MSME sector, he exhorted that 'one-size-fits-all' may not work on getting some sectors back on track. Edited excerpts:

Interest rate cycle is taking a turn and with inflation rising and pressure from inputs prices, how do you see it all impacting the investment

The sentiment is still quite positive when we talk to our members. The increase in interest rates were in some sense inevitable given the inflationary pressures and we feel the RBI has been very accommodative over the last few quarters. So we cannot have unfair expectations central banks across the world are taking these calls. As far as input cost pressures are concerned, there is some concern about some margin pressures while the demand continues to be strong. But whether the margins will get impacted, how much of the impact of the input costs can be passed on to the customers without hurting demand — these are some of the questions our members are dealing with. But overall when we have spoken to them, the sentiment is positive, people expecting to continue to spend more on capex than they did in the previous years. So, there is obviously some concern about the turbulence but nothing has been derailed so far.

While a tightened monetary policy may have an impact on inflation, there seem to be more structural issues. Do you think that interest rate hike alone would be enough?

The inflationary impact is of multiple reasons. Lot of it is to do with the recovery post pandemic globally being faster than most people thought and supply chains not prepared for that. So you had shortages on semiconductors, containers, multiple bottlenecks, which were exposed which led to higher costs. Similarly, geopolitical events also had an impact if you look at China and Australia had a problem before that. Now with the



Ukraine problem, for instance, the

coking coal prices are very depend-

TV Narendran

ent on the geopolitical issues. So it was up or down depending on that. That's big input cost for steel sector. Some of these are structural but not necessarily permanent. They are structural but will go away as things settle and the RBI has been taking a view and that's why it has not been increasing interest rates because they felt that some of these have less to do with local issues and more to do with temporary global issues. But having said that, as inflation has gone up and India is also very vulnerable to oil prices, RBI is taking a view and like all central banks, they cannot sit by if inflation is higher than what they are comfortable with. So that's an action that they will take.

There are many sectors that were impacted worse than the others. MSME sector is one, but even within MSMEs, it's not everyone. If you really look at India's strong exports, a lot of exports happens through MSMEs. Many MSMEs have also done well but there are many who have struggled. So you need to have a sector-specific approach rather than a MSME approach in general because not all of them are doing badly. Our own admission to the government has been that for some of these sectors, you have a very focused approach. Some things like ECLGS have helped, but even beyond that we need to see how we can help some of these sectors, which are more impacted and get them back on track. So it's not a one-size fits all approach. Monetary policy is important, they need to do what they need to do, but not all of the inflation is because of the fact that on the supply-side, it has seen disruption and many people have gone out. Supply-side impact is more geopolitical and global than local, and MSME sector will certainly need some support.

www.indianexpress.com

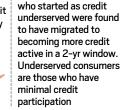
562.34 Lakh

Indian adults credit unserved'

Around 480 million adult Indians till 65, representing half of the overall population in the earning segment, are 'credit unserved', as per a Transunion Cibil report

164 mn

179 mn fit into the 'credit



~5% of consumers

Specific efforts are being taken by policy apparatus to deepen India's credit culture to ensure borrowers do not fall prev to usurious moneylenders. Jan Dhan Yojana, which saw the opening of over 450 million accounts, has accounts that come with a credit overdraft facility Source: Transunion Cibil/PTI

'Despite policy efforts, half of To fight inflation, raising policy rates not 'anti-national': Rajan

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

RAISING INTEREST rates to address inflation should not be considered as "anti-national" activity by politicians and bureaucrats, former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan said Monday, underscored the importance of hiking rates in line with rest of the world.

"Inflation is up in India. At some point, the RBI will have to raise rates, like the rest of the world is doing," he said in a LinkedIn post.

In March, retail inflation was at a 17-month high of 6.95 per cent,



RAGHURAM RAJAN

the RBI, while the wholesale pricebased inflation rose to a fourmonth peak of 14.55 per cent, mainly due to rising of crude oil and commodity prices. "... politiunderstand that the rise in policy rates is not some anti-national activity benefiting foreign investor, but is an investment in economic stability, whose greatest beneficiary is the Indian state," he wrote.

Earlier this month, the RBI's monetary policy committee kept borrowing costs unchanged at a record low for the 11th time in a row in a bid to continue supporting economic growth despite inflation edging higher. While the RBI raised the retail inflation proiection for the current financial vear to 5.7 per cent from the earlier forecast of 4.5 per cent, the benchmark interest rate was re-

2013 to 8 per cent to quell inflation. As inflation came down, we cut the reporate by 150 basis points to 6.5 per cent," he wrote. "We also signed on to an inflation targeting framework with the government.

higher rates held back the econ-

omy during his term, Rajan wrote

that he became RBI Governor with

a 3-year term in September 2013

when India had a full-blown cur-

rency crisis with the rupee in free

fall. "Inflation was at 9.5 per cent

then, the RBI raised the repo rate

from 7.25 per cent in September

they get whatever is left after

FULLINTERVIEW ON

Tata Sons EGM approves fresh 5-year term for Chandrasekaran

Mumbai: The extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of Tata Sons on Monday cleared the reappointment of N Chandrasekaran as Executive Chairman with effect from February 21. It also approved the appointment of former Defence Secretary Vijay Singh and former UTI MD-CEO Leo Puri as directors on the board of Tata Sons.

Chandrasekaran's term will be for five years till February 20, 2027. He drew a salary of Rs 90.97 crore in FY21, as per the EGM notice. Tata Trusts, headed by Ratan Tata, hold around 66 per cent stake in Tata Sons, the holding company of various Tata firms. The Mistry family holds over 18 per cent stake in the company. ENS

BRIEFLY -

Sebi panel rejig

New Delhi: Sebi restructured its advisory panel on market data that recommends policy measures on securities data access and privacy.

Bol fundraise

New Delhi: Bank of India (BoI) on Monday said it will raise up to Rs 2,500 crore by issuing fresh equity shares to comply with minimum public shareholding requirement of 25%.

Cyient buy

New Delhi: IT company Cyient will acquire global plant and product engineering services company Citec for about ₹800 crore to boost its business offerings.

PTC directors

New Delhi: PTC India's shareholders have approved the appointment of three nonexecutive directors. PTI

RIL-FRL deal off: Future group co shares plunge up to 20% the government, financial insti- fore statutory dues. Equity share-

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, APRIL 25

SHARES OF Future group companies plunged by up to 20 per cent on the stock exchanges on Monday with Reliance Industries (RIL) calling off the deal to buy Future Retail assets after secured lenders to the group firms rejected the RIL proposal.

Future Supply Chain plummeted by 19.96 per cent to Rs 37.30, Future Market Network plunged by 14.30 per cent to Rs 7.07 and Future Lifestyle Fashions

London: Oil slumped over 5 per cent on Monday to its lowest in

two weeks on growing worries

about the global energy demand

outlook due to prolonged Covid

lockdowns in Shanghai and poten-

tial increases in US interest rates.

misery dragged into a fourth week,

as orders for mass testing in

Beijing's biggest district sparked

fears that the Chinese capital could

be destined for a similar fate. Brent fell \$5.88, or 5.5 per cent, to

\$100.77 a barrel by 2:03 pm ET,

while WTI crude fell \$5.11, or 5 per

New Delhi: Tata Group-owned Air

India has lost its preferential ac-

cess to bilateral rights that are

needed to operate flights to an-

other country, according to a cir-

cular issued by the Directorate

General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

cess to bilateral rights, which are

granted under air services agree-

ments signed between two coun-

tries - as it was a government-

owned national carrier. However.

the Tata Group took control of Air

India on January 27. Clause 3.6 of

the previous DGCA circular stated,

Air India had preferential ac-

cent, to \$96.96. REUTERS

Shanghai's Covid lockdown

by 19.89 per cent to Rs 29.40. RIL as the Sensex fell 617 points, or one per cent, to 56,579.89.

Future Retail tanked by five per

cent to Rs 27.80 and Future Enterprises fell by 9.87 per cent to Rs 5.66. Future group firms fell amid speculation that banks are likely to push for group insolvency as all Future groups are interconnected in the business. If this happens, equity shareholders of Future group companies are likely to see the value of their shareholding being wiped out if the company is taken to the bankruptcy

Oil slumps 5% on Shanghai curbs

Mumbai: The rupee declined 22

paise to close at 76.64 against the

US dollar on Monday, tracking a

strong greenback overseas and a

lacklustre trend in the domestic

which gauges the greenback's

strength against a basket of six cur-

rencies, was trading 0.34 per cent

ended 617.26 points or 1.08 per

cent lower at 56,579.89, while the

bilateral rights for overseas flights

Air India aircraft, Chandigarh.

Tata group took control of the

"Due consideration shall be given

to the operational plans submit-

ted by Air India Limited before al-

airline on January 27. File

Meanwhile, the dollar index,

The 30-share BSE Sensex

equity markets.

higher at 101.56.

AI loses preferential access to

REASON FOR FALL

■ Future group firms fell amid speculation that banks are likely to push for group insolvency as all Future groups are interconnected in the business.

court for resolution.

Rupee dives 22p, Sensex slips

Once a company is taken to the IBC route, equity shareholders have the last claim over any assets of a company after dues to

The Sensex ended

1.08 per cent lower

broader NSE Nifty fell 218 points

Foreign institutional investors

remained net sellers in the capital

market on Friday as they offloaded

shares worth Rs 2,461.72 crore, ac-

cording to stock exchange data. PTI

location of the traffic rights to the

on April 19, removed the clause.

country to operate international

flights to another country, the two

sides have to negotiate and sign a

"bilateral air services agreement",

which decides how many flights

(or seats) per week can be allowed

to fly from one country to the

other. Once such an agreement is

signed, each country is free to al-

locate the bilateral rights to its re-

spective airlines. PTI

The new DGCA circular, issued

For the airlines of a particular

other eligible applicants."

or 1.27 per cent to 16,953.95.

617.26 points or

tutions, banks and other creditors and bondholders are paid off. Banks are likely to take Future Retail to the NCLT after they rejected the company's plan to sell its assets to Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL). Future group companies have a loan exposure of over Rs 28,000 crore.

Shares of Reliance Industries also dipped 2.3 per cent to Rs 2694.85 on the BSE.

According to analysts, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) puts banks and financial institutions at the top of the list be-

क्रमांकः एफ.2()सा.प्र./मदसविवि/2022/10782

दिनांक 10.05.2022 को अपरान्ह 4.00 बजे खोली जावेगी।

banks and bondholders are paid up. In most cases, shareholders don't get anything, said an analyst. However, analysts are not ruling out a debt restructuring proposal from Future group promoters — Kishore Biyani — to save the

holders stay at the bottom and

group. Reliance Industries on Saturday said the takeover proposal can't be implemented as secured creditors rejected the RIL plan. On Friday, secured lenders rejected Future Retail's deal to sell its assets to Reliance Retail.

n Dabok-Mavli-Kapasan-Chittorgarh Road. UBN: (2) RRC2223SLOB00073 On Salumber-Keer Ki Chowki & Debari-Kurabad-Bambora Road. UBN: (3) RRC2223SLOB00074 ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की अवधि दिनांक 22.04.2022 प्रातः 09.00 बजे से 02.05.2022 सायं 06.00 बजे तक

Jaipur-Bhilwara Road. UBN: (1) RRC2223SLOB0007

निर्मित से सम्पन्धित प्रपन्न में निमिदा शुरूक, परोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने च खोलने की तारीख साहित सम्पूर्ण विस्तल एवं संशोधन नेवसाई http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nio.in नवा http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in/srdc पर रेखा ज करना है। इच्चक संदेशकों को अनी विदित्तत हतसाह के जाधन में नेवसादि http://pproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर तीरकट बनावा आवस्यक है

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction

Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR

No. NIT/2022-23/2062-74 अल्पकातीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 027/2022-22 Date: 25.04.2022 मिनालिखित परियोजना पर राजस्थान राज्य सङ्क विकास एवं निर्माण निगम सि. (RSRDC Ltd.) में पंजीकृत टोल कलेक्बन ठेकेदारी से पथकर वसूत्ते हेतु ई-टेन्डियर प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है-

Collection of Toll Tax (from Commercial & Private Vehicles) for a Period of 01 Years on follo

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED (Wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India) P.O.: RBNML, Salboni - 721132, Paschim Medinipur Dt., West Benga Phone No.: 03227-280176 / 280317: Fax No.:03227-280744 / 280222 OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AT PLANT HOSPITAL BRBNMPL, SALBONI, TENDER NO. 007/SAL/PUR/2022-23. [ESTIMATED] ANNUAL COST –₹194.86 LAKHS]

CONSTRUCTION, ERECTION, COMMISIONING, INSTALLATION, TESTING OF TWO NUMBER OF 10 HP CAPACITY BOREWELL AT TOWNSHIP OF BRBNMPL SALBONI, TENDER NO. 004/SAL/MMD-MAINT/2022-23. [ESTIMATED COST ₹38.53 LAKHS1

ast date of submission of all the above tenders is 27.05.2022 by 11:30 Hrs. For

downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit our website www.brbnmpl.co.in. Further extension or amendment/s, if any will be uploaded on our General Manager

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004 Bid No.:E-09/2022-23 E-TEMBERS Date: 19,04.2023 E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of

following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class II. Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The delaits of tenders are in the following sequence: S.No.: Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity, S.N. 1, 052110160, (10.05.2022), Copper Coated Corbon Electrodes 6x350 MM, Part No. 78018441, 930 Nos., S.N. 2, 05221081, (10.05.2022), Metal Arc Welding Electrodes Size 5x450 MM, Part No. 76019226, 2000 Nos., S.N. 3, 05210390, (17.05.2022), Depressar Valves SGS Ring, Part No. 15310670, 04.Nos., S.N. 4, 05210988, IT 70.5.2022), Apron Chrome Leather, Part No. 75202505, 318Nm; S.N. 5, 06225028, (18.06.2022), Spare Parts for Took, 01. Set __S.N. 6, 052250384, (16.05.2022), Planetory Geor Box, 01. Nos., S.N. 2, 05235084, Ha 053.2022, Planetory Geor Box, 01. Nos., S.N. 2, 05235084, Ha 052.2022, Planetory Geor Box, 01. Nos., S.N. 2, 05235084, Ha 052.2022, Planetory Geor Box, 01. Nos., S.N. 2, 05235084, Ha 052.2022, Planetory Geor Box, 01. Nos., S.N. 2, 05235084, Ha 05235084, Ha 052.2022, Planetory Geor Box, 01. Nos., S.N. 2, 05235 S.N. 7., 05225084, (19.05.2022). Delta Contactor, 05 Nos., S.N. 8., 05225080 (10.05.2022), Spare Part for Godrej Fork Lifter, 01 Set., S.N. 9., 05221086 (20.05.2022), Grinding Wheel, Part No. 70411141, 22 Nos., S.N. 10., 05225088 (20.05.2022), Hydraulic Piston Pump, 01 Nos., S.N. 11, 05221027A, (12.05.2022) Cond. Fitting Kh, Part No. 12520573, 03 Set, S.N. 12, 06221026A, (12.05.2022) Plastic Goaled Flexible, Part No. 12520546, 02 Set, S.N. 13, 06221025A 12.05.2022), Terminal Block, Part No. 12350485, 20 Nos., S.N. 14_06221013A 12.05.2022). Temperature Indicator, Part No. 12319491, 08 Nos S.N. 15., 04220110, (10.08.2022), Bettery Box Complete, PL. No. 29680013 322 Nos., S.N. 10., 10221179, (19.05.2022), Methined Piston, PL. No. 16120073, 2387 Nos., S.N. 17., RIA (Double Bid System) 04221026, (12.05.2022), Axie Box Complete, Part No. 28010044 qty, 188 Sers., S.N. 18., R/A (Double Bid System) 04721291 (17.05.2022), Motor Suspension Unit, Part No. 29100288 qty, 1301 Sets., S.N. 18., R/A (Double Bid System) 04221052A, (17.05.2022), Brake Gear Armgt, Part No. 29140225 qty, 244 Sets., S.N. 20., R/A (Double Bid System) G4221033A, (10.06.2022), Gear Case Complete, Pert No. 29030018 cty, 1094 Nos., S.N. 21., Tender No. 07225176, Due Date- 17.05.2022, Short Description: 50 KWA Grid Tied Solar Inverter, Pt. No. NON Stock, City. 04 Nos. Note: The details of

PRO/BLW/S-10 f 💌 /banaraslocowork "Website: https://blw.indianrailways.gov.in

above tenders are available in www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED VIDYUT SOUDHA :: HYDERABAD - 500 082. Off: 040-23396000 e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

The TSTRANSCO invites bids through tenders on e-procurement platform for the following works:

1. Specification No. TST- CONST-e-28/2021-22/CE (Construction), Name of the work: Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of following works on turnkey basis, (1) 1/No.132kv bay at existing 132/33 KV Alampur SS for 132kV RTSS Manopad, (ii) 132kV DCSC line from existing 132/33 KV Alampur SS to proposed RTSS Manopad for a length of about 12 KM in Jogulamba district. (iii) 1No.132kv metering bay at proposed 132 KV RTSS Manopad in Jogulamba district. 2. Specification No. 1ST-cONST-e-01/2022-23, Name of the work: Supply, rection, testing and commissioning of (i) 220/132/33KV SS (2 x 160+2 x 50 MVA) including 2 Nos 220kV Incoming Feeders & 8 Nos 33kv Feeder Bays at Kakatiya Mega Textile Park, Shyampet (V), Geesukonda (M) (ii) 220kV DC Dine (29 KM) from existing 220kV SS Pulukurthy to proposed 220/132/33KV SS at Kakatiya Mega Textile Park and (iii). 2Nos. 220kV Bay extensions at 220kV SS Pulukurthy in Warangal District on Turnkey basis. Further details can be seen @ http://www.neprocurement.telangana.gov.in.@ http://www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in. http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in, @ http://www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in. PHONE: 040-23336886, 040-23396000 -Extn: 3356, 3508, 3573,3351, FAX:040-23336171 RO. No. 04/22

महर्षि दयानन्द सरस्वती विश्वविद्यालय, अजमेर

ई-निविदा सूचना सं.21

UBN:MDU2223GLOV00001

म**हर्षि दयानन्द सरस्वती विश्वविद्यालय. अजमेर** की वर्ष २०२२ की मख्य परीक्षाओं में प्रयोग हेत २०.०० लाख उत्तर

नुस्तिकाओं की आपूर्ति हेतु पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी फर्मों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-टेन्डरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वार

. ऑन-लार्डन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाईट www.mdsuajmer.ac.i

तथा राज्य सरकार की वेबसाईट sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध र

उक्त कार्य के निविदा प्रपत्र, निविदा आवेदन डाऊनलोड करने की अविधि दिनांक 26.04.2022 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे

से दिनांक ०९ ०५ २०२२ को अपरान्ह २ ०० बजे तक एवं ऑनलाईन प्रस्तत करने की तिथि 10 ०५ २०२२ को अपरान

12.00 बजे तक एवं हार्ड प्रति कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 10.05.2022 को 02.00 बजे तक रहेगी। निविदा

FHEL invites Open E-Tender (FHEL/01-Engg/2022) in Single Packet System of tendering for the following work:

Contract | Last Date & Time | Date & Time of bids

Estimated Cost = Rs. 113.39 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 2,06,700.00/- (through e-payment)

Providing & Fixing PUF Flooring for under Construction Deep freezer & Chiller facilities at FHEL's Agri Logistic Centre, Rai, Sonepat (Haryana) 18.05.2022 20.05.2022

For financial eligibility criteria, experience with respect to similar nature of work, etc. please refer to detailed tender notice available on website www.concorindia.com, but the complete tender document can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.com/FHEL only. Further, Corrigendum / Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on website www.tenderwizard.com/FHEL and Central Procurement Portal (CPP) only Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same. sued for the same. CEO/FHEI Phone No.: 011-41222500 (Ext. – 421

10 THE WORLD



World's Oldest Person Dies At 119

A Japanese woman believed to have been the world's oldest person has died aged 119, public broadcaster NHK said on Monday, reporting the death of Kane Tanaka. Born on Jan. 2, 1903 - the year of the Wright Brothers' first controlled flight of their motor-driven airplane - Tanaka was confirmed by Guinness World Records in 2019 as the oldest living person. She died of old age at a hospital in Fukuoka city, western Japan, on April 19, NHK said.



Kentaro Uesugi (centre)

JAPAN

Amid China pact worry, envoy to visit Solomons

Tokyo: Japan is sending a vice-foreign minister to the Solomon Islands on Monday amid worry over a recent security agreement that South Pacific nation struck with China that could increase Beijing's military influence in the region. Vice-foreign minister Kentaro Uesugi's three-day trip to Solomon Islands comes on the heels of a visit by a senior US delegation, who warned that Washington would take unspecified action against the South Pacific nation should the security deal with China pose a threat to US or allied interests. The security pact, which China and the Solomons confirmed last week, has also alarmed neighbouring countries and Western allies that fear a military buildup in the region. AP

MALI

Group linked to Al-Qaida says captured Russians

Bamako: Islamic extremist rebels in Mali linked to al-Qaida said they have captured mercenary fighters from Russia's Wagner Group in fighting earlier this month. It's the first time that Mali's extremist rebels known as JNIM have claimed to capture Russian fighters. The Wagner Group fighters were seized in the first week of April in the mountainous Segou region of central Mali, said the INIM statement, which called the fighters "crimi-

NEPAL Four Indian

tourists killed in car crash

Kathmandu: Four Indian tourists were among five people who were killed aftertheir car collided headon with a bus in Nepal's Dhading district, police said on Monday. The accident occurred on Sunday night along Prithvi Highway in Thakre area. police said. The four were returning to Kathmandu after visiting Pokhara, a scenic city 200km from Kathmandu. The deceased have been identified as Bimalchandra Agrawal, 40, Sadhana Agrawal, 35, Sandhya Agrawal, 40, Rakesh Agrawal, 55, from UP. They died while undergoing treatment in a local hospital.

EXPLOSIONS HIT MOLDOVA'S BREAKAWAY TRANSNISTRIA REGION

Russia hits rail, fuel facilities; US says Moscow failing in war aims

AGENCIES

KYIV, APRIL 25

RUSSIA UNLEASHED a string of attacks against Ukrainian rail and fuel facilities Monday, striking crucial infrastructure far from the front line of its eastern offensive, which Britain said has yet to achieve a significant breakthrough. Meanwhile, two fires were reported at oil facilities in western Russia. It was not clear what caused the blazes.

In meetings with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Sunday, the American secretaries of state and defence, Antony Blinken and Lloyd Austin said Washington had approved a \$165 million sale of ammunition for Ukraine's war effort.

"The strategy that we've put in place — massive support for Ukraine, massive pressure against Russia, solidarity with more than 30 countries engaged in these efforts — is having real results," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters in Poland the day after the meeting. "When it comes to Russia's war aims, Russia is failing. Ukraine is succeeding," he added.

In a video address Monday, Zelenskyy described his meeting with Blinken and Austin as "encouraging and effective."

Speaking Monday to top officials at the Prosecutor General's office, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the US and its allies have tried and failed to "split Russian society and to destroy Russia from within."

On Monday, Russia focused its firepower elsewhere, with missiles and war planes striking far behind the front lines, in an apparent bid to slow the movement of Ukrainian supplies toward the east and disrupt the flow of fuel needed by the coun-



(From left) US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken during their meeting in Kyiv on Sunday. AP

forces. Oleksandr Kamyshin, the head of the staterun Ukrainian Railways, said five railway facilities in central and western Ukraine were hit. That included a missile attack near the western city of Lviv.

Ukrainian authorities said that at least five people were killed by Russian strikes in the central Vynnytsia region.

In Transnistria, a breakaway region of Moldova, several explosions believed to be caused by rocket-propelled grenades hit the Ministry of State Security. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, and no injuries were immediately reported.

Meanwhile, a major fire erupted early Monday at an oil depot in a Russian city about 100 km from the Ukrainian border. Russia's Emergencies Ministry said.

Why Russia has eyes on Transnistria

WHILE THE fighting in Ukraine is concentrated in the east, Transnistria, which hosts hundreds of Russian troops and has a large ethnic Russian population, occupies a strategically important spot on Ukraine's western flank, reaching within about 25 miles of Ukraine's chief port city, Odesa. Moldovan and Ukrainian militaries have been concerned whether Transnistria would enter the fighting as a base for attack from the west.

Report: Sweden, Finland to apply to NATO

Stockholm: Two newspapers one Swedish, the other one Finnish - are reporting that the governments of Sweden and Finland have agreed to submit NATO applications at the same time and that it will happen in

the middle of next month. The Finnish newspaper Iltalehti said the Swedish government has expressed a wish to Finland that they apply together in the week starting May 22 and Swedish government sources confirmed the information to Sweden's Expressen tabloid. Russia's invasion has led to growing support in Sweden and Finland for joining NATO. AP

US promises more aid, Biden announces veteran envoy

AP&REUTERS LONDON, APRIL 25

The US will reopen its embassy in Ukraine soon, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday after he and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin visited Kyiv, promising more military aid and hailing the fight against Russia's invasion. US President Joe Biden named veteran diplomat Bridget Brink as the new US ambassador to Ukraine, the White House said on Monday.

US officials said Austin and Blinken pledged new assistance worth \$713 million for Ukraine government and other countries in the region. An extra \$322 million in military aid for Ukraine would take the total US security assistance since the invasion to about \$3.7 billion, one official said. "It will provide support for capabilities Ukraine needs, especially the fight in the Donbas," the official said.

Russia, meanwhile, told the US to stop sending more arms to Ukraine, warning that large Western deliveries of weapons were inflaming the conflict and would lead to more losses, Moscow's ambassador to Washington Anatoly Antonov, said. "What the Americans are doing is pouring oil on the flames," Antonov told the Rossiya 24 TV channel. "I see only an attempt to raise the stakes, to aggravate the situation, to see more losses," he added.

GOTABAYA READY FOR INTERIM GOVT: MONK

Sri Lanka Opposition says has numbers in Parliament, no-trust vote on cards

Lanka's debt restructuring to have impact on future loans: China



A SRI LANKAN dissident lawmaker, fired by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa from the Cabinet for his critical views, claimed on Monday that the Opposition has crossed the 113mark required to win a no-trust motion against the government in the 225-member Parliament.

President Gotabaya had said he would hand over the government to any group that could muster 113 seats but would not step down from the presidency.

Udava Gammanpila, who held the energy ministry portfolio before being sacked by Gotabaya Rajapaksa, is advocating an all-party interim government with the resignation of PM Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Gammanpila said with enough numbers of MPs breaking away from the government and with support from the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya, Marxist Janatha Vikmuthi Peramuna and the Tamil National Alliance, they are **President** Gotabaya

Rajapaksa

assured of winning the no-trust vote. "We told the SJB to wait till we could get 113, now we have 120," he claimed.

Meanwhile, in a letter to the powerful Buddhist clergy, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said, while he respects the advice of the clergy, the changes, if any, in the system of governance must be made in line with the specified constitutional provisions. Rajapaksa expressed his intention to form the interim government in a letter to the powerful

Buddhist clergy on Sunday. China said it has "done its best" to help Sri Lanka not to default on its foreign debt, Chinese ambassador in Colombo Qi Zhenhong said on Monday. 'China has done its best to help Sri Lanka not to default but sadly they went to the IMF and decided to default," Qi said. "The debt restructuring definitely will have an impact on future bilateral loans" he said, adding that China was still considering the Sri Lankan request for a \$1.5 billion buyer's credit and another \$1-billion loan.

SHANGHAI SEES 19,000 NEW CASES



Since Friday, Beijing has reported 70 locally transmitted

district starts mass testing

cases in eight of its 16 districts. Reuters "Trump, I know you take your business seriously, and I Panic buying in Beijing as take mine seriously," Engoron

REUTERS & AP BEIJING, APRIL 25

BEIJING WILL conduct mass testing of most of its 21 million people, authorities announced Monday, as a new Covid-19 outbreak sparked stockpiling of food by residents worried about the possibility of a

Shanghai-style lockdown. Authorities in Chaoyang, home to 3.45 million people, late on Sunday ordered residents and those who work there to be tested three times this week as Beijing warned the virus had "stealthily' spread in the city for about a week

"I'm preparing for the worst," said a graduate student in the nearby Haidian district surnamed Zhang, who placed online orders for dozens of snacks and 10 pounds of apples.

Shoppers in the city crowded

fresh meat, instant noodles and rolls of toilet paper.

In Shanghai, where most of its 25 million residents have been locked down for weeks, the main food supply bottleneck has been the lack of enough couriers to make deliveries to homes, fuelling anger among residents

Since Friday, Beijing has reported 70 locally transmitted cases in eight of its 16 districts, with Chaoyang accounting for 46 of the total, said a local health official on Monday.

locked down for more than two weeks, reported more than 19,000 new infections and 51 deaths in the latest 24-hour period, pushing its announced death $toll\,from\,the\,ongoing\,outbreak\,to$ 138. On Monday morning, people queued at makeshift testing sites manned by medical workers in protective suits. Under mass testing campaigns in China, multiple samples are tested together.

PM TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA THIS WEEK

Shehbaz announces 2-month remission in prisoners' jail terms; Hafiz Saeed not on list

MZULQERNAIN

LAHORE, APRIL 25

PAKISTAN'S NEW Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced a two-month remission in prisoners' sentences ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, a relief not applicable to convicts of terrorism cases, including Mumbai terror attack mastermind and banned Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed.

During his visit to the highsecurity Kot Lakhpat Jail on Sunday, Prime Minister Shehbaz announced the remission.

"The two-month remission will not apply to the prisoners convicted in terrorism cases," senior advocate Waheed Shahzad told PTI on Monday.

On April 8, an anti-terrorism court sentenced JuD chief Saeed to 32 years in jail in two more terror financing cases.

Meanwhile, Sharif would travel to Saudi Arabia this week on his maiden official visit abroad after assuming office.

"The Prime Minister, accom-

Govt issues passport to Nawaz Sharif

Islamabad: Pakistan's former PM Nawaz Sharif has been issued a passport to return from the UK where he was seeking treatment, a media report said on Monday. The nature of the passport is "ordinary" and it was made in the "urgent" category, Geo News reported. The passport was issued in Islamabad on April 23, it said.

panied by a high level delegation, will be undertaking an official visit to Saudi Arabia later during the week," Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar

Ahmed said on Monday. On the sidelines of the visit, Shehbaz would also visit Mecca to perform Umrah pilgrimage. In his first address to the parliament soon after election as the prime minister of the country, Shehbaz had highlighted special ties with Saudi Arabia.

Turkish philanthropist Osman Kavala. Reuters **Turkish**

philanthropist Kavala gets lifer Istanbul: Turkish philanthropist

Osman Kavala was jailed for life without parole on Monday after he was convicted of trying to overthrow the government by financing protests. Kavala, 64, has been in jail for

4-1/2 years without a conviction and denies the charges he faced over the Gezi protests, which began as small demonstrations in an Istanbul park in 2013 and snowballed into nationwide anti-government unrest.

The court also sentenced seven others to 18 years in iail each for aiding an attempt to overthrow the government and ordered their arrests. The court said it decided to acquit Kavala of espionage charges due to lack of evidence.

Judge finds Donald Trump in contempt in NY legal fight the records sought by subpoena.

New York: A New York judge found former President Donald Trump in contempt of court and set in motion \$10,000 daily fines Monday for failing to adequately said in a Manhattan courtroom respond to a subpoena issued by the state's attorney general as part of a civil investigation into his business dealings.

Judge Arthur Engoron said a contempt finding was appropriate because Trump and his lawyers hadn't shown they had

conducted a proper search for

UK women slam sexism of 'Basic Instinct' slur on lawmaker

JILL LAWLESS LONDON, APRIL 25

WOMEN FROM across British

politics called Monday for action to tackle misogyny after a newspaper ran a story accusing the deputy opposition leader of trying to "distract" the Prime Minister during debates by crossing and uncrossing her legs.

The Mail on Sunday quoted an anonymous Conservative lawmaker as saying Labour Party Deputy Leader Angela

Rayner tried to throw PM Boris Johnson "off his stride" as she sat across from him in the House of Commons. The article likened it to a scene in the 1992 thriller "Basic Instinct" in which Sharon Stone is interrogated by police.

packed with reporters. "I hereby

hold you in civil contempt and

fine you \$10,000 a day" until the

terms of the subpoena are met.

Letitia James had asked the court

to hold Trump in contempt after

he missed a March 31 court dead-

line to turn over documents. AP

New York Attorney General

PM Johnson condemned the article, writing on Twitter: "As much as I disagree with Angela Rayner on almost every political issue I respect her as a parliamentarian and deplore the misogyny directed at her anonymously today.'

before being detected.

stores and online platforms to stock up on leafy vegetables, Shanghai, which has been

AKIHIKO KONDO IS IN A DEVOTED FICTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS, SERVED BY VAST INDUSTRY AIMED AT SATISFYING DESIRES OF FAN CULTURE

This man married a fictional character and will like you to hear him out

BEN DOOLEY & HISAKO UENO TOKYO, APRIL 25

IN ALMOST every way, Akihiko Kondo is an ordinary Japanese man. He's pleasant and easy to talk to. He has friends and a steady job and wears a suit and tie to work. There's just one exception: Kondo is married to a fictional character.

His beloved, Hatsune Miku, is a turquoise-haired, computersynthesised pop singer who has toured with Lady Gaga and starred in video games. After a decadelong relationship, one that Kondo says pulled him out of a

deep depression, he held a small, unofficial wedding ceremony in Tokyo in 2018. Miku, in the form of a plush doll, wore white, and he was in a matching tuxedo.

In Miku, Kondo has found love, inspiration and solace, he says. He and his assortment of Miku dolls eat, sleep and watch movies together.

Kondo, 38, knows that people think it's strange, even harmful. He knows that some — possibly those reading this article – hope he'll grow out of it. And, yes, he knows that Miku isn't real. But his feelings for her are, he says.

Kondo is one of thousands of people in Japan who have entered into unofficial marriages with fictional characters in recent decades, served by a vast industry aimed at satisfying the every whim of a fervent fan culture. Tens of thousands more around the globe have joined online groups in which they discuss their commitment to characters from anime, manga and video games.

Kondo sees himself as part of a growing movement of people who identify as "fictosexuals." That's partly what has motivated him to publicise his wedding and to sit for awkward interviews with news media around the globe.

He wants the world to know that people like him are out there and, with advances in artificial intelligence and robotics allowing



for more profound interactions It's not a political movement, he said, but a plea to be seen: "It's with the inanimate, that their numbers are likely to increase. about respecting other people's

married a doll of Hatsune Miku in March 17, 2022, NYT

tions — anger, sorrow, joy — and the phenomenon of desiring the fictional is not unique to Japan. But the idea that fictional characters can inspire real affec-

tion or even love may well have reached its highest expression in modern Japan, where the sentiment has given rise to a highly visible subculture and become the basis for a thriving industry. In Tokyo, two districts have become meccas for fulfilling

lifestyles." It's not unusual for a

work of art to provoke real emo-

character-based dreams: Akihabara (for men) and Ikebukuro (for women). Specialty shops in the neighbourhoods are packed with merchandise for characters from popular games and anime.

The products for women are especially extensive. Fans can buy love letters from their crushes, reproductions of their clothes and even scents meant to evoke their presence. Hotels offer special packages, featuring spa treatments and elaborate meals, for people celebrating their favourite character's birthday. And on social media, people post photos, art and mash notes promoting their "oshi" — a term widely used by Japanese fans to describe the ob-

cts of their affection. For some, the relationships represent a rejection of the entrenched "breadwinner-house-

said Agnès Giard, a researcher at the University of Paris Nanterre who has studied such marriages.

wife" model of marriage in Japan,

"To the general public, it seems indeed foolish to spend money, time and energy on someone who is not even alive. Giard said. "But for character lovers, this practice is seen as essential. It makes them feel alive, happy, useful and part of a movement with higher goals in life."

In her experience, women see the fictional marriages as empowering, "a way to challenge gender, matrimonial norms." In some respects, Kondo's commitment, too, is an example of commercial and social forces at work.

Kolkata



MEN'S ATP RANKINGS

Novak Djokovic

Daniil Medvedev

Alexander Zverev

Stefanos Tsitsipas

Matteo Berrettini

Rafael Nadal

Casper Rudd

Andrey Rublev

Carlos Alcaraz

10 Felix Auger-Aliaasime 21

YOUNGEST TOP 10s

A Krickstein 17 yrs, 11d

M Chang

B Becker

B Borg

A Agassi

R Nadal

CAlcaraz

10 J Arias

A Medvede

M Wilander

2

3

5

6

8

34

26

25

35

23

26

23

24

18

17yrs, 3m, 19d | 1989

17yrs, 7m, 16d 1985

17yrs, 10m, 21d | 1982

17yrs, 11m, 27d | 1974

18 yrs, 10m,22d 2005

18 vrs. 11m.20d 2022

18yrs, 11m, 23d | 1983

18yrs, 1m,7d

18yrs, 9m, 7d

Spain. For years, these have been assembly

lines where kids check in after school in the

Control the Controllables, two old-hand

Spanish coaches Bruno Argudo and Juan

Beaus paint a vivid picture of these tennis

schools while talking about a culture that is

very different from the academies around the

kids get enough time for endless sets. They

travel for tournaments in groups. When not

playing, they sit next to their coaches, who be-

tween sips of coffee talk about strategies for

cast, these slow surfaces are called 'assistant

coaches.' They teach patience, hone court craft

and never allow one to be complacent. There

are no easy points since the ball doesn't fly off

the court. It is a tough grind. In a month's time,

the latest Spanish sensation will be in Paris

and his pedigree makes him one among the

grooming that makes him true to the Vamos-

yelling tribe that has pitched its tents on many

Alcaraz may be different but it's his

The clay courts too have a role. On the pod-

different match situations.

clay courts around the world.

Between completing their homework,

world where kids pay for 'hourly sessions'.

In a delightful Dan Kiernan podcast

afternoon and leave late at night.

8400

8080

7465

6435

5770

4570

4110

4025

3827

3625

1984

1993

1

AIFF denies molestation allegations against secretary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

ENTREPRENEUR RANJIT Bajaj, who owned I-League club Minerva Punjab FC, on Monday alleged that All India Football Federation (AIFF) General Secretary Kushal Das had molested employees at workplace, a charge outrightly rejected by the national body and its top official.

Bajaj, who sold off Minerva Punjab FC in 2020 after owning it for seven years, said there were "two cases of molestation of employees at workplace" and the head of the committee which deals with sexual harassment complaints at the AIFF was "forced by president Praful Patel to bury the report".

'...Kushal Das RESIGN Or I will be revealing details about you which have been buried by @praful_patel #METOO #metooindia enuf is enuf," Bajaj tweeted.

...two cases of molestation of his employees at the workplace ...head of madatory (mandatory) sexual harassment complaint officer of AIFF & he was forced to bury the report by @praful_patel." Later, speaking to PTI, Bajaj said,"I am not making any allegations against the federation. This is against an individual and he can go to court, make an affidavit. Let him come up with a denial, he must respond in his personal capacity instead of using the Aiff PR machinery." Das said no such complaint has reached the AIFF committee in the last 10 years. "There is always a women's cell in the AIFF to look into any kind of allegations like these and there are no such allegations in the last 10 years," Das told PTI.

'But let the women's cell look into the allegations he has made and give a report before I say something and before the executive committee takes a decision.'

The AIFF, on its part, stood behind its top official and said it will take "appropriate legal action against the concerned individual". "All statements and allegations made are false and fabricated, and made without an iota of evidence in support of the same. Further, no such complaints and/or concerns were received by the Internal Complaints Committee constituted by the AIFF as per the PoSH Act, 2013," the AIFF said in a statement. The AIFF said it will also refer the matter to the Executive Committee, and also to the AGM for appropriate action. Jyotsna Gupta, the current head of the Internal Complaints Committee said she or her panel has not received any complaint against Das or any AIFF official.

'As head of the committee, I have not received any such report (of sexual harassment) against the general secretary or against any official of the AIFF," Gupta said.

Right-handed Rafa or next Novak?

Teenaged Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz, the youngest since compatriot Rafael Nadal in 2005 to break into the top-10, has taken the tennis world by storm with his all-court game and seems the real deal

SANDEEP DWIVEDI

NEW DELHI, APRIL 25

AFTER HIS straight-sets win in the Barcelona Open final on Sunday, Carlos Alcaraz, 18, eagerly followed an old and delightful local tradition. He, along with the ball boys and girls, jumped into the storied venue's - Real Club de Tenis - swimming pool. It was another spectacular splash for the Spainard, ranked 133 a year back but now burdened with the weighty tag of 'tennis' future'.

The next day, he became the youngest player to enter the Top 10 since Rafael Nadal in 2005. Men's tennis' perpetual wait for real teenaged prodigies seemed to be over. In the era dominated by the Big Three, many pretenders promised a change of guard but failed. Now, Alcaraz, if the word on the circuit is to be believed, has it in him to shake the foundations of the old firm.

There is a general consensus about Alcaraz's class but an outrageous global divide about his style of play. Earlier this month, when he was crowned the youngest-ever Miami Masters 1000 champion, everyone from the pundits to the meme-makers felt obliged to answer the obvious 'He is the Next Who?' guestion.

His swiftness around the court, the eagerness to dominate points, the muscular frame and Spain's leap of faith gave him an obvious early nickname - Right-handed Nadal. However, his coach Juan Carlos Ferrero, a former French Open champ who couldn't survive the Big Three march in the midnoughties, has said that Alcaraz's style is more like Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. He wasn't making it easy for the boy whose every stride on court was suddenly under surveil-

The coach's comments were a cue for the internet to dig out old match videos, slice them and then glue them side by side.

There's this one clip where Alcaraz and Djokovic, in two different frames dominating hard-court rallies, are seen moving on the baseline, swinging their racquets with choreographed synchronicity. Right down to the 'pursed lips and cocky nods' celebration after a sharp-angle cross-court forehand winner, the young Spaniard looked like the Serbian egend's identical tennis twin.

Rafa's fast feet, Djokovic's forehand and, as some observed, Andre Agassi's racquetspeed - Alcaraz was made to look like some Frankenstein programmed to hit monstrous

Blast from the past

A bit of independent YouTubing on forehands throws up Sergi Bruguera, the master clay-courter from the 1990s. His whip-like



18-year-old Carlos Alcaraz of Spain won the Barcelona Open last week. Reuters

forehand would be the result of the racquet taking the trajectory of a plane taking off while hitting the ball. Alcaraz's shot-making shape and racquet path is similar.

More surfing and one bumps into another lookalike. The young champion's blank brooding face is a throwback to Pete Sampras from the early days. A highly-imaginative commentator had said Sampras has the face of a shy impressionable teen who is likely to fall for an older woman. But we digress.

Maybe, numbed by the greatness thrust on him, Alcaraz has insisted that he wants to be just Carlos Alcaraz. The trivia about a picture of him with Federer by the bedside adds another layer of intrigue. But that hasn't hurt the Spaniard. Nadal, once during a press conference, looked distracted. He couldn't take his eyes away from the media room television airing one Alcaraz game. When a reporter told him that his countryman was trailing, Nadal smiled and said there are still many games to play. It wasn't too long before Alcaraz justified Nadal's faith and finished the match.

The latest tennis star to emerge from Spain

is in a way an outlier but also represents the legacy of this great tennis nation.

What separates him from Nadal is his press on the court. Since his days on the junior circuit, Alcaraz finishes most rallies from inside the baseline. One can never dismiss him as another Spanish back-court slugger. He is an eager beaver always on his toes to catch the ball early and throw the kitchen sink at it.

Versatile style

Alcaraz's overall game is also a tribute to a system that values wisdom passed down through generations and one that encourages organically-evolved original thinking.

One important weapon that Alcaraz possesses is the drop shot that glides the length of his side of the court and has just enough strength to cross the net and sink. He also has a lob that sails over his 6 feet-plus opponents and kisses the baseline. These two unconventional hard-to-pull-off strokes at crunch moments break the rhythm of his opponents and help him win those points at 40-30.

Alcaraz is a perfect brand ambassador of

Nataraj breaks meet record on Day 2 of Khelo **India Games**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BENGALURU, APRIL 25

TOKYO OLYMPIAN swimmer Srihari Nataraj clinched a gold medal in the 50m freestyle, clocking 23.23 seconds, on day two of the Khelo India University Games here on

The 21-year-old Nataraj broke Mihir Ambre's meet record timing of 23.78 seconds from the previous edition as he produced his fastest time in an individual race in the event.

Nataraj's win added gloss to a dominant performance from hosts Jain University, which soared to the top of the medal table with the help of four golds in swimming. The swimming events also saw five new KIUG records.

At the end of second day, 17 universities had already won a gold and as many as 41 had marked their presence on the medal table. With 10 medals up for grabs in swimming, the first went to Savitribai Phule Pune University's Shubham Dhaygude in the men's 400m freestyle. Soon, it was time for Iain University to shine as Siva Sridhar not only won gold but also in the process set a new KIUG record time of 2:05.43 in the 200m Individual Medley. Sridhar repeated win-record double in the 100m backstroke later in the day.

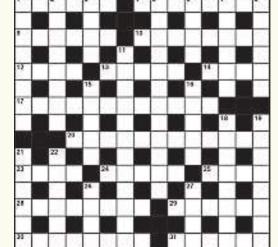
In the day's final event in the pool, Shivaji University's Rujuta Khade broke yet another KIUG record in the women's 50m freestyle, with a time of 27.38.

She broke Sadhvi Dhuri's mark from Bhubaneshwar by nearly six-tenths of a second as Shivaji University sat in second place on the medal table with three gold, one silver and one bronze. Punjabi University, the overall winners at the 2020 edition, won their first gold at this edition, via Ishneet Aulakh in the women's 25m individual pistol. Aulakh and her team were beaten to silver in the team event by their state rivals Panjab University.

Following Komal Kohar's win on Sunday, Maharshi Dayanand University ogged another gold in women's weightlifting - Sneha winning the 59kg class.

Rank	University	Total
1	Jain University Karnataka	5
2	Shivaji University	5
3	University of Mumbai	5
4	CCU, Meerut	2
5	MDU, Rohtak	2

CROSSWORD 4724



ACROSS 1 Three of them make a quarter

4 Ten heart operations could signal danger (8) 9 Faultless beginner? (6) 10 A place of grazing (8) 12 Medicine ball? (4) 13 Writer from the US(5) 14 It becomes inflamed by the lash

17 Unable to say why you can't solve a crossword? (4,3,5) 20 Last thing an American can bet with? (6,6) 23 Just open a grating (4) 24 In time some fellows improve

25 The French way to get fat 28 To each in turn it appears unfinished(8) 29 Economic growth? (6) 30 Left in error (3,5) 31 Seem to be a soft fruit

(6)

1 No other organisation can

compete with it (8) 2 Love isn't unusual as the theme for her writings (8) 3 Kick from a horse (4) 5 Are tailors so addictive? (5-7) 6 Use a different name for Jacob's brother (4) 7 A number of European wars (6) 8 Ann set out for French city (6) 11 It's played for someone's benefit (7,5)

15 A measure in operation (5) 16 Being stupid I omit to include a 18 Feel a bit upset by a trifling annoyance (8) 19 One who hopes to get as good as he gives (8) 21 Share it with Nora perhaps (6) 22 Charm a number at a fashionable meeting (6) 26 Upwards of 101 meeting points

27 Cut down on meat (4)

Solutions Crossword 4723: Across: 1 Right, 4 Arbiter, 8 For, 9 Wineglass 10 Thirsty, 11 Needy, 13 Dealer, 15 Danube, 18 Sheaf, 19 Towpath, 21 Franchise, 23 Ion, 24 Riposte, 25 Tense. **Down:** 1 Refuted, 2 Germinate, 3 Towns, 4 Annoys, 5 Begonia, 6 Tea, 7 Rusty, 12 Education, 14 Effects, 16 Enhance, 17 Stripe, 18 Safer,

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson









MARVIN by Tom Armstrong







JUMBLED WORDS

the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. _about what you do, you feel this positive energy. It's very simple. - Paulo

Coelilo (12)				
GMAEI	AEXI	NTT		
HUISS	NPY	CHU		

Answer: When you are **enthusiastic** about what you do, you feel this positive energy. It's very simple. - Paulo Coelho SOLUTION: IMAGE, SUSHI, EXTANT, PUNCHY

Difficulty Level 5s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

every digit from 1 to 9 $\,$ must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s =

SUDOKU

		7		8		6		
3			4		2	39		1
7						-		9
2			7		9			3
		8		7		3		- 11
	6		1		3		8	
	7					Į.	5	

SOLUTION SUDOKU 481 9 2 6 1 8 7 4 3 4 6 7 2 5 3 9 8 1 9 7 4 6 5 2 1 3 7 5 2 9 4 8 5 4 2 9 9 2 1 8 6 5 4 3 7 8 9 5 4 2 3 7 6 7 5 6 3 8 1 2 9 4 2 3 4 7 9 6 8 1 5

DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Yours is not the only sign that is subject to

configurations as the planets form and re-form their you have more to learn about personal relationships than almost anyone else, and most

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) There is no real lack

of co-operation or consideration on the part of partners, yet it may still be difficult to finalise any long-term plans, largely because the planetary picture is changing so rapidly this week. You're on a long-range cycle of uncertainty, so don't expect instant results.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) It's necessary to say a few more words about your financial

situation. In particular, you can expect to gain from new partnerships, especially with members of the female sex, or from investments in the arts. Your most dynamic partnership, though, may still be a secret.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) This period favours



emphasis seems to be on luxury and colour rather than on what is necessary for your security or survival. There is so much to gain from a generous gesture, so don't hold back.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) The reason why



someone feels that you alone can get them off the hook is that they sense the presence of the wise planet,

Jupiter, in a part of your chart that is dedicated to selfless deeds, a truly noble combination. There still seems to be no way to restrict the explosion in your expenses, but a solution will appear soon.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) In your solar chart, the signs of



Capricorn and Cancer reveal much about your creative desires in

the broadest sense - the wish to express your individuality on the highest level. These celestial signs' importance points you to the deeper significance of your

BY PETER VIDAL

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

It's strange how a state of uncertainty internationally is reflected in changing arrangements in your life. The

key is the stars' tendency to act on many different levels both in your private affairs and in your environment, and in your SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

It now seems



widely and making new friends, while Venus is urging you to hide yourself away with a chosen loved one, forgetting the cares of the world.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) Take extra care when travelling over the



failure seem to be less likely, but there is some other obstacle in the way, no more than your lack of confidence. CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

We are now entering another major



exactly the same form. The immediate task now is to put new relationships on a firm footing and fulfil your longterm promises.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19) According to one of the greatest



experiencing may operate in one of two ways. One is 'vain and idle', the other is 'reckless and revolutionary'. You clearly have great scope for stirring up your friends and your environment. Use it wisely.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Home, family and property matters do



causing particular concern at the moment, at least not as much as earlier in the

year. You may therefore bring vour attention to bear on more wide-ranging ambitions, particularly if an emotional tie

12 SPORT

Badminton Asia Championships: Sen, Sindhu eye medals

Manila: Focus will be on two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and world championships bronze winner Lakshya Sen when they lead India's challenge at the Badminton Asia Championships, beginning here on Tuesday. A lot of hope will ride on Sen and Sindhu as the duo has been in good form in the run-up to the continent championships, which is returning after a gap of two years due

WTA not returning to China in 2022

Mumbai: The WTA is still working to find a resolution to the standoff with China over the Peng Shuai issue but will not return to the country this year, Tour chief Steve Simon said. "We remain dedicated to finding a resolution to this," Simon told The Tennis Podcast. "We want to find a resolution that Peng can be comfortable with, the Chinese government can be comfortable with. and we can be comfortable with. We are not about walking away from China. We have suspended our operations there right now. We will continue to do that until we get to a resolution.'

Asian Games will go ahead in Sept: OCA

Mumbai: The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has requested an update from Beijing on the COVID-19 situation in China but remains confident the Asian Games will go ahead in Hangzhou in September, a senior official at the body told Reuters on Monday. The Games are scheduled to take place from Sept. 10-25 in the capital of Zhejiang province, some 175 kilometres southwest of Shanghai. A senior official, speaking under condition of anonymity, said the OCA had been in contact with Chinese officials but there was "as of now" no concern about cancellation or postponement.

Barca lose, Madrid 1 point from title

Madrid: Barcelona lost 1-0 to Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, marking the first time it lost three in a row at home in all competitions in the same season, and leaving leader Madrid just a point away from winning its second league title in three seasons. Madrid will have its first chance of lifting the trophy Saturday when it hosts Espanyol. Madrid is 15 points ahead of second-place Barcelona with five rounds to go.

Sharath wins 10th national TT title

Shillong: Star paddler A Sharath Kamal secured his 10th national title with a thrilling 4-3 win over G Sathiyan in the men's singles summit clash at the 83rd Senior National and Inter-State Table Tennis Championships here on Monday. The 39-year-old dropped his racquet and ran around the arena to celebrate his triumph after Sathiyan's return went out, giving him the last point for a 7-11, 12-10, 9-11, 7-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-6 win. PTI, AP & REUTERS

The Dhawans show

Rishi in the final over, backed by Rabada and Arshdeep, and Shikhar with the bat, help PK pip CSK



Mayank Agarwal and Rishi Dhawan celebrate after the latter dismissed MS Dhoni in the final over.

IPL TABLE

SRH

RR

LSG

RCB

PBKS

DC

KKR

CSK

All pics: Sportzpics for IPL

SYNOPSIS: After Dhawan guided Punjab to 187, Rabada and Arshdeep squeezed CSK at the death despite Rayudu's counter-attack

ABHISHEK PUROHIT MUMBAI, APRIL 25

IN A near-repeat of Sunday's game at Wankhede Stadium, Shikhar Dhawan's unbeaten 88 lifted Punjab Kings to 187 for 4. Ambati Rayudu's 78 off 39 turned around a misfiring chase but Kagiso Rabada sent him back with two overs left, and MS Dhoni wasn't able to reprise his last-over heroics from Chennai Super Kings' previous game against Mumbai Indians.

Monday follows Sunday

The match was played on the same side pitch on which Lucknow Super Giants defeated Mumbai Indians a day ago. And at the halfway stage of the first innings, both LSG and PK were on the exact score - 72 for 1.

Stroke-making proved to be difficult again, especially at the start, on an already sticky surface that was being used on successive nights. Even the field placings were the same; deep point and deep square leg were the two deep fielders in the powerplay, with both third man and fine leg in the ring. With CSK's three spinners in action in helpful conditions, for a while it looked like they were operating at Chepauk. But PK would go on to take 115 off the last ten overs; LSG had managed 96.

One of the differences was CSK's twin drops of Bhanuka Rajapaksa in successive overs from Ravindra Jadeja right after the powerplay. Ruturaj Gaikwad and Mitchell Santner were the culprits on either side of the longer square leg-side boundary. Rajapaksa scored 42 off 32 helped along by misfield and poor deliveries in addition to the drops. He and Dhawan added 110 for the second wicket in 11.3 overs. Rajapaksa departed probably an over or two too late than what PK would have wanted, delaying the arrival of Liam Livingstone until the 18th over. But it also meant the English all-rounder came in with a clear mindset and did not

6 8 2 4 MI 8 0 -1.000 have to think about batting longer in tricky

conditions, Livingstone and Jonny Bairstow

scored a combined 25 off ten balls, helping

TEAM | M | W | L | PT | NRR

2

2

3

3

5

10

10

10

10

6

6

0.396

0.691

0.432

0.334

-0.472

-0.419

0.715

0.080

-0.538

6 1 12

5

5

3 4

8 5

8 5

8 4 4 8

7

8 3

PK post 19 more than LSG had. Dhawan takes it deep

Continuing the similarities from Sunday night, Dhawan batted through the first innings, like KL Rahul had, but with not as much late acceleration in an 88 off 59. Rahul had taken on the longer square rope and beaten the boundary riders with deft placement. What Dhawan did instead was make good use of the shorter side. He made sure the offerings on the pads disappeared past short fine leg. He also slogged a couple of sixes over the shorter deep-midwicket boundary.

Dhawan may not be the tallest but all his moving around and arching enables him to have a decent reach. When the longer boundary was in play to his stronger off-side, he ensured CSK's helpful overpitched offerings were lofted over mid-off or driven past him for fours. It was Dhawan who started the PK acceleration with three fours in the 12th over bowled by Mukesh Choudhary, the left-arm seamer's natural incoming angle allowing Dhawan to line him up.

Rayudu steps in

The parallels with Sunday night just kept

coming. CSK's chase was foundering just like Mumbai Indians' had, both top orders failing to get going. And while Tilak Varma had threatened an MI revival for a while, Ambati Rayudu went a step ahead and got CSK close. Rayudu had hurt his left forearm at cover trying to stop a drive off the third ball of the game from Mayank Agarwal, and had spent the rest of the innings off the field.

He walked in at 40 for 3 after seven overs, and smacked his second ball from Rahul Chahar to the extra-cover boundary. The forcing cut, the massive slog-sweep, the charge-and-swish - whenever the askingrate seemed to be getting out of hand, Rayudu had the boundary waiting. A 23-run 16th over off Sandeep Sharma,

playing his first match in nearly a month, brought the equation back to around two runs a ball. Rayudu swiped and slashed three successive sixes and ended the over with a dash to hammer a four over midwicket. There didn't seem to be much dew given there wasn't much ball-wiping from the PK fielders, but Sandeep still delivered high full tosses. And long boundary or not, Rayudu was not missing out.

But just when it seemed Rayudu's momentum would carry CSK home, Kagiso Rabada intervened, landing one around the blockhole and sending Rayudu back.

Arshdeep, Rishi see off Dhoni

Dhoni arrived with 35 needed off 13 and ke Jaydey Unadkat in CSK's previous match. he had another left-armer in his sights - Arshdeep Singh, who bowled the 19th. But the young seamer stuck to the full length and wide angle across Dhoni to the longer boundary. Dhoni got one away past extra cover, but Agarwal there had already prevented one, and Arshdeep denied Dhoni off two other deliveries.

Ravindra Jadeja's inability to find the boundary meant CSK required an improbable 27 off the last over. And in his first IPL game in six years, Rishi Dhawan was good enough to bring up a comfortable victory.

BRIEF SCORES: Puniab Kings 187 for 4 in 20 overs (Shikhar Dhawan 88: Dwayne Bravo 2/42) bt Chennai Super Kings: 176 for 6 in 20 overs (Ambati Rayudu 78; Kagiso Rabada 2/23) by 11 runs



Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game

Livingstone's hips don't lie

From the 14-15h over on, Kings XI Punjab might well thought have about retiring out Bhanuka Rajapaksa. He had done his job and was only delaying the entry of Liam Livingstone. As it turned out after he

hit a six in the 13.3, Rajapaksha only faced 7 balls, dealing in singles, over the next four overs before he sacrificed his wicket, going for a slog. Enter Livingstone, the modern-day Nathan Astle with his array of shots, going boom boom in a 7-ball 19 cameo. He is one of the clean hitters, who likes to go in the arc between long-off to long-on. Early on his career, by his $own\,admission, he\,would\,obsess\,over$ the hitting style of Jos Buttler but re-

wonderfully malleable wrists that powered his shots, and instead strived to be his original self. "I had got too whippy with my wrists"). He started to work on having a strong base in his stance ("I used to lose quite bit of

power with too wide a base"), move his back hip - which he reckons is his key - and smash through the line. He makes sure he doesn't have too long a front stride which renders the use of his hips a touch ineffective. "At point of contact, I make sure I whip my hips through which is where all my power comes from," he once told Sky Sports. He whipped his hips to lift Punjab over a par score.

Jadeja, captain cool

Ravindra Jadeja didn't have too much of the captaincy in the early part of the IPL with MS Dhoni being the conductor-inchief on the field.



But one characteristic of the former skipper has rubbed off on the new one - the poker face. CSK were using a tried and tested formula of slowing down the ball on a used pitch at the Wankhede. Spinners Mahesh Teekshana and Mitchell Santner bowled four of the six Powerplay overs and along with medium pacer Mukesh Choudhary had kept things tight. The skipper, a dangerous left-arm spinner who gives no room to batsmen to free their arms, came into the attack in the seventh. He would have had two wickets against his name if not for the butter-fingered fielders. Punjab's Banuka Rajapaksa decided to take him on but was dropped by Ruturaj Gaikwad in the deep square leg region. In Jadeja's second over, Santner let the ball spill through his hands for a six at deep midwicket. The beneficiary was Rajapaksa again. If Jadeja was losing his cool he didn't show it. No expletives, not a hint of frustration on his face. He just looked away and got back to his bowling mark. A captain with a deadpan face has been one of CSK's success mantras.

Channel 9 duck emoji

Mayank Agarwal is Justin almost Langer in his responses to his dismissals. Not quite, as Langer would act as if he were robbed even when



his stumps would have gone for a walk. But the disappointment and shake of head is pretty similar with Mayank. He has had a lot of head-shakes to do this IPL, repeatedly getting out cheaply and trudging off with one of the more expressive reactions of sadness in modern-day cricket. He would look to the heavens, shut his eyes, shake his head again and again, and like a true masochist, would catch the replay of his dismissal on the big screen and do it all over again. Then one more time in the dressing room after he catches the replay on the television. There is also another small clue that he isn't batting well. That mad risky suicidal single after tapping to mid-off. HIt was a pretty short delivery from Maheesh Thikshana and he went too hard with his cut and sent a dolly to point. It trigerred his expressive reaction as he walked back. In some ways, he is like that old Channel Nine duck emoji that would accompany the batsman, shaking and quacking under its breath. Hotstar could well do to create an Mayank emoji or even better, a Gif, for such occasions.

Butter.fingers.will.pay

coaches rarely get the spotlight. But that rule changes if a team drops a series of catches and their fielder on the fence turns twos into fours. After Ruturaj Gaikwad and Mitch Santner failed to hold on to simple catches and a couple of diving efforts went futile, the question that was begged to be asked was: Who is CSK's fielding coach? He is Rajiv Kumar, a 5000 plus-runs domestic giant who has played for Bihar and Jharkhand. He replaced the reputed Aussie coach Steve Rixon a few years back, Rajiv was Dhoni's captain at Jharkhand and is a go-to man for any MS update for the media. At the next CSK



nets, expect the old friends to organise a draining fielding session for the team.

'No discrimination'

Smith cleared of racist decision-making as skipper & Director of Cricket

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

FORMER SOUTH Africa skipper Graeme Smith has been cleared of charges of racist behaviour during his captaincy tenure and his time as the Board's Director of Cricket. The allegations were parsed by an arbitration panel arising from the earlier Social Justice and Nation Building (SJNB) hearings of Cricket South Africa.

The arbitration stated that Smith's actions could not be proved to constitute unfair racial discrimination or evince racial bias. The SJNB Ombudsman had assessed allegations against Smith, who was captain of the national men's cricket team from 2003 to 2014 and later CSA's first Director of Cricket (DoC) in December 2019.

The issues that came in for scrutiny as mentioned in the 95-page report of the ar-

Omission of Thami Tsolekile

CASE: The Ombudsman's tentative findings had pointed a finger at Smith who "likely had some influential role in decisions between 2012 and 2014 not to select Mr Thami Tsolekile for the Proteas.

The controversy concerns SA's series against England and Australia touring, and when hosting New Zealand in 2012-13. "Mr Tsolekile testified that, around the time he was awarded his contract, selector (Andrew) Hudson told him, while he was unlikely to play against England or Australia, he could or would play in the home series against New Zealand, Mr Hudson, in his statement, denies that it was a guarantee, but said he told Mr Tsolekile he was likely to get his shot against New Zealand. Whatever Mr Hudson told Mr Tsolekile, there is no claim that Mr Smith gave any assurances – for or against MrTsolekile - at this time. It was not even alleged by CSA that Mr Smith was aware of any promise," the report reads.

ARGUMENTS: While the captain is not a member of the selection panel, he "is entitled to freely and strongly indicate his preferences in selection." Tsolekile contended that after Mark Boucher injured his eve and subsequently retired, De Villiers stepped in as the back-up 'keeper, even as Tsolekile was called up. Hudson explained the selectors' thinking as follows: "De Villiers taking the



Graeme Smith wasn't found guilty of discriminating against Thami Tsolekile as captain or of bias against Black leadership at CSA. File

wicketkeeping gloves gave the team the 'X factor' and allowed us, the selectors, to select an extra batter at No. 7." The statement was put to Tsolekile who agreed with the proposition that this was "a strategy."

Smith's evidence pointed that Boucher's injury created "an opportunity to bring in Mr The arbitration stated Smith's actions could not be proved to constitute unfair racial discrimination or evince racial bias

Jean-Paul Duminy who was a frontline toporder specialist batsman. In turn, that lengthened your batting line up with seven top batting performers.'

South Africa's Transformation Policy – the guiding principle – was argued, given there was no Black African in the Proteas team that played the Tests in England. There were, however, five coloured players - Hashim Amla, Alviro Petersen, Vernon Philander, IF Duminy and Imran Tahir - who played all four Tests.

"Again, Mr Smith did not speak against Mr Tsolekile, or in his favour. He accepted the strategy followed by the selectors that had been successful in England, Mr Tsolekile himself did not complain about his treatment at the time, or in his evidence. He appeared to accept that the same "cricketing reasons" that justified selecting Mr De Villiers in England still applied in Australia."

However, not being picked for the New Zealand series aggravated Tsolekile's unhappiness as it became clear de Kock would be next in line. Selector Linda Zondi testified: "Mr Smith did not influence the decision

of the selectors not to select Mr Tsolekile as a wicketkeeper by reason of his race."

CONCLUSION: "There is no direct evidence, concerning the England tour, that Mr Smith actively influenced the selectors to exclude Mr Tsolekile from the playing XI. Instead, it appears to be accepted that Mr De Villiers was selected because of his ability, not because of his race." While the arbitration concluded that Smith did wield influence, it could not establish Tsolekile's omission had racist reasons.

Boucher/Nkwe issue

CASE: This concerned the appointment of Mark Boucher as Proteas Head Coach and if it amounted to racial discrimination with respect to Enoch Nkwe. The latter, a Black. had obtained a Level 4 coaching certificate the highest available one - and coached one of South Africa's professional teams -Highveld Lions - winning Coach of the Year

award and served as interim coach of the Proteas on the tour to India in 2019. Boucher had played international cricket for 12 years. Smith was keen on finding a coach who could pick the pieces after the disastrous 2019 World Cup, and went for "international experience" with England due to tour soon.

Smith was accused of not following a formal process of gathering CVs and interviewing candidates, and preferring Boucher.

ARGUMENTS: Smith testified that CSA was aware of his idea to appoint Boucher and did not object to his preference or insist on a process, but approved of the choice. The report reads: "His given reasoning - a head coach of a national team is an extremely high pressurised position, you are at the cold face of the world media, the world crowds, people don't care about CSA's equity proposition, they care about results, and I felt that CSA and the team at the time needed someone that had extensive experience in dealing with conditions, with the pressures that come

CONCLUSION: Though the process followed was unsatisfactory, and Nkwe received an unfair deal, this did not amount to "indirect discrimination" by Smith.

with the international game.'

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