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JOURNALISM OF COURAGE
SINCE 1932

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 22 PAGES

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Allow us to wear hijab matching colour of uniform: Udupi students in Karnataka HC

Centre's Kendriya Vidyalayas allow headscarves, say petitioners

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 14

ARGUING THAT the Centre-run Kendriya Vidyalayas give an option for Muslim students to wear headscarves in colours that match their school uniform, petitioners against the hijab ban in some government educational institutions in Karnataka on Monday asked the Karnataka High Court to permit them to do the same.

The plea was made in the form of a memo placed before the full bench, comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice J M Khazi and Justice Krishna M Dixit, which is hearing a batch of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



In Bengaluru, as high schools reopened on Monday. *PTI*

As schools reopen, staff & students told to remove hijab, burqa outside gates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 14

AS HIGH schools reopened in Karnataka on Monday, after being closed for nearly a week over the hijab row, parts of the state witnessed scenes of Muslim students and teachers being stopped at the gates, and asked to remove their hijabs before being let in.

In Mandya, students and teachers of Rotary Educational Society School, who were asked to remove their hijabs, had to do so in public, outside the school, in the full glare of cameras. As children stood bewildered, parents were seen requesting the teachers to allow the students inside the campus, where they could remove their hijab. But with school authorities insisting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

FOOD INFLATION 14-MTH HIGH

Inflation over comfort range of 6%; no need for alarm: RBI

RBI projections robust, aware of commitment on inflation: Das

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

RETAIL INFLATION rose to a seven-month high of 6.01 per cent in January, breaching the upper tolerance level of the medium-term inflation target of 4+/-2 per cent set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday showed. The rise was mainly on account of high food inflation, which jumped to a 14-month high of 5.43 per cent, along with an unfavourable base.

Inflation at the wholesale level in January softened to 12.96 per cent from 13.56 per cent a month ago but marked the tenth consecutive month of being in double digits, another set of data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday showed. Wholesale food inflation was, however, at a 24-month high of 9.6 per cent. Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rate is reflective

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

INFLATION RATES AT WHOLESALE, RETAIL LEVEL

Month	WPI	CPI
June	12.1%	6.26%
July	11.6%	5.59%
Aug	11.64%	5.3%
Sept	11.8%	4.35%
Oct	13.83%	4.48%
Nov	14.87%	4.91%
Dec	13.56%	5.66%
Jan	12.96%	6.01%

Source: MoSPI, Ministry of Commerce & Industry

EXPLAINED

Why the worry

AS RBI keeps its monetary stance easy to ensure a broad-based recovery, there are risks of retail inflation becoming more generalised. There are already signs of inflation turning structural in non-food segments like clothing, health and transport. High global inflation and rising crude oil prices will exert further pressure.

Markets fall 3% over Ukraine, soaring oil

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 14

DOMESTIC STOCK markets plummeted three per cent Monday, the biggest fall in 10 months, as mounting fears of a Russian attack on Ukraine triggered a global share sell-off and prompted oil prices to hit a seven-year high.

The Sensex dived 1,747 points to 56,405.84 and the NSE Nifty Index 532 points to 16,842.80 in the sell-off led by finance, banking, metals and realty stocks.

The Smallcap index fell by 4.15 per cent in the selling avalanche. Among major losers, Tata Steel was 5.49 per cent, HDFC 5.33 per cent, SBI 5.20 per cent and ICICI Bank 4.73 per cent. TCS, which rose one per cent, was the only gainer among large-cap shares as it fixed February 23 for its share buyback. The rupee fell by 22 paise to close at 75.58 against the US dollar as geopolitical tensions pushed investors towards safe-haven assets.

DETAILED REPORT
PAGE 19

BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY







WAITING TO VOTE

Outside a polling booth in Thivim, in North Goa, on Monday. *PTI*

REPORTS, PAGE 9

DECISION 2022

GOA	
78.94%	(81.21% in 2017)
UTTARAKHAND	
65.1%	(65.60% in 2017)
U.P. PHASE-2	
63.3%	(65.53% in 2017)
KEY SEATS IN U.P.	
KUNDARKI	
66.96 %	(71.33% in 2017)
NAKUR	
74.89%	(77.41% in 2017)
RAMPUR	
52.69%	(56.16% in 2017)
SUAR	
68.54%	(69.47% in 2017)
SHAHJAHANPUR	
50.45%	(57.15% in 2017)

Ex-chairman of Turkish Airlines is new CEO of Air India



Delighted, honoured: Ilker Ayci

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

THE TATA Group on Monday announced the appointment of former Turkish Airlines Chairman Ilker Ayci as Air India's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD), effective on or before April 1.

The development is in line with the Tata Group's plans to appoint an expatriate chief to run the airline it took over from the Indian government last month. The appointment is subject to security clearance by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

It is learnt that the Tata Group interviewed several potential candidates before Ayci's appointment, including some who were earlier with major European and American carriers.

Ayci was chairman of Turkish Airlines since 2015, and his resignation from the post was announced by the airline on January 27 this year — the day the Centre handed over Air India to the Tata Group.

When Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was Mayor of Istanbul, Ayci served as advisor in the Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul, where he was part of a number of development projects.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

In Varanasi for Ravidass Jayanti, Punjab polls on top of their minds

ASAD REHMAN
VARANASI, FEBRUARY 14

AS HE chops onions outside a tent where langar is being served, Kulwant Singh, 45, is glad he could make it to Varanasi for Ravidass Jayanti — and still be able to cast his vote back home in Punjab.

The annual three-day fair, held at Seer Goverdhanpur town in Varanasi, is organised to mark the birth anniversary of Sant Ravidass, a 15th-16th Century mystic poet saint of the Bhakti Movement.

It doesn't take any prodding for Singh to reveal his electoral preference. "My vote is for Channi maharaj (Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi) and the Congress. Why should I not vote for a party that has made a Dalit the CM?" says Singh, who owns a motorcycle repair shop in Jalandhar and comes to the fair every year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



At Sant Ravidass's birthplace in Varanasi. *Anand Singh*

After Kerala & TN, HC strikes down Karnataka ban on online gambling

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 14

IN A boost for the online gaming industry in India, a division bench of the Karnataka High Court Monday struck down key amendments to the Karnataka Police Act, 1963, which were brought in last year to ban all forms of gambling in the state, including online gambling, in order to "curb menace of gaming through the Internet, mobile apps".

"The provisions are declared to be ultra vires under the Constitution and struck down," Justice Krishna S Dixit said while pronouncing the order.

"However, nothing in the judgment shall be construed to prevent an appropriate legislation from being brought about concerning the subject that is betting and gambling in accordance with the provisions of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPRESS NETWORK



ISRO PLACES EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE IN ORBIT

TRINAMOOL SWEEPS BENGAL CIVIC POLLS

PAGES 9, 10

Meet 'Narine' of Punjab: Tennis-ball cricket in village to IPL via YouTube

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

PRATYUSH RAJ
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

OF ALL the fascinating paths to an IPL team, Ramesh Kumar's story is a perfect fairytale for the social media age.

His father repairs footwear, his mother is a bangle seller. And the 23-year-old was happy with the meagre prize money and small-time buzz of tennis-ball cricket in Punjab when he suddenly went viral on YouTube. The clip of him in action stirred an IPL cricketer who shared it with his coach — and in a blink, Ramesh's life changed.

Today, Ramesh, aka "Narine Jalalabadiya", finds himself in Kolkata Knight Riders, picked for Rs 20 lakh at the IPL auction on Sunday. Just the climax awaits: a six off the final ball, or maybe a Super Over in which he bowls six different deliveries, to win the Cup for his team.

While "Narine" is a reference to West Indian mystery spinner and T20 star Sunil Narine for the skill to conjure up different balls with the same action, the "Jalalabadiya" in the Internet moniker tells not only Ramesh's story but also that of his father's migrant dreams.

Twenty-five years ago,



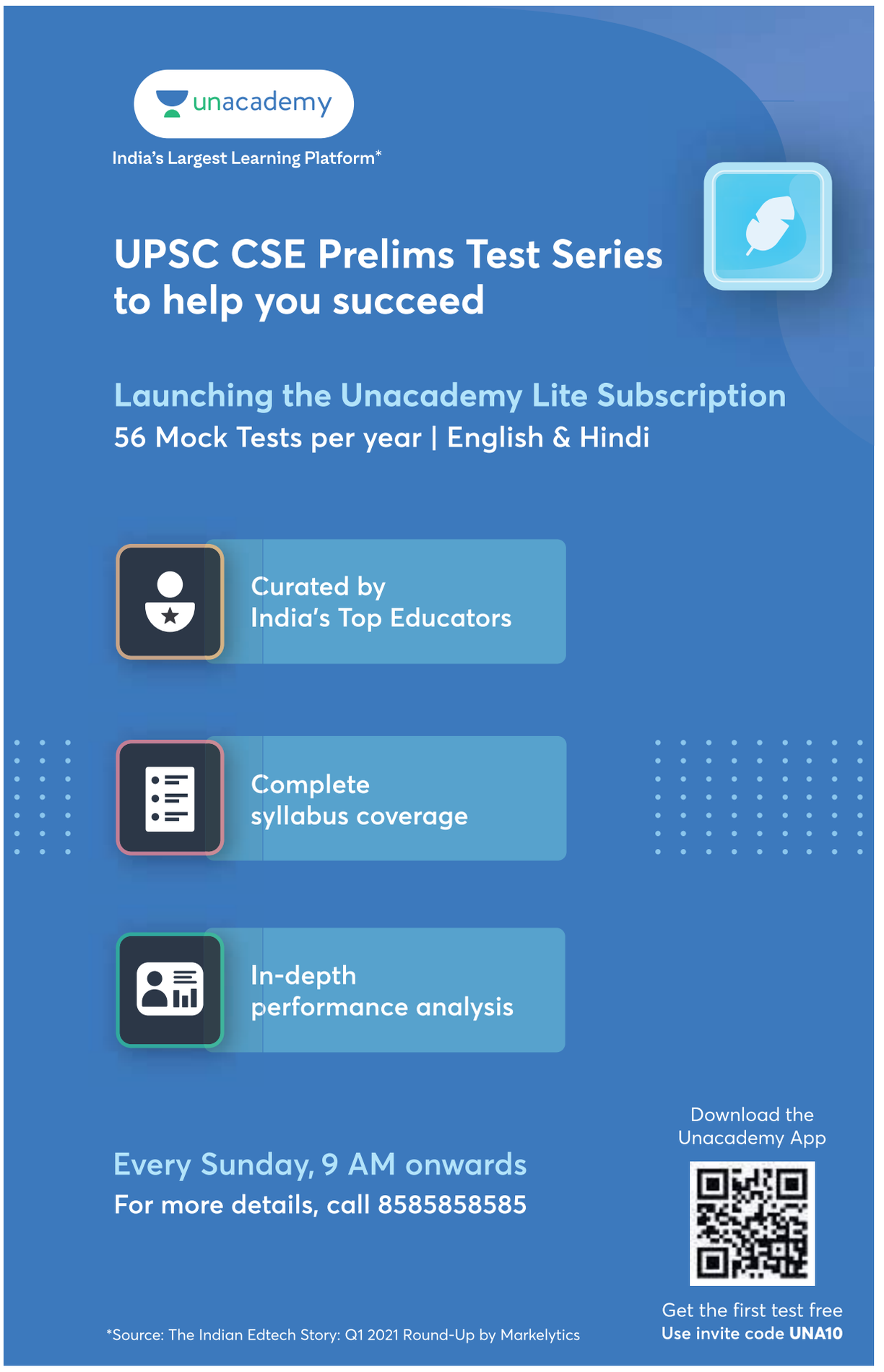
Ramesh Kumar's father repairs footwear, his mother is a bangle seller

Mangu Ram left his hometown of Hanumangarh in Rajasthan in search of work and a better life for his family, and eventually settled down in Jalalabad in Punjab's Fazilka district. Now his son will be rubbing shoulders with T20 legends in the world's biggest cricket league.

"I grew up watching the IPL and used to mimic Sunil Narine. I used to play tennis-ball tournaments in Punjab, and my bowling action and batting style became viral. One day (in March-April last year), someone posted a video of me with the caption 'Narine Jalalabadiya', and it got stuck," Ramesh told *The Indian Express*.

"Honestly, I don't know what kind of bowler I am, but I can bowl six different deliveries with the same action. This is why I get so many wickets," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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WEB EXCLUSIVE



HOLLYWOOD REWIND | INSIDE OUT: AN UNLIKELY COMING-OF-AGE TALE WHERE EMOTIONS REIGN SUPREME

Inside Out was nominated for two Oscars, and crashed the ticket counter upon its release. Safe to say, you can include this one in the slowly building catalogue of modern animation classics.

TECH



REDMI SMART BAND PRO REVIEW

Geared for fitness. Being pitched as a 'SportsWatch'

ENTERTAINMENT



KALLAN D'SOUZA MOVIE REVIEW

The Soubin Shahir movie falls flat

EXPRESS AUDIO

China's ignorance of written pacts and hijab row

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode we discuss the LAC border issue in Ladakh. We also discuss the hijab controversy

FROM PAGE ONE

Plea in HC

petitions filed by Muslims girls from pre-university colleges in Udupi who have been barred from classes for wearing hijabs in alleged violation of uniforms prescribed by a college committee.

"As far as Muslim girls are concerned, they are permitted to wear scarves matching with the bottom wear with red hem on corners" by Kendriya Vidyalayas, Senior Advocate Devadatt Kamat told the full bench. "In fact, the Kendriya Vidyalayas even today, they permit by notification, even though they have uniforms. Even at the national level, this has been the tradition. Governments have permitted headscarves to be worn," Kamat said.

"Headscarves for Muslim girls and headgear allowance for Sikhs. This is in line with Article 25 of the Constitution," he argued.

The case was adjourned for further hearing on Tuesday.

On Monday, the counsel for petitioners told the court the Muslim girls were wearing hijabs to their classes until a Karnataka government order of February 5 legitimised a ban.

One of the main contentions of the counsel was that the state government, which has the responsibility of maintaining public order, had outsourced the responsibility of deciding on the fundamental right to freedom of religion (subject to public order) to a College Development Council (CDC) through the February 5 order. "The government order declaration that wearing a headscarf is not protected under Article 25 is totally erroneous... delegation to a CDC to decide whether to permit students to wear headscarves or not is totally illegal. As lordships are aware, under Article 25, the only restrictions which come to the aid of the state in restricting freedom of religion is public order," Kamat argued.

"Public order is a state responsibility, it is a responsibility of the executive. The question that will arise for consideration is whether a CDC, consisting of an MLA and subordinates, will decide whether exercising this fundamental freedom under Article 25 is permissible or not. An extra statutory authority has been made the guardian of our Constitutional freedom, which is totally impermissible," he said.

The counsel for the girls said that the use of headscarves does not have to be an essential religious practice for it to be considered for protection under the right to freedom of religion.

"If there is a practice that a believer thinks is part of his faith and that practice by itself is innocuous, it is not something, my lord, which by itself violates public order. By itself, it does not infringe on anyone's freedom. In this context, the question of essential religious practice will not arise. It is simply a facet of belief," the senior advocate argued.

"Till the GO (February 5), they have been going with hijabs. It is an innocuous practice. State should facilitate freedom of religion not obstruct," he argued.

Earlier, when the hearing began Monday, Chief Justice Awasthi called for responsible reporting by the media on the issue. "My earnest request to the media is to be more responsible. We all have to behave like more responsible citizens. We are not saying anything to the media, we are not on that issue. Our request is that the media must see its responsibility as the fourth pillar of democracy," the chief justice said.

Schools reopen

that they had orders from the government and the court that they can't be allowed in, many of the students and teachers had to remove their hijabs and burqas before entering the campus.

Similarly, at the government-run Sardar High School in Belagavi, teachers and staff stopped Muslim girls and asked them to remove their burqas and hijabs at the school gate.

Over 30 students in Kodagu were sent back from school after they refused to remove their hijabs. In Shivamogga, 10 students from Class 10 and two from Class 9 at KPS School, who refused to remove their hijabs at the gates, were not allowed entry.

At a government school in Aldur, Chikkamagaluru, head teacher C S Suresh said 16 students came to school in hijab, of whom two returned home after the school authorities insisted that they remove their hijabs. "When they were told about the High Court's interim order, which restrains all students across religions from wearing religious dress in classrooms, 14 removed their hijabs," Suresh said.

In many schools in northern Karnataka, however, teachers and staff allowed students to attend classes with their headscarves.

The hijab row had so far been confined to colleges -- pre-university colleges (Class 11 and 12) and above. Following the row, high schools (Class 8 and above) and colleges in the state were shut from February 9. While high schools opened today, the Higher Education department announced that all first-grade and postgraduate colleges as well as universities and technical institutes would stay shut till February 16. Until now, even in colleges that had a no-hijab policy in classrooms, students who came to the campus in hijabs and burqas usually took them off in a designated 'ladies room'.

The Karnataka High Court, which is hearing the matter, had in its interim order on Friday restrained "all the students regardless of their religion or faith from wearing saffron shawls (bhagwa) scarfs, hijab, religious flags or the like, within the classroom, until further orders". It said its order "is confined to...institutions wherein the College Development Committees have prescribed the student dress code/ uniform".

Despite the order being applicable to only colleges where hijabs are banned as part of the uniform code, it has been interpreted as a general ban in many districts, government officials said.

Schools in the southern district of Udupi, where the standoff first began, reopened amidst prohibitory orders. According to officials from the education department, girls in hijabs removed them before entering the premises. Udupi tehsildar Pradeep Kurudekar said, "I visited a few schools and Muslim students were seen abiding by the High Court's order. They removed their hijabs before entering the classes. So far, we have not come across any incident of Hindu students turning up in saffron shawls. Moreover, police have been deployed near the schools to keep a check on the law and order situation." Speaking on the issue of girls being forced to remove their hijabs and burqas before entering school campuses, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, "Schools up to 10th standard have reopened today. A few incidents have been reported in various districts. A meeting will be convened to discuss the lacunae and standard operating procedures. School managements, principals and parents have the responsibility of obeying the High Court."

A special session of the Karnataka legislature began on Monday but the issue of the hijab ban in some colleges in the state did not find a mention though Congress legislators arrived for an address of the joint legislature by Governor Thawarchand Gehlot wearing black bands on their arms as a mark of protest against the curbs imposed on Muslim girls from attending classes in the Udupi region.

Ravidassias

His brother Dilbag Singh, however, says he will vote for the Aam Aadmi Party because Punjab needs "change". "We have given enough chances to the Congress and the Akali Dal. Only the broom can clean up our state," he says, referring to the AAP's election symbol.

The Punjab Assembly elections, which were to be held on February 14, were postponed to February 20 following several representations made by political parties to the Election Commission saying the poll date would clash with Guru Ravidas Jayanti, an annual three-day fair starting February 16, for which community members, who identify themselves as Ravidassias, travel to Varanasi in large numbers. Many of them take a special train, the Begampura Express, organised by the Dera Sachkhand Ballan in Jalandhar, the largest dera of the Ravidassias.

The postponement of the elections underlines the importance of the Ravidassia community in Punjab. The Ravidassias are a Dalit community of whom the bulk live in the Doaba region. Of the Sachkhand's 20 lakh followers worldwide, around 15 lakh live in Punjab, mostly in the Doaba region that has 23 Assembly seats (out of the state's 117). Around 61% (11.88 lakh) of Doaba's Dalits belong to the Ravidassia community. The fair, spread across 20 acres, is held adjacent to the Banaras Hindu University. On Monday, with two days left for the festival to begin, the mood is already festive with people milling around the janam sthal -- the memorial for Sant Ravidass -- and stalls selling food, toys, photographs and statues of Dalit icons, and other trinkets. There are also tents serving langar and others that serve as resting spaces for pilgrims.

Outside one of the tents, Gurjeet Singh, 35, a plumber from Ludhiana, is eating manchurian off a paper plate. He, too, readily speaks about the elections back home. "For now, my vote is for the jhaadu. We need to give them a chance. People in Delhi have voted them to power only because they made good schools and mohalla clinics," says Gurjeet, who says he participated in the farmers' agitation outside Delhi.

"The Centre had no option but to take back the laws. They did it because elections are here. If their intention was good, why did they wait for 700 farmers to die and for us to struggle in the Delhi winters (before repealing the laws)," he adds. Around 100 metres away, a group of women are making rotis for the langar. Among them is Charan Kaur, 52, a farmer from Ludhiana. "I don't know who I will vote for... But the Congress has made someone from our community the CM. It is like supporting Mayawati in UP. I have heard that she put up statues of prominent persons from the Dalit community in Lucknow," she says.

N D Cheema, member of the Sri Guru Ravidas Janmasthan Public Charitable Trust that organises the fair, said invitations have been sent out to several politicians, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi, UP CM Yogi Adityanath and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, among others.

"We have not received a confirmation from any of them yet. By tomorrow, we will know who is coming," he says.

Air India CEO

"The Air India board met this afternoon to consider the candidature of Mr Ilker Ayci. Mr N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, was a special invitee to this board meeting. The board after due deliberations approved the appointment of Mr Ilker Ayci as the CEO & MD of Air India. This appointment is subject to requisite regulatory approvals," the Tata Group said in a statement.

The Ministry of Home Affairs' security clearance is necessary for any change in the top management of an airline, which is then forwarded by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

"I am delighted and honored to accept the privilege of leading an iconic airline and to join the Tata Group. Working closely with my colleagues at Air India and the leadership of the Tata Group, we will utilise the strong heritage of Air India to make it one of the best airlines in the world with a uniquely superior flying experience that reflects Indian warmth and hospitality," Ayci said.

"Ilker is an aviation industry leader who led Turkish Airlines to its current success during his tenure there. We are delighted to welcome Ilker to the Tata Group where he would lead Air India into the new era," Chandrasekaran said.

Ayci was born in Istanbul in 1971. He is a 1994 alumnus of Bilkent University's Department of Political Science and Public Administration, according to the Tata Group statement. After a research stay on political science at the Leeds University in the UK in 1995, he completed a Master's programme in International Relations at the Marmara University in Istanbul in 1997.

The new chief executive will have the responsibility of turning AI around from an operational and financial standpoint. According to latest available public data, Air India reported a provisional loss of Rs 6,555.66 crore during 2020-21. The airline currently controls over 4,400 domestic and 1,800 international landing and parking slots at domestic airports as well as 900 slots overseas

Online gambling

Constitution," Justice Dixit said.

The ruling comes nearly two months after the division bench, comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Dixit, had reserved their judgment on December 22, 2021, in petitions filed by the All India Gaming Federation and gaming companies opposing the ban that bracketed online games like rummy with gambling.

"We have discussed various arguments, doctrines, principles, everything, and then we have come to this conclusion. In the above circumstances, the writ petitions succeed," the High Court said on Monday.

"A writ of mandamus is issued restraining the respondents (Karnataka Police) from interfering with the online gaming business and allied activities of the petitioners," the division bench said.

The full details of the order are awaited.

The gaming federation and others had sought a stay on the new provisions of the Act, which sought to place games of skill when played online in the category of games of chance. The state government had told the High Court that it would not take any "precipitating action" under the new laws till the cases are decided.

It was on September 21, 2021, that the state legislature passed a legislation to amend the Karnataka Police Act to impose a complete ban on gambling in the state. The Amendment Act came into force on October 5. Two days later, the state police filed an FIR against promoters of Dream 11 in Bengaluru before the High Court asked them not to take coercive action. After the amendments came into force, online gaming companies geo-locked the availability of their sites and apps in Karnataka to avoid police action.

The new law was passed despite similar laws introduced in neighbouring Tamil Nadu and Kerala, for broadening the scope of gambling beyond what has been defined by law, not passing legal muster.

On August 3, 2021, the Madras High Court struck down the Tamil Nadu Gambling and Police Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 as being "ultra vires". On September 27, the Kerala High Court, relying on the Madras High Court order, struck down an amendment to the Kerala Gaming Act, 1960, which imposed a ban on online rummy.

One of the primary grounds on which the new gaming laws was challenged in Karnataka was that games of skill have been clubbed with games of chance in the definition of gaming in the new laws -- if the games of skill are played for prizes or bets.

The gaming federation and companies argued that as per the law laid down by the Supreme Court in 1957, competitive games of skill are business activities protected under Article 19 (1) (g) of the Constitution.

'Narine' of Punjab

Ramesh could have remained a minor star on the tennis-ball circuit if not for KKR and Punjab player Gurkeerat Mann. Struck by the video that reached his phone, Mann shared it with KKR assistant coach and former Mumbai player Abhishek Nayar.

The two were impressed but not sure if the boy in the clip could be an effective hard-ball spinner. Mann called Ramesh to the PCA stadium in Mohali during Punjab's senior team camp. To his pleasant surprise, the boy from Jalalabad could replicate his tennis-ball prowess. More bowling videos were shot -- this time by Mann himself -- and forwarded to Nayar's phone.

A few days later, Ramesh got a call from an unknown number. "I thought it was a random call for a personal loan from some bank...why on earth would Abhishek Nayar call me! I got convinced only when Mann paaji told me that it was a call from Abhishek Nayar," he said.

Ramesh's world was changing.

Mann helped the budding spinner with spikes, kits and even had him sign up with Minerva Punjab Cricket Academy. Ramesh represented Minerva in Punjab's famous JP Atray Cricket Tournament and bagged 12 wickets in three matches.

He was then selected for the district team, but since Fazilka plays in a minor division in Punjab's local league, Mann helped him to move to Kapurthala. Playing for Kapurthala in the Katoch Shield, Punjab's inter-district tournament, Ramesh twinkled out 12 wickets in four matches.

"I owe my life to Mann paaji. He has done so much for me. He has been a rock for me over the past year. If not for him, I would have been playing tennis-ball cricket only. He has helped me financially...he shot my videos on his phone, and always encourages me," he said.

Once Ramesh had nailed the transition to a cricket ball, Nayar stepped in and called him to Mumbai for the KKR trials. Last month, as he took his seat on the plane to Mumbai, his first flight, anxiety gripped him. "I started chanting God's name, and was desperate for the plane to land somehow," he said.

With the nerves still jangling, "it took five minutes for me to open the door to my hotel room". The next day, he went for trials and did whatever Nayar asked him to do before taking the flight back.

"Abhishek sir told me to keep working hard. With the help of Mann paaji, I put my name in the auction this time. I had no clue that I would be picked. It was a surprise when KKR went for me," he said.

KKR, meanwhile, is not keen to hype their new signing. The word from their camp is that Ramesh has potential, although a lot of work needs to be put in before he is ready for the big league.

The new pick now dreams of representing Punjab and playing for India one day, but knows there's a long and tough road ahead.

"Cricket is not just my passion. It is my occupation. I have been playing cricket since I was 16. My father didn't like me playing cricket all the time, he wanted me to study. But the player of the match award in tennis ball tournaments used to have cash awards, and my focus was always to earn that," he said.

So how will he spend his IPL money? "My mother sells bangles in the villages of Jalalabad. I will open a shop for her, and save the rest for the education of my two younger brothers."

Inflation

of the price pressures on the inputs side and of manufacturers passing on the higher input costs to their output prices.

Earlier in the day before the government released data on prices, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said there was no need to panic on the inflation front. "Today's inflation print is expected to be around 6 per cent. So that should not surprise or create any alarm, because we have taken that into consideration," he said after the RBI board's customary post-Budget meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

There was a delicate balance between inflation and growth and the Reserve Bank was fully aware of its commitment to inflation, Das said. The momentum of inflation in India, he pointed out, has been moving down since October and that the "price stability" was of foremost importance to the central bank. "The rise in CPI inflation during October-December is mainly on account of the statistical effect of a low base," he said.

Last week, the RBI had projected India's average inflation to soften to 4.5 per cent in 2022-23, down from an estimated 5.3 per cent in 2021-22. The RBI's inflation projections are "robust" but contingent on downside and upside risks associated with the movement of global crude oil prices, he said. "At this point of time, our inflation projections are quite robust, and we stand by it. If there is something of course totally unforeseen, which nobody can expect, (then) that is different...," he said.

With respect to rising oil prices and their impact on inflation, he said the RBI considers a particular range within which crude prices are expected to fluctuate considering all the factors that can be anticipated and sort of foreseen as of today.

But economists said the high inflation was now turning structural, with price rise being seen in non-food segments such as clothing, fuel and light, household goods, health, transport, and communication above 6 per cent. "These prices are based on the MRP principle and will not come down once increased. Manufacturers are in the process of passing on the higher input cost to the consumer and this will carry on for the next two months too," Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda, said.

"Most states have witnessed higher than 6 per cent inflation with Haryana registering the highest inflation of 7.2 per cent. The critical element will be in March when the elections conclude as this is the time there can be a fresh round of increase in fuel prices," he said.

The structural aspect of inflation is reflected in the core inflation remaining sticky (5.96 per cent in January). "Clothing & footwear inflation now stands at a 97-month high (8.84 per cent) on the back of higher cotton prices. Household goods and services inflation at 7.1 per cent is at a 94-month high in January 2022. Amid elevated input costs, various automobile, telecom and FMCG firms have announced price hikes. As a result, core inflation has remained sticky," Sunil Kumar Sinha, Principal Economist, India Ratings and Research said.

The previous high for retail inflation was seen at 6.26 per cent in June 2021. In January, an unfavourable base effect led to a sharp turnaround in vegetables from a disinflation of 3 per cent in December 2021 to a 14-month high inflation of 5.2 per cent.

Going ahead, the CPI inflation is expected to peak in the ongoing quarter and may not moderate as quickly as projected, especially if domestic demand rebounds after the abatement of the less severe third wave, economists said but ruled out an immediate change in stance by the RBI. "The tone of the February 2022 policy review virtually rules out a stance change in April 2022, notwithstanding the elevated CPI inflation print for January 2022, and the low likelihood of a meaningful reversal in February 2022… our new base case is a change in stance in June 2022, followed by two repo rate hikes of 25 bps each in August 2022 and October 2022, guided by our view that inflation will not moderate appreciably in H1 FY2023. A calibrated increase in the reverse repo hike could commence from Q1 FY2023, although we still expect it to be dovetailed to, rather than preceding, the stance change," Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said.

In its monetary policy review on February 10, RBI kept the key policy rates unchanged and maintained an accommodative stance. It also took note of the cost-push pressures on core inflation – the non-food, non-fuel component of inflation. "Going forward, vegetable prices are expected to ease further on fresh winter crop arrivals. The softening in pulses and edible oil prices is likely to continue in response to strong supply-side interventions by the Government and increase in domestic production. Prospects of a good Rabi harvest add to the optimism on the food price front. Adverse base effect, however, is likely to prevent a substantial easing of food inflation in January," it said.

The RBI has projected 5.3 per cent retail inflation for FY22, with Q4 inflation seen at 5.7 per cent before easing to 4.9 per cent in Q1 FY23. "The MPC notes that inflation is likely to moderate in H1:2022-23 and move closer to the target rate thereafter, providing room to remain accommodative. Timely and apposite supply side measures from the Government have substantially helped contain inflationary pressures. The potential pick up of input costs is a contingent risk, especially if international crude oil prices remain elevated," it said.

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

varthana

Varthana Finance Private Limited
(Formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.,)

Registered Office at : No. 5BC-110, Varasiddhi, 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website www.varthana.com, Email: info@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office: 1162 & 1163, Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Spaze I Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram 122018.

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sub-Section (2) of Section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 as amended by The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amdt.) Act, 2016 (44 of 2016) and further Amended by The Security Interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2018.

We, **M/s. Varthana Finance Private Limited, (hereinafter referred to as "The Company " for sake of brevity and formerly known as M/s Thirumeni Finance Pvt. Ltd.,)** is a Non-Banking Finance Company, Incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 and registered with the Reserve Bank of India, having its registered office at Bangalore as mentioned in the above address and one of its Branches at Gurgaon (hereinafter referred as " Branch") hereby issue the following notice under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 to You being the Applicants/Co-Applicants and the Mortgagors for the Recovery of the Outstanding dues. **Demand Notice issued on 15.12.2021,** the contents of which are being published herewith as per Sec.13(2) of the Act R/w Rule.3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, by way of alternative service upon the Applicant and Co-Applicants No.1 to 4 for service of notice, since notices could not be served on the given addresses.

You had approached our Gurgaon branch for Credit Facility for School and accordingly made an application. The Company had considered your request and sanctioned the same, details of which are as hereunder.

Loan Account No's: S18GUR-GUR-002424, Sanctioned Loan Amount : Rs. 20,25,000/-, Total Liability as on 09.12.2021 : Rs. 23,96,249/- (With Contractual Rate Of Interest), Name & Addresses of Applicant, Co-Applicants & Mortgagors: 1). M/s. CH Harischand Higher Secondary School, Represented By Its Authorised Signatory, **2). M/s. CH Siksha Samiti Salempur Gujar,** Represented By Its Authorised Signatory, No.1 and 2 are having office at Khewat Khata No. 503, Khewat/Khata No. 683/896& 510, Salempur Gjjar Village, Pargana Dankaur Tehsil & Zilla, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh – 203201., **3). Mr. Prakash Chandra,** S/o Harish Chand, No. 112, Salempur Gurjar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Salempur Gujar, Uttar Pradesh - 203202., **4). Mrs. Amita ,** D/o Satapal, No. 40, Salempur Guljar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Salempur Gujar, Uttar Pradesh – 203202.

You No.1 to 4 are Applicants/Co-Applicants/Mortgagors have executed the necessary security documents in favour of the Company to secure the repayment of dues and payable under the said Loan agreement.

The Manager/Collection Manager and other officers of the Company have repeatedly requested to all of you, to pay the outstanding amount and to ensure that the account does not become a Non-performing Asset, but you wilfully and unjustifiably failed to pay and not heeded to the innumerable requests made to you from time to time and as a result, the above-mentioned loan account has been Classified as **Non Performing Asset on 12.08.2021.**

By virtue of the documents duly executed by the Mortgagors, the charge has been created in favour of the Company on the below mentioned Security. The Company hereby informs all of you that, under Sub-Section (13) of Section 13 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) you shall, after receipt of this notice refrain from either transfer by way of Sale, Lease or otherwise create third party interest in any of the below mentioned secured assets, without prior written consent of the Company. The Applicants/Co-Applicants and Mortgagors attention is invited to sub-section (8) of Section 13 in respect of time available to redeem the Secured Assets.

In view of the above, the Company hereby issues this notice under Sub-Sec (2) of the Section 13 of the Act and calls upon you all to pay, a sum of **Rs. 23,96,249/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Two Hundred And Forty Nine Only)** as on **09.12.2021** with interest from **10.12.2021** with contractual rate of interest, untill the date of payment, together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges, within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which the Company shall be constrained to attach, sell and/or take all actions as envisaged in Sub-Sec (4) of Sec.13 of the Act and/or adopt any other legal proceedings against all of you before the competent Court/Authority.

If you have any representations to be made in response to this Notice, please mark the same to The Authorised Officer, M/s Varthana Finance Pvt. Ltd, No.5BC-110, 'Varasiddhi', 3rd Floor, Outer Ring Road Service Road, HRBR Layout 3rd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore–560043, to enable us to respond in time. Please note we shall not be responsible for not responding to any representations made in response to this notice if the same is addressed to any other person or place.

Details of Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property Khewat/Khata No. 503, Kheat/Khata No. 683/896 & 510 totally land measuring 5341.23 Sq. Yds, Situated Salempur Gurjar Village, Pargana DanKaur Tehsil, Gautam Budh Nagar, bounded as under, East : Road, West : Other Plot, North : Other Plot, South : Other Plot.

Indenture of Mortgage deed executed by M/s CH Harish Chand Senior Secondary School Rpt. By its Manager Sri. Prakash Chand, Registered as document No. 20947, dated 21-6-2018, at Sub-register office Greater Noida.

Date : 15.02.2022, Place : Salempur Gurjar **Authorised Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited**

Gurgaon collapse: Khattar orders structural audit of affected towers

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 14

TAKING COGNIZANCE of the incident at Chintels Paradiso society in Gurgaon's sector 109, where a large portion of the sixth floor collapsed all the way to the first floor, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Monday said the government has in principle decided that apart from structural engineers appointed by builders, the Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) should also conduct a structural audit by reputed government institutions or a structural engineer empanelled by them before giving the occupation certificate. Two women had died in the collapse, which took place on Thursday evening.

On Sunday, Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala had said the government was considering making changes to the policy of granting occupation certificates to high-rise structures. At present, the DTCP issues one to a developer after checking if the building has been constructed in keeping with the approved layout plan and as per the building code.

The CM also said directions had been given for a structural audit of the affected towers of Chintels Paradiso to be conducted by IITs or any other reputed government institution, to detect any defects in design or workmanship during construction. "The local administration has been directed to provide alternate temporary re- accommodation to all affected families on an immediate basis as people are scared to stay in this tower," he said.

The CM added that since some group housing societies in the vicinity have also shown signs of structural damage at an early stage, the DTCP has been directed to identify such buildings based on complaints received from resident welfare associations or any other agency and get their structural audits conducted too.

He said the state government will take strict action against those found guilty. "The DTCP should immediately take action against all directors of Chintels India Limited, Chintels Exports Private Limited, and Chintels India Private Limited, structural engineers, architects and contractors who constructed the residential tower and the resident who had done additional construction work on sixth floor. Directions have been given to register an FIR with immediate effect," said the CM. "The incident is very unfortunate and the government will ensure such incidents do not happen in future."

On Sunday, after a detailed report was submitted by the district town planner (DTP) enforcement, R S Bhath, an FIR was registered against the developer, structural engineer, proof consultant, architect, contractor, and an unknown person.

Bhath said, "... As per provision in rules, when an occupation certificate is given, town and country planning department does not conduct an audit and neither structural engineers from government does an audit. In the provisions, a qualified structural engineer has to give a certificate at the time of procuring occupation certificate. In this case, a structural engineer was from IIT-Delhi and another was from IIT-Roorkee, who had several years of experience. They gave a certificate that the building was constructed under their supervision and met the specifications laid down in the National Building Code. We believe that with the mishap occurring, this implies these declarations are fraudulent and hence an FIR has been registered."

The office of DTP, enforcement, has also written to IIT-Delhi to engage their services for a structural audit and provide technical consultancy services pertaining to structural distress in the society.

Shahdara rape: NGO claims not allowed to meet woman, HC asks why it wants to

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

THE DELHI High Court Monday directed Delhi Police to file a status report on the Shahdara rape-assault case in response to a plea filed by NGO United Sikhs alleging that it was denied permission to visit the victim and her family.

Police told the court it is a "very communally sensitive case", and protection was provided to the victim to maintain law and order in the area. While the NGO alleged that the victim was being denied the right to have an advocate of her choice, police said she is represented by an amicus curiae appointed by the district legal services authority of Shahdara. "The process of the court cannot be used by an NGO to impose itself on the victim. We cannot allow somebody to paradrop through the process of the court. The case is communally sensitive. It can lead to larger ramifications," submitted police.

The court asked the NGO if it has been approached by the victim, and said the state is sensitive to the issue. "For what purpose can you contact the victim? What locus do you have," it said, while listing the case in April.

It also took exception to the NGO counsel's submission that it will provide "best of" legal assistance to the victim and said the same amounted to undermining the legal aid and system of court.

On January 26, a young woman was abducted, allegedly gangraped by her neighbours, and paraded on the streets.



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

(₹ in crores)

Particulers	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
	Quarter ended 31 December, 2021 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 September, 2021 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31 December, 2020 (Unaudited)	Nine months ended 31 December, 2021 (Unaudited)	Nine months ended 31 December, 2020 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March, 2021 (Audited)	Quarter ended 31 December, 2021 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 September, 2021 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31 December, 2020 (Unaudited)	Nine months ended 31 December, 2021 (Unaudited)	Nine months ended 31 December, 2020 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March, 2021 (Audited)
Total income from Operations	1,638.91	1,421.06	1,245.93	4,113.07	2,693.19	4,955.93	1,761.85	1,523.19	1,354.44	4,427.08	2,925.92	5,349.83
Net profit / (loss) (before tax & exceptional items)	169.11	172.91	134.23	456.17	297.90	574.02	179.27	169.22	134.32	467.58	301.23	577.52
Net profit / (loss) (before tax & after exceptional items)	169.11	172.91	134.23	456.17	297.90	574.02	179.27	169.22	134.32	467.58	301.23	577.52
Net profit after tax	129.90	132.63	103.14	347.23	219.23	404.56	135.53	125.94	102.10	350.46	220.63	391.06
Total comprehensive income	130.34	129.85	104.05	346.05	219.19	403.35	135.97	123.16	103.01	349.28	220.59	389.85
Equity share capital	188.10	188.10	94.05	188.10	94.05	94.05	188.10	188.10	94.05	188.10	94.05	94.05
Other Equity (Excluding Revaluation Reserve)						4,312.43						4,309.08
Earnings Per Share (not annualized) (Note 4)												
(Face Value of ₹ 2 each)												
(a) Basic (in ₹)	1.38	1.41	1.10	3.69	2.33	4.30	1.44	1.34	1.09	3.73	2.35	4.16
(b) Diluted (in ₹)	1.38	1.41	1.10	3.69	2.33	4.30	1.44	1.34	1.09	3.73	2.35	4.16

Notes:

1. The above standalone and consolidated financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 14th February 2022. The Statutory Auditors of the company have conducted limited review of the financial results for the Quarter and nine months ended 31st Dec. 2021.
2. The Standalone and consolidated financial results have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules thereunder and in terms of Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as Amended) and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended. The full format of the aforesaid financial results are available on the Stock Exchanges website of BSE **(www.bseindia.com/corporates)**, NSE **(www.nseindia.com/corporates)** and Company's website at **www.ircon.org**.
4. The Board of Directors of IRCON in its 268th meeting held on 5th April, 2021 had approved the proposal for issuance of 47,02,57,870 fully paid-up Bonus Shares of ₹ 2 each in the ratio of 1:1, (i.e. issue of 1 (one) equity share for every existing 1 (one) equity share with 21st May, 2021 as the Record Date for the purpose of ascertaining the eligibility of Shareholders. The Final Listing and Trading Approvals from NSE and BSE have been received on 31st May, 2021. Post Bonus, the Paid-up Share Capital of the Company is ₹ 188,10,31,480 divided into 94,05,15,740 equity shares of ₹ 2 each. Accordingly for compliance of accounting standards on Earning per share (IND AS 33), the per share calculation of all previous year/periods presented above are based on new number of Equity shares.
5. Ministry of Railway (MoR) vide letter dated 18-10-2021 has decided in principle for closure of Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited, Joint venture Company of the company.
6. Interim Dividend of ₹ 0.70 per equity share on face value of ₹ 2 per share for the year 2021-22 was approved in BoD held on 14th February, 2022. This is in addition to Interim Dividend of ₹ 1.15 per equity share on face value of ₹ 2 per share for the year 2021-22 approved in BoD held on 12th August 2021 and 12th November 2021 and subsequently paid.

For and on behalf of Ircon International Limited

Sd/-
Yogesh Kumar Misra
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN-07654014

Place: New Delhi
Date: 14th February, 2022

ircon
IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Registered Office: C-4, District Centre Saket, New Delhi- 110017, Tel: +91-11-29565666, Fax: +91-11-26522000/26854000, E-mail: info@ircon.org, Website: www.ircon.org, CIN: L45203DL1976GOI008171

ADVERTORIAL

Living with Covid 19



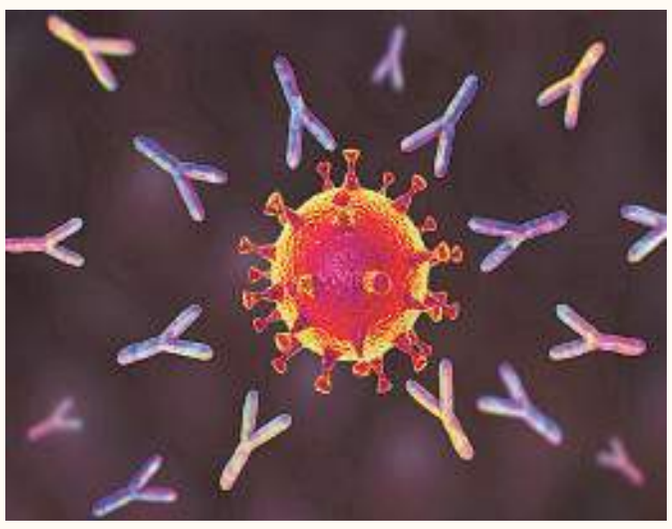
Dr Shashank R Joshi
MD, DM, FRCP, FICP, FACE, FACP
Consultant Endocrinologist, Mumbai
Member, Maharashtra COVID-19 Task force
Padma Shri Awardee

SARS-CoV-2 is predictably unpredictable but is slow mutating new RNA virus which has clearly disrupted the world since 2020.Gazing into the future of SARS-CoV-2, it is predicted that the new variants of concerns due to mutants would not be eradicated anytime soon but may be less severe, though more contagious like Omicron. The new normal has moved from "herd immunity" (a term which has lost its science as the pandemic evolved) to "endemic "word which also needs lots to be thought about.

The evolution of SARS-CoV-2 over the next several months will determine what the end of this global crisis will look like. Will the virus morph into another common cold or evolve into something more threatening such as influenza or worse? As countries lift restrictions, opportunities increase for SARS-CoV-2 to make sig-nificant evolutionary leaps where it may become a manageable condition in most and protecting the most vulnerable likely to deteriorate. We need to live our lives with Covid 19 with care, caution and precautions without fear and panic.

The novel coronavirus disease of 2019 is associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Our current focus is to save every life from covid 19. Most lives are lost in elderly or unvaccinated population or those who have underlying immunocompromised states or co morbid disorders like hypertension, diabetes, heart diseases or kidney or liver issues. The impact of thrombotic complications has been increasingly recognized as an important component of this disease associated with higher risk of death. To add to the burden of thromboembolism, winters are often accompanied with an unusually high occurrence of heart attacks or strokes. Deaths from heart disease, including sudden deaths, tend to increase rapidly at the onset of winters. The risk of having a heart attack during the winter months is twice as high as during the summers. So, people with cardiometabolic conditions must take utmost care to prevent covid 19 or treat aggressively.

The quest for effective drugs to treat COVID-19 and vaccines to prevent complications has been a priority ever since the outbreak of the disease. Up to now, COVID treatment choices have been inferred from the experience with other coronaviruses or viral infection outbreaks. The options currently being used clinically are categorically divided as antivirals, immunomodulators and other drugs. However, it has been observed that the use of such drugs has shown both, limited efficacy & specificity against SAR-COV-2 but evidence continues to be generated. Many of these medicines were repurposed and are still under investigation.



'Lone Coronavirus battling against the host of antibodies.'

Flu and influenzas pandemics have ravaged the world since 1918 till date. Covid 19 had also seen waves and strains evolve which has seen it evolve from a life-threatening pneumonia like disease from the Wuhan strain till the current less severe Omicron strain which is flu like syndrome in most people now. Omicron related tsunamic like wave is less severe but highly contagious. The manifestations of Omicron are essentially an upper airway disease which is "nose" and "throat" covid. They are fever, nasal congestion/stuffy or blocked nose, sore throat with pain, cough, headache, bodyache, tiredness(fatigue), myalgia (muscle pain) and many others. The lung covid which was seen in the Delta strain can still rarely exist often may have loss of smell and taste should never be missed. Monitoring temperature and oxygen saturation will always be the key in the first week particularly. Symptomatic treatment is the key with antipyretics, anti-inflammatory, antihistamines and simple immunity stimulating micronutrients. So current mild disease can be managed by symptomatic treatment solutions and red flagging the vulnerable groups. Simple medicines like low dose aspirin, statins or anticoagulants save lives in the high risk cardiometabolic co morbidities like diabetes and heart diseases.

Now, there is a need to start living with Covid 19 ens-uring to follow universal behaviour of masking, air-ventilation, distancing, and sanitisation, behave responsibly and stay safe.

Need of the Hour : Boost Immunity



Rohit Shelatkar
B Pharmacy, MSc. Pharmacology,
Sr. Vice President, Director,
Vitabiotics Ltd. UK

Heads the international business team along with his participation in the Product Formulations and Regulatory Affairs.

For those who had hoped that 2021 would be the year that put the pandemic in the past tense, it was a harsh reminder that it is still very much present. Rather than laying plans to return to the 'normal' life we knew before the pandemic, 2022 is the year the world must come to terms with the fact that SARS-CoV-2 is here to stay.

The emergence of the Omicron variant last November highlighted the ongoing challenges of life with SARS-CoV-2. The transmission rate increases with each new emerging variant & hence vaccine is only partially effective method of protection against the new mutants.

While COVID-19 is prevalent, the combined use of immunomodulatory or anti-inflammatory agents and antivirals might be the optimal therapy for the disease. The emergence of affordable and powerful oral anti-COVID-19 drugs and the increased uptake of vaccination will bring hope for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It takes years to develop antiviral drugs & looking at repurposing easilyaccessible which treat COVID symptoms. The need of the hour is to look at therapies that can be taken at home in tablet form to reduce hospital load. Knowledge & detailed science behind use of aspirin & promethazine in treating flu like symptoms backed by clinical evidence is sufficiently available.

Micronutrient have potential roles in interfering with virus at the entry site, and inhibiting activities of replication cycle of severe acute respiratorysy syndrome coronavirus Micro-nutrient also have immunomodulating, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and antiviral properties. Therefore, micronutrients are consequently a promising alterative nutritional approach to combat COVID-19.

Vitamin D supplementation is safe and effective up to 4,000 IU in reducing virus replication and controlling the cytokine storm. In COVID, vitamin C up to 1500 mg provides optimum in COVID-19.Vitamin B3 not only helps to build and maintain a healthy immune system but it could potentially prevent or reduce COVID-19 symptoms or treat SARS-CoV-2 infection. Zinc has immunomodulatory, antiviral & anti-inflammatory responses and supplementing 15-30 mg Zinc per day in COVID infected is effective. Selenium and Iodine has beneficial effects on immunity, with a dose more than 100 µg per day.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still severe, and most of the drugs currently for COVID-19 are not designed specifically against SARS-CoV-2. The combination of Aspirin, Promethazine and micronutrients inhibits viral proliferation in early stage of COVID-19 thus preventing subsequent severe complications. Clinical evidence suggests that Aspirin, promethazine and micronutrients can shorten the recovery time of COVID-19 symptoms.

Need of the hour with omicron variant is to boost immunity of those vaccinated & unvaccinated as emerging variants tend to cause mild illness. Clearly better vaccines will take years to develop and right now what we need is widely available & safe, affordable therapies.

Issued in Public Interest by Vitiabiotics Ltd.

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS **12,833**

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: **490**

OXYGEN SUPPORT	118
VENTILATOR SUPPORT	37

DELHI: TOTAL CASES **18,51,906**

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	15,357	14,881
ICU BEDS	4,479	4,271

	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Feb 13	804	1,197	12	53,719
Feb 14	586	1,092	4	42,797
Total	3,416*	18,22,414	26,076	3,56,69,739

*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA	Feb 13	Feb 14
Cases	81	93
Deaths	0	0
GURGAON		
Cases	297	186
Deaths	1	1

NURSERY TO 12TH, ALL CLASSES NOW IN SESSION

Delhi goes back to school





For the first two weeks, there will be no formal teaching-learning at government schools. *Praveen Khanna*

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

ALMOST TWO years of closure and a few stuttered reopening attempts later, pre-primary, primary and middle school children in Delhi returned to classrooms on Monday, with the hope that there will be no more interruptions.

Up until now, schools had been permitted to reopen for primary class children for 18 days since the beginning of the pandemic. Delhi had first tried to reopen schools for these students from November 1 last year, but within two weeks, physical classes for all grades were suspended from November 15 due to rising air pollution levels. Schools reopened for all grades on November 29 and were ordered to shut yet again within days, citing pollution, on December 2. While schools briefly opened for classes VI to XII for 10 days, they closed completely on December 29 due to the omicron-fuelled surge in Covid cases.

For their first class on returning to school, class III students of Veer Savarkar Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya told each other what they did at home and what they had missed about school.

"I learnt lots of things at home — nouns, counting, tables 1 to 15, pronouns, prepositions, singular plural — from my elder sister. But I missed school a lot... the playground, classroom, drawings, and friends," said Lakshmi. She said now that she is back to school, she is excited to draw flowers, houses, girls, schools and playgrounds.

Her classmate Chhavi had less to say about what she did at home. "I was getting bored at home and was missing school," she said.

After asking students to share their experiences, their class teacher led a Happiness Curriculum class. For the first two weeks, there will be no formal teaching-learning at government schools. The focus will be on the Happiness Curriculum and story-telling sessions to ease children into the school environment, and on one-on-one learning level assessment.

While most children said they are excited to meet their friends, Shrishti, another class III student, said she does not have any friends in the school currently. "I can't remember things about school from before they closed. I didn't even come when it had opened in the middle because my mother said there's no point going for just two days. I couldn't make friends during online classes because I couldn't even see them. I am excited to make friends now," she said.

The school saw 36% attendance among primary school students and 71% among middle school children on Monday.

Primary schools run by the municipal corporations also reopened on Monday. The SDMC Primary School at Chittaranjan Park saw 114 of its 735 students turn up on the first day, with some children reaching at 7.30 am itself for their 8 am classes. But they started getting restless in their benches by 10.30 am.

Head of school Anju Mittal decided to allow some sections to eat their lunches in the playground but only after tasking class teachers with watching over them to avoid crowding.

Former JNU office bearers questioned in cases from 2018

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

Office bearers from 2017-18 have been called for questioning in connection with two incidents from 2018: protests against compulsory attendance and when ABVP and JNUSU had clashed post the screening of a movie on 'love jihad'

FOUR YEARS after several FIRs were registered against former JNUSU office bearers, police in Delhi have started probing the cases and summoning them for questioning.

Office bearers from 2017-18 have been called for questioning in connection with two incidents from 2018 — when protests against compulsory attendance had resulted in two Rectors being confined to the administrative block overnight after students gheraoed the building, and when ABVP and JNUSU had clashed post the screening of a movie on 'love jihad', with the former lodging an FIR against the latter.

DCP (Southwest) Gaurav Sharma confirmed that the office bearers had been summoned for questioning.

While Geeta Kumari and Simone Zoya Khan belonged to the All India Students' Association, Duggirala Srikrishna was from the Students' Federation of India and Shubhanshu Singh from the Democratic Students' Federation.

Former JNUSU vice-president Simone Zoya Khan said she had been called on two separate occasions in February, once for each incident. "It has been in the very preliminary stages so not much has happened so far. They just asked a couple of questions related to the incident and asked me to sign a document. These are all old cases that happened during our tenure that they have opened now," she said.

Former JNUSU president Geeta Kumari also said she had been asked to sign a document. "These incidents are so far in the past that it's very difficult for us to recollect all the details now. It's been over three years. Moreover, even the officers' investigations seem to be new. They don't seem to know the political context of JNU, or which cases are politically motivated. This just seems like a tool for harassment," she said.

Shubhanshu Singh, former JNUSU joint secretary, said he had only been summoned once in the matter of the gherao of rectors and had been asked to sign a 'bound down' notice. "Some basic questions were asked about our whereabouts on that day, etc. I even asked them why they were asking about a 2018 incident now, to which they said that they had more important cases pending, and so finishing those took time," he said.

BRIEFLY

Why expand ops when you don't have funds, HC asks DMRC

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Monday asked DMRC why it was expanding its operations when it does not have the money, while seeking details regarding its bank accounts, fixed deposits, and also the annual balance sheet of 2021. The court was hearing Reliance Infrastructure-promoted Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt Ltd's petition for execution of the 2017 arbitral award, which pertains to the Delhi Airport Metro Express Line. "The Judgement Debtor is directed to file the balance sheet of 2020-21 and the details of fixed deposits and bank accounts and the money lying therein as on date within three days from today," said Justice Suresh Kumar Kait in an order.

Jamia to open campus in phases

New Delhi: Following student protests, Jamia Millia Islamia has decided to reopen its campus in a phased manner. For the time being, the university will shift to offline classes only for final-year students. Classes for postgraduate students will shift to offline mode on March 2, and for undergraduates the shift will be made on March 15. **ENS**

21-year-old commits suicide hours after being questioned by cops, they deny link

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

A 21-YEAR-OLD student allegedly committed suicide at his home on Sunday, hours after being questioned by Delhi Police in connection with a robbery case. The deceased, Suraj Thakur, also recorded a video on his phone alleging he had been harassed by the police. The incident took place in West Delhi's Hari Nagar.

The video was shared online by the family. It purportedly shows Suraj crying in his room and saying, "They (police) made me sit on a bike and took me to the station. *Meri koi galti nahi thi* (I did nothing wrong). They asked me to call my friends. They assured me that if I tell them about Ankit's whereabouts, they will leave me. I called Ankit and he came. They then asked Ankit to call his brother Abhishek... Police then told me that they (Ankit and Abhishek) harass girls. They asked me if I am involved in such activities and said that I take smack... They sent me home. I didn't do anything wrong. I am innocent. My parents' reputation is at stake. I am depressed... I am committing suicide and I am responsible for this. I won't blame anyone. No one is responsible for this..."

Suraj, a second-year BA student, is survived by his parents and two siblings. His father works as a labourer while his mother is a homemaker.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, his younger brother, Neeraj (18), claimed police "tortured" his brother. He said Suraj also worked as a helper at a garments shop to support the family. "His friends were involved in a robbery case. Police took him for questioning in the afternoon. They took his phone and didn't inform us. Later, I came to know that he had been detained. I went to Mayapuri chowki and found him," claimed Neeraj, adding that Suraj was "threatened" by police and that he went straight to his room and hanged himself.

Police denied the allegations and said they had only called him in for questioning and let him go soon.

Prashant Gautam, Additional DCP (West), said, "We were investigating a phone snatching incident and found that the user of the phone was in contact with Suraj, who used to work at a cloth market. He was called to identify the accused. Based on the inputs, a man named Abhishek was arrested and the snatched phone was recovered. After identification, Suraj left for home."

"Later in the evening, Suraj recorded a video on his phone where he alleged that he is depressed and is committing suicide as he can't bear the humiliation his family will face and no one shall be held responsible for his suicide. He committed suicide in his jhuggi. Further investigation is on and we shall take appropriate legal action in the matter," he said.

Salaries of LHMC docs deducted for NEET-PG agitation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

SALARIES OF resident doctors from the central government-run Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC) and the two associated hospitals were deducted for the period when they were on strike in December. Resident doctors from the medical college wrote to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to ensure that the payments are made.

Resident doctors from medical college hospitals across India withdrew from all emergency and routine services in December, protesting the delays in NEET-PG 2021 counselling that had resulted in a one-third shortage of young doctors at these hospitals.

The strike was called off on assurance of the union health minister that counselling dates would be announced soon and no punitive action would be taken against protesting doctors. The minister had assured that the doctors would not be marked absent and their salaries would not be deducted for the period of strike.

"We the residents of LHMC would like to draw your kind attention to our concern of deduction of salary and leaves... The strike was called off after verbal assurances given by our honourable union health minister that no punitive action will be taken, no salary deduction, and no absent will be marked during this period of strike. This harsh action has been taken by LHMC administration. We... request you to kindly look into the matter urgently...," read the letter.

LHMC's director did not respond to calls and messages seeking comment.

87-year-old bedridden woman 'raped' at home, police form SIT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

The woman lives with her daughter, aged 65, who had gone out for a walk in the park when the incident took place

AN 87-YEAR-OLD woman, who is bedridden, was allegedly assaulted and raped by an unidentified person inside her West Delhi home on Sunday. The woman lives with her daughter, aged 65, who had gone out for a walk in the park when the incident took place.

Police said no arrest has been made so far and a special investigation team (SIT) has been formed to investigate the matter.

The family claimed that the man broke in around 12.30 pm on Sunday and locked the door from the inside. When the old woman questioned him, he said he is employed with a gas agency and was called for some work. The woman suspected his activities and screamed for help. She tried to call her daughter, but the man snatched her phone, allegedly assaulted her and raped her. Her daughter found her lying injured an hour later and called the police.

The family alleged that police did not register their complaint initially and coaxed them to file a case of theft. A relative also claimed that the family did not press for rape charges because of fear of "harassment and reputation".

The relative claimed, "They (the victim and her daughter) are senior citizens and live alone. She was found bleeding from her mouth and had other injuries. She can only speak in Punjabi and told us that she was raped. She is bedridden and isn't doing well because of her health issues..."

Police denied the claims and said the family had only reported theft initially.

Additional DCP (West) Prashant Gautam said, "Based on the allegations made in the first complaint of the victim, a case of theft was registered. Later, they alleged the woman was also raped. We have now added sections of rape and voluntarily causing hurt."

Chinmoy Biswal, Additional CP (Western range) and Delhi Police PRO, said, "We sent a medical team to the victim's place for examination and are providing the woman with counselling and medical help. The allegations made by the relatives are false. Today, as soon as they made the allegations (in the case), we added appropriate sections in the FIR and began the investigation. An SIT has been formed for a speedy probe to nab the unknown accused."

Soon, e-autos on capital's roads, 3,500 applicants picked in first draw of lots

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

DELHI'S ROADS will soon see electric autos as the transport department Monday held a computerised draw of lots for allotment of 4,261 vehicles. It will soon start the process of issuing a Letter of Intent (LOI) to all successful applicants.

According to officials from the transport department, the main aim behind introducing e-autos was to curb pollution and boost last-mile connectivity. The scheme was launched last October and the department had invited online applications for registration of 4,261 e-autos. Of these, 33% (1,406) were reserved for women applicants.

To provide visibility and to ensure compliance and prevent misuse of the scheme, the department had also notified a special colour scheme — blue for normal autos and lilac for those driven by women.



The govt had invited online applications for registration of 4,261 e-autos. Of these, 33% were reserved for women. *Express*

Within less than a month, the department had received 20,589 applications of which 19,846 were from men and the remaining were women applicants.

A single common computerised draw of lots, through a randomised process, was held on Monday to select 2,855 male applicants, 743 female applicants and 285 extra applicants who will be on a waitlist. It was held under the supervision of a committee comprising senior officials of the transport department and a special invitee from the WCD department. "The LOI to the first list of successful applicants... will be given by February 28," said a statement from the transport department.

"Special features like the single-window system of subsidy disbursement and interest subvention, along with a provision for co-ownership with fleet aggregators, will make the whole process of registering and owning an e-auto extremely simple," said Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot.

WOMEN'S SAFETY, TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ON PRIORITY LIST

Gurgaon gets its first woman police commissioner, to take charge today

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 14

GURGAON'S FIRST woman police commissioner, Kala Ramachandran, will take charge on Tuesday. Ramachandran, a 1994 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, will replace K K Rao as the police commissioner of Gurgaon after the latter was transferred with immediate effect late on Sunday night.

She was earlier posted as the Principal Secretary to the government of Haryana, Transport Department, with additional charge of ADGP State Vigilance Bureau (H). She is the first woman police commissioner of the district since the commissionerate system was introduced in Gurgaon in 2007.

Ramachandran told *The Indian Express* that her priority would be improving the lives of citizens and facilitating ease of doing business. "Gurgaon being a city with diverse milieu, from rural to corporate to industrial to urban residential, the focus will be on facilitation of ease of doing business and to make life easier for everyone. The focus of the police should be on improving the lives of common citizens," she said.

Traffic management and road safety are the priority areas in that respect, said the police chief. "One thing that affects everyone is traffic. The security of citizens from street crimes such as hooliganism, snatchings, eve-teasing and drunken driving, and security of women and minors would remain a key priority. Women should be safe and that's the sign of a mature society also that women can go out of the house without fear. We will also focus on economic offences and cybercrimes," she said.



Kala Ramachandran, a 1994 batch Indian Police Service officer, will replace K K Rao

She added that after taking charge and discussing with police officers on the ground, a better evaluation of major issues and concerns would be made and, accordingly, plans would be formalised to curb crime.

Ramachandran has earlier had stints as SP in Rewari, Fatehabad and Panchkula. From 2001 onwards, she was on central deputation to the Intelligence Bureau. She headed the North Eastern Police Academy in Meghalaya from 2017-2020, and then returned to the cadre in August 2020. She has served as ADGP crime against women (CAW), Headquarter, and ADGP State Vigilance Bureau.

Outgoing police chief K K Rao, a 1996 batch IPS officer, has been transferred as inspector general of police (IGP), CPT and R, Bhondsi. Rao had taken charge in Gurgaon on June 30, 2020, in his second tenure as commissioner. He had been in the post for eight months from June 2018 to February 2019, following which he was transferred as Faridabad police commissioner.

ODISHA



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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

MEGA LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT

GOLD

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MUKHYA MANTRI ADIBANDHA TIARI YOJANA (MATY) CONSTRUCTION OF CHECK DAM

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FIRST POLLS AS LEAD PARTNER IN ALLIANCE

In Punjab, BJP attempts a makeover as it hopes to get a foot in the door

This election, BJP has fielded a number of Sikh candidates, many who joined from other parties

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 14

THERE ARE many views within the BJP about its prospects in the Punjab election. They range from a euphoric "our alliance will sweep the elections" by leaders on record to a more measured "we will be glad if we make it to double digits and form the opposition" by the same leaders off the record to "we won't even touch double digits" by a section unhappy with the importance given to turncoats and Delhi leaders.

Fighting for the first time as the senior partner in an alliance that comprises the breakaway factions of the Congress (Capt Amarinder's Punjab Lok Congress) and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD-Sanyukt), BJP's campaign, powered by the national leadership and celebrities, is as much about reimagining itself as it's about creating a '*nawaan* (new)' Punjab, a refrain in its posters. Local politicians start their address with "*Sat Sri Akali Jai Shri Ram*" while national leaders conclude with "*Jai Bharat, Jai Punjab*", and workers dance to dhol beats amid chants of "phulla" (literally flower, but meaning lotus).



PM Modi in Jalandhar on Monday. *Gurmeet Singh*

A week to go for the polls, the party is pulling out all the stops. PM Narendra Modi met Baba Gurinder Singh Dhillon, chief of Radha Soami Satsang Beas, which has a large following in the state, on Sunday, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah called on Akal Takht Jathedar to discuss their shared concern over conversions.

Traditionally a party of urban Hindus, BJP is now going to polls with a predominance of Sikh faces — national general secretary Tarun Chugh had earlier announced that over 50 per cent seats would be given to Sikhs — and panthic concerns such as the release of 'political' prisoners, including the assassin of former chief minister Beant Singh. Its poll pitch also focuses on the work it has done for the panth.

In 1997, when it first tied up with the Akali Dal, BJP had won 18 of the 22 seats it contested though it had been demanding 34. This number went up to 19 in 2007 before falling to 3 in 2017. Now it's focusing on the 60-65 seats, which have a sizeable Hindu presence after the fourth delimitation commission in 2002. Out of the 73 candidates fighting on the BJP symbol, including eight of PLC, BJP hopes to make gains in 23 seats it has won at one point or the other in the last five elections.

The party, which had become a pariah in Punjab politics during the farm agitation and continues to suffer the residual anger, has fielded 15 turncoats, which has become a point of contention among veterans. Former ministers are hoping for a win after 2007 when BJP's Jagdish Sahni was elected for the third time. Naresh Sharma, a shoe shop owner at Gandhi Chowk, says he is sure of the party's win. "We have lots of grassroots workers but no big leader, Fateh's selection has changed that."

There are scores of seats where the mere mention of BJP evokes sniggers. "They have fielded a good candidate but farm protests have alienated voters," says a trader at Talwandi Sabo.

Meanwhile, even though the nominations are over, the party is seeing a steady stream of new entrants, ranging from actors Mahie Gill and Hobby Dhaliwal, who had taken part in the farm agitation, to wrestler Khali. BJP leader Sukhminderpal Grewal claims it's because people understand the importance of aligning with the Centre for Punjab's good.

Ashutosh Kumar, a political scientist, however, says the BJP is just prepping the ground for the next elections. "This is just the beginning, they are in for the long haul."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

In UP, seats with higher women turnout rose sharply in last two polls

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

WOMEN HAVE outnumbered men in exercising their franchise in the last two Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, with the number of Assembly segments with higher female voter turnout as compared to men also rising sharply in the state. The overall percentage of women voters in UP has also been on the rise, increasing from 60.28 per cent (as against 58.68% male voters) in 2012 to 63.61 per cent (against 59.15% men voters) in 2017.

An analysis of UP election data shows that in the 2012 polls, the turnout of female voters was higher than their male counterparts in 207 seats out of the total 403 Assembly constituencies.

In the 2017 polls, of the 392 Assembly segments for which comparable data is available, female voter turnout was higher than males in 277 seats, which encompass 69 of the total 75 districts covering virtually the entire state. The data is not available for 11 seats including Dhaurahra (Kheri), Lucknow East, Isauli (Sultanpur), Etawah, Aurai (Sant Ravidas Nagar), Phulpur (Allahabad), Pratappur, Handia, Meja, Karchhana and Bara.

Out of the 277 seats, women turnout was higher than men by over 15 percentage points in 24 seats, 10-15 percentage points in 61 seats, 5-10 percentage points in 60 seats and below 5 percentage points in 132 seats.

In 2017, the highest female poll percentage as against male turnout was recorded in the Didarganj constituency of Azamgarh district, where female turnout was 64.95 per cent — 18.71 per cent higher than the male turnout of 46.24 per cent. On the other hand, the Mohanlalganj constituency of Lucknow district saw the highest male poll percentage (68.70%) against female turnout (61.16%), showing a gap of 7.54 per cent.

The analysis of the 2017 poll data reveals that the Assembly segments with maximum female turnout as compared to males were spread across the rural hinterland of eastern Uttar Pradesh, which is the state's most backward region that witnesses significant male migration to big cities for livelihood.

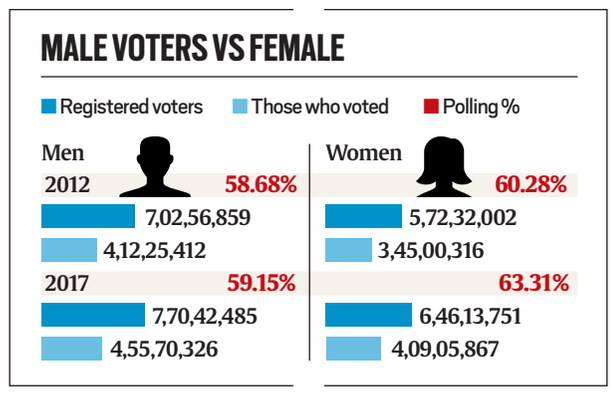
These Assembly segments include Didarganj (female turnout 64.95%, male turnout 46.24%) in Azamgarh; Bansi (female 60.78%, male 42.37%) in Siddharthnagar; Pathardeva (female 70.01%, male 51.88%); Rudrapur (female 65.77%, male 47.71%) in Deoria; and Menhdawal (female 61.06%, male 43.09%) in Sant Kabir Nagar. These five seats had also recorded the maximum female turnout as compared to their male counterparts in 2012 elections too.

In sharp contrast, among 115 constituencies, which saw a higher male turnout than females in the 2017 elections, the highest difference in vote percentage was recorded in Mohanlalganj (male 68.70%, female 61.16%), followed by Meerut (male 67.75%, female 60.82%), Varanasi South (male 66.45%, female 59.78%), Agra South (male 64.64%, female 58.99%) and Kanpur's Arya Nagar (male 54.89%, female 49.57%). These constituencies were largely spread across urban areas, which may be surprising as polling booths in urban areas are relatively closer to homes than rural areas.

In 2012 elections, the maximum difference between male and female poll percentage was recorded in Varanasi South (male 61.96%, female 47.14%). It was followed by Arya Nagar (Kanpur Nagar), Dhaurahra (Kheri), Sri Nagar (Kheri) and Agra Rural.

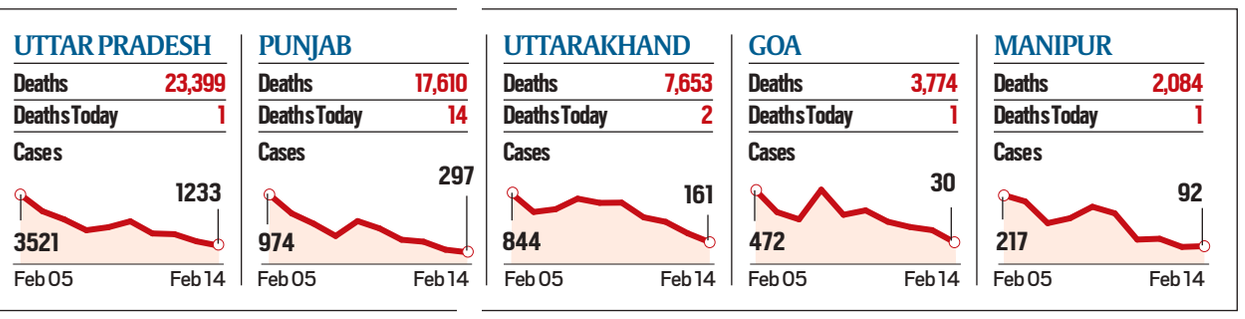
The rising women turnout, among other factors, explains the political parties' increasing focus on women voters in their manifestos in the run-up to the current UP Assembly elections.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com





TRACKING COVID IN ELECTION-BOUND STATES



I HEREBY DECLARE



PALLAVI PATEL
SP, Sirathu (Kaushambi))

TOTAL ASSETS: ₹3.35 crore

MOVABLE ASSETS:
Self: ₹55 lakh
Husband: ₹18 lakh

IMMOVABLE ASSETS:
Self: ₹2.3 crore
Husband: ₹31 lakh

LOANS FROM BANKS: ₹8.87 lakh

CRIMINAL CASES: Nil

SOURCES OF EARNING: Business

EDUCATION: Degree in Philosophy

BJP's 'Singham' battling anger against party MLA; others pin hope on minority votes

LALMANI VERMA
SAROJINI NAGAR, FEB 14

OUTSIDE VANASTHALI Park in Ashiana locality of Lucknow's Sarojini Nagar constituency, Shivam Kanaujia, an undergraduate student, is busy serving customers at his roadside tea stall. With his father, a BJP worker, dying of Covid in April last year, it is the 22-year-old who runs the family now, taking care of his mother and sister.

Kanaujia says his father devoted his entire life to the BJP, but when he died no one from the party came to offer condolences. Instead, he recalls, it was the local leaders of the Congress and the Samajwadi Party who attended his father's last rites. Yet, Kanaujia says his vote will be unbiased. "I will select the candidate on basis of their public image and the party's vision," he says.

For Kanaujia's cousin Himanshu, however, it is "any party but the BJP". "*Hamari behan jaisi dalit ladki ki body ko Hathras me aadhi raat jabaradasti jala diya. Tanashahi ravaiyya hai BJP ka* (They cremated our Dalit sister's body forcibly in the middle of the night in Hathras. This is dictatorial behaviour)."

As Himanshu speaks, a campaign vehicle of the SP candidate in Sarojini Nagar, Abhishek Mishra, passes by, prompting his sister Sneha to interrupt. "Hooliganism prevailed on roads during the SP governments. Today I feel safe in going to university and even walking on road after evening. This is because of (CM) Yogi ji," the undergraduate student of Lucknow University says, although she isn't aware who the BJP candidate this time is.

Sarojini Nagar goes to polls on February 23. The seat has 5.57 lakh voters, with Muslims as the dominant community, followed by Dalits, Brahmins, Thakurs, Yadavs and other backward castes. In 2017, the seat was won by the BJP's Swati Singh. This time, however, she has been dropped to make way for Rajeshwar Singh, the former ED joint director who entered the political arena recently.

With Singh contesting, local BJP leaders are pinning their hopes on "his popularity as a police officer". But despite his image "as a learned person who can solve people's problems swiftly", Singh's colleagues admit his fight is not easy.

"There is a strong anti-incumbency against her (MLA Swati Singh) in rural areas. She never visited rural areas. We are doing more extensive campaign there to minimize the damage," says Ashok Nirmal, BJP's booth president of Chandrawal.

The BJP has been projecting Rajeshwar Singh as "Singham", alluding to the movie depicting a fearless police officer.

However, barely eight kilometres away in Shravan Nagar, a semi-urban hamlet, BSP supporters accuse "ED saheb" of corruption. As they urge people not to choose "an outsider" over someone "who would be available for help round-the-clock", BSP candidate Mohd Jaleesh Khan calls Sarojini Nagar his "*janmboomi* and *karmbhoomi*". "Those who are not aware with local lanes, how they will understand problems of people here," Khan says.

At Khan's gathering, however, it is only the BJP that is in the crosshairs. That, he tells *The Indian Express*, is "because the contest is between BSP and the BJP only."

In Bijnaur, however, many do not agree with Haleem. Mohd Irshad, who deals in electronic appliances, says Muslims are united behind SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and Jaleesh will only "cut Muslim votes" to help the BJP.

An SP leader says: "While Congress candidate Rudra Daman Singh is popular in rural areas, in urban areas the fight is between SP and BJP."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

SAROJINI NAGAR



2017	2012
WINNER: BJP's Swati Singh 37.56 % votes	WINNER: SP's Sharda Pratap Shukla 28.88% votes
RUNNER-UP: SP's Anurag Yadav 25.73 % votes	RUNNER-UP: BSP's Shankari Singh 25.7% votes

SEAT WATCH

In two-cornered contest, a 'new face' with an uphill battle

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 14

ON A Sunday afternoon, Congress's Sadaf Jafar, 46, and several of her party workers have gathered at a slum in River Bank Colony. Welcomed to slogans of "Sadaf Jafar zindabad" and "Congress party zindabad", she seems upbeat.

The scene is strikingly different from that cold, gloomy evening in December, 2019 when she was arrested during an anti-CAA protest in the capital's Hazratganj area. Her arrest had come while she was doing a Facebook live after violence had broken out at Parivartan Chowk.

Now the Congress candidate from Lucknow Central constituency, Jafar says her campaign revolves around basic issues like education, healthcare and civic issues. "I am going to houses and telling people about the BJP's failures in the last five years. Unemployment is at an all-time high, and we all saw what happened during the pandemic – first and second waves," she tells *The Indian Express*.

The Lucknow Central constituency, which covers some important neighbourhoods and markets like Aminabad and Hazratganj, has a large Muslim population, with around one lakh voters from the community (75,000 Sunnis and 25,000 Shias). The constituency also has a sizeable Kayastha votebase, with around 70,000 voters. The remaining are Baniya, Brahmins, other forward castes and Dalits.

While the SP has fielded Ravidas Mehrotra, a Khatri, who won from here in 2012 but lost in 2017, the BJP has changed the seat of sitting MLA and minister Brijesh Pathak, who has been sent to Lucknow Cantonment, and fielded trade leader-cum-municipal corporator, Rajnish Gupta.

In what many expect to be a two-sided contest between the SP and the BJP, Jafar is seen a "new face" and an underdog with a stiff challenge ahead of her, as the Congress still finds its feet UP after being reduced to just seven seats in 2017 and being out of power in the state for three decades.



Congress's Sadaf Jafar

While SP'sMehrotra enjoys the tag of an "accessible leader who works for everyone", BJP's Gupta has been fielded keeping in mind the trader community, which has traditionally supported the BJP. In 2017, the BJP had managed to win the seat with Brijesh Pathak getting 78,400 votes, while SP's Mehrotra had lost by a narrow margin of 5,094 votes.

A senior SP leader says that in 2017, when the Congress and SP had come together, the seat had still seen a candidate from both parties and had split Muslim votes, resulting in Pathak's win. Local SP leaders are levelling the same allegation against Jafar this time.

Jafar, however, says the allegation doesn't bother her. "Where was the local SP candidate when the protests against CAA and NRC happened? Where was the SP chief when churches were attacked and our Dalit sisters were raped or when farmers were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri? It was the Congress who fought against the government on these issues of minorities of India and UP," says Jafar, during her campaign trail.

A shopkeeper, selling paint in Hussainganj, Amit Gupta (32), says the traders will vote for the BJP because "the country needs leaders like Modiji and Yogiji".

In the Muslim pocket of Maulviganj, locals say their vote is for the SP. Mohammad Iqbal (49), who sells chicken, says, "I will vote for the SP because I feel governments should change every five years."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

PROFILE

33 yrs after he lost poll battle, 'Raja of Amethi' enters ring again

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 14

AMETHI HAS seen it all. An erstwhile royalty with a penchant for politics, and a palace that has seen its share of intrigue and sparring 'queens'. But there's more this election: Sanjay Sinh, 70, the erstwhile 'Raja of Amethi', will contest the Assembly election from Amethi as the BJP candidate -- the first time in 33 years that he is contesting the state polls.

The 2017 Assembly election had seen his two wives facing off — his estranged first wife as the BJP candidate and second wife Ameeta Singh as the Congress candidate. Garima won that election while Ameeta, for whom Sinh campaigned, came fourth.

After his 2019 Lok Sabha poll loss from Sultanpur (he lost to Maneka Gandhi), Sinh and Ameeta left the Congress to join the BJP. Now, with Sinh, Ameeta and Garima in the BJP, the party has decided to put him up instead of having to choose between one of the two wives.

Sinh, once considered close to Congress leader Sanjay Gandhi, has over the last three decades served as Union Minister and state minister in successive Congress-led governments. Besides representing the Congress in the Lok Sabha, he has also been sent to Rajya Sabha by the party -- before he quit to join the BJP in 2019.

The decision came three years after Garima not only came back to claim her place in the palace, but also in the politics of the region. In 2016, claiming to be Sinh's "lawfully wedded wife", Garima and her children entered the palace and declared that they would not allow Ameeta in.

By contesting the election himself, Sinh will hope to take the attention away from the family saga while reclaiming the "family legacy" from the Gandhis. Though considered a Gandhi bastion, in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, Rahul Gandhi lost to the BJP's Smriti Irani from here.



Sanjay Sinh campaigns in Amethi, Monday.

Sinh claims it was his father Rananjay Sinh, who won the first election after Independence from here as an Independent candidate, who "offered" the seat to the Gandhis, not the other way round. The senior Sinh later won elections on the Jana Sangh (1969) and Congress tickets (1974).

"It is we who brought the Gandhis here, established them here. It is my homeland and we have a 1,400-year-old history that's associated with this place. I started my political career from my homeland in 1980 and people welcomed me with open arms. I went on to become minister in different departments and ensured jobs for the people of Amethi," said Sinh, adding, "In the last phase of my career, I have again got an opportunity to serve my people. Isn't that enough?"

In 1980, Sinh followed in his father's footsteps and contested his first election from the Amethi Assembly seat as the Congress (Indira) candidate -- and won. In 1985, Sinh won again, getting a record 98 per cent of the votes polled. But in the 1989 election that followed, which he contested as a Janata Dal candidate, he lost to the Congress.

Sing later joined the BJP. In the 1998 Lok Sabha election, he defeated Satish Sharma of the Congress and but lost to Sonia Gandhi in the 1999 general elections. His wife Ameeta, meanwhile, won the Amethi Assembly seat in 2002 on a BJP ticket.

In 2004, the couple returned to the Congress. Ameeta won the 2004 Assembly by-poll and later the 2007 poll from Amethi. In 2012, she lost to Gayatri Prasad Prajapati of the Samajwadi Party by a close margin.

This election, the Congress has announced former BSP leader Ashish Shukla as its candidate. Shukla, 61, had in 2002 lost to Ameeta, when she was the BJP candidate.

The Samajwadi Party has fielded Prajapati's wife, Maharaji Devi. Prajapati, who won from Amethi in 2012 and went on to become a minister in the SP government, was sentenced to life imprisonment in a 2017 rape case.

BSP, meanwhile, has fielded Ragini Tiwari, hoping to win over a large chunk of Brahmin votes along with its core Dalit votes.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

CRASH COURSE

LOK SABHA recently witnessed spats between ministers and MPs from Tamil Nadu over the language to be used to answer questions in Parliament. Some ministers may have irked the MPs from the southern states with their insistence on speaking in Hindi only, but Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw appears to be different. Before the Budget session got adjourned for the recess, Vaishnaw took help from a fellow Rajya Sabha MP to learn a bit of Tamil. He got DMK MP Tiruchi Siva to write down a few lines with their meanings so that he can learn a bit before the Budget session resumes. These include *Vanke* (come in), *Thalaivar* (leader), *Ukkarunga* (please be seated) and *Sapdunga* (have your food). Vaishnaw has got the paper on top of his files on his office table, and makes it a point to learn them. He appears keen on winning some hearts in the south.

POETIC THREAD

INDIAN AMBASSADOR to Madagascar and Comoros Islands, Abhay Kumar, who has been advocating for greater engagement with the western Indian Ocean region, is a published poet. He is now going to come up with a book of a poem, titled "Monsoon". Kumar said it is a poem of 150 stanzas that follows the path of monsoon from Madagascar to Srinagar, weaving Indian Ocean islands and the Indian subcontinent into one poetic thread. It is expected to be published this month-end by Sahitya Akademi.

TOTAL RECALL

CHARGES OF falsification of records against a medical college whose quota of MBBS seats was increased and then withdrawn following a surprise inspection had Supreme Court recall the Bollywood hit Munnabhai MBBS on Monday. "This is a case where in a paediatric ward, all children were admitted without any problems! Have you seen Munnabhai MBBS, Mr Counsel? How did the hospital have fake patients?..." asked Justice D Y Chandrachud, heading a two-judge bench, as he set aside the Bombay High Court order which gave the college option to either agree to a re-inspection or to approach appellate authorities. The college had chosen the first option which was challenged by the National Medical Commission in the top court.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Nearly 8 of 10 Goans turn out to vote

In Uttarakhand, also voting in a single phase, turnout just over 65 per cent

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, FEBRUARY 14

AS POLLING concluded in Goa's 40 Assembly constituencies on Monday, the tentative turnout stood at 78.94 percent, higher than other states that voted on Monday but a tad lower than the state's 2017 count of 81.21 percent.

Chief Election Officer (CEO) Kunal said figures released on Monday were tentative, as postal ballots had not been factored in. The number is expected to exceed 80 per cent after they are counted, he said. Uttarakhand, which saw single-phase voting for its 70 constituencies, recorded 65.1 per cent voting when reports last came in.

According to a statement issued by Uttarakhand CEO, out of 11,697 polling parties, 9,385 will return to their collection centres on Monday itself, and the remaining 2,312 polling parties in remote areas will return by Tuesday.

CEO Sowjanya said no untoward incident was reported from Uttarakhand. On faulty EVMs at certain polling stations, she said they were immediately replaced.

Kunal said North Goa's Sanquelim, represented by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, saw the highest voter turnout of 89.64 per cent, and Benaulim in South Goa the lowest — 70.20 per cent. The turnout was 79.56 per cent in North Goa and 78.22% in South Goa. In Goa, the ruling BJP, contesting all 40 seats for the first time, is up against main opposition Congress-Goa Forward Party alliance, as well as AAP, TMC-MGP alliance, the indigenous Revolutionary Goans, and several high-profile Independent candidates.

Among the earliest voters on Monday morning was Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai and his wife Rita Sreedharan, who cast their vote in Taleigao. Pillai, who took charge as Governor in July 2021, said, "In Goa, all political parties are working effectively. That is the tradition of this state. There are no untoward incidents and even if there are, they are minor."

Among reasons that brought voters to polling booths were inclusion, education, environment, and unemployment. Nine transgender voters voted for the first time in Goa. Heena Sahibole, 45, a transgender voter, said she finally felt "seen": "I have lived in Goa for 18 years but this is the first time I have cast my vote. I feel like I have just turned 18. Today, my transgender friends and I have just taken the first step towards inclusion…" Sahibole, who begs for a living, voted in Margao. She hopes the government will help educated transgenders find employment and housing.

Allwyn Mascarenhas, who came to a polling station in Taleigao with his wheelchair-bound father, works in Dubai but returns to Goa every election. "We live abroad because our talent is better recognised there but my heart is here... I want Goan youth to have good job opportunities," he said.

INPUTS FROM AVANEESH MISHRA IN DEHRADUN



Queues outside a polling booth in UP's Moradabad on Monday. *PTI*





A group of transgender people who voted for the first time, in Goa; (right) freedom fighter Chindriya Lal arrives at a polling booth in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. *Express/PTI*

UP records 63% turnout in phase two, Amroha tops with 72%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

UTTAR PRADESH on Monday recorded a 63.3 per cent turnout in the second phase of the Assembly elections in which 55 seats across nine districts of the state -- Saharanpur, Rampur, Shahjahanpur, Badaun, Moradabad, Sambhal, Amroha, Bareilly, and Bijnor -- went to the polls.

This was two per cent lower than the 2017 elections. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, 63.13 of the electorate had voted. This time, Amroha recorded the highest turnout at 71.63 per cent, followed by Saharanpur at 71.15 per cent. The six constituencies in Shahjahanpur overall recorded the lowest turnout in the second phase at 55.85 per cent. While all districts polled lower compared to the previous elections, Shahajahanpur recorded the maximum decline of five per cent.

The Samajwadi Party (SP) alleged that the choice of one of its voters in Saharanpur was incorrectly registered for the BJP. Additional Chief Election Officer Brahma Dev Ram Tiwari, however, said the allegation was false. He said the EC took note of another complaint that members of the Yadav community were not allowed to cast their votes. The polling body also found no truth in BJP leader JPS Rathore's allegation of fake voting by burqa-clad women, the official said, adding that a report from the district magistrate has been sought.

The heavyweights on the SP list included former minister Azam Khan, who was up against the Congress's Kazim Ali Khan and the BJP's Akash Saxena in Rampur.

TMC wants to divide Hindu votes... is this secularism: PM at UP rally

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 14

AS POLLING was underway for the second phase of the UP Assembly polls on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hit out at the Opposition over a TMC leader's purported remark on "not allowing consolidation of Hindu votes" in Goa, which also voted on Monday.

Addressing a poll meeting in Akbarpur in Kanpur Dehat district, the PM said: "A TMC leader said her party has forged an alliance so that the Hindu votes in Goa could be divided. You see this audacity ('*himmat*'). Is this democracy? Is this secularism? *Aap khule aam, hindu vote ko baatna chahte hain, toh aap kiske vote ikkhata karna chahte hon*? (You are openly saying you want to divide the Hindu votes. Then whose votes are you trying to gather?".

He was apparently referring to TMC MP Mahua Moitra's alleged remarks that her party has prevented the consolidation of Hindu votes by tying up with the MGP in Goa.

The TMC has backed Samajwadi Party (SP) in Uttar Pradesh and its chief Mamata Banerjee recently visited Lucknow to show her support to SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. Mamata is set to visit Varanasi, the PM's Lok Sabha constituency, to campaign for the SP.

In his speech, the PM asserted that the BJP was coming to power again in UP with "people uniting above caste" and especially Muslim women, who he claimed, were silently supporting his party.

Referring to the abolition of triple talaq nearly three years ago, Modi said: "My Muslims sisters, without making much noise are silently coming out to give their blessings to Modi… When a Muslim girl came back from her *maika* (native home) empty-handed, she was instantly given triple talaq... ... Today, we have given to every Muslim sister a law to protect themselves against triple talaq."

Anti-conversion law: SC issues notice on Gujarat govt's challenge to HC ruling

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

THE SUPREME Court on Monday issued notice on an appeal by the Gujarat government challenging the High Court order which stayed the operation of Section 5 of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003. The section mandated a person who is converting another from one religion to another to seek the permission of the District Magistrate and also required the person, so converted, to inform the Magistrate about the same.

A bench of Justices S Abdul Nazeer and Krishna Murari issued a notice on the plea of the state government.

In August last year, the Gujarat High Court stayed the operation of several sections of the Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021, including the provision that termed interfaith marriages as means for forceful conversion.

The state government appeal said the Supreme court had in the past ruled that there is no fundamental right of any person to convert another person to one's own religion "because if a person purposely undertakes the conversion of another person to his religion, as distinguished from his effort to transmit or spread the tenets of his religion, that would impinge on the 'freedom of conscience' guaranteed to all the citizens of the country alike".

"Thus the provision related to seeking prior permission for converting another person from one religion to other, as contemplated under section 5(1) of the Act...cannot be said to be affecting any of the fundamental rights in any manner..." the plea said. The state government also said the high court, thus, "erred" in not appreciating the law laid down by the apex court while upholding certain preconditions for conversion as laid down in the Orissa Freedom of Religion Rules, 1989.

DAY AFTER REACHING OUT TO KCR, STALIN

Cong can go its own way: Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 14

CHIEF MINISTER Mamata Banerjee, who once again sought the cooperation of regional parties for an anti-BJP alliance in the country, said on Monday the Congress "can go its own way".

Banerjee made the remarks while speaking about her party's victory in the Bengal civic polls a day after she reached out to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and Telangana Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao to convene a meeting of chief ministers of Opposition-ruled states.

"The country's federal structure and Constitution is being bulldozed. We all (opposition parties) need to come together to protect these... All regional parties must come to an understanding. We had appealed to the Left [Front] and the Congress to come together as well but they have not responded. The Congress can go its way and we will go ours," said Banerjee referring to her phone conversation with her counterparts in Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

Banerjee has intensified her efforts to form a coalition of opposition parties after the TMC's efforts to cobble together an alliance in Goa did not work out.

Stalin, in a tweet on Sunday, said that Banerjee has also suggested a meeting of Opposition chief ministers. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister informed that a meeting of Chief Ministers of Opposition-ruled states would soon take place in New Delhi.

"Beloved Didi Mamata Banerjee telephoned me to share her concern and anguish on the constitutional overstepping and brazen misuse of power by the Governors of non-BJP ruled states. She suggested for a meeting of Opposition CMs," Stalin wrote in a tweet. After a call from Banerjee, Rao said he would soon meet Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and the TMC chief as part of efforts to unite parties against the BJP.

Speaking on the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, Banerjee also said her party did not contest there in the "larger interest". "We never wanted Akhilesh Yadav (Samajwadi Party chief) to get weak in any seat," she said.

TMC sweeps civic polls, Left a distant second followed by BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 14

THE RULING Trinamool Congress on Monday registered a landslide victory in the February 12 civic polls in West Bengal, winning all four municipal corporations. The BJP, which emerged as the main opposition party in the Assembly polls last year, has been pushed to the third position in terms of vote share while the Left Front ended up as a distant second.

In all four civic bodies - Asansol, Bidhannagar, Chandannagar and Siliguri - combined, the TMC received 61 per cent vote share while the BJP got 14.5 per cent vote share. The Left Front, which failed to win even a single seat in the Assembly polls last year, fared better by getting 16.75 per cent vote share. The Congress managed to get only 3.5 per cent of the vote share. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee congratulated the people over the results. "This is a victory of *maa, mati and manush*. I want to congratulate the people for giving us this mandate," said Banerjee.

West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said, "The election was nothing but a farce. The people's true mandate has not been reflected in the civic polls. Everyone saw how votes were looted," said Majumdar. Senior CPM leader Sujan Chakraborty also alleged that it was a "vote loot" and Bengal Congress president Adhir Chowdhury said "people could not exercise their franchise properly".



TMC supporters celebrate in Bidhannagar. *Partha Paul*

Channi says his chopper denied permission to fly twice due to PM Modi's visit

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 14

AS PM Narendra Modi addressed his first physical rally in poll-bound Punjab after repealing of the farm laws, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi alleged that his chopper was denied permission to take off twice during the day due to restrictions imposed during the PM's visit.

Channi had to skip AICC leader Rahul Gandhi's rally in Hoshiarpur as he could not take off. The Punjab CM was to fly to Hoshiarpur by AICC chopper from Rajindra park helipad in front of his official residence. Sources in the state government said they checked with airport authorities and found that they had not declared a "no-fly zone". The CM said he had to wait for four hours before he was given permission to fly. He then left for Sujanpur for another rally. "I am the CM. I am not a terrorist that I am not allowed to fly. What kind of politics is this?....Why am I being stopped in my own state?" Channi said.

Amid TN-Centre tension, Shah's call to Kanimozhi on her birthday rings loud

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

AMIDST GROWING tension between the BJP-led Centre and the DMK government in Tamil Nadu, a phone call from Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Kanimozhi more than a month ago has now become a topic of fierce discussion within the party, sources said.

Shah called DMK MP M Kanimozhi to wish her on her 54th birthday on January 5 at a time when her party leaders were kept waiting by the Home Minister for an appointment to discuss the Bill that seeks exemption for the state from the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). Kanimozhi, the Lok Sabha MP from Thoothukkudi, confirmed to *The Indian Express* that Shah had called her.

Sources said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, Kanimozhi's half-brother, had not taken kindly to the call. Senior DMK leaders feel that more than "just a courtesy call", it "had political connotations", particularly as it coincided with Shah dilly-dallying over meeting the DMK delegation over the NEET Bill. A day after the call, on January 6, Stalin told the state Assembly: "Refusing to meet people's representatives is anti-democratic." DMK MP A Raja told *The Indian Express*: "The meeting finally happened on January 17."

Apart from a bid to undermine Stalin, the DMK is seeing Shah's call as an attempt to drive a wedge in the DMK first family. Before M Karunanidhi's death, Kanimozhi was among the contenders for the DMK patriarch's political legacy. While the succession battle is now settled in Stalin's favour, the projection of his son Udhayanidhi as the next generation leader is said to have reopened old wounds.



Amit Shah and M Kanimozhi

Rajnath: Ready for talks with insurgents in Manipur

JIMMY LEIVON
IMPHAL, FEBRUARY 14

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh said on Monday that the central government is ready to hold talks with insurgency groups in Manipur to bring lasting peace to the region.

He said Manipur is now at the forefront of development as insurgency, which was once the biggest menace in the state, is coming to an end gradually.

"I can boldly say that violence in Manipur is at the lowest point today during the last five years. I assure you that the BJP will completely put an end to this violence to bring lasting peace in the region," Singh said while addressing a rally at Langthabal constituency in Imphal West district. The state will vote in the coming Assembly election in two phases: February 28 and March 5.

Singh appealed the insurgency groups to shun violence and come to the negotiating table. "We are ready for dialogue with the insurgency groups because all the problems vexing this region should be resolved -- be it unemployment, poverty, etc," he said.

Insurgent attacks have become infrequent over the years but in November 2021, a Commanding Officer of the Assam Rifles was killed along with his wife and son in an ambush in Churachandpur district of Manipur. Four members of the Quick Reaction Team were also killed in the attack. The People's Liberation Army – one of the oldest and most powerful insurgent groups in the state -- and the Manipur Naga People's Front had jointly claimed responsibility for the ambush.

On Monday, Singh said it was the BJP's aim to "develop the Northeast, particularly Manipur, as the tourist hub of India and the entire world".

Kerala rail project: HC sets aside stay order, allows survey

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 14

SETTING ASIDE a single-judge bench's stay order, a division bench of the Kerala High Court on Monday allowed the state government to conduct a survey for the proposed semi-speed rail corridor.

The Rs 63,491-crore ambitious project of the CPI(M)-led government has been facing massive protests over the survey and marking of the corridor boundary.

Last week, the Railways told the court that it is "advisable" that proceedings of land acquisition for the proposed corridor be "stopped at this stage" – and that feasibility of its current alignment "has not been agreed" to by the Ministry of Railways. The project is a joint venture of the state government and the Railways.

The bench of Chief Justice S Manikumar and Justice Shaji P Chaly acted upon an appeal moved by the Kerala government challenging the interim stay on the survey. The division bench said, "The government is vested with adequate powers to conduct the survey, and mark the properties appropriately, for conducting the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) study after issuing appropriate notifications under the provisions of Kerala Survey and Boundaries Act, 1961."

The single-judge bench of Justice Devan Ramachandran had stayed the survey based on a bunch of petitions.

The division bench accepted the contention of the state government that the survey is for the purpose of demarcating the boundary of the project alignment for SIA study, and land acquisition comes only later.

"It is also submitted that concrete poles with marking 'K-Rail' are planted only with the objective of identifying the lands for evaluating social impact of acquisition and the state government has no intention to acquire the lands by planting the stones since the attempt of the government is only to carry out Social Impact Assessment study to protect the interest of the land owners, enabling them to take steps to object the SIA study by having a proper and clear picture of the extent of acquisition made in their properties," said the court.

EXPLAINED

Relief for state govt

THE HIGH Court's go-ahead to the survey for the proposed K-Rail project, SilverLine, is a big relief for the CPI(M)-led government in Kerala. Opposition Congress and BJP have mounted protests against the survey. Railways has also taken a stand against the project in the court. The court has now attested the state's stand that the survey is meant only for Social Impact Assessment and not for land acquisition.

In 2012, KVs introduced new scarf pattern for Muslim girls

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

THE MINISTRY of Human Resource Development had on July 4, 2012, announced the adoption of a "new uniform pattern" by the Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country.

For the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, an autonomous body under the HRD Ministry, now known as Ministry of Education, the change in dress code for its students was a first since its inception in 1963.

Among the changes were new patterns for scarf and turban. "Scarf with red hemming for Muslim girls matching with the lower," was among the changes approved by the KVS Board of Governors in its 92nd meeting on May 18, 2012.

In a statement issued through the Press Information Bureau, the HRD Ministry had described the new design as an attempt to add a contemporary touch to the uniform along with "a unique identity to its students, keeping in mind the comfort and the cost factors".

Checks were introduced for both boys and girls. For girls in classes IX-XII, trousers were introduced, phasing out salwars.

The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and the Union Ministry of Textiles helped create the new uniform.

There are 14.35 lakh students – 6.55 lakh girls and 7.79 lakh boys – enrolled with the 1,248 Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country.

While latest category wise enrolment figures are not available, in 2015, out of 12.09 lakh students then enrolled in the Kendriya Vidyalayas, 56,719 were Muslims, including 23,621 girls.

Responding to a Lok Sabha question on the new dress code on August 8, 2012, the HRD Ministry had said that the "government has no role to play in the prescription of uniform for the students of Kendriya Vidyalayas".

"This is done by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) themselves which is an autonomous body. However, KVS has informed that they have introduced a new uniform for its students so as to give a distinct identity. The dress code has been changed for the first time after 1963."

KASGANJ 'CUSTODY DEATH'

'Losing young son not easy, fight for justice even more difficult'

AMIL BHATNAGAR
KASGANJ, FEBRUARY 14



22-yr-old Mohammad Altaf was found dead in a police station in November

IN HIS three-room house, Chand Mia points to a cot with a plastic spread. His 22-year-old son Altaf would lie down on it whenever he was home, and play games on his phone. Children in the neighbourhood loved spending time with Altaf and would often crowd the room, taking turns to play the games.

"He barely stepped out of the house once he was done with work. He loved spending time with the children and they would visit him every day. To thinks that a person like him would kidnap someone and then kill himself by hanging from a tap, I still cannot believe it," says Chand Mia.

On November 9 last year, Mohammad Altaf, a daily-wage worker, was found dead in a police station in Kasganj district. The police claimed he hanged himself using the drawstring of the hood of his jacket after tying it to a toilet's water tap, three feet above ground.

Altaf had been brought in for questioning in connection with the disappearance of a woman during which he died by suicide, the police said.

Three days ago, Allahabad High Court directed the police to exhume Altaf's body and send it to AIIMS, New Delhi, for a second post-mortem. The direction came on a petition moved by Altaf's family, which was not satisfied with the findings of the first post-mortem.

Listing the matter after four weeks, the court said it was passing the order "because it is the case of the petitioner based upon photographs brought on record, wherein the deceased, Altaf, is shown to have hung himself from a water pipe, which was installed only three feet above the ground of the toilet".

For the family, the court order has come as a form of vindication. "There are days my hands and legs would not stop shaking. I had to be taken to hospital because my blood pressure shot up. Losing your young son is not easy. And the fight for justice is even more difficult. But the court heard us poor people," says Chand Mia.

Altaf was the eldest of three siblings and helped the family by working on daily wage jobs. While it has been three months since his death, his family is yet to come to terms with it. The image of Altaf lying motionless in the Kotwali Police Station toilet haunts Chand Mia.

"He weighed nearly 60 kg and was tall.... There are so many things that don't add up. If the second post-mortem reveals any other information, it will prove that his suicide was a cover-up," he alleges.

The body will be exhumed in the coming days and sent to AIIMS, officials said. The entire exercise of the handover will have to be completed in 10 days, according to the court.

"The exhumation will be carried out as per the court orders. The body will be dug out and sent to AIIMS. An inquiry into the incident is already underway. If the second post-mortem reveals any new information, it will be made part of the investigation," said Kasganj SP Botre Rohan Pramod.

Currently, a judicial inquiry is underway, and 7 of the 36 witnesses have been examined. Two out of the remaining witnesses will be examined on Thursday.

The police have maintained that the Altaf was involved in the kidnapping of a 19-year-old woman and that he died by suicide. He was booked for abduction while a separate FIR was filed against unknown accused in connection with the death. Five police officials, including SHO of the Kotwali Police Station, remain suspended.

ISRO places 3 satellites in orbit in first launch of 2022

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 14

IN THE first successful launch in about a year, the Indian Space Research Organisation sent EOS-04, an all-weather earth observation satellite, and two other satellites into space on a PSLV rocket on Monday morning.

The launch starts a busy calendar for the Indian space agency, which has lined up as many as 19 launches this year, after two years of lull caused by the Covid19 pandemic. Monday's launch was the first successful one after the flight of PSLV-C51 on February 28 last year that had carried a Brazilian satellite, Amazonia-1, and 18 other smaller payloads to space.

An attempt to launch EOS-03, another earth observation satellite in August last year, on a GSLV rocket had ended in a failure.

The PSLV-C52 rocket, carrying EOS-04 and two other satellites, lifted off at 5.59 am from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Monday morning. The EOS-04, which is a radar imaging satellite meant to provide high quality images of the land under all weather conditions, was deposited in the intended sun synchronous polar orbit 18 minutes later.

One of the other satellites, called INSPIREsat-1, was built by the Thiruvananthapuram-based Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology in collaboration with the University of Colorado in the United States. Students from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and National Central University of Taiwan have also contributed to this satellite. This satellite would study the dynamics of the upper atmosphere. It also carries an X-ray spectrometer for studying solar flares.

This is the first time Taiwan's scientists have participated in an international team launching a satellite from India. While they are associated with a university, and the Taiwanese authorities are not directly involved, it is a new area of engagement with the people of Taiwan. Before this, ISRO had launched satellites from 34 countries but never from Taiwan.

Though India maintains One-China policy, this is seen as part of New Delhi's approach to engage with Taiwan on non-political areas, especially in economic sectors.

The other satellite, INS-2TD, is a technology demonstrator for the first India-Bhutan joint satellite that is scheduled to be launched next month. The two countries had signed a space agreement last year, and its first outcome would be the launch of BhutanSat, or INS-2B, on a PSLV rocket in March. INS-2TD that flew on Monday has a thermal imaging camera meant for earth observation purposes like assessment of land and water surface temperature, and identification of forest and tree cover.

ISRO's schedule has been hit badly by the Covid19 pandemic.



ISRO launches PSLV C52 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota on Monday. *PTI*

Cong rejects Karnataka MLA's controversial remarks on hijab

New Delhi: The Congress on Monday rejected the remarks made by one of its Karnataka MLAs, who said that "rapes will be fewer if women wear hijab-like clothing".

On Sunday, Congress MLA BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan had said, "Hijab, known as gosha-parda, is to hide a woman's beauty. India's rape rates are high probably because women aren't under gosha-pardah." His comments were reported by news agency ANI.

Rejecting Khan's remarks, AICC in charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala said, "There is no place in modern India and our society for parochial and regressive views on women as expressed by a Congress leader of Karnataka... Time has come for every such leader to change the conservative mindset." **ENS**

Expert panel recommends EUA to Corbevax jab for 12-18 years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

THE SUBJECT expert panel on Covid-19 vaccines on Monday recommended the drug regulator to grant emergency use authorisation to Hyderabad-based Biological E's Corbevax for the age group of 12-18 years, subject to conditions, sources said.

The committee's recommendations will be taken up by the drug regulator for formal approval of the vaccine in the next few days.

Corbevax is India's first indigenously developed protein sub-unit vaccine against Covid-19. At present, India is administering Covid-19 vaccines to 15-18 years.

The expert panel on vaccine administration is expected to meet soon to take a decision to expand Covid-19 vaccination coverage from 12 years onwards.

Corbevax is built on the traditional subunit vaccine platform: instead of using the whole virus, the platform triggers an immune response by using fragments of it, like the spike protein.

The sub-unit vaccine contains harmless S-protein; once the immune system recognises S protein, it produces antibodies as white blood cells that fight the infection. At present, only Bharat Biotech's Covaxin can be administered to the adolescent population.



MAXIMUM CITY, MINIMUM MOVEMENT

A protest by Congress workers caused a massive traffic jam in south Mumbai on Monday. The Congress workers took out a march to the Malabar Hill residence of Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis to protest against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks in Parliament that the Congress had instigated migrants to leave the city during the first wave of Covid-19 in March 2020. The protests were called off around 1pm. Mumbai Congress chief Bhai Jagtap said that the agitation was called off as Mumbaikars were facing hardships. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

India in talks with WHO for MoU to share CoWIN platform globally: Shringla

New Delhi: India is in talks with World Health Organization (WHO) for an MoU to share its CoWIN platform globally under an initiative of WHO, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla is learnt to have said at a US-hosted meeting on Covid-19.

CoWIN is India's digital technology platform for Covid-19 vaccination.

At Monday's meeting, convened by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Shringla also said New Delhi will be happy to extend the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) network of laboratories for genomic sequencing and surveillance in its neighbourhood, sources said.

He said India will take its experience in testing, treating and vaccinating a large population spread out in different geographies and terrains to create custom and tailor-made capacity-building and technical training programmes for front-line and healthcare workers in Asia, Africa and Latin America, sources said.

Shringla also said four WHO-approved vaccines — Covaxin, Covishield, Covovax and Janssen — and three others due for approval — Corbevax, ZyCov-D and Gennova — are being produced in India, according to sources.

Blinken hosted the Covid-19 Global Action Meeting to coordinate efforts on pandemic response. **ENS**

UK raises issue of FCRA registration refusal to Oxfam with India at meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

THE UNITED Kingdom raised the issue of India's refusal to renew the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of Oxfam by the central government in a bilateral meeting.

The issue was discussed during the 4th India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue held virtually on February 10.

"The issue was raised by the UK. The representatives were explained the law and how it works," a Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) official said, without providing any further details.

At midnight on December 31, 2021, the FCRA registration of Oxfam India along with 5,932 other NGOs lapsed. MHA sources said while 5,789 NGOs had not applied for renewal, the applications of the rest had been rejected due to "various irregularities". Oxfam India and Indian Medical Association (IMA) were among such NGOs.

During the meet, the Indian delegation was led by Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, and the UK delegation was led by Permanent Secretary, Home Office, Mathew Rycroft.

"The Dialogue covered a wide range of issues including Homeland Security, Cyber Security, Extradition cases, Migration & Mobility. India impressed upon the UK authorities the need to expedite the pending extradition cases," the MHA had then said in a statement.

"The Indian side communicated concerns on the anti-India activities of certain extremists and radical elements in the UK...," the statement added.

Media One case: 12 lawmakers, others question 'sealed cover jurisprudence'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

A DOZEN MPs from different opposition parties, along with 30 eminent personalities, issued a statement on Monday, expressing disappointment over Kerala High Court's verdict last week to uphold the Information and Broadcasting Ministry's order that revoked the broadcasting licence of Malayalam news channel Media One after the Ministry of Home Affairs denied it security clearance.

"Extremely disappointed by the decisions of the single-judge bench of the Kerala High Court, which refused to overturn the cancellation of Media One News's licence by the MIB & MHA and protect the Fundamental Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression," the statement said.

It said the court's decision "was based on a 'sealed cover' envelope provided by the MHA, the contents of which were not shared" with Media One.

The signatories of the statement included Congress's Digivijaya Singh; TMC's Mahua Moita; DMK's Kanimozhi; RJD's Manoj Kumar Jha; Shiv Sena's Priyanka Chaturvedi; CPI's Elamaram Kareem and Binoy Viswam; IUML's E T Mohd Basheer; RSP's N K Premachandran; AIUDF's Badruddin Ajmal; LJD's M V Shreyams Kumar; and CPI(M)'s John Brittas. The statement was also signed by Supreme Court lawyers Prashant Bhushan and Colin Gonsalves, former Bombay High Court judge Kolse Patil B G, journalists, writers and social activists among others.

After the single-judge bench's order last week, Media One approached the division bench of the Kerala High Court.

According to the statement, the order "goes against the basic principles of natural justice, which mandate that the material evidence in any adjudication process, and especially in a matter concerning Fundamental Rights, must be shared with both parties to the dispute".

At a press conference, Bhushan said the "growing spectre of what is called sealed cover jurisprudence" is a "gross violation of the principles of natural justice".

Veteran journalist N Ram, who is also a signatory to the release, said blocking a licence is not just about the freedom to broadcast.

Bihar anti-liquor law: SC issues notice, transfers pleas to itself

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

THE SUPREME Court on Monday asked the Bihar government to respond to petitions challenging the Constitutional validity of its controversial prohibition law — The Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016 — within three weeks.

A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and C T Ravikumar also transferred similar petitions pending before Patna High Court to the SC. The court said that since "identical issue is pending consideration before this court, it is appropriate that the other writ petitions filed before the High Court to be transferred and heard along with the SLP pending here".

Hearing the petitions, including one by the International Spirits and Wines Association of India, the bench said all of them question the validity of the prohibition law. "The reply has been filed before Patna High Court and now it cannot be improved," it said.

"You file your affidavit. Same arguments, same affidavit and same material will be relevant in all cases, as the validity is under challenge in all of them."

The court will now hear the matter in the first week of April.

While rejecting 40 appeals filed by the state government against grant of anticipatory and regular bail by the HC to those charged under the law, a bench headed by CJI N V Ramana had on January 11 expressed concern over the impact of the law on the working of the courts.

सभी को सार्वजनिक रूप से सूचित किया जाता है कि सोनीपत पुलिस द्वारा 765 वाहनों को पुलिस लाईन सोनीपत के प्रागंन में दिनांक 04.03.2022 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे खुली बोली द्वारा नीलाम किया जाएगा। गठित कमेटी द्वारा 47 पुलिस एक्ट व 102 सी.आर.पी.सी. के अंतगर्त कब्जा पुलिस में लिए गए 765 वाहनों को जिसमें मोटरसाइकिल- 686, कार- 60, आटो- 10, पिकअप, ब्लैरो- 2, ई-रिक्शा- 2, टाटा-207-1, ट्रक-1, चैसिस 709- 1, ट्रैक्टर-1, टाटा ऐस-1 खुली बोली द्वारा नीलाम किया जाएगा। बोलीदाता को सिक्योरिटी के रूप में 10 प्रतिशत धन राशि मौके पर ही बोली लगाने से पहले जमा करवानी होगी। उपरोक्त वाहनों के बारे में किसी भी प्रकार की जानकारी लेने के लिए एम.एम. पुलिस लाईन सोनीपत के मो. नं. 94664-36360 से संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

बाकी शर्तें मौके पर सुनाई जाएगी।

7591/Hry

नीलामी सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि लघु सचिवालय में स्थित उपायुक्त कार्यालय सै.-12 फरीदाबाद में सरकरी विभागों के कंडम वाहनों/सामान की नीलामी दिनांक 03.03.2022 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे की जानी है। नीलामी की कार्यवाही उपायुक्त कार्यालय के कमरा नं. 603, छठी मंजिल में की जाएगी। वाहनों का ब्यौरा नीलामी दिवस से एक दिन पूर्व लघु सचिवालय सै.-12, फरीदाबाद की दूसरी मंजिल के बाहर नोटिस बोर्ड पर देख सकते हैं।

इच्छुक व्यक्ति समय पर पहुंच कर बोली दे सकता है। प्रत्येक बोली देने वाले व्यक्ति को प्रातः नीलामी से पूर्व बतौर जमानत मु. 10,000/- रु. (दस हजार रु.) जमा कराने होंगे अंतिम बोली की राशि का 1/4 भाग बोली के तुरंत बाद मौके पर ही जमा करवाना होगा। शेष राशि 72 घंटे के अंदर-अंदर जमा करवानी होगी। ऐसा ना करने पर प्रतिदिन 5 प्रतिशत के हिसाब से अतिरिक्त जुर्माना देना होगा। अधिक बोली देने वाले बोलीदाता द्वारा वाहनों/सामान ना उठाए जाने पर उसकी जमानत राशि जब्त कर ली जाएगी तथा इसके अतिरिक्त यह भी अवगत कराया जाता है कि बोलीदाता का जी.एस.टी. नं. होना अनिवार्य है।

हस्ता./-
कृते उपायुक्त फरीदाबाद।

7572/HRY

HAFED
THE HARYANA STATE COOPERATIVE SUPPLY AND MARKETING FEDERATION LIMITED
CORPORATE OFFICE, SECTOR 5, PANCHKULA HARYANA (INDIA)
TEL: 2590520-24, FAX: 2590711 e-mail: hafed@hry.nic.in
Web-site: www.hafed.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

For empanelment of experienced wheat processor with Hafed for procurement of wheat in bulk from Madhya Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (MPSCSC)

The Haryana State Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation Limited (HAFED) invites Expression Of Interest for empanelment of experienced wheat processor with Hafed for procurement of wheat in bulk (minimum 2 Lakh MT) from Madhya Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (MPSCSC).

The EOI document containing eligibility criteria and other terms & conditions is available at Hafed website www.hafed.gov.in. The last date of submission of application is upto 01.00 PM on 18.02.2022.

Hafed reserve the right to reject any / all applications without assigning any reason.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

7571/HRY

North Eastern Railway

Open E-Tender Notice No. IZN/Elect/OT/05/2022 Dt. 11.02.2022

E-Tender are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/N.E. Railway/Izatnagar for & on behalf of the President of India for the following work :

S.No. : 01, **Description of work :** Strengthening of power supply arrangement including replacement of existing damage under - ground cabling at different station of Izatnagar Division and replacement of existing old & damage L.T. Over head lines by underground cabling at Kasganj Railway Colony. **Approximate tender value in Rs. :** 53,20,383.35, **Earnest money in Rs. :** 1,06,500.00, **Cost of tender paper in Rs. :** Nil, **Date & Time of closing E-tender :** 14.03.2022 at 15.00 hours, **Completion time from the date of issue of letter of Acceptance :** Four months. • Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and such manual offer received shall be ignored. • The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** • The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital signature certificate & must have registered on IREPS portal. • Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate in e-tendering. • All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/
CPRO/Elect-112 Izatnagar

About any Passenger Amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955

Do not travel with inflammable article in train

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL	PROVIDING MUTTING AND MISSING MEMBER ON VARIOUS TOWER LOCATIONS OF 66KV D/C BARWALA- SHAHZADPUR LINE DURING FY 2021-22.	10.02.2022 21.02.2022	6.84 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
2	HVPNL	AUGMENTATION OF 220 KV S/STN. MASUDPUR FROM(1X100MVA)220/132KV+ (1X100MVA) 220/33KV TRANSFORMERS TO (2X100 MVA) 220/132KV)+ (2X100MVA)220/33KV TRANSFORMERS IN 2017-18 (PLANNING CODE 2A2660*) 1 REARRANGEMENT REQUIRED AS PER SITE CONDITION CONSTRUCTION OF IND.220KV SF-6 BREAKER 220/132/33 NCT, RADIATOR FDN. NIPPES TANK FIRE EXTINGUISHING CURCLE FDN & 33 KV VCB FOUNDATION	12.02.2022 23.02.2022	5.89 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
3	HVPNL	PROVIDING INCOMING BAY EQUIPMENT ON 132 KV S/C NISSING-SAGGA LINE AT 132 KV S/STN., HVPNL, SAGGA.	10.02.2022 17.02.2022	1.97 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
4	HVPNL	PROVIDING INCOMING BAY EQUIPMENT ON 132 KV S/C AHIN-KIRMICH LINE AT 132 KV S/STN., HVPNL, AHIN.	10.02.2022 17.02.2022	2.21 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
5	HVPNL	DATA ACQUISITION, INTEGRATION PLATFORM FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT DASHBOARD FOR MONITORING & ANALYTICS	11.02.2022 22.03.2022	10 LACS	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in

7576/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

IISc gets Rs 425 crore donation; to set up medical school

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 14

THE INDIAN Institute of Science (IISc) will set up a postgraduate medical school along with a 800-bed multispeciality hospital in its Bengaluru campus, an institute statement said Monday.

Philanthropists Susmita and Subroto Bagchi, and Radha and NS Parthasarathy have collectively donated Rs 425 crore for the project, the single largest private donation received by the premier research institute.

The hospital, scheduled to be operational by 2024 end, will be named 'Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital', the statement added.

The project's academic centrepiece will be an integrated dual-degree MD-PhD programme aimed at creating a new breed of physician-scientists to pursue careers in clinical research to develop new treatments and healthcare solutions, driven by a bench-to-bedside philosophy. "Their generous contribution will help us realise our vision of seamless coupling between clinical sciences, basic sciences, and engineering technology disciplines, all anchored within a vibrant university campus, and research opportunities...," IISc director, Prof Govindan Rangarajan said.

Photojournalist dies by suicide, TN CM orders assistance to kin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 14

T KUMAR, a veteran photojournalist working here for news agency United News of India (UNI), died by suicide. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, the state's principal opposition AIADMK and the journalist fraternity on Monday condoled his death. In a condolence message, Stalin said he was grieved to learn that Kumar had ended his life and added that he has ordered assistance of Rs 3 lakh to his family from a fund for welfare of journalists.

Stalin's announcement on assistance comes hours after the AIADMK, the Chennai Press Club and the photojournalists' association had requested the CM to provide financial assistance to Kumar's kin.

On Sunday night, a colleague found Kumar hanging from a ceiling hook in the UNI's office here. On information, police personnel arrived and they rushed the photographer to the Kilpauk Government Medical College Hospital where he was declared brought dead. Following autopsy, the body was handed over to his family on Monday. Kumar was 56 and he is survived by his wife, son and a daughter.

Sources in UNI here said he was facing financial trouble.

A photojournalist with over 30 years' experience, Kumar rose through the ranks of UNI to become its state bureau chief. He had joined the news agency in 1986 and was the first photographer to become the head of the agency in Tamil Nadu.

Leader of Opposition and top AIADMK leader K Palaniswami in his condolence had urged the state government to provide an assistance of Rs 25 lakh to Kumar's family from a benevolent fund for journalists.

Kannur blast death result of wedding prank: police

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 14

THE DEATH of a youth in a crude bomb blast during a wedding procession in Kannur district on Sunday was the result of a wedding prank, according to police. Such dangerous pranks continue to persist in several parts of north Kerala despite awareness campaigns, a police officer said.

On Sunday, 26-year-old Jishnu died on the spot when a crude bomb, hurled to create a scare during the marriage procession, fell on him. This took place barely 100 metres from the bridegroom's house. Three others sustained severe injuries.

The police probe has found that the bomb was hurled by one of Jishnu's friends, who was part of the bridegroom's entourage.

Confirming findings of the probe, Kannur city DCP Prince Abraham said, "In the past, police and other organisations conducted awareness campaigns against such uncivilized practices. Now, we may have to think of resuming such programmes."

Wedding pranks are played by friends of the bridegroom, generally meant to make fun of the bride, bridegroom, their families or guests or give them embarrassing moments.

Some of the pranks are: bride and bridegroom forced to walk barefoot, removing window or door of their bedroom, taking the couple out of the car and forcing them to sit in the bucket of an earth-mover, and busting powerful crackers.

Referring to the Kannur incident, sources said on the eve of the marriage, several men had dressed up as women and danced, creating nuisance for even the women.

"The youth who got killed along with his friends had been active at the bridegroom's house on the eve of marriage. From another village, they were also involved in an argument with the bridegroom's neighbours over playing music. The tiff had resulted in a scuffle, but was settled before the wedding eve celebrations were over," said a source.

"Jishnu and his friends had brought crackers and it appears they also made some crude bombs for the marriage day. They wanted to scare the people, but it resulted in the death of one of them."

CPI(M) legislator M Vijin, who represents Kalliasseri assembly segment in Kannur, said there should be strong awareness programme against this practice. "The incidents have come down. But a section of youngsters behave under the influence of drugs and liquor, causing uncomfortable moments during marriage celebrations. The families of the couple would have limitations to intervene openly. If someone questions such mischief, the situation may go out of control," he said.

Kannur district Congress president Martin George alleged that those involved got training from the CPI(M) in bomb making.



INDIA, OMAN NAVY CHIEFS HOLD TALKS: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar and Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman Rear Admiral Saif Bin Nasser Bin Mohsin Al Rahbi in New Delhi on Monday. On a "goodwill visit", Rear Admiral Al Rahbi held discussions with his Indian counterpart on "avenues to further enhance cooperation between the Navies". *PTI*

Kerala govt clears BJP man as Gov aide; with dissent

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 14

BJP STATE committee member Hari S Kartha was on Monday appointed as the additional personal assistant for Governor Arif Mohammed Khan. Accepting the proposal from the Governor, the CPI(M)-led state government registered its dissent, saying such an appointment of a political leader in Raj Bhavan is unprecedented.

This comes a week after the Governor gave assent for a controversial Ordinance, which dilutes the Kerala Lokayukta's powers. The Governor signed the Ordinance three weeks after a recommendation from state Cabinet.

The appointment may trigger heat as Opposition Congress has alleged "quid pro quo between government and Governor on many issues".

The general administration department, in its order appointing Kartha, said, "There is no precedent of appointing of persons who are actively involved in politics or who owe allegiance to political parties or organisations... in the Raj Bhavan and it is desirable to adhere to the prevailing norms." It said the government accepted the proposal only because the Governor expressed his desire to appoint Kartha.

Nashik man, set on fire by his ex-lover, succumbs to injuries

MOHAMED THAVER
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 14

A 31-YEAR-OLD man from Nashik, who was allegedly set ablaze by his former girlfriend and her family members on Friday, succumbed to his burn injuries on Sunday. Nashik police, which had earlier arrested the woman, Kalyani Sonawane (23), and her four family members on charges of attempt to murder have now booked them for murder. The family members, comprising the woman's mother Nirmala, father Gokul and two elder brothers — Hemant and Prasad — are alleged to have set Gorakh Bachav ablaze as they believed that he had earlier sabotaged her attempt to get married and was threatening to do so again.

The incident took place Friday afternoon at Lohaner village in the Devla Taluka of Nashik.

According to police, Bachav, a plumber by profession, was standing in the market area when Kalyani's family members also reached the spot and attacked him.

Vineet Joshi is CBSE chairman

New Delhi: Vineet Joshi, an additional secretary in the Ministry of Education, has been assigned the additional charge of the Central Board of Secondary Education chairperson, the ministry said on Monday. Joshi's appointment comes as former CBSE chair Manoj Ahuja was made an OSD in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Joshi is also the director general of the National Testing Agency. **ENS**

Centre cuts agri-cess on crude palm oil

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday said it has reduced the Agri-cess on crude palm oil (CPO) from 7.5 per cent to 5 per cent. This will benefit the domestic edible oil refiners and also check prices of cooking oils, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said.

"With a view to provide further relief to consumers and to keep in check any further rise in the prices of domestic edible oils due to rise in the prices of edible oils globally, the Government of India has reduced the agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil from 7.5% to 5% with effect from 12th February, 2022," the ministry said. "After reduction of the agri-cess, the import tax gap between CPO and Refined Palm Oil has increased to 8.25%. The increase in the gap between the CPO and Refined Palm Oil will benefit the domestic refining industry to import crude oil for refining," it said. **ENS**

TEEN'S SUICIDE IN THANJAVUR

SC rejects TN govt appeal against High Court order, allows CBI to investigate

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G.
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

THE SUPREME Court on Monday rejected the objections raised by Tamil Nadu government to the Madras High Court's order transferring investigation into the death of a student of a school in Michaelpatti, Thanjavur, to CBI.

The girl had died by suicide, but there were allegations that she was under pressure by school authorities to convert to Christianity.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Bela M Trivedi said that "in view of what all has happened, it may not be appropriate for us to interject the investigation by CBI".

The top court, however, issued notice on grievances expressed against certain observations in the HC order against the state police.

"Issue notice returnable in four weeks. Counter-affidavit to be filed in two weeks. Rejoined in one week. In the meanwhile, investigation will continue in terms of the impugned order," the bench ordered.

The court was hearing an appeal filed by Tamil Nadu's Director General of Police, challenging the January 31, 2022 order of the Madurai bench of Madras HC, which transferred the probe to CBI.

At the outset, the bench pointed out that there were two aspects of the matter: first, about certain observations in the impugned judgement; and second, transfer of the probe to CBI.

Justice Khanna asked senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who was representing the state government, which of these was the State aggrieved by.

Rohatgi replied that he was aggrieved by both. At this, Justice Khanna said, "As far as that is concerned, really speaking, in view of what all has happened, (a) number of things which have happened, may not be appropriate for us to interject the investigation by CBI."

The bench said it will issue notice on the question of observations in the judgement.

Rohatgi said, "This was not a case which had any other ramifications. Unfortunately, a case of suicide by poison. The HC interferes and day-to-day orders are passed — that police should do this today, do this tomorrow.... The dying declaration is on record. Is it not an exceptional case in the light of the decision in the State of West Bengal vs D K Jain?"

"This is not a case which should reflect on police," he submitted. "This is not a case where some sides are being taken. It is not a political issue, or any other issue for that matter. Why such a big issue is being created about it?"

The bench did not agree and said the HC doesn't pass orders just like that. It reiterated that it will examine the other aspect.

As senior advocate P Wilson, who also appeared for the State, sought to question the HC order, Justice Khanna remarked, "As far as investigation by CBI (is concerned), there is a lot of things which have happened in between. Let it go on. You have collected evidence, that be passed on to CBI."

"As far as certain observations against the police and certain observations which go on to the merit of the matter, we don't want to elaborate at this stage. We have ourselves said we are issuing notice," the court added.

Wilson said the state government was not a party in the proceedings. But Justice Khanna said that "police is a party".

HC HEARING TODAY

BJP leader says minister had physical relations with her on marriage pretext

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 14

THE GUJARAT High Court is due to hear a petition Tuesday by a leader of BJP women's wing, seeking registration of an FIR against a MLA, who is now a minister in the Gujarat government, for allegedly establishing physical relationship with her on the promise of marriage and later spurning her as she is a Dalit.

The petitioner has alleged that the MLA had met her on the pretext of "party work", taken her phone number and asked her to meet him in the MLA quarters in Gandhinagar in 2020.

"He talked sweetly and told me that he was impressed with my social service activities... 'I am ready to accept you as my wife'... I asked if he can accept me since I am from a Scheduled Caste and he is a Thakor Darbar... he said he was ready to accept me and leave his wife," said her application before the DGP adding then they had a physical relationship in July 2020.

According to the woman, the MLA did not contact her for the next 2-3 months and when she called him, he broke up with her allegedly citing his position in the party and government, as well as their different castes.

FEDERAL BANK
YOUR PERFECT BANKING PARTNER

LCRD Kolkata Division,
91A/1, Park Street, 1st Floor, Avani Signature, Kolkata 700016
Phone: 033-68151676, **Email:** kollcrd@federalbank.co.in
Website: www.federalbank.co.in, **CIN:** L65191KL1931PLC000368

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For immovable property)

Where as
The undersigned being the **Authorized Officer of The Federal Bank Ltd.** under the **Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** (hereinafter referred to as Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under **section 13(12) of the said Act** read with **rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002** (hereinafter referred to as Rules) issued a **demand notice dated 10.11.2021**, calling upon the borrowers, **1) Mr. Pankaj Kumar** S/o Mr. Ram Vinay Singh, and, **2) Mrs. Nigam Kumari** W/o Mr. Pankaj Kumar both residing at **a)** Chhoti Rukanpura, Sundar Nagar, Nala Par, Patna, Bihar- 800014, and also at **b)** Village & Post: Masaudha, Thana Paliganj, District- Patna, Bihar- 801110, to repay, jointly and severally, the amount mentioned in the notice being:
1) Rs.19,40,753.00 (Rupees Nineteen Lacs Forty Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Three Only) as on 31.10.2021 in your **loan a/c no. 19235500000030**, and, **2) Rs.21,19,846.00 (Rupees Twenty One Lacs Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty Six Only) as on 04.11.2021,** in your **loan a/c no. 19237300000061, with Branch Patna, Rajabazar** of the Bank, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, **notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described** herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on this the **10th day of February in the year 2022**. The borrower/s' attention is invited to the provisions of **section 13(8) of the Act**, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset (security property). The borrowers in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **The Federal Bank Ltd.** for the following amounts: **1) Rs.20,01,715.00 (Rupees Twenty Lacs One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifteen Only) as on 31.12.2021** in your **loan a/c no. 19235500000030**, and, **2) Rs.21,49,222.00 (Rupees Twenty One Lacs Forty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Two Only) as on 07.01.2022**, in your **loan a/c no. 19237300000061**, with further interest & cost thereon.

Description of the Immovable Property

All that piece and parcel of residential Land admeasuring 2.812 decimals equivalent to **18 Dhur, with a construction thereon**, within Mouza: Dhanaut Rupaspur, Touzi No. 5553, Thana No. 20, Computer Code No. 078, Khata No. 125, Khasra Plot No. 2562, Jamabandi No. 9200 in the year 2015-16, Mutation case No. 5670 in the year 2012-13, Thana Phulwari, Circle: Danapur, District Patna, **registered in the name of Mr. Pankaj Kumar, more and fully described in SALE DEED no. 12210 dated 04.12.2015, registered with Sub Registry Office, Danapur, Distrct: Patna, Bihar**. The aforesaid property, is butted and bounded on the ***North:*** By 16 ft. wide Road and then Property of Uday Paswan; ***West:*** Property of Sri Madan Mohan sinha; ***East:*** By 3 feet wide Road then Property of Rajendra Mahto; and ***South:*** Property of Sri Birendra Yadav.

Date: 10.02.2022 **For The Federal Bank Ltd.**
Place: Kolkata **(Authorised Officer under SARFAESI Act, 2002)**

Advertisement No. 23/2022
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
DIRECTOR (FINANCE)
in
BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED
Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by **1500 hours on 20th April, 2022**.
For details login to website
http://www.pesb.gov.in

EXPRESS Careers

Banks Board Bureau
An Autonomous Body of Government of India
invites application for the position of

DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR (LENDING AND PROJECT FINANCE), DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR (CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER) & DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR (CHIEF RISK OFFICER) OF NATIONAL BANK FOR FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Institution: The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) was established in 2021 as the principal development financial institution and development bank for infrastructure financing in India.

The Deputy Managing Director shall hold office for a term not exceeding five years and shall be eligible for re-appointment subject to the overall term not exceeding ten years; provided that he/she shall not hold office after attaining the age of sixty-two years.

Eligibility criteria:

(A) The candidate should be in the age group of 45 to 55 years as on January 31, 2022 with education qualification of Post-graduate or equivalent or professional qualification of CA/ MBA or equivalent; and

(B) should have a minimum experience of 20 years in mainstream banking or financial lending business such as SCBs, AIFIs, NBFCs or multilateral institutions as on January 31, 2022 of which, should have minimum experience in relevant areas as mentioned in the detailed advertisement.

For details of the other eligibility terms and conditions, please see the detailed advertisement on https://banksboardbureau.org.in/ under the "Vacancies & Recommendations" tab

How to apply: Interested candidates can apply **online** through the link available on https://banksboardbureau.org.in/ under the "vacancies & recommendations" tab.

Last date of application: 5:00 pm on 21-Mar-2022

Note: All further announcements/details including corrigendum, if any, about this process will be published/provided on our official website https://banksboardbureau.org.in.

varthana
Varthana Finance Private Limited
(Formerly known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.,)
Website www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com
Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office : No. 1162 & 1163,
Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Spaze I Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram 122018.

CORRIGENDUM

In reference to Auction Sale Notice Published on : 12-02-2022 with regard to M/s. Gautham Convent Middle School, Gurugram, inadvertently we have mentioned Tender Fees to be submitted in Indore Office, it should be read as Gurugram Office, other-things remains unchanged.

The Authorised Officer
Varthana Finance Pvt. Ltd., Gurugram

SHRI GOVIND GURU UNIVERSITY
(Established vide Gujarat Act No. 24/2015)
Government Polytechnic Campus Gadukpur, Godhara - 389001
Dist. Panchmahal-Gujarat

No.SGGU/ESTA/VC/2022/11641 Date : 12/02/2022

CALL FOR APPLICATION/NOMINATION FOR VICE CHANCELLOR

The Government of Gujarat vide its extra ordinary Gazette Notification No. 26, notified Gujarat Act No. 24 of 2015 for establishment of Shri Govind Guru University (SGGU), an affiliating State University on 16th September 2015. The Headquarter of the University is Godhra, Dist. Panchmahal. The affiliated colleges of this university offer education in the branch of Arts, Commerce, Science, Law, Management, Education, Architecture, Design, Medicine, etc.

Applications are invited for the Vice Chancellor, Shri Govind Guru University. The Vice Chancellor shall be the principal executive and academic officer of the University. The Person applying for the post is expected possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment. A person shall be an eminent academician having Ph.D degree with a ten years of experience as a Professor **OR** A distinguished academician having Ph.D. Degree with a minimum of twelve years of academic/educational administrative experience in a University, reputed academic or administrative or research institution or organization.

The application /Nomination in the prescribed form should be submitted in sealed envelope clearly marked as "Application /Nomination for the Vice Chancellor's position" addressed to **The Chairman, Search Committee, Registrar's Office, Shri Govind Guru University, Govt. Polytechnic Campus, RTO road, Gadukpur, Godhra-389001 Panchmahals** on or before Dt. 21/02/2022. The copy of the same be sent via email on **chairman.sc@sggu.ac.in.** For Further details please visit **www.sggu.ac.in.**

The Search Committee reserves the rights to consider any application / nomination. The search committee may consider a person of eminence even if he/she has not applied/nominated.

Place : Godhra - SD -
Dated : 12.02.2022 REGISTRAR (I/C)

एन एफ एल NFL
NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED
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Regd. Office: SCOPE Complex, Core-III, 7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003
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EXTRACT FROM THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

(₹ in Lakhs)

S. N.	Particulars	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
		Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended		Year Ended	Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended		Year Ended
		31-12-2021	30-09-2021	31-12-2020	31-12-2021	31-12-2020	31-03-2021	31-12-2021	30-09-2021	31-12-2020	31-12-2021	31-12-2020	31-03-2021
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from operations	509960	370119	294409	1144117	896571	1193900	509960	370119	294409	1144117	896571	1193900
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) from operations before exceptional items and tax	1155	7465	7775	8117	34677	34346	(2017)	3522	7551	(7993)	34071	33091
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) before tax after exceptional items	1155	7465	7775	8117	34677	34346	(2017)	3522	7551	(7993)	34071	33091
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax	864	5577	5513	6003	25267	24963	(2308)	1634	5289	(10107)	24661	23708
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/ (Loss) and Other Comprehensive Income for the period)	865	5579	5442	6007	25057	25050	(2307)	1636	5218	(10103)	24451	23795
6	Equity Share Capital	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058	49058
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year						168086						164961
8	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each)*												
	(a) Basic	0.18	1.14	1.12	1.22	5.15	5.09	(0.47)	0.33	1.08	(2.06)	5.03	4.83
	(b) Diluted	0.18	1.14	1.12	1.22	5.15	5.09	(0.47)	0.33	1.08	(2.06)	5.03	4.83

*Not annualised in case of quarterly / nine months figures.

Note : The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Yearly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchanges websites, **www.nseindia.com** and **www.bseindia.com** and website of the Company **www.nationalfertilizers.com.**

Place: Noida
Date: February 14, 2022

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/-
(Nirlep Singh Rai)
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN : 08725698

NFL : FARMERS' FRIEND, NATION'S PRIDE

WORDLY WISE

MUSIC EXPRESSES THAT WHICH CANNOT BE PUT INTO WORDS AND THAT WHICH CANNOT REMAIN SILENT. —VICTOR HUGO

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

INSURING INDIA

LIC IPO may help government achieve disinvestment target. But respect its autonomy for the corporation to realise its potential

AFTER MUCH UNCERTAINTY, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The initial public offering is for 31.6 crore shares or 5 per cent of the government's stake. As per the DRHP, LIC's embedded value — a measure of the consolidated shareholders value in an insurance company— has been estimated at Rs 5.39 lakh crore. While the offer price is yet to be disclosed, insurance companies typically tend to trade at a multiple of their embedded value. Thus the IPO will likely dwarf the recent Paytm offering, which had shattered the record for the largest offering. A successful fructification of the IPO by March would help the government achieve its scaled down disinvestment target of Rs 78,000 crore of which it has only been able to garner Rs 12,030 crore so far.

The size of the insurance behemoth is truly staggering. As of March 31, 2021, LIC had a 66.2 per cent market share in new business premiums, a 74.6 per cent share in individual policies issued, and a 81.1 per cent share of number of group policies issued for 2020-21. Though, increasingly LIC has been ceding space to private players — between 2015-16 and 2020-21, private sector life insurance players saw their premiums grow at 18 per cent, while LIC's premium grew at 9 per cent — India is still an under-penetrated market. The country's insurance density is much lower than that of other developing countries which indicates scope for growth.

The IPO comes at a time of tightening global financial conditions. Foreign investors have already pulled out billions this year. And though it is bound to generate interest, there are concerns about the capacity of the market to absorb such a large offering. Further, considering that in the past, LIC has often been used by the government to serve its own ends — for instance, it helped bail out the troubled IDBI bank — there are legitimate concerns that its investment decisions may continue to be guided by other motives. As the DRHP notes: The "corporation may be required to take certain actions in furtherance of the GoI's economic or policy objectives. There can be no assurance that such actions would necessarily be beneficial to our Corporation." While a listing on the exchanges will open LIC's governance structures and investment decisions to public scrutiny, continued government interference in its decision making will affect the corporation's prospects. The steep discounts that public sector companies trade at when compared to their private sector counterparts is a reflection of this pattern. Considering that LIC is a custodian of the policy holder's money, the government must resist the temptation of using its coffers for its own purpose.

THE FEDERAL PUSH

Tamil Nadu CM hints at a platform of regional parties, its contours will emerge only after assembly polls

TAMIL NADU CHIEF Minister M K Stalin's statement that a convention of non-NDA CMs is planned in Delhi suggests that a federal front may be in the making. Stalin also mentioned that he had a conversation with West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on the subject. The proposed convention follows Stalin's recent statement that the DMK intends to float a platform to further the cause of social justice. On a parallel note, Telangana CM KCR said he would hold discussions with his Maharashtra counterpart, Uddhav Thackeray, and Banerjee on the need for Opposition parties to unite against the BJP. Rao has in recent times upped the ante against the BJP and turned friendly towards the Congress. Clearly, these regional leaders seem to be working towards a common anti-BJP front ahead of the 2024 general election.

The souring of Centre-state relations on a range of issues — from the role of investigative agencies to GST, IAS cadre rules, and most recently, sharing of PDS data — has provided an impetus to the making of the federal front. The Opposition has been complaining that the Centre has been chipping away at the powers of the states. CMs in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala etc. have been complaining that their respective governors are encroaching on the rights of the elected government, perhaps at the behest of the Centre. The BJP, driven by a unitarian vision of the republic and a majority in the Lok Sabha, has not concealed its ambitions towards expanding its footprint electorally and having its say in governance. Leaders like KCR sense that the BJP now occupies the pole position in Indian politics and expect it to emerge as the main foe in their strongholds. The SP, RJD and JMM, the ruling party in Jharkhand, too are likely to think along similar lines and back a regional front.

Surely, the contours of the federal front are likely to emerge in March when the results to five assembly elections are out. Whether the Congress has a role to play in this front will depend on how it performs in these states. Conversely, gains for the BJP in the assembly polls would deflate the ambitions of the Opposition leaders. However, the Opposition initiative will need a glue for various regional players to stay together: Similar attempts in the past have failed to take off because they could provide neither a compelling vision nor a persuasive agenda to be seen as a viable alternative to the BJP. Just being anti-BJP may not a glue make.

SOUND AND SENSIBILITY

A Cambridge University study posits correlation between musical tastes and personality types. What a waste

ACADEMIA, IN ALL its esoteric glory, can be rightfully criticised for locking itself in an ivory tower, behind a moat of jargon and gates barred with snobbery. But there is such a thing as an over-correction, of pandering so much to the popular tastes so as to become irrelevant. A study from the University of Cambridge crosses that line, and is intellectually at par with — and as useful as — online personality quizzes a la "Which Hogwarts house do you belong to?" and "Which 1990s action movie best describes you?"

The study, which had over 3,50,000 participants from 50 countries, claims that contemporary music tastes show a strong correlation with personality types — "between extraversion and contemporary music; between conscientiousness and unpretentious music; between agreeableness and mellow and unpretentious music; and between openness and mellow, contemporary, intense and sophisticated music" — across the globe. Then there are surprises, like the fact that neuroticism is associated with "intense" music. In essence, extroverts love Ed Sheeran and Beyonce while neurotics brood over Nirvana.

There is, evidently, an excess of funds at Cambridge. A vast survey to figure out what kind of music people are into makes sense for Apple or Amazon music, perhaps, but does it for a university? More importantly, why are researchers engaged in what barely passes for pop psychology? It was bad enough that HR departments took pleasure in administering nonsense personality tests like the Myers-Briggs, must universities descend to "listicles" in order to ruin the joys of music? Most importantly, perhaps, it is annoying when anyone over the age of 18 searches for the meaning of their existence in pop music. It's alright for research to be more down to earth, but that doesn't mean it needs to plumb the depths. Anyway, there's an easy way to test the Cambridge correlation. Just listen to "Single Ladies" and wait to become the outgoing life of the party.

The new Look East policy

Strengthening engagement with Indo-Pacific, stronger partnerships can enhance India's reach and impact



C RAJA MOHAN

AN IMMINENT EARLY harvest trade deal with Australia and the sale of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile systems to the Philippines lend a sharper edge to India's engagement with the Indo-Pacific. A new emphasis on strategic trade liberalisation and the turn to military exports should begin to plug two major weaknesses in India's regional strategy. The two agreements should also widen the focus of India's Indo-Pacific debate from the current obsession with the nature of India's partnership with the US and its implications for Delhi's "strategic autonomy".

India's Indo-Pacific strategy walks on two legs — strengthening its national engagement with the region, and stronger partnerships with like-minded nations. The former elevates India's salience in the Indo-Pacific and raises Delhi's value for its partners. Coalitions and partnerships, in turn, help boost India's national capabilities, enhance its reach and impact. This approach is quite different from the metaphysics of the past that focused on the presumed need to hold up a particular ideology rather than a hard-headed pursuit of national interests.

India's novel approach fits well with the US strategy. Contrary to the widespread perception in Delhi that Washington is trying to "entrap" India into an alliance, the US is not handing out fresh security commitments. Alliances involve serious legal, political, and military obligations and are not taken lightly in Washington. Nor is the US collecting more "camp followers" in the Indo-Pacific. It is looking at partners and like-minded countries that have the strategic incentive, political agency, and material capability to contribute to regional security.

The new Indo-Pacific Strategy document issued by the Biden administration last week admits that the US objectives of a "free and open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient" Indo-Pacific "cannot be accomplished" by the US acting alone. It insists that the "changing strategic circumstances and historic challenges require unprecedented cooperation with those who share in this vision." This recognition is complemented by an appreciation of India's capability — current and potential — in shaping strategic outcomes in the Indo-Pacific.

Administrations in the US during the last two decades have bet on the proposition that a strong India that can stabilise Asia and the Indo-Pacific serves American regional interests. The Biden administration strategy document reaffirms that thesis by highlighting the goal of supporting "India's continued rise and regional leadership". The strategy seeks to work with India "through regional groupings to promote stability in South Asia; collaborate in new domains, such as health, space, and cyberspace; deepen our economic and technology cooperation, and contribute to a free and open Indo-Pacific." The US acknowledges that "India is a like-minded partner and leader in South Asia and the Indian Ocean, active in and connected to Southeast Asia, a driving force of the Quad and other regional fora, and an engine for regional growth and development."

> In the past, the US security policy was tied to a series of bilateral alliances. Now it is ready for a more networked regional architecture. Contrary to the Indian image of the Quad as a rigid alliance, the US strategy is to 'work in flexible groupings that pool our collective strength to face up to the defining issues of our time'. Put simply, an India that seeks to be a leading power in the region will be a better partner for the US than an India that is weak and defensive.

The emphasis on India is special but by no means exclusive. Of greater import is the US objective of encouraging "allies and partners to strengthen their ties with one another". In the past, the US security policy was tied to a series of bilateral alliances. Now it is ready for a more networked regional architecture. Contrary to the Indian image of the Quad as a rigid alliance, the US strategy is to "work in flexible groupings that pool our collective strength to face up to the defining issues of our time". Put simply, an India that seeks to be a leading power in the region will be a better partner for the US than an India that is weak and defensive. India's capacity to lead the region, in turn, depends on its national capabilities and plugging its major internal weaknesses — especially in the domains of trade and security.

Delhi's decision to walk away from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) — an Asia-wide free trade agreement — at the end of 2019 and its new emphasis on Atmanirbhar Bharat, or a "self-reliant India", have generated widespread concerns about India returning to protectionist ways. Official Delhi in contrast argues that this is not a return to the past, but a new determination to strengthen domestic manufacturing capability hollowed out by an uncritical pursuit of globalisation. Even as it walked away from the China-led RCEP, Delhi is now looking to liberalise trade relations with strategic partners like Australia. India has also intensified trade talks with the UAE, Israel and the UK. India and the EU too have taken a political decision to resume talks on a long-stalled FTA. But sceptics would want to see the quality of the agreements that are likely to come out of these negotiations. They also point to the difficulties of finalising more consequential agreements with India's leading economic partners — the EU and the US.

Trade economists argue that bilateral pacts can't be a substitute for larger regional agreements — India is not part of any today. Delhi is also not on the same page as its partners like the US, EU, Japan, and Australia on the emerging digital trade issues. Yet, the strategic trade pacts on the anvil today are a major step in the right direction.

Although India has had active military diplomacy recently, it has been hobbled by the inability to export weapons to friendly nations in the region. This was rooted in India's inadequate domestic defence industrial base. Delhi is now trying to ramp up defence production at home as well as promote arms exports.

While these policies will take time to bear fruit, Delhi has discarded the prolonged political hesitation in selling the Brahmos missiles to China's neighbours. Last month, India signed an agreement worth $375 million to supply the Philippines with three missile batteries of the shore-based anti-ship version of the Brahmos. While these batteries will not make any dent in the military balance between Manila and Beijing, it opens the door for a more active Indian engagement with hard security issues in Asia. India's new quest for military exports is also in tune with the US Indo-Pacific strategy's emphasis on working with partners in "finding new opportunities to link our defence industrial bases, integrating our defence supply chains, and co-producing key technologies that will shore up our collective military advantages."

There is great synergy between the US desire to "empower allies and partners as they take on regional leadership roles themselves" and India's ambition to play a larger role in the Indo-Pacific. Simultaneous pursuit of stronger national capability and more active participation in coalitions are interconnected parts in realising that Indian ambition.

The writer is Senior Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, Delhi and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

SHAH BANO, NOT SHAH BANO

Then, as now, powerful forces mobilised groups of men against women's choice



JYOTI PUNWANI

WILL THE hijab controversy become another Shah Bano moment? That we'll know only after the Supreme Court decides because neither side is likely to accept an adverse High Court ruling.

As things stand, the comparison is not apt. In 1985, a lone divorcee was pitted against the male leadership of her community. While these orthodox men had the tacit backing of the ruling party, Shah Bano could get the support of just a few courageous Muslims. Isolated, as lakhs of men rallied against her on the streets, the 69-year-old finally succumbed and rejected the Supreme Court order which, following both law and precedent, had granted her a monthly maintenance of Rs 179.20 to be paid by her affluent husband. This victory had come after seven years, but she gave it up because, as she told this reporter, "I don't want *khoon kharaba* in my name."

If the Goliath then was the Muslim Personal Law Board, which mobilised lakhs of Muslim men, today the Goliath is the BJP government in Karnataka, which has mobilised groups of male students to violently intimidate the young Muslim women who have until now, never been stopped from entering college in hijabs.

No wonder, then, that democratically-minded citizens are rallying around today's Davids, be it the gutsy Muskan of Mandya who didn't back off even when surrounded by a pack of saffron-scarf-wearing hounds, or the small groups of girls who found the gates of their colleges suddenly closed to them because of a show of strength earlier by male students wearing saffron scarves. That action was as arbitrary and unfair as the Karnataka government's sudden order mandating a uniform in government educational institutions, and banning anything that goes against the "idea of equality, integrity and unity and affects law and order".

> Did it have to come to this? The Udupi college, where it all started, had no rule banning the hijab, though only a few had worn it in class earlier. The management may have eventually given in to the girls, but that would have required discreet negotiations, the kind that routinely take place between parents and principals without political parties stepping in. That wasn't allowed to happen.

Can a government suddenly issue such an order in the middle of an academic year? How does law and order get affected by the presence of a hijab-clad student, and if it does, who is responsible? These questions will undoubtedly be discussed in court, but so will the more controversial questions on whether the hijab is an integral part of Islam; and whether the order violates fundamental rights. Will the losing side accept the Supreme Court's decision?

Shah Bano's repudiation of the Supreme Court order granting her maintenance led to the passing of a law which, going against both women's rights and secularism, excluded Muslim women from the benefits of a legal provision available to all divorced women. What followed was even worse. In another act of appeasement, this time aimed at Hindu fanatics, the locks of the Babri Masjid were opened, boosting the Ayodhya movement.

Will the outcome of the hijab controversy be equally fearsome? On the one side are those who swear by "religious identity", on the other, a powerful ruling party determined to obliterate all but Hindu identity.

Did it have to come to this? The Udupi college, where it all started, had no rule banning the hijab, though only a few had worn it in class earlier. The management may have eventually given in to the girls, but that would have required discreet negotiations, the kind that routinely take place between parents and principals without political parties stepping in. That wasn't allowed to happen. The result is that those who have struggled for decades to reduce religiosity in public spaces have been reduced to fighting for more of it. But is there a choice, given the nature of the Goliath today?

The writer is a senior journalist


INDIAN EXPRESS

Mrs Gandhi may bring Ardab to Centre

MEK

FEBRUARY 15, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

CHARAN AND JAGJIVAN

CHARAN SINGH AND Jagjivan Ram on Sunday commenced their political ride together with a joint appearance at a huge public meeting in Hissar. The two leaders, whose differences contributed to the disintegration of the Janata Party, came in the same car from Delhi to Hissar where they were given a tumultuous welcome by workers of the Lok Dal and the Congress (J). But they said their appearance together should not be construed as an understanding for forthcoming assembly elections or a precursor to the merger of the Lok Dal and the Congress (J). The two leaders said the present circumstances had forced them to come together.

PM ON PRESS

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi has accused the press in India of functioning as the opposition. "It is not functioning as a free press," the PM said in an interview to the Swedish television. Mrs Gandhi said: "The press is the opposition in India... what is called the national press. They lead the opposition. It is not just reporting. Their reporting is absolutely baseless." Stating that it was biased, Mrs Gandhi said the press was also against her father Jawaharlal Nehru. "For a country which is trying to pick itself up from such a tremendous trauma of having undergone colonial rule, cynicism and pessimism is very close to crime," she said .

BANGLADESH FACTIONS

THE BANGLADESH PARLIAMENT begins its winter session under the. shadow of a deepening crisis in the ruling Bangladesh National Party (BNP) and a growing role of the National Security Council in state affairs. The crisis mainly centres on President Abdul Sattar's formation of an 18-man council of ministers replacing the old one in a declared attempt to root out corruption in the ministry.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

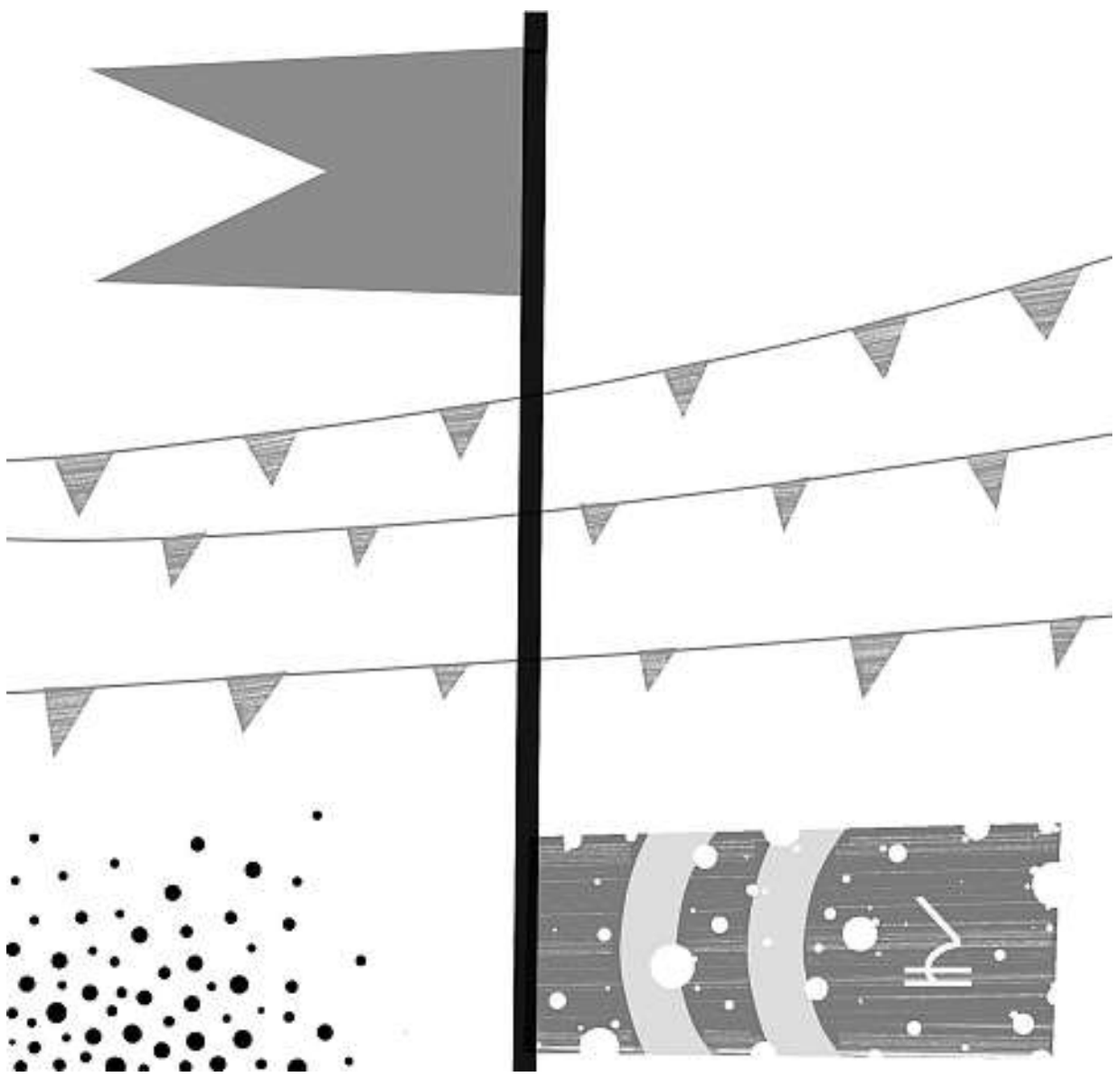
"Data shows that since the pandemic, there has been a steady rise in the number of suicide cases as well — the act considered a taboo isn't widely discussed. Still, suicide is a significant indicator of mental health problems prevalent in Nepal."
— KATHMANDU POST

The bread-and-butter test

UP poll results will show if Hindutva and polarising rhetoric will be enough to firewall the BJP from economic distress



ARATI R JERATH



C R Sasikumar

MANDATE 2022 IN Uttar Pradesh may well provide answers to a question that is assuming urgency as efforts to revive the economy continue to sputter, and the countdown to the 2024 Lok Sabha election begins. Can politics be firewalled from the economy with a steady diet of muscular majoritarianism and tired old tropes about the Congress?

Set against the twin backdrops of visible economic distress and an agrarian agitation of the kind not seen for decades, the UP polls have turned into a test case to determine the point at which politics and economics intersect. Or do they? The outcome in UP will either bolster the BJP's conviction that its heady Hindutva cocktail trumps bread-and-butter issues or it will present the Opposition with a platform to put up a convincing fight in the next general election, provided it can craft the message from UP into an effective slogan.

The BJP knew that UP was going to be tricky this time. There were too many signals of distress from the ground and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pre-election Santa Claus act did little to alleviate voter worries. The BJP's response was to simply change the terms of electoral engagement and revert to the familiar tactics of polarisation. Its election machine is firing on all cylinders, and from all directions, to blitz any talk of disappearing jobs, rising prices and the devastation caused by the pandemic.

For the first phase of polling, the BJP carpet-bombed western UP by sending all its heavyweights, including Union ministers, door-to-door. They resurrected yesterday's emotive issues and ignored the disquiet on the ground. In Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not even attempt to defend his government. He deflected all criticism by training his guns on the Congress and shrugged off responsibility for everything, including the migration havoc during the first Covid lockdown.

And from faraway Karnataka, the BJP fired a potent salvo by raking up a blazing row over the hijab. As Hindu-Muslim tensions rise in the southern state, it is easy to join the dots from Karnataka to UP and guess that the hijab controversy has been pulled out like a rabbit from a magician's hat to exacerbate communal tensions in UP's minority-dominated pockets polling in the second phase.

The extent of economic distress on the ground can be gauged from a survey published in *The Indian Express* recently. Conducted by Mumbai-based thinktank People's Research on India's Consumer Economy (PRICE), the report paints a heartbreaking picture of the blow to income levels of the bottom 40 per cent in the last five years — that is between the years 2016 and 2021. It's an eyeopener on how the poor have fared through the double whammy of declining economic indicators post-demonetisation and a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

Although it is a national survey, its findings can be extrapolated to understand ground realities in UP, which ranks as one of the country's three poorest states, according to NITI Aayog. Here are some startling facts. The income level of the poorest 20 per cent dived 53 per cent in five years while that of the 20 per cent at the next level fell 32 per cent. The rich reaped a windfall in the same period. The income of the richest 20 per cent households grew 39 per cent.

Now, contrast this with the decade before, from 2005 to 2016. The survey highlights that this decade saw the income of the poorest 20 per cent surge 183 per cent while that of the richest 20 per cent grew 34 per cent. For the poor, this meant an unprecedented annual growth rate of 9.9 per cent in household incomes.

It is reasonable to assume that most of the poor hit by the five-year slump in incomes belong to Dalit, OBC and Muslim communities. After all, these groups are at the bottom of the pyramid everywhere. The question that presents itself as UP goes to polls is whether the steep fall in their economic status will influence their voting patterns in 2022.

Five years ago, in 2017, before income levels started plunging, the BJP had swept to a stunning victory, riding a wave of popular support from a slew of Dalit and OBC groups. While the cutting edge of its campaign was Hindutva, the party worked on the ground to stitch up a rainbow coalition of upper-castes, non-Yadav backward castes and non-Jatav Dalits. It was a project in progress since 2014 and culminated in the 2017 sweep. BJP got a record 40 per cent vote share and 312 of the 403 assembly seats, something no party had achieved in UP for more than three decades. The social coalition held together in the 2019 parliamentary polls as well to give Modi a second term with a bigger majority.

As the PRICE survey highlights, the ground has shifted considerably since 2017. The effects of demonetisation were already pinching when the pandemic exploded like a nuclear bomb. Covid was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back as economic activity ground to a halt for two quarters in 2020-21, causing the GDP to shrink by 7.3 per cent. The income of the poor contracted drastically as small and medium enterprises went bust and the service industry shut down. The urban poor were the worst hit.

Elections in India have been fought traditionally on emotive appeals rather than economic issues. UP, in particular, has been trapped in the Mandal-Kamandal paradigm for more than three decades now, with identity and communal motifs dominating the narrative in every poll.

While Akhilesh Yadav and his Samajwadi Party are trying to break out of this paradigm by bringing the economy centre-stage in the ongoing state polls, it remains to be seen whether they are able to stay the course in the face of the highly charged and polarising campaign of the BJP. There are already signs that Akhilesh is faltering, as the saffron narrative slowly gains traction while the focus on basic issues blurs.

Akhilesh could learn a trick or two from his friend in neighbouring Bihar, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, who led a spirited attack against the BJP-JD(U) in the 2020 state polls, with a one-line slogan promising 10 lakh government jobs to the youth. The RJD lost but Tejashwi's single-minded concentration on the big economic issue of the day gave his opponents several sleepless nights and nearly won him the election.

The writer is a senior journalist

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Myth of the trickle-down

It is increasingly evident that policies to increase pie and then redistribute do not work



ARUN MAIRA

COMMENTS BY ECONOMISTS about the budget explain the condition of the Indian economy. They also reveal ideological divisions about how the health of an economy should be measured and the prescriptions to improve it. The finance minister's rectitude has been commended: There are no "populist hand-outs" nor have taxes on incomes and wealth increased. There is agreement that investments in physical infrastructure will benefit the economy in the long run, and in the short run too, by creating more employment. However, there is fear that the way the money will be used by the Centre will disempower the states further, just when they must do most of the heavy lifting on public welfare. And, there is disappointment that allocations for health and social security remain grossly inadequate.

Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram summarised the budget as, "No work, no welfare, only wealth". Large "wealth creators" are made free to create wealth for themselves — wealth which, supposedly, will trickle down to the masses. Evidence from around the world is that the economic policy paradigm, of first increasing the overall size of the pie by reducing taxes at the top and then "redistributing" the wealth, has not delivered benefits to people. Trickle-down has dried up while gushing up has increased, with policies to make it easy for investors to do their business of making more profits for themselves. Gandhiji had declared that he was not against wealth creators. He lauded wealth creation. However, it must not be at the cost of workers and welfare. Wealth creators must be trustees of the wealth they create, not its exclusive owners.

The Indian economy is suffering from a chronic "demand-side" problem that is becoming worse with misguided economic policies. Young people who have been getting educated in larger numbers than before, even learning vocational skills, cannot find jobs. They are dropping out of the job market seeing no hope in it. The CMIE estimates that in UP, the number of persons of working age who have a job has decreased in the last five years from 43 per cent to 33 per cent; in Punjab from 49 per cent to 30 per cent; in Goa from 49 per cent to 32 per cent; and in Uttarakhand from 40 per cent to 30 per cent. If people don't earn, demand will not increase, and investments in businesses will not be attractive. Moreover, frustrated youth are tinderboxes for social unrest.

Around the world, there is reaction to the financial globalisation of the last 30 years. Speaking to leaders of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in May 2007, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, celebrated as the freedom provider for business with the 1991 reforms, had warned: "The time has come for the better-off sections of our society to understand the need to make our growth process more inclusive; to eschew conspicuous consumption; to care for those who are less privileged." He invited corporate India to "be a partner in making ours a more humane and just society". Business feared he was returning India to "socialism"—a bogey for neo-liberal economists and their "Washington Consensus" of "minimum government", "ease of doing business", and lower corporate and wealth taxes.

In his book, *Davos Man*, Peter Goodman explains how the wealthiest people have influenced economic policies in democratic countries from the 1990s to make themselves wealthier. Thomas Piketty has documented how wealth inequalities have increased alarmingly in *Capital and Ideology*. Wealth has accumulated at the top, with regressive tax policies along with deregulation. Government expenditure on social reforms has been crimped. Piketty reveals how the most inclusive periods of economic growth — when a rising tide lifted all boats — have always coincided with periods of high taxation of wealth to fund public education, health, and social security. He also reveals that when inequalities increase intolerably, governments divide to rule and persecution of minorities increases with politics of national identities.

Goodman says the "Davos Man" has propagated the "cosmic lie" that "cutting taxes and deregulating markets will not only produce extra riches for the most affluent but trickle benefits down to the lucky masses — something that has, in real life, happened zero times."

He says the Davos Man "would have us believe in a false binary choice as a defence of the status quo, that we either accept globalisation as we have known it for decades or we throw in our lot with Luddites operating in the thrall of backward ideas".

The global economy must move on from hyper-financial, deregulated capitalism, which has given easy money too much freedom. Neo-liberal Indian economists also frighten us with false binary choices: That we must carry on the way we are, or we will go back to the pre-1991 control era. They must move out from their ideological ruts. One, that until the economy grows there will be no resources to invest in human development — whereas China invested in human development before its economic take-off. Two, that an unprepared industrial sector will thrive in global free trade — whereas the UK and US (and Japan and China too), grew their industrial sectors behind walls of protection, and then demanded that the rest open their markets to the might of their enterprises.

Political divisions by religion and caste are tearing India's social fabric again. The Indian economy must grow inclusively to repair it. To grow, it must make up for shortfalls in human development, and build domestic industrial capabilities. Until then, it will remain a colony for stronger countries to expand their enterprises with their intellectual property. India will remain strategically vulnerable against its mighty neighbour across the border, which did not adopt Davos Man's theories. Indian policymakers must urgently discover India's own, contextually appropriate model of development and shed defunct economic theories.

The writer is a former Planning Commission member



One who joined the dots

Rahul Bajaj led industry with an eye for detail, awareness of big picture

NAUSHAD FORBES

GREAT MEN AND women can generally be divided into two groups: There are the helicopter-people, those who see the whole landscape and make sense of the big picture for us lesser mortals. And there are those who delve into the details, who make sure that each piece is deeply and richly understood in all its nuance. God, we know, lies in the details. Rahul Bajaj was unique in his mastery of both the 30,000-foot view and the small detail. His ability to see the big picture was legendary, as he connected the success of Indian industry with his knowledge of Indian history and his connections around the world. But he was equally at home with the minutest detail. As the Bajaj Group Chairman, he could spot the misplaced comma that changed the meaning of a board minute. I have personally experienced the detail in planning a dinner we hosted for the CII National Council, down to the last bit of the menu and the variety and brands of alcoholic beverages.

Many have written of Rahul's amazing success in creating some of our most valuable companies, his essential contributions in building CII and other institutions, of his deep integrity, of his fearlessness, of his being the articulate voice of and for Indian industry and India in forums around the world. Underlying this life of amazing achievement was a warm, generous, forthright and principled human being who was a lot of fun. I know no one else who could warm up a room as quickly by walking into it. His entry brought zing to a board meeting, sparkle to a dinner party, interest to a conversation, and depth to an exchange of letters. His forthright nature made some fear him, but he was one of the most open people I have met. If you pushed back and argued with him, he would listen and respect you. If you rolled over with your paws in the air of the prevailing political winds, he would, quite correctly, ignore you. The only area where we differed was in the role of protection for Indian industry. When I wrote one of my articles criticising tariff increases, he wrote to me saying he disagreed, but also saying he liked the article and was glad I had written it.

He was kind and generous. This showed in the generosity of the Bajaj companies and trusts (the group consistently ranks in the top 10 CSR spenders in the country). He chaired the CSR committees of the companies, knowing in detail which project was being funded and why, and how it was performing.

His forthrightness showed in the expression of his principles. This was his most publicly appealing quality. His principles showed in the way he operated, using a Skoda car he kept in Delhi as he did not want to show off when he went to Parliament, refusing a personal attendant till health left him no choice and not being surrounded by assistants to carry his papers and bags.

For me, and for all those who knew Rahul well, his most endearing attribute was his sense of fun. Even at 75, he was among the last to leave a party and the last on the dance floor. He loved telling stories that had an aside, then an aside to the aside. But Rahul would get back to the main story. This takes a very powerful mind and concentration of unique proportions.

I have dozens of fond memories of his sense of fun and engagement, but my warmest recollection is the CII President's Retreat in 2017 in Bhutan. We were a small group, which included Rahul Bajaj and Bodie Nanda, who many refer to as CII's founder-president. Rahul and Bodie were colleagues in CII for 50 years. The weekend was one long tennis match of playful insults, flying back and forth between these two wonderful human beings. If Bodie was CII's founder-president, Rahul was its "owner", a title he disliked. We meant "owner" not only because he is the only person ever to be president of CII twice, and has been its most generous and engaged past-president. He was the owner of the soul of CII, the one who ensured that we, as office-bearers, stayed true to our principle of speaking for India first, then for Indian industry, then for CII, and never for our own firms. And, that all the work we did within the institution as members and secretariat reflected that purpose. Rahul may have gone, but his principles must always be with us. All of us who see ourselves as his successors must be worthy of what he espoused.

The writer is co-chairman, Forbes Marshall; past president, CII; chairman of Centre for Technology Innovation and Economic Research and Ananta Aspen Centre

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEEPER TIES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Friendly Pitch' (IE, February 14). The gift of a cricket bat with Virat Kohli's signature by India's foreign minister to his Australian counterpart goes beyond symbolism. It is yet more evidence of the deepening ties between New Delhi and Canberra. Ever since the launch of the QUAD more than a decade ago, the two nations have been slowly but surely strengthening their connections. While the interests of the two countries converge against a militant China, they are not obsessed with the dragon. By seeking common ground in trade and tourism and by tapping the diaspora links, India and Australia are turning out to be important players in the crucial Indo-Pacific field. Obviously, vain China is not very pleased with this bonhomie.

Vijai Pant, *Hempur*

UNDER-APPRECIATED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Hamara Bajaj' (IE, February 9). One of the unique leadership qualities of Rahul Bajaj, the builder of the iconic Bajaj Group, was his insistence on business ethics. He was not one to indulge in politically friendly behaviour to promote his business, unlike many of his contemporaries in the industry. His outspoken comments on the business policy of the government of the day did not endear him to either Indira Gandhi or the never-forgiving Narendra Modi. He was under-rewarded by successive governments, except when he was bestowed the third-highest Padma reward, the Padma Bhushan, during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure as prime minister. On his death, the current prime minister did not go beyond expressing his condolence in a few perfunctory words and the government-controlled Akashvani did not utter a word about his cremation in the morning news. It goes to the credit of Rahul Bajaj that he created a business model which competed with the best globally.

Y G Chouksey, *Pune*

ABOLISH CRUELTY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Decongesting prisons' (IE, February 14). Overcrowding, an unfortunate reality in Indian prisons, has only worsened during the pandemic. The government has dragged its feet over releasing prisoners, particularly those charged under the UAPA and sedition laws, resulting in the death of at least one well-known activist. The statistics on unnatural deaths on foreign prisoners and pregnant women are indeed shameful and constitute an outrageous violation of human rights. Prison reform is the need of the hour. It is hoped that the courts will abolish mass detention.

Ila Railkar, *Mumbai*

TOP OF THE WORLD



At the scene of the attack in Paris. *Reuters*

FRANCE

Man killed after 'attacking cops with a knife'

POLICE ON Monday killed a man who attacked them with a knife at Paris' Gare du Nord station, French transport minister Jean-Baptiste Djebbari told RMC radio. "The person who attacked them died on the spot," Djebbari said, adding that two police officers had received minor injuries. Gare du Nord is one of Europe's biggest train stations and home to international train services connecting to Britain and Belgium. Djebarri said the incident had caused major traffic disruptions on Monday. **REUTERS**

GERMANY

1 dead, 8 ill after drinking spiked champagne in bar

ONE MAN died and eight others were hospitalised in serious condition after drinking spiked Champagne at a bar in Bavaria, German prosecutors said Monday. The man who died was 52 years old, and the others were between 33 and 52, police said. "There were things in it that normally are not in champagne," prosecutor Gerd Schaefer said. He said there was a suspicion of negligent homicide. **AP**



COVID CURBS PROTESTS IN NZ REGAIN MOMENTUM

People camp in front of the Parliament in Wellington, New Zealand, on Monday, as theyprotest against Covid-19 restrictions and vaccine mandates. Police had initially let the protesters set up tents and camp on the grounds of the Parliament before arresting 122 people last Thursday and then backing off again. The size of the protest dropped to a few hundred last week but increased again to around 3,000 over the weekend. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern signalled the thinning patience of authorities. "I very clearly have a view on the protesters and the way that they've conducted their protest because it has moved beyond sharing a view to intimidation and harassment of the people around central Wellington," she said. "That cannot be tolerated." *Reuters*

Russia keeps door open for diplomacy as Ukraine hints at concessions

G7 says invasion would trigger 'massive' economic reprisals

DARYA KORSUNSKAYA & NATALIA ZINETS
MOSCOW, KYIV, FEBRUARY 14

RUSSIA SUGGESTED on Monday that it was ready to keep talking to the West to try to defuse a security crisis in which it has massed a huge force within striking distance of Ukraine, while a Ukrainian official said Kyiv was prepared to make concessions.

In a televised exchange, President Vladimir Putin was shown asking his foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, whether there was a chance of an agreement to address Russia's security concerns, or whether it was just being dragged into tortuous negotiations.

Lavrov replied: "We have already warned more than once that we will not allow endless negotiations on questions that demand a solution today."

But he added: "It seems to me that our possibilities are far from exhausted... At this stage, I would suggest continuing and building them up."

Washington has said Russia could invade Ukraine "any day now", and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday called the situation "very, very dangerous".

Russia has positioned more than 100,000 troops near to Ukraine's borders but denies planning to invade, accusing the West, which has sent a flurry of officials to Moscow and Kyiv, of hysteria.

Western countries have already promised sanctions on an unprecedented scale if Russia does invade, and the Group of Seven large Western economies (G7) joined the chorus by warning of "economic and financial sanctions which will have massive and immediate consequences on the Russian economy".



Ukraine's ambassador to Britain, Vadym Prystaiko, arrives at the Ukraine embassy in London on Monday. *Reuters*

Ukraine's ambassador to Britain backtracked on remarks suggesting that Kyiv would reconsider its attempt to join NATO — one of Russia's primary concerns — but did say that other concessions could be on offer.

"We are not a member of NATO right now and to avoid war we are ready for many concessions, and that is what we are doing in conversations with the Russians," he told the BBC in a clarification.

"It has nothing to do with NATO, which (membership application) is enshrined in the constitution."

The Kremlin said that Ukraine renouncing its aspiration to join the Western military alliance would significantly help address Russia's concerns.

Moscow has made clear it sees the former Soviet republic's quest for closer ties with the West, notably through NATO, as a direct threat.

Eight years ago, mass protests on Kyiv's Maidan square in favour of closer integration with the West forced out pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovych.

Faced with the ascendancy of pro-Western politicians promising to advance democracy and fight corruption just across its border, Russia captured and then annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, home to the Russian Black Sea fleet.

It also supported pro-Russian rebels who have seized part of Ukraine's industrial, largely Russian-speaking east in a war that is still adding to its toll of more than 14,000 lives lost.

Monday's talk of diplomatic efforts continuing brought the price of crude oil down off the seven-year highs it had hit earlier amid concerns that sanctions would disrupt exports from Russia, a major producer, in an already tight market.

Major European stock markets slumped by between 2% and 3%, but on Wall Street the S&P 500 index was down only 0.5% at 1545 GMT. Sanctions could ultimately rebound on Western powers, which rely heavily on Russia for energy supplies. **REUTERS**

Canada's Trudeau to invoke rarely used emergency powers to end protests: report

REUTERS & AP
OTTAWA, FEB 14

CANADIAN PRIME Minister Justin Trudeau will inform provincial premiers of his intention to invoke special measures to give the federal government extraordinary powers to deal with protests that have shut some border crossings with the United States and paralysed parts of Canada's capital, CBC News said on Monday.

Citing unnamed sources, CBC said Trudeau planned to invoke the Emergencies Act, a rarely used provision that allows the federal government to override the provinces and authorize special temporary measures to ensure security during national emergencies anywhere in the country.

The CBC said Ottawa had no plans to send in the military.

A six-day blockade of North America's busiest trade corridor in Windsor, Ontario, ended on Sunday while protests in Ottawa entered a third week.

Demonstrations against Covid-19 restrictions and other issues have blocked several crossings along the US-Canada border and hurt the economies of both nations. They also inspired similar convoys in France, New Zealand and the Netherlands. The US Department of Homeland Security warned that truck convoys may be in the works in the US.

Police in Windsor, Ontario, arrested 25 to 30 protesters and towed several vehicles Sunday near the Ambassador Bridge, which links Windsor — and numerous Canadian automotive plants — with Detroit. The bridge reopened to traffic Sunday night.



At a protest in Ottawa on Sunday. *AP*

EXPLAINED

Used only once in peacetime

EMERGENCY POWERS have been invoked by the Canadian government only once in peacetime — in 1970 by then PM Pierre Trudeau, the current PM's father, during events known as the October Crisis. Before this, emergency powers were invoked during the two world wars.

Day after man stoned to death, mob attacks Shia scholar over 'blasphemy' in Pak

M ZULQERNAIN
LAHORE, FEBRUARY 14

A MOB attacked and injured a Shia scholar, who faced accusations of blasphemy, in Pakistan's Punjab province, where a day earlier, a man was stoned to death over similar accusations.

Dozens of people carrying clubs, bricks and other objects surrounded the house of the scholar in Tandlianwala, Faislabad district, some 180 km from Lahore, accusing him of desecrating religious texts.

Police later arrived at the spot and rescued him, an officer said. He was then shifted to an undisclosed location, and his family was moved to a different location for their safety, police said.

The province has witnessed two deaths related to mob lynching in the past two months.

On Saturday, mentally challenged Mushtaq Ahmed, a resident of Bara Chak village, was stoned to death and his body hung from a tree by a mob of more than 300 people in Jungle Derawala village in Khanewal district in the province, sparking nationwide outrage.

"Police have arrested 105 including 21 main suspects in the Khanewal lynching case," a senior police officer told PTI on Monday.

He said police arrested the suspects with the help of CCTV footage.

"We will ensure that all suspects involved in the incident are arrested and put on trial in an anti-terrorism court at the earliest," he said.

Meanwhile, the Punjab chief minister's office also uploaded the pictures of the arrested prime suspects on its Twitter account and said those involved in the crime would be brought to justice.

Opposition Pakistan People's Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has demanded a transparent investigation into the incident.

"Pakistan's image in the international community is being damaged... If angry mobs are left unchecked, the whole society will become insecure. All the stakeholders must come together... to stop the menace," Bilawal said in a statement.

Last December, Sri Lankan national Priyantha Kumara, 47, was lynched and his body was set on fire in Sialkot in Pakistan's Punjab province after he faced allegations of blasphemy. **PTI**

Qandeel Baloch's brother, sentenced to life for her killing, acquitted after receiving parents' pardon

ASIM TANVEER
MULTAN, FEBRUARY 14

A PAKISTANI man sentenced to life in prison in 2019 for strangling his sister, a model on social media, was acquitted of murder on Monday after his parents pardoned him under Islamic law, an attorney for the man's family said.

Waseem Azeem was arrested in 2016 after he confessed to killing Qandeel Baloch, 26, for posting what he called "shameful" pictures on Facebook. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison but his parents had sought his release, said Sardar Mahboob, a lawyer who represents Azeem and his family.

Islamic law in Pakistan allows a murder victim's family to pardon a convicted killer.

Baloch's murder at the time drew nationwide condemnation, but critics suspected Azeem could walk out of prison after his conviction if his parents forgave him.

Mahboob said Azeem could be freed as early as this week after the completion of paperwork.

The siblings' mother, Anwar Bibi, welcomed the court order. "I am happy over the acquittal of my son, but we are still sad for our daughter's loss," she said. **AP**

Hong Kong 'overwhelmed' as Covid-19 infections hit record

FARAH MASTER & TWINNIE SIU
HONG KONG, FEBRUARY 14

THE LATEST wave of Covid-19 infections has "overwhelmed" Hong Kong, the city's leader said on Monday as daily cases surged by some 20 times over the past two weeks, leaving hospitals short of beds and struggling to cope.

Carrie Lam, the head of the administration in the Chinese ruled city, issued a grim update for residents already subjected to tight restrictions on social gatherings as health authorities reported a record 2,071 infections on Monday, with 4,500 separate preliminary positive cases.

"The onslaught of the fifth wave of the epidemic has dealt a heavy blow to Hong Kong and overwhelmed the city's capacity of handling," Lam said, adding patients were having to wait longer to access isolation facilities.

"The situation is highly undesirable and the government feels worried and sorry about it," she said.

As the caseload soared, Lam said her administration would coordinate with Chinese officials to tackle the "aggravating situation".

China has said it would help the city with testing, treatment and quarantine, and secure resources from rapid antigen kits and protective gear to fresh vegetables.

Despite the latest surge, deaths in the global financial hub remain far less than similar-sized cities since the pandemic erupted two years ago.

But, with the healthcare system already overstretched, medical experts warn the city could see 28,000 daily infections by the end of March, with the unvaccinated elderly a particular worry.

Hospital beds for Covid-19 patients are already at 90 per cent occupancy, data from the city's Hospital Authority showed, while isolation facilities are near full capacity.

Hong Kong is prioritising elderly, children and those in serious conditions in hospitals, said Larry Lee, chief manager at the city's Hospital Authority.

There are around 1,000 patients waiting to be hospitalised, authorities said. **REUTERS**



Covid-19 cases in Hong Kong have increased by around 20 times over the past two weeks. *Reuters*

सार्वजनिक सूचना

जन साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि एक नामालूम गुमशुदा बालक जो अपना नाम कृष्णा बता रहा है । जिसकी उम्र लगभग 10 वर्ष है। बालक लावारिस अवस्था में चाइल्ड लाईन की टीम को पुलिस चौकी मोहड़ा जिला अम्बाला के क्षेत्र से प्राप्त हुआ है। इस बालक की गुमशुदगी रिपोर्ट की डी. आर. नं0 11 दिनांक 27.09.2021 पुलिस चौकी मोहड़ा थाना पठानकोट जिला अम्बाला में दर्ज है। यह बालक अपने आपको नदनाई उत्तर प्रदेश का बता रहा है। बच्चे के अनुसार बच्चे की माता व पिता की मृत्यु हो चुकी है। बालक इस समय राधा कृष्ण बाल देखभाल संस्थान नारायण गढ़ अम्बाला में रह रहा है। यदि इस बालक के अभिभावक या कोई सगा सम्बंधी इस सूचना को पढ़ता है। या उसे इस बालक कि जानकारी अन्य माध्यमों से प्राप्त होती है तो वह 15 दिन के अंतर्गत नीचे लिखे पते पर सूचित करे, अन्यथा बालक को गोद देने की प्रक्रिया में शामिल कर लिया जाएगा।

जिला बाल संरक्षण समिति, अम्बाला।
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District Programme Officer
Women & Child Development
AMBALA

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Unpaid and potentially stateless, Afghan diplomats seek to stay in US

LARA JAKES & CARLOTTA GALL
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 14

ALREADY REELING from a Taliban takeover of their government and a humanitarian disaster in their homeland, Afghan diplomats in the United States are grappling with another bleak reality: the loss of pay and the possibility of being deported.

Several dozen diplomats assigned to Afghanistan's embassy in Washington and consulates in New York and Los Angeles have not been paid since October, officials said, when US banks froze accounts to prevent the Taliban from accessing the embassy's funds.

But the envoys, who were part of the US-backed government that was overthrown in August, are keeping the embassy open — continuing diplomatic work but also preserving the diplomatic status that allows them to remain in the US.

Should the embassy close before they are granted asylum or other legal residency, the diplomats could find themselves stateless and without the permits needed to get a job.

"This is not something that we wanted. But it is something that came," Abdul Hadi Nejrabi, the Afghan Embassy's deputy chief of mission, said.

The situation is taking a toll on diplomats who are also still coming to grips with representing an elected government that has ceased to exist. Nejrabi said they were living largely on savings or on loans from relatives.

For now, the mission continues at the Afghan embassy in Washington. Nejrabi said the staff was processing documents and other consular requests, and otherwise helping settle Afghans who have fled to the US.



Abdul Hadi Nejrabi, the Afghan embassy's deputy chief of mission. *NYT*

The services bring in $2,000 to $3,000 in fees each month, Nejrabi said — enough to keep the lights and other utilities on, but too little to pay salaries. That has left the diplomats and their families — about 65 people in all — scrambling to make ends meet.

They are not alone: Public workers across Afghanistan have also not been paid as Washington issues conflicting guidance over whether American sanctions should be enforced against Afghan government bank accounts that are now, in theory, controlled by the Taliban. The freezing of assets of the Afghan Central Bank has precipitated a liquidity crisis that has exposed eight million people to possible starvation in a country torn by war, drought and acute poverty.

The sanctions were imposed against the Taliban years ago, when it was designated as a global terrorist organization. In October, after the group seized power, Citibank froze the Washington embassy's accounts and withheld what Mr. Nejrabi said was hundreds of thousands of dollars designated for salaries that the former Afghan government had deposited months before it was ousted.

US officials have tried, unsuccessfully, to assure Citibank that it would not be penalized if the Afghan funds were unlocked. The bank's spokesman, Rob Runyan, declined to comment.

"Our priority all along has been to figure out a way to facilitate a soft landing for the Afghan diplomats who are in the United States," said Mark Evans, the State Department's director for Afghanistan affairs. "Obviously, they're in very difficult circumstances through no fault of their own, and we wanted to be as supportive as possible."

Still, the Biden administration has refused to recognise the Taliban as a legitimate government. Until that happens — if it ever does — officials said the State Department would not accredit any diplomats the group sends to Washington.

While the Afghan government owns the embassy building in Washington, the State Department is responsible for maintaining the property if its envoys are unable to do so. Control of Afghanistan's diplomatic missions remains at the forefront of the struggle for power between the Taliban and their opponents over international recognition and support. **NYT**

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

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

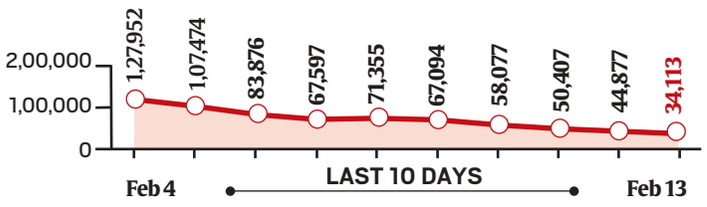
DASHBOARD, AS ON FEB 13

714 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

New cases	Active cases	Deaths
34,113	4,78,882	346

Weekly CFR: 0.35% | Overall CFR: 1.23% | Total deaths: 5,09,011

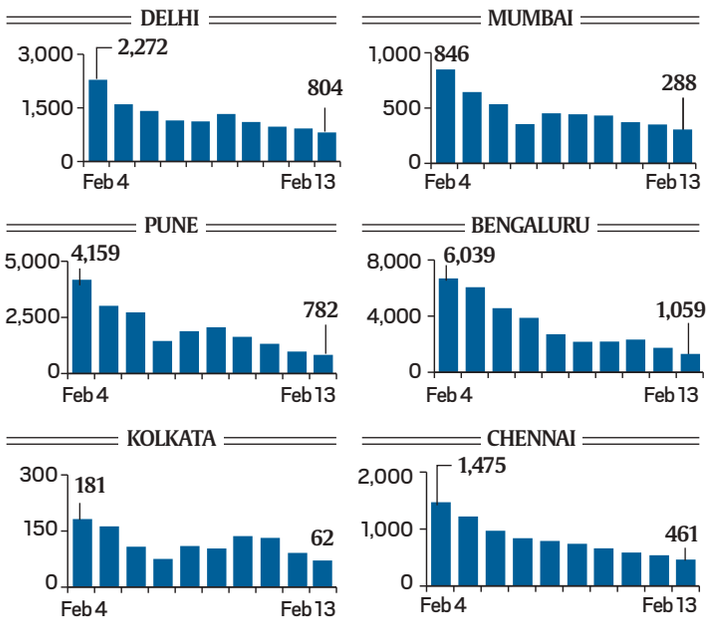
NEW CASES, DAILY



SURGE IN THE STATES

State	ON FEBRUARY 13 New cases	Active cases	Deaths	Weekly positivity
Kerala	11,136	1,61,104	146	24.45%
Maharashtra	3,502	45,905	20	4.45%
Karnataka	2,372	35,731	27	4.02%
Tamil Nadu	2,296	41,699	11	3.29%
Rajasthan	2,177	21,064	7	7.39%

CASES IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS

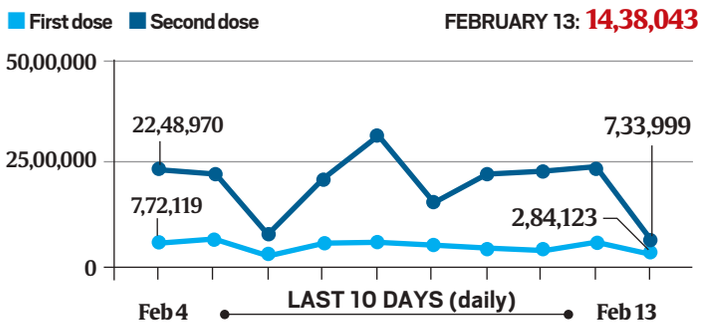


TOTAL TESTS 75,18,03,766

TESTS ON FEB 13	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	OVERALL POSITIVITY
10,67,908	3.84%	5.68%

INDIA TOTAL DOSES 172,95,87,490

(Adults 1st dose: 90,46,33,765; 2nd: 74,04,77,746; 15-18 age group 1st dose: 5,21,32,053; 2nd: 1,50,14,801; precautionary: 1,73,29,125)



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SIMPLY PUT

LIC's mega IPO

What does the IPO mean for the government, investors, and the Life Insurance Corporation? Who can apply, and what can LIC employees and eligible policyholders look forward to?

GEORGE MATHEW & SANDEEP SINGH
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 14

THE MEGA initial public offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is coming when markets are volatile and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) are pulling out from Indian stocks in the wake of the US Fed tightening rates. But LIC's 29-crore policyholder base is expected to help the IPO sail through.

Details of issue

The initial public offer of up to 31.62 crore equity shares comprises the net offer, employee reservation portion, and policyholder reservation portion. The IPO works out to 5 per cent of the total capital of 632.49 crore shares, with the government retaining the remaining 95 per cent.

LIC has calculated an earning per share (EPS) of Rs 4.70 and a return on net worth of 45.65 per cent for the fiscal ended March 2021. The net asset value per share is Rs 12.68 as on September 30, 2021.

Sebi is expected to clear the offer within a few days, and the IPO process and listing are expected to be concluded by March 2022.

For govt, LIC

The government will be entitled to the entire proceeds of the offer after deducting the offer expenses and relevant taxes thereon. LIC will not receive any proceeds from the offer. The government is expected to mop up between Rs 50,000 crore and Rs 1 lakh crore from the IPO, depending on the offer price. It will be a big boost to the government's revenues and aid in bringing down the deficit.

For LIC, the listing of shares means higher visibility and profile. Investors will be able to actively trade in its shares on the stock exchanges. It also means more transparency -- LIC, which is now answerable only to the government, will have to inform investors and exchanges details of all price sensitive information. In short, LIC will be accountable to investors, who are expected to demand high levels of corporate governance.

Who can apply

A portion of shares, not exceeding 5 per cent of the offer, will be reserved for employees. Another portion not exceeding 10 per cent, will be reserved for eligible policyholders. Policyholders and employees are likely to get shares at a discount. While the corporation has not disclosed details, a 5 per cent discount on the offer price is expected.

A minimum 35 per cent of the issue will be reserved for retail investors. The corporation may allocate up to 60 per cent of the QIB (qualified institutional buyers) portion to anchor investors on a discretionary basis. One-third of the anchor investor portion will be reserved for domestic mutual funds.

Possible challenges

The IPO will hold the key to the government achieving its revised disinvestment target of Rs 78,000 crore for the current financial year -- however, the market's appetite for the mega issue could be a challenge.

Given that inflation has been a growing concern worldwide, and central banks around the world are looking to raise interest rates, equity markets are likely to remain under pressure in the near future. A rise in interest rates in the US and in other developed markets would mean that FPIs will pull out money from emerging markets especially from the equity markets and move them into US treasury bonds. Not only will this put pressure on the secondary market, it will reduce the liquidity availability for investments in primary market issuances. Given that the size of LIC issue could be well above Rs 50,000 crore, liquidity will be of essence.

A decline in equity markets in the near term would also reduce the government's ability to command a higher premium. The government may have to settle on a lower price to make it attractive for the investors.

For investors

Investors will have to carefully look at the pricing of the issue, and do their due diligence on valuation. QIP participation will provide retail investors with an idea of the market's interest in the issue.

HOW TOP INSURERS FARED IN FY21

	Total Premium (₹bn)	Individual (%)	Group (%)
LIC	4,032.9	66.5	33.5
SBI Life	502.5	81.7	18.3
HDFC Life	385.8	73.7	26.3
ICICI Prudential Life	357.3	85.2	14.8
Max Life	190.2	96.8	3.2
Bajaj Allianz Life	120.2	68.3	31.7
Others	698.3	86.3	13.7
Private players total	**2,254.3**	**83.9**	**16.1**
Total	6,287.3	72.6	27.4

HOW LIC FARES GLOBALLY

5th in terms of life insurance premium, 10th in terms of total assets

Company	Gross written premium	Total assets	Life insurance premium
Allianz SE (Germany)	99,583	1,272,014	88,853
Ping An Insurance (China)	115,635	1,380,851	74,134
China Life Insurance	88,734	616,291	69,651
Assicurazioni Generali SpA (Italy)	84,845	653,652	58,268
LIC	56,405	507,333	56,405
Nippon Life Insurance	39,838	705,002	39,838
AXA SA (France)	112,698	965,747	37,829
Japan Post Insurance	24,369	633,845	34,223
Dai-chi Life Holdings (Japan)	41,644	559,853	27,024
NorthWestern Mutual (US)	19,323	308,767	15,720

In $ million for 2020



Markets are volatile, but IPO is expected to thrive on LIC's policyholder base. *Reuters*

India-Australia interim trade agreement & FTA

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

INDIA AND Australia have announced that they are set to conclude an interim trade agreement in March and a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) 12-18 months thereafter.

What it's likely to cover

An interim or early harvest trade agreement is used to liberalise tariffs on the trade of certain goods between two countries or trading blocs before a comprehensive FTA (Free Trade Agreement) is concluded. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has said that the interim agreement, set to be announced in about 30 days, will cover "most areas of interest for both countries" including goods, services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and customs procedures.

Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at about $12.5 billion in FY21 and has already surpassed $17.7 billion in the first 10 months of FY22. India has imported merchandise worth about $12.1 billion from Australia in the first 10 months of the fiscal, and exported merchandise worth $5.6 billion. Key imports from Australia include coal, gold and LNG while key exports to Australia include diesel, petrol and gems and jewellery.



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal with Australian Trade Minister Dan Tehan. *Twitter/@PiyushGoyalOffc*

Both Goyal and Australia's Trade Minister, Dan Tehan, noted that two sides had "respected each other's sensitivities" during trade negotiations. Tehan said Australia understood that dairy, beef and wheat were sensitive sectors for India, indicating that Australia would likely not seek market access for products in these categories.

Goyal said the agreement with Australia was set to bring opportunities across sectors including mining, pharmaceuticals, health, education, renewables, railways, gems and jewellery, tourism, defence and textiles. India is also likely to seek easier visa access for both students and professionals visiting Australia. Australia is likely to seek market access for wines and agricultural products which are not produced on a large scale in India.

Tehan also noted that both countries are also looking at mutual recognition of educational qualifications to boost the number of Indian students seeking education in Australia and vice versa, and to boost tourism in both countries. India and Australia have also signed an MoU to boost tourism between the two countries.

Australia has emphasised that the agreement would lead to deeper cooperation between the two countries in critical minerals and rare earth elements, which are critical to future industries including renewable energy and electric vehicles.

"We have plentiful supplies of these rare earths and critical minerals in Australia. But we need places for them to be processed, we need to make sure that they go into manufacturing here in India," Tehan said.

Quad & bilateral relations

India and Australia are both members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) along with the US and Japan. Both countries have noted that the coalition has given impetus to increasing trade relations between all members of the Quad. Australia noted that it already had FTAs with both the US and Japan and that all four countries could start building a framework for economic cooperation within the countries of the Quad after they announced a deal with India.

FTAs in the works

India is currently in the process of negotiating FTAs with the UAE, the UK, Canada, the EU and Israel, besides Australia. India is also looking to complete an early harvest agreement with the UAE and the UK in the first half of 2022.

What is driving the new language-domicile protest in Jharkhand?

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, FEBRUARY 14

SEVERAL PARTS of Jharkhand are seeing massive protests against the inclusion of Bhojpuri and Magahi as "regional languages" in district-level competitive examinations for government jobs. Hundreds of protesters, including women, have been marching with placards, raising slogans against the government mainly in Bokaro and Dhanbad, but also in Giridih and Ranchi.

The protests have gathered momentum since the last week of January. Thousands protested in the Silli area of Ranchi district on Sunday, and in Bagodar in Giridih district on Saturday.

Why are the protests taking place?

On December 24, the Jharkhand Personnel, Administrative Reforms, and Rajbhasha Department issued a notification to include Magahi, Bhojpuri, and Angika among others as regional languages in the district-level selection process through exams conducted by the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC).

A section of people, especially in Bokaro and Dhanbad, saw the inclusion of Bhojpuri and Magahi as an "infringement" on the rights of Adivasis and Moolvasis. The protesters argue that the "low population" of Magahi and Bhojpuri speakers in these two districts did not "warrant" the inclusion of these languages in the job selection process.

Anecdotal evidence suggests there is a relatively small number of Magahi- and Bhojpuri-speaking people in these districts; however, no precise data are available.

What kind of examinations are these?

There is no clarity so far. Eligibility requirements are relatively modest, and the exams will be held for appointments to lower-level jobs in the districts. But these jobs are yet to be advertised.

"The notification is for the selection of matriculation- (Class 10) and Intermediate- (Class 12) pass candidates at the district level through JSSC examinations. It is not applicable to the selection process at the level of the state. As of now no vacancies have been advertised against the notification," Pawan Jha, who has been coaching students for competitive examinations since 2002, said.



Protesters in Bagodar of Giridih district on Saturday. *Express*

Jha added this would be the first time that the exams would have Bhojpuri, Angika, and Magahi as language papers.

Who is protesting?

The Jharkhandi Bhasha Sangharsha Samiti, an organisation of Moolvasis and Adivasis which claims to be apolitical, has organised more than 50 protest gatherings over the last few days. Tirth Nath Akash, a spokesperson for the Samiti, said the protests were intended to pressure the government on the inclusion of these languages in Bokaro and Dhanbad.

"It is our (Adivasi) government, and it is important to force them to listen… The population that speaks Magahi and Bhojpuri in Bokaro and Dhanbad is minuscule, so what sense does it make to include these languages? It will only make jobs scarcer for Jharkhandis. We are not opposing the inclusion of these languages in Latehar, Garhwa or Palamu, because a substantial population speaks these languages in those areas."

The protesters are also demanding that 1932 be made the cut-off date while taking into account proof of land records for the state's domicile policy. In 2016, the Raghubar Das government had come out with a domicile policy that included criteria such as employment for the last 30 years, and essentially made 1985 the cut-off year. After coming to power in 2019, the Hemant Soren government set up a cabinet sub-committee to re-define domicile.

Is there any opposition to the protests?

A group called the Bhojpuri, Magahi, Maithili Angika Manch, which is backed by RJD Loktantrik, a Jharkhand splinter of the RJD, has criticised the alleged polarising nature of the protests. Manch president Kailash Yadav has claimed that more than 1 crore people in Jharkhand speak Bhojpuri, Magahi, and Angika, and recalled the "immense contribution" of Bhojpuri and Magahi speakers to the state.

Jharkhand Education Minister Jagarnath Mahato has posted on Twitter: "*Jharkhand ki sarkar Jharkhandion ne banaaya hai aur yahaan unki baat suni jayegi.* (Jharkhandis have made this government, and it is their voice that will be heard.)"

The JMM-Congress have not officially taken a stand. Some people in the BJP have opposed the inclusion of Urdu, but have been largely silent on Magahi, Bhojpuri and Angika. Former BJP ally All Jharkhand Students Union Party has opposed the inclusion.

So, where is this protest headed?

Author and human rights activist Gladson Dungdung said the protest on the language issue is "full of contradictions". According to Dungdung, some MLAs have been "directly involved in crowd-gathering", "so the claim that this movement is apolitical is not true".

Dungdung pointed out that the protesters do not have a problem with Bengali or Odia being made regional languages, nor do they oppose other districts having Bhojpuri and Magahi as regional languages.

According to Dungdung, while political parties will take some mileage, the protests will ultimately "fizzle out".

E-TENDER PRESS NOTICE

The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD-XIII, I&FC Department Govt. of Delhi, on behalf of the President of India, invites Online Percentage rate tender from the approved and eligible contractors registered with IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT. The contractors who are registered with other department and now got their registrations verified from I&FC Deptt. are eligible to participate in Tender process for the work:-

1. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2021-22/38(4th Call) (ID No. 2022_IFC_216635_1) Major Head of Account 4217(Development Unauthorized Colonies) Name of Work: Improvement of Streets and construction of side drain Nathu Ram Park, Najafgarh, AC-35 (Reg. No. 172). Construction of main road from Najafgarh Tilak Nagar road to Nathu Ram Park, Najafgarh Block (Balance Work). Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 91,76,034/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 1,83,521/- Time allowed 120 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-02-2022 on 03.00 Hrs & 03.05 Hrs respectively.
2. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2021-22/71(2nd Call) (ID No. 2022_IFC_216617_1) Major Head of Account 2711(Revenue) Name of Work: Providing Neelgiri/Mexican Grass turf on plot adjacent to Kakraula Model Nursery Right of Mungeshpur Drain. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 24,95,736/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 49,915/- Time allowed 30 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-02-2022 on 03.00 Hrs & 03.05 Hrs respectively.
3. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2021-22/73(2nd Call) (ID No. 2022_IFC_216624_1) Major Head of Account 2711(Revenue) Name of Work: Demolishing and Reconstruction of RCC Retaining wall cum protection wall from RD 0m to RD 150m on left bank of Mungeshpur Drain. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 51,83,147/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 1,03,663/- Time allowed 90 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-02-2022 on 03.00 Hrs & 03.05 Hrs respectively.
4. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2021-22/74(2nd Call) (ID No. 2022_IFC_216630_1) Major Head of Account 2711(Revenue) Name of Work: Demolishing and Re-Construction of west side RCC Retaining wall on the land boundary of plot at Kakraula Model Nursery. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 51,83,147/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 1,03,663/- Time allowed 90 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-02-2022 on 03.00 Hrs & 03.05 Hrs respectively.

Note :-

1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site **https://govteprocurement.delhi.govi.n**
2) Amendment(s)/alteration(s)/corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.
3) EMD in the form of Bankers Cheque/DD/Fixed Deposit receipt in F/o EE/CD-XIII, I&FC Deptt Shall be scanned and uploaded to the e-tender website within the period of bid submission. The original EMD should be deposited in the office of EE/CD-XIII, I&FC Deptt. within the period of bid submission.

Sd/- **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD. XIII.**
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E-mail: latha.mdksmscl@gmail.com

No: HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/70/Hearing Aid/2021-22 (IND-915) Date:14/02/2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref:
1. Tender Notification No: HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/70/Hearing Aid/2021-22 Date: 14/02/2022. (IND-915)
2. Tender Notification No: HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/71/ENT EQPT/2021-22 Date: 14/02/2022. (IND-916)
3. Tender Notification No: HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/72/PBM /2021-22 Date: 14/02/2022. (IND-917)
4. Tender Notification No: HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/COVID-19/ ESSE/75/21-22 Date: 14/02/2022. (IND-852 Call-2)

Nation wide Tender is invited through **e-tendering system** and Invitation under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tenders

1. **Tender for Supply of Hearing Aids under NPPCD Programme (IND-915)**
2. **Tender for Supply of ENT Equipments under NPPCD Programme (IND-916)**
3. **Tender for Supply of Pathological Binocular Microscope under NVBDCP Programme (IND-917)**
4. **Re-Tender for Supply of Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Equipments under NVBDCP Programme (IND-852 Call-2)**

The tenderers who have registered under **E-Procurement Department** may participate through e-tendering system. Details regarding specification EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the KSMSCL website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **14/02/2022** the eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders in e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office during working hours.

Sd/- Managing Director, KSMSCL, Bangalore.

DIPR/DDU/AAPL/RO3371/21-22

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

District Mineral Foundation
Keonjhar
Government of Odisha

RFP No: 2-VI-11/2021 Date: 14.02.2022

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Selection of Agency for Establishment and Running of Programme Management Unit (PMU) for District Mineral Foundation (DMF), Keonjhar

District Collector -cum- Chairman and Managing Trustee DMF, Keonjhar, Govt. of Odisha invites sealed proposals from eligible bidders to carryout **"Selection of Agency for Establishment and Running of Programme Management Unit (PMU) for District Mineral Foundation (DMF), Keonjhar"**.

Bidders fulfilling the prescribed eligibility criteria of the RFP can access and download the complete RFP Document and other details from https://keonjhar.nic.in

The major events under the bid process are:

Sr. No.	List of Key Events	Critical Dates
1	Date of Issue of RFP	14.02.2022
2	Last Date for Submission of Bid	02.03.2022 by 03.00 PM
3	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	02.03.2022 by 05.00 PM
4	Date of Technical Presentation	07.03.2022 at 11.00 AM
5	Date of Opening of Financial Bid	10.03.2022 at 11.00 AM

The proposal complete in all respects must reach the undersigned by Speed Post/Registered Post only latest by 02.03.2022 before 03.00 PM in a sealed envelope clearly mentioning on the top of it **"SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND RUNNING OF PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) FOR DISTRICT MINERAL FOUNDATION (DMF), KEONJHAR"**. The proposals received beyond the last date and time will be rejected The authority reserves the right to reject any/ all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Address for Submission of Proposal:
PD DRDA--cum--Chief Executive Officer,
DMF Keonjhar, Ground Floor, DRDA,
District Collectorate, Keonjhar, 758001, Odisha

Sd/-
PD DRDA-cum-CEO
DMF Keonjhar

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR .NO	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R HANSI	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROAD FROM BARWALA JIND ROAD TO BADHAWAR IN KM 0.00 TO 2.39 IN HISAR DISTT +1 OTHER WORK	11.02.2022 03.03.2022	323.7 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416130946 pwd-eepd-hansi@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R SONIPAT	IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD FROM GT ROAD TO RAI NAHRA BAHADURGARH ROAD MDR 138 RD 0.00 TO 11.75 ROAD ID 9821 IN RAI CONSTITUENCY IN SONIPAT DISTT. ALTERNATE ROUTE DUR TO KISAN AGITATION AT KUNDLI BORDER. RE-INVITE	11.02.2022 02.03.2022	1255 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2200575 pwd-eepd2-sonepat@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R SONIPAT	PROVIDING BY WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING OF ROAD FROM RATHDHANA TO MEERUT SONIPAT ROAD RD 0.00 TO 2.350 ROAD ID 9303 IN RAI CONSTITUENCY IN SONIPAT DISTT. ALTERNATE ROUTE DUE TO KISAN AGITATION AT KUNDLI BORDER. RE-INVITE	11.02.2022 02.03.2022	179.20 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2200575 pwd-eepd2-sonepat@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R SIRSA	PDG. WDG. & STG(3PB FROM SAHUWALA -II TO DARBA KM. 0.00 TO 5.43 (ROAD ID 2263) TRANSFERRED FROM HSAMB IN SIRSA DISTT.(ELLENABAD CONSTITUENCY) + 7 NOS. OTHER WORKS	12.02.2022 26.02.2022	851.95 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-222959 pwd-eepd2-sirsa@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R HISAR	INSTALLATION OF PSA PLANT IN CIVIL HOSPITAL HISAR (PDG. 250 KVA SILENT DG SET ONLY), +2 OTHER WORKS	12.02.2022 28.02.2022	51.54 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466724918 pwd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF EVM/ VVPAT'S WARE HOSUE FOR (4000 UNITS) ITS PROPER STORAGE IN MINI SECTT. AT SIRSA (PDG. 1 NO. GOODS LIFT ONLY) RECALL	12.02.2022 28.02.2022	24.58 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466724918 pwd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in
7	PWD B&R SONIPAT	SPECIAL REPAIR OF INTERNAL ROADS AND PARKING IN BPS KHANPUR GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE IN DISTT. SONIPAT.	11.02.2022 02.03.2022	1234.63 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2200575 pwd-eepd2-sonepat@hry.nic.in
8	PWD B&R PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 2 FEET WIDE DRAIN ON LINK ROAD NH-73 TO KDT UPTO BUNGA UPTO BELWALI IN PANCHKULA DISTRICT. + 2 OTHER WORKS	11.02.2022 03.03.2022	255.23 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2520477 pwd-eepd-panchkula@hry.nic.in
9	PWD B&R SONIPAT	SPECIAL REPAIR OF PEDIATRIC OXYGEN SUPPORTED BEDS AND HYBRID ICU (ERCP-II) IN CIVIL HOSPITAL SONIPAT.	11.02.2022 03.03.2022	21.28 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	130-2200575 pwd-eepd2-sonepat@hry.nic.in
10	PWD B&R AMBALA	PROVIDING AND FIXING OVERHEAD CANTILEVER AND GANTRY BOARD FOR COMPLIANCE OF ROAD SAFETY ON SAHARANPUR KURUKSHETRA PEHOWA CHEEKA ROAD (SH-06) IN KURUKSHETRA DISTRICT.	12.02.2022 03.03.2022	133.03 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416659442 pwd-eepd2-kurukshetra@hry.nic.in
11	PWD B&R AMBALA	COMPREHENSIVE UP-GRADATION AND IMPROVEMENT ON SAHARANPUR-RADUR- PIPLI-PEHOWA- CHEEKA LENGTH 103.64 KM. (SH-06) (AS PER RECOMMENDATION OF ROAD AUDIT SAFETY AUDIT REPORT).	12.02.2022 03.03.2022	387.97 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416659442 pwd-eepd2-kurukshetra@hry.nic.in
12	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	REPAIR OF GA ROAD TO GARHI BAZIDPUR ROAD VIA DAMDAMA ROAD (ID: 10677) KM. 0.00 TO 5.19 BY PROVIDING HEAVY PATCH WORK IN DLP AT THE RISK AND COST OF M/S PARIVARTAN BUILDTECH PVT. LTD.	CLOSING DATE 26.02.2022	70.37 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0124-2977767 pwd-eepd1-gurgaon1@hry.nic.in
13	PWD B&R NARNAUL	CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD FROM MATA KA MANDIR MAHASAR TO KARIYA KANOTA ROAD IN MOHINDERGARH DISTRICT (ATELI CONSTITUENCY) + 10 OTHER WORKS	11.02.2022 05.03.2022	2376.55 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01282251267 pwd-eepd-narnaul@hry.nic.in
14	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	DEVELOPMENT OF PLANATAION IN CENTRAL VERGE OF OLD NH-10 INTERNAL CITY PORTION OF CONSTRUCTION OF 4 LANE ROAD FROM DELHI BRIDGE HISAR ROAD TO NH BYE PASS (KM 249.830 TO KM 252.230)(C.M ANNOUNCEMENT CODE 24519 DATED 28/11/2018) IN SIRSA DISTRICT./RECALL)	11.02.2022 21.02.2022	9.29 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9717214202 zilesinghhort@gmail.com
15	PWD B&R KURUKSHETRA	WIDENING WITH HARD SHOULDERING AND STRENGTHENING OF LADWA MUSTAFABAD ROAD TO JOGI MAJRA + 2 MORE WORKS	07.02.2022 28.02.2022	34.11 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	91174429727 pwd-eepd2-kurukshetra@hry.nic.in
16	PWD B&R YAMUNA NAGAR	WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING OF KHARKALI SHAHZDPUR (ID 562) BY PROVIDING 20MSN PC AND CC BLOCK IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT. + 14 OTHERS WORKS	18.02.2022 03.03.2022	1190.24 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	97290-63221 pwd-eepd-yamunanagar@hry.nic.in
17	PWD B&R KARNAL	CONSTRUCTION OF H.L. BRIDGE SYL AND NARWANA BRANCH CANALS ON KARNAL KACHHWA SAMBLI KAUL ROAD (ROAD ID-7370) IN KARNAL DISTRICT (UNDER CRF SCHEME)	14.02.2022 07.03.2022	19.48 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9050620000 pwd-eepd-karnal@hry.nic.in
18	PWD B&R BHIWANI	CONSTRUCTION ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK IN THE CAMPUS OF MINI SECRETARIAT AT BHIWANI	21.02.2022 03.03.2022	4091.17 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664242436 pwd-eepd-bhiwani@hry.nic.in
19	PWD B&R SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. VETERINARY HOSPITAL AT VILLAGE SHAHAPUR TAGA TEHSIL GANAUR DISTT. SONIPAT	11.02.2022 03.03.2022	32.04 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2200575 pwd-eepd2-sonepat@hry.nic.in
20	PWD B&R SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. VETERINARY HOSPITAL AT VILLAGE SANDAL KALAN TEHSIL GANAUR DISTT. SONIPAT	11.02.2022 03.03.2022	32.43 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2200575 pwd-eepd2-sonepat@hry.nic.in
21	PWD B&R SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. VETERINARY HOSPITAL AT VILLAGE GUHAR TEHSIL GANAUR DISTT. SONIPAT	11.02.2022 03.03.2022	32.62 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2200575 pwd-eepd2-sonepat@hry.nic.in
22	PWD B&R SONIPAT	IMP PDG STG WDG OF CHITANA TO KHEZARPUR JATMAJRA PDG STG OF GT ROAD TO RNB ROAD (MDR-138) NAHRA TO VILLAGE SCHTT + 1 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 22.02.2022	973.04 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	98124 84184 pwd-eepd1-sonepat@hry.nic.in
23	PWD B&R BHIWANI	SPECIAL REPAIR BY PROVIDING AND LAYING INTER LOCKING PAVER BLOCK ON JHUMPA KALAN APP. ROAD FROM KM 0.00 TO 0.450 IN BHIWANI DISTT.(ROAD ID NO. 2096)	11.02.2022 02.03.2022	62.75 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664242436 pwd-eepd-bhiwani@hry.nic.in
24	PWD B&R SONIPAT	SPECIAL REPAIR OF INFRASTRUCTURE STRENGTHENING AT VARIOUS SUB HEALTH CENTRES I.E. BAHALGARH, ATTERNA AND JATHERI IN RAI CONSTITUENCY IN SONIPAT DISTT. FOR THE YEAR 2020-21. (UPGRADATION INTO AB-HWC'S)	11.02.2022 02.03.2022	12.29 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	130-2200575 pwd-eepd2-sonepat@hry.nic.in
25	PWD B&R CHANDIGARH	IMPROVEMENT BY WIDENING & STRENGTHENING OF LINK ROAD TAGRA KANGAN TO TAGRA HARISINGH IN PANCHKULA DISTT. (ROAD ID 2899)	15.02.2022 07.03.2022	148.47 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172026818279 pwd-eecd-chandigarh@hry.nic.in
26	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA KARNAL	REPAIRING OF GHAT AT RD 52200 L/S OF NBK LINK CHANNEL+2 OTHER WORKS	10.02.2022 21.02.2022	45.84 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01842255291 kmldivn335@gmail.com
27	HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	SUPPLY OF MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 FOR HEADQUATER & DISTRICT OFFICES OF HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT HARYANA	14.02.2022 21.02.2022	EMD 50000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7015241695 sseithort-hry@nic.in
28	BDPO GOHANA SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF STREET FROM NAI CHOUPAL TO SCHOOL WALI GALI AT VILLAGE ANWALI TENDER NO. 2022_HRY_207900_1	15.02.2022 21.02.2022	AS PER E-TENDER NOTICE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8053206883 bdpogohana@gmail.com
29	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	STATE LEVEL LIVESTOCK SHOW 2021-22	11.02.2022 17.02.2022	EMD 2 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416791000 hldb-hry@nic.in
30	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA CHARKHI DADRI	REPAIRING OF RING BUNDH OF ESCAPE RESERVOIR AT K.M. 17.650-L OF NIGARH CANAL & + 11 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 03.03.2022	49.44 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7988275133 xenmgcckd11@gmail.com
31	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA HISAR	REPLACEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING FLOOD POOL VERTICAL TURBINE (VT) PUMP SETS OF 10 CS. CAPACITY EACH AND THEIR ALLIED ACCESSORIES TO CARRY OUT EFFECTIVE FLOOD PROTECTION AND DEWATERING WORKS IN DISTRICT HISAR	14.02.2022 28.02.2022	220.80 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9991831221 eerwsdmechhsr@gmail.com
32	PANCHAYATI RAJ SONIPAT	L CONST. OF OF JATAYANPANA CHOUPAL AT VILLAGE DHANANA BLOCK KATHURA DISTT.SONIPAT	15.02.2022 25.02.2022	12.78 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416391006 prexeeng.snp@gmail.com
33	PANCHAYATI RAJ SONIPAT	CONS.OF WASTE WATER (NGT)AT VILLAGE KHERI GUJAR BLOCK GANAUR DISTT. SONIPAT.	15.02.2022 25.02.2022	1.68 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416391006 prexeeng.snp@gmail.com
34	PANCHAYATI RAJ AMBALA	PDG. OF STREET LIGHTING IN VILLAGE SALWAN BLOCK ASSANDH DISTT. KARNAL + 1 OTHER WORKS	11.02.2022 24.02.2022	97.64 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7876821204 prexeengelec.amb@hry.nic.in
35	PANCHAYATI RAJ SONIPAT	GREY WATER MANAGEMENT(CONST. OF WET LAND TECHNOLOGY)AT VILLAGE BALI-QUATUBPUR & 34 NO VILLAGES IN DISTT. SONIPAT .	16.02.2022 25.02.2022	17.27 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416391006 prexeeng.snp@gmail.com
36	PANCHAYATI RAJ SONIPAT	CONST. OF MODEL POND AT VILLAGE PABSERA BLOCK RAI & 2 NOS OTHER WORKS DISTT SONIPAT	16.02.2022 25.02.2022	2.09 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416391006 prexeeng.snp@gmail.com
37	SHKM GOVT MEDICAL COLLEGE NALHAR NUH	OPERATION & COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE HVAC SYSTEM AT SHKMGMC NALHAR NUH	15.02.2022 03.03.2022	61 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01267-282007 tendergmcnewat@gmail.com

7589/HRY **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSAMB HISAR	SPECIAL REPAIR OF LINK ROAD FROM HANSI LALPURA TO DHANI CHANDERPAL UPTO HOUSE OF FATEH SINGH (ID-4928).	08.02.2022 01.03.2022	11.04 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8570064000 xenhsamb.hisar1@gmail.com

7580/HRY **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSAMB KURUK-SHETRA	CONST. OF SOIL TESTING LABO-RATORY IN NGM AT SHAHABAD + 2 OTHER WORKS	12.02.2022 28.02.2022	1.62 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01744-231420 xenkkr2019@gmail.com

7579/HRY **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	BHAGAT PHOOL SINGH MAHILA VISHVA VIDYALAYA	RE-INVITE TENDER FOR REFILLING OF EXISTING FIRE PROTECTION DEVICES IN VARIOUS BUILDINGS I.E TEACHING BLOCKS GUEST HOUSES, ELECTRIC SUB-STATION, CAMPUS SCHOOL, HOSTELS AND PRO-VIDING OF FIRE PROTECTION DEVICES IN ADMINIS-TRATIVE BLOCK OF BPSMV KHANPUR KALAN.	11.02.2022 28.02.2022	17 LACS	http://www.bpswom-enuniversity.ac.in	01263283530 xenbpsmv@gmail.com
2	BHAGAT PHOOL SINGH MAHILA VISHVA VIDYALAYA	INVITE TENDER FOR PROVIDING COMPUTER NET-WORKING (LAN) SYSTEM IN STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTRE AT BPSMV KHANPUR KALAN.	11.02.2022 28.02.2022	6.60 LACS	http://www.bpswom-enuniversity.ac.in	01263283530 xenbpsmv@gmail.com

7582/HRY **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	GMDA GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF MASTER DIVIDING ROAD OF SECTOR 82/82A (MISSING LINK), GURUGRAM	11.02.2022 04.03.2022	482.61 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in	8683096574 xen1infra1.gmda@gov.in

7583/HRY **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARERA GURUGRAM	ADVERTISE-MENT FOR INVESTMENT IN SHORT TERM DEPOSITS	14.02.2022 22.02.2022	37 CRORE	www.haryanarera.gov.in	7007582500 pandeyankitaashar-eraggm@gmail.com

7581/HRY **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in**

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE **Date: 15.02.2022**

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/22-23/ RB/PR/RJ/0981	SUPPLY OF VARIOUS RATINGS OF PSS (250 KVA, 400 KVA, 630 KVA) IN BRPL	2.43 Crores	4,86,000/-	07.03.2022 15: 30 HRS	07.03.2022 16:00 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/ RB/PR/RJ/0983	SUPPLY OF 1000 KVA PSS IN BRPL	4.04 Crores	8,09,600/-	07.03.2022 15:30 HRS	07.03.2022 16:00 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/ RB/PR/RJ/0982	SUPPLY OF CHEMICAL EARTHING KIT IN BRPL	3.60 Crores	7,20,000/-	07.03.2022 15:30 HRS	07.03.2022 16:00 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/ RB/PR/FH/0985	SUPPLY OF XLPE INSULATED DIFFERENT TYPE OF CONDUCTOR	1.78 Crores	3,56,000/-	07.03.2022 15:30 HRS	07.03.2022 16:00 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document : ₹ 1180/-

For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eauction@relianceada.com

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 I Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No. : +91 11 4920 7235 I Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

हरियाणा राज्य जैव विविधता बोर्ड, पंचकूला
Haryana State Biodiversity Board, Panchkula

S.C.O. No. 206, 2nd Floor, Sector-14, Panchkula, Haryana
Email: sbhry18gmail.com. Website: sbb.haryanaforest.gov.in,
Contact No. 0172-4046984, 2930434

HIRING OF CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Haryana State Biodiversity Board (HSBB) is an Autonomous statutory body constituted under Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Applications are invited from eligible persons in the office of HSBB to perform the tasks related to the functioning of this Board, for hiring of following contractual services initially for a period of one year which may be further extended based on satisfactory performance

S No.	Position	Emoluments	No. of Position
1	Technical Expert-Zoology	35,000	1
2	Technical Expert-Botany	35,000	1
3	Education & Awareness Officer	35,000	1
4	Regional Coordinator	30,000	4
5	District Coordinator	18,000	5

- The person so engaged shall have no right to claim any benefit of such engagement for any purpose
- The Board reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason
- The selected persons will have to sign a contractual agreement with the board
- The engagement will be for one year purely on honorarium basis (the same can be terminated at any time without assigning any reason or prior notice)
- The application can be sent by Speed Post/Registered Post/By Email- **sbbhry18@gmail.com** as well or may be submitted in person also. The applications received beyond the specific time shall be rejected out rightly
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview
- Last Date for Submission of Application: 21.02.2022, 05.00 P.M.
- For further Qualifications required & duties please refer to our website: www.sbbharyanaforest.gov.in
- The applicationfkre to be submitted in the prescribed application form to be downloaded from this website

Sd/-
Member Secretary
Haryana State Biodiversity Board,
Panchkula

7587/HRY

New Delhi

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY — APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



STUDY TOUR - ONGC

ONGC continues its study tours of students, as a part of the observance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. In this regard, 106 students from Kendriya Vidyalaya of ONGC North Colony, Agartala visited ONGC Tripura Asset's petroleum Installation.



SESSION - PHDCCI

PHDCCI had organized a post-budget interactive session with Hon'ble Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on 7th Feb 2022, at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi.



LAUNCH - DELHI POLICE

Delhi Police launched its Platinum Jubilee Logo at Delhi Police Headquarters marking the beginning of a series of events this year to commemorate 75 yrs of its glorious existence.



ICAI AWARD - RITES

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting to RITES' Director (Finance) & Chief Financial Officer Bibhu Prasad Nayak and other officials at a ceremony on February 9, 2022.



ICAI AWARD - RAILTEL

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting to RailTel. P Chawla, CMD, AK Singh, Dir. (Fin.), S Kumar, Dir. (Network Planning & Mktg.) of RailTel accepted the award on behalf of the Company.



ICAI AWARD - BHEL

BHEL has won the coveted 'ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting' for FY 2020-21. On behalf of BHEL, the award was received by Subodh Gupta, Director (Finance), from Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.



CSR - POWERGRID, NR-I

POWERGRID, NR-I has signed a MoU with ESIC Medical College & Hospital, FBD for providing financial assistance towards procurement of medical equipment under its CSR initiative. The estimated project cost is approx. Rs. 2 crores.



DFCCIL QUICK - DFCCIL

The DFC IT team showcased DFCCIL QUICK, an in-house automated IT application. This application will reduce duplication of effort & lead to optimization of time, manpower & organizational efficiency.



MoU - PHL

Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) and Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU) recently signed a MoU to offer a dual Aviation three years' program of B.Sc. (Honours) – Aircraft Maintenance with DGCA approved AME course.



LOI - THDCIL

THDCIL signed the LOI of 10,000 MW in Rajasthan with an estimated investment of Rs 40,000 crores for establishment of Renewable Energy Parks/Projects of 10,000MW in the presence of CM of Rajasthan.

AWARD - DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL DEFENCE



Satvinder Puri, Chief Warden, Honorary (WEST DISTRICT) was awarded President's HG & CD Medal for Distinguished Service by the President of India for his commendable service rendered in Delhi Civil Defence Corps in the Directorate of Civil Defence Delhi.

RITES Ltd., the leading Transport Infrastructure Consultancy and Engineering company, reported its standalone and consolidated financial results for the Quarter and nine months ended on 31st December, 2021. Commenting on the results, Rahul Mithal, Chairman and Managing Director, RITES Limited, said, "RITES continues to build on the growth momentum with total revenue for the quarter reaching Rs.792 crore, up by 64.9%, against Q3FY21. Our focus will be to consolidate on this position and follow the mantra — Not just more of the same, but much more of the new."

NTPC was bestowed with the 'India's Best Workplaces in Manufacturing 2022 – Top 30' recognition by the Great Place to Work Institute. This is the fifth year in a row, NTPC has been bestowed with the recognition. In the 5th edition of India's Best Workplaces in Manufacturing, 132 organizations in the Manufacturing sector undertook the assessment.

APPOINTMENTS



IndianOil Sukla Mistry has taken over as Director (Refineries) of IndianOil. Mistry is the first woman Functional Director on the IndianOil Board. She will also be holding the positions of Director on the board of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL) & the 60 MMTPA Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemical Ltd., the world's largest grass root refinery project, coming up in Maharashtra. Mistry will continue to hold the post of Non-Executive Director on the Board of IHBL, a Joint Venture Company of three leading Oil & Gas Central Public Sector Undertakings. Mistry as Director (Refineries) of IndianOil shall spearhead the business & operations of nine refineries & petrochemical plants of IndianOil.



IndianOil The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension of Dr SSV Ramakumar as Director (Research & Development), IndianOil Corporation w.e.f 01.02.2022 till 31.07.2023 i.e. the date of his superannuation. He had joined the IndianOil Board as Director (R&D) on 1st February 2017. Dr Ramakumar has more than three decades of rich and versatile experience in research, development & deployment in the downstream hydrocarbons sector. With his experience and stature, Dr Ramakumar is regarded as a leading voice in the industry on matters spanning the entire energy portfolio.



NATIONAL AWARD – (BOC)

S. Prakash, Principal DG, BOC was conferred with the National Award for enhancing electoral participation by the Election Commission of India for activities conducted towards voter awareness & education during the period 2021-22.

ACHIEVEMENT - IRCON

IRCON International Ltd achieved a milestone of break through of Tunnel No. 14 of Sivok-Rangpo Rail Project (SRRP), located in Rangpo Sub-Division, East Sikkim. This is the first breakthrough of the tunnel on this project.

SECI Govt. of India has recently approved infusion of additional Rs. 1000 Cr. equity into Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI). The additional equity will strengthen the company's Balance Sheet and enable SECI to undertake critical investments in the Renewable Energy (RE) sector. Equity infusion into SECI, one of the implementing agencies for Renewable Energy projects, is expected to boost investors' confidence in the RE sector and reinforce the Govt's commitment towards a sustainable future.

SPMCIL recently celebrated its 17th Foundation Day programme through digital mode. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the programme online in the august presence of Secretary, DEA, MoF, Senior Economic Advisor, DEA, MoF and other senior officials from Ministry and Director (HR) & Director (Finance) of SPMCIL. Tripti Patra Ghosh, CMD, SPMCIL, in her welcome address highlighted the achievements and the innovative initiatives of the Company.

IRCTC With the requirement of travelling passengers and easing of COVID lockdown restrictions across the country, IRCTC is all set to resume the services of cooked food in trains. By 14th February 2022, the complete restoration of cooked food has been done as per guidelines received from the Railway board. Cooked food on premium trains (Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto) had already been restored in Dec 21'. Ready to eat meals would also continue.

Tata Power-DDL recently organized a 'Special Lok Adalat' in collaboration with the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA) for on-the-spot settlements of power theft cases. The Lok Adalat took up cases that are either pending in any Court of Law or are yet to be filed in any Court of Law.

SCOPE National e-Meet of Women in Public Sector (WIPS) under the aegis of SCOPE was addressed by Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women; Soma Mondal, Chairman, SAIL & Chairperson, SCOPE; Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE; Alka Mittal, CMD, ONGC; Vartika Shukla, CMD, EIL & H. K. Joshi, CMD, SCI in the presence of Dr. Dharini Mouli, President APEX; Nanda Kulkarni, President, Western Region & other members of WIPS. The program was attended by around 900 participants from across the country.

BRPL & BYPL After the success of the Covid vaccination drives, where thousands of employees and their family members got vaccinated, BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) have now started a drive to administer booster (precautionary) doses to the eligible employees. Within a few days itself, over 2500 (and counting) employees have received the booster dose. Additionally, BSES is also holding camps to administer vaccines to the children of employees.

EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, LAUNCHES, CSR INITIATIVES, APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA — CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE ROHTAK CO OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD ROHTAK	2022_HBC_206489_1	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 23.02.2022	vitaindia.org.in	9996577829 vitarohtak@gmail.com

7587/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORT

Paribahan Bhawan, Jawahar Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22

Email: report.ctassam@gmail.com **Website: www.comtransport.assam.gov.in**

No.CT.MV/253/2021/668

Corrigendum-2 Extension of last date of bid submission for RFP

RFP No 6 of 2021-22

This is in reference to RFP No. CT.MV/253/2021/190 issued dated 12th Jan 2022 by the Commissioner of Transport, Govt of Assam for Selection of Implementation Agency for "Vehicle Tracking Platform for Safety and Enforcement as per AIS — 140 standard" in Assam. In this regard all prospective Bidders are hereby informed that the last date of bid submission for RFP has been extended as per the below table. The other terms and conditions of the RFP remains unchanged.

Sl. No	Particulars	Current Dates	Revised Dates
1	Bid Submission End Date	1:00 PM, 14th February 2022	1:00 PM, 21st February 2022
2	Bid Opening Date	1:00 PM, 15th February 2022	1:00 PM, 22nd February 2022

-Sd-
Joint Commissioner of Transport
Office of the Commissioner of Transport
Paribahan Bhawan, Jawahar Nagar
Khanapara, Guwahati - 22

Janasanyog/C/12068/21

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT ASSAM, GUWAHATI

No. CE/CC/WR/NIT/2019-20/1003/118

PRESS NOTICE FOR BID

Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Guwahati, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites **National Competitive Bidding** Tender for the following works

Sl. No. of packages	Name of The Scheme	Lot/ Contract No.	Approx. amount in Crore (Rs.)	Earnest Money/ Bid Security in lakh (Rs.)
1	Upgradation of Buridehing embankment along right bank of Buridehing river to reduce flood risk at Moran and Lahowal area.	Lot 1	39.389	40.00
2	Construction and upgrading of river works along the Buridehing River to reduce river erosion risks	Lot 1	53.109	54.00
		Lot 2	52.393	53.00
		Lot 3	27.869	28.00
		Lot 4	37.298	38.00
3	Construction& upgrading of river works along the Beki River for reducing flood and river erosion risks.	Lot 1	54.593	55.00
		Lot 2	61.722	62.00

Details may be seen at website- **http/assamtenders.gov.in**

1. Bidders from India should, however, be registered with the Government of India or other State Governments/ Government of India, or State/ Central Government Undertakings. Bidders from India, who are not registered as above, on the date of bidding, can also participate provided they get themselves registered by the time of contract signing, if they become successful bidders.
2. The Water Resources Department (WRD), ASSAM now invites online Bids from eligible Bidders for the lot/contract for the construction of works detailed above in the table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the lots/contracts in these three Requests for Bids. If a Bidder chooses to quote for more than one lot/contract, it should submit separate Bid (complete with all documents including Bid Security) for each lot/contract.

Chief Engineer,
Water Resources Department
Assam

Janasanyog/C/12071/21

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Ahmednagar

Web- www.mahapwd.com & E-mail: ahmednagar.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

REQUEST OF PROPOSAL E-NOTICE NO. 56 FOR 2021-22

Sealed online request for Proposal for Appointment of following work are invited by the Executive Engineer, P. W. Division, Ahmednagar, from experienced Technical Consultant or consultants and fullfilling the qualifying criteria in Request for Proposal tender document.

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Deposit Processing fee Rs. In form of DD	Cost of tender form fee Rs.	Class Of Consultancy firm
1	Prepairing Detailed project Report (DPR) of Rahta- Lohare-Mandawa- Parner- Belvandi-Shrigonda- Hiradgaon-Kuldhran- Karjat- Karmala Road SH 67 KM 162/000 to 224/600 Tal.- Shrigonda, Karjat & Karmala Dist. Ahmednagar & Solapur. **(Second Call)**	50,000/-	5,000/- (Including GST 12%) (Non Refundable)	experienced Technical Consultant or consultants firm and fullfilling the qualifying criteria in R.F.P.
2	Prepairing Detailed project Report (DPR) of Karala Nannaj Jamkhed Sakat Patoda Road SH. 56 KM 0/00 to 59/200 Tal. Karmala, Jamkhed, Patoda. Dist. Solapur, Ahmednagar, Beed. **(Second Call)**	50,000/-	5,000/- (Including GST 12%) (Non Refundable)	experienced Technical Consultant or consultants firm and fullfilling the qualifying criteria in R.F.P.

E-tender Time Table

Period of Downloading of Bid document/ Sale start and end dates	**Dt. 15.02.2022 at 10.00 a.m. to Dt. 22.02.2022 at 18.00 p.m.**
Pre bid Meeting Date, Time and Place	**Dt. 18.02.2022 at 14.00 Hrs. In the Office of The superintendent Engineer, P.W.Circle, Bandhakam Bhavan, Ahmednagar- Aurangabad Rd., DSP Chowk, Ahmednagar 414001**
Period of Bid Submission/ Bid Submission start and end dates	**Dt. 15.02.2022 at 10.00 a.m. to Dt. 22.02.2022 at 18.00 p.m.**
Bid Opening Period	**Dt. 24.02.2022 at 11.00 Hrs. (If Possible) (In the Office of The superintending Engineer, P.W.Circle, Ahmednagar)**
Hard Copy Submission of Technical Praposal	**Dt. 24.02.2022 at 10.00 Hrs. Superintending Engineer, P.W.Circle, Ahmednagar Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Ahmednagar**

The Details Tender Notice can be is avaialble on Web- www.mahapwd.com (Only Tender Notice)
1. https://mahatenders.gov.in (Any changes in the NIT will be Corrigendum's published on above website)
2. Notice Board at 0/0 Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Ahmednagar 414001

sd/-
Executive Engineer
Publlc Work Division,
Ahmednagar

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING BID (BN-2810002104)

Bids for Construction of 132 KV 3-phase transmission line on D/C towers form 132KV GSS, Ladnu to Railway TSS at Sanvrad on Labour Contract Basis are invited from interested bidder's upto 18:00 Hrs. on dated 24.03.2022.
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**) of the state and **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpn** departmental website.
UBN- VPN2122WSOB01282
RRVPN/TR-5346/2022
Raj.Samwad/C/21/11675 **Superintending Engineer (T&C) Merta City (Nagaur)**

EdCIL (India) Limited

(A Mini Ratna Category- I CPSE ,Govt. of India)
EdCIL House, 18A, Sector-16A, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Tel.: 0120-4156001-02, 4154003 & 2970206-07 Fax: 0120-2970207

Invitation for Bids

EdCIL (India) Limited, A Mini Ratna Category-1 CPSE, Govt. of India invites Bids from eligible bidders for the following work:

S. No.	NIT No.	Name of the Tender
1.	NIT No.: EdCIL/OTAS/Services/2022/001	Empanelment of Agencies to provide Ancillary Services on turnkey basis during PAN India Computer Based Test being conducted by EdCIL (India) Limited

Note: The Tender document is available on **http://www.edcilindia.co.in** and CPP portal. Any further information shall be published on the referred website only and no separate press advertisement will be issued.

Haldia Energy Limited

CIN: U74210WB1994PLC065154
Regd. Office: 2A, Lord Sinha Road, First Floor, Kolkata-700071, West Bengal, India

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE BIDDING (DCB) for WET LIMESTONE BASED FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION SYSTEM AND AUXILIARIES (WLFGD)

Haldia Energy Limited (HEL) intends to set up Wet Limestone Based Flue Gas Desulphurisation (WLFGD) System and Auxiliaries for its 2X300 MW Coal Based Thermal Power Plant at Haldia, Purba Mednipur, West Bengal, India.

HEL invites sealed bids through DCB mode from eligible bidders for the following Tenders:

1. **Tender No: HEL-FGD-BOPS-M-01: Supply of Balance of Plant System (Mechanical) for WLFGD System and Auxiliaries**
2. **Tender No: HEL-FGD-BOPS-E-01: Supply of Balance of Plant System (Electrical and C&I) for WLFGD System and Auxiliaries**
3. **Tender No: HEL-FGD-CEC-01: Civil and Erection Contract for WLFGD System and Auxiliaries**

For scope of work and other terms and conditions of NIT, please visit our website: **www.haldiaenergy.co.in**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA — CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL	NIET NO 18/TS/FBD/2021-22 DATED 17.01.2022	THE DATE OF TENDER SUBMISSION EXTENDED UPTO 13:00 HRS ON DATED 17.02.2022 AND OPENING DATE UPTO 15:00 HRS ON DATED 11.02.2022	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
2	HVPNL	NIET NO 14/TS/FBD/2021-22 DATED 07.01.2022	THE DATE OF TENDER SUBMISSION EXTENDED UPTO 13:00 HRS ON DATED 18.02.2022 AND OPENING DATE UPTO 15:00 HRS ON DATED 11.02.2022	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
3	HVPNL	QDP NO 1347 NIT NO 1230 DATED 02.12.2021	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTETENDED UP TO 28.02.2022 UP TO 17:00 HRS.	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
4	HVPNL	NIT NO 127/XEN/TS/PKL DATED 27.12.2021	DUE TO LESS NO. OF BIDS RECEIVED THIS TENDER IS HEREBY EXTENDED UPTO 18.02.2022 (11:00 HRS)	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
5	HVPNL	E-TENDER ENQUIRY NO 23/CWR/2021-22 DATED 19.01.2022 ONLINE TENDER ID 2022_HBC_204596_1	CORRIGENDUM NO.02, THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 17.02.2022 (13.00 HRS)	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in

7588/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

New Delhi

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Bornali Das W/o Ajoy Choudhury R/o-25, AIIMS Apartment, Mayurkunj, Mayur Vihar Ph-1 Extn., Delhi-110096 have changed my name to Barnali Choudhury. 0070772928-1

I Bhagyalakshmi, spouse of late PK Kunhanandan Nambiar, resident of C 13, APOORVA APARTMENTS PLOT no 14 Sector 5 Dwarka New Delhi, 110075 have changed my name from Bhagyalakshmi to Bhagyalakshmi Nambiar vide affidavit dated 19.02.2022 at New Delhi. 0040602723-1

I,VINOD SHARMA, S/O.CHANAN RAM SHARMA, ADD- GALI.NO-5,78-A,KRISHAN KUNJ EXTENSION, LAXMI NAGAR,DELHI 110092.Changed my name to VINOD KUMAR SHARMA. Permanently. 0040602796-3

I,Sajid Ali Qureshi R/o.322 Avas Vikas Colony,BSR Road,Hapur, UP have changed my minor son name from Aamir Ahsan to Aamir Ahsan Qureshi. 0040602790-6

I,RAJU S/O.ANAND SINGH, ADD-RZ-103 A,GALI NO-8,KAILASH PURI EXTN,PALAM COLONY, SOUTH WEST DELHI 110045, changed my name to RAJU SINGH BISHT. Permanently. 0040602796-2

I,ASHISH VASISHTTE,W/O ASHWINI SHARMA,R/O 519,ARUN-VIHAR SECTOR 28 NOIDA,G.B.NAGAR,U.P.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM ASHISH VASISHTTE TO ASHISH VASISHTT,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040602802-6

I, Savitri W/o Ramesh Chandra Patel R/o house No.102 C,Sector-2E Kamna,Vaishali Ghaziabad UP have changed my name to Savitri Patel. 0040602790-2

It is for general information that I,FARAH,wife of Shri.MOHD SHAKIL,daughter of, SALIMUDDIN,residing at. Flat.No.A-15/116-B, DDA-Flats,Inderlok,Delhi-110035, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as AL FARAH in my birth-certificate. The actual-name of mine is FARAH, respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040602796-10

I,Vinod Jain,S/O Late Shri. Mahender Jain R/O-197/A,Ram-Nagar Extension Krishna-Nagar,Delhi-110051,have changed my name to Vinod Kumar Jain,for all purposes. 0040602793-7

I,Vinay Narang S/o Chander Mauli Narang R/o Flat-I-1005, 10th Floor, Grand Ajnara Heritage, Plot—GH-01/B, Sector-74, Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Vinay Kumar Narang for all purposes 0040602706-1

I,VINEET SACHDEV,S/o Shri. RAM KRISHAN SACHDEV,R/o-D1/22, DLF PHASE-1, GURUGRAM, GURGAON,HARYANA-122001, have changed my name to VINEET KRISHANA SACHDEV permanently. 0040602802-2

I,Sumesh Kaushal S/o-Inder Lal Kaushal R/o-House no.2006, Ganj mir khan, Darya-ganj, Delhi-110002 have changed my name from Sumesh Kaushal to Sumesh Kumar Kaushal for,all future purposes. 0040602692-1

I,Ganga Singh,D/O Kunwar Singh,R/O H.No-173,Top-Floor,Khirki Village,Malviya-Nagar,Delhi-110017,Have Updated the father's name of my(Minor) daughter Miss Asmita Singh as Ravi Prakash in all documents. 0040602796-7

I,Azad Kumar Chaudhry,S/o Shivji Chaudhry,R/o H.No.351, 3rd-Floor, Left-Side Gali No.4, Govindpuri,Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019,decalre that name of mine and my father has been wrongly-written as Azad Kumar Chaudhary and Shivji Chaudhary in my final year Marksheet and Degree of Bachelor prosthetics and Orthotics and my OBC-Certificate bearing No.OBC/05/52/6965/8/1/2010/ 9121012707. The actul-name of mine and my father are Azad Kumar Chaudhry and Shivji Chaudhry. 0040602796-6

I,Alina Usman D/o-Mr. Mohammed Usman,R/o-Qtr. No.861,3rd Floor,Sector-5, Pushp Vihar,M.B.Road,New Delhi-110017,inform that in my,school certificates my,father name wrongly-written as Md.Usman.His correct name is Mohammed Usman for all,future purpose. 0040602790-10

I, Mahesh alias Nisha Maheshwari alias Mahesh Narain alias Mahesh Narain Maheshwari alias Mahesh Tawari alias Mahesh Narain Tawari S/O Ram Lal, R/o 45 Chanakyapuri Shastri Nagar Meerut L.L.R.M Med College Meerut Uttar Pradesh-250004, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Mahesh Maheshwari. 0070772918-2

I Shashank Aggarwal S/o Late Sandeep Kumar Aggarwal R/o 1/9734, Bahal Gali, West GorakhPark, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name from YASH AGGARWAL to SHASHANKAGGARWAL for all future purposes. 0040602732-1

I,Preeti Manchanda,D/o-late Sh.Kimti Lal Mehta,W/o Sh.Atul Manchanda,R/o-H1/, H1/16,Krishna-Nagar,H.O-East,Delhi-110051,Inform That Preeti Manchanda and Sonia Mehta is same name and he same person. 0040602793-8

I,Minakshi Vinay Narang W/o Vinay Kumar Narang R/o Flat-I-1005, 10th Floor, Grand Ajnara Heritage, Plot—GH-01/B, Sector-74, Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Minakshi Narang for all purposes 0040602706-2

I,Manish Kumar Dadhich S/o Madan Lal Sharma,R/o Rz-120,Second-Floor,T-Extn, Vishwas-Park,Uttam-Nagar, New-Delhi-110059,have changed my son's name,from Saumya Dadhich to Mehul Dadhich,for all Purposes. 0040602802-4

I,Manish Jha s/o Govind Jha residence of Flat.no-1603, Tower 21,Lotus Boulevard , sector-100,Noida , UP have changed my name to Manish Kumar Jha. 0040602790-4

I,Kanta Rani Nagpal,W/O Shri Devinder Kumar Nagpal R/O.H.N.27,Vaishali Apartment-Vikas puri,New Delhi-110018.Kanta Rani and Kanta Rani Nagpal Both are one & same person 0040602838-1

I,KM Beena Rana W/o.Gaurav Kumar Arora R/o.B-4/1002 Panchsheel Greens-2,Sector-16 Greater Noida West G.B,Nagar. UP have changed my name to Shuby Arora. 0040602790-7

I,Ajay Chauhan S/o-Late Harigovind Das Chauhan R/o-C-210 Vivek Vihar, Sector-82, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name to Ajay H. Chauhan for,all purposes. 0040602742-1

I, Vinod Kumar Awana S/o Sh. Kul Prakash Awana R/o Flat No.3, DDA LIG Flats, Pul Pehladpur, New Delhi-110044, I Declare that Vinod Kumar Awana and Vinod Awana are the same person. 0040602693-1

I, Vinit Tyagi S/O S C Tyagi, R/o C-261 Gali No-11 New Usman Pur Delhi-110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Vineet Kumar Tyagi. 0070772943-1

I, Vineet Kumar S/O Subedar Singh, R/o H0-No-B-162 E1, Block-B, Piili Kothi, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110096 have changed the name of my minor daughter REVITHA MATHUR aged about 6 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Revitha 0070772913-1

I, Vineet Kumar S/O Subedar Singh, R/o H0-No-B-162 E1, Block-B, Piili Kothi, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110096 have changed the name of my minor daughter KHYANA MATHUR aged about 3 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Khyana 0070772912-1

I, Subho Nath Dutta S/O S N Dutta, R/o 70, Ganga Apartments, Alaknanda, Kalkaji New Delhi-110019, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Subho Dutta. 0070772948-1

I, Sarojini Kumari Barthwal W/o Mr. Vishnu Datt Barthwal R/o 10/18, Moulsiri Road, Shipra Suncity, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014 have changed my name to Sarojini Barthwal for all future purposes. 0040602745-1

I,ASHWINI S/O SH.VED PRAKASH,R/O 519,ARUN-VIHAR SECTOR-28,NOIDA, G.B.NAGAR, U.P.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME, FROM ASHWINI TO ASHWINI SHARMA,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040602802-5

I,ASHOK KUMAR S/O TIRATH RAM,R/o BF-17, IIND-FLOOR TAGORE-GARDEN DELHI-110027,have changed my name to ASHOK KUMAR ANAND. 0040602793-1

I, Rahul Rajgopal S/o Sh. Rajgopal R/o-H.No.-F1, Plot No.38, Sector-2A, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010, have changed my minor son's name from NAITREETVA KARTHAAV to NAITREETVA KARTHA for all future purposes. 0070772946-1

I, Kamla alias Kamla Devi D/O Pan Singh, R/o Khasra No- 38/1, Gali No-4, Fase 2 Om Vihar Peer Baba Majaar Village Bankner, Narela Delhi-110040. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Nisha Bisht 0070772919-1

I, Akshat Raghuvanshi S/o Arvind Raghuvanshi R/o H.No-31, Gali No-3-D, Chandan Vihar, West Sant Nagar Burari Delhi-110084 declare that in my 10th class school certificate my name mention as Akshat Kumar instead of Akshat Raghuvanshi. Akshat Kumar & Akshat Raghuvanshi both names belongs to same person 0070772949-1

I, Abhishek Jain S/O Balraj Jain, R/o House No-93C, Jain Nagar, Rly. Road Meerut, Uttar Pradesh- 250002. Declare that Name of My Mother has been wrongly written as Monica Jain in my 10th Class Certificate No-5404367, 12th Class Certificate No- 5896313. The actual name of My Mother is Meenu Jain, which may be amended accordingly. 0070772926-1

I, Jyotsana Verma W/o Neeraj Kumar Bhatt R/o Flat No.- 1701, Tower-F, French Apartment, Sector- 16B, Greater Noida West, GB Nagar (UP), have changed my name after marriage to Jyotsana Bhatt for all future purposes. 0040602690-1

I,Gyan S/O Shri Kuldeepak Mehra R/O B-8/67,Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Gyan Mehra. 0040602802-1

I,Shil Kumari Devi W/o No.13854122Y. Ex NK Ramta Pandey R/o 51A,Shyam Vihar,Phase-2,Najafgarh,ND-43,have changed my name to Shail Kumari Pandey. 0040602790-8

I,SHASHI W/O BINESH KUMAR YADAV R/O 95,PASCHIM ENCLAVE, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110087.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHASHI YADAV. 0040602793-10

I,SAIF KHAN,H.NO-121 F/F MODEL-BASTI KAROL-BAGH DELHI-110005,changed my Minor daughter name saarah Saif to saarah Saif Khan. 0040602793-4

I,Rishita Bhulchandani,D/o Jitender Bulchandani & Aruna Bulchandani,R/o B-401, Balaji, Apartment,Sector-14,Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my name to Rishita Bulchandani. 0040602796-8

I,Ravi Shankar S/o Surya Mukh Lal R/o.D-602 Swagatam Apartment C-58/7,Sector-62, Noida.UP have changed my name to Ravi Shanker for all.Future Purposes. 0040602790-3

I,Ranjita,W/O Ravinder Singh, R/o WZ-862/3,GALI.NO-15A, SADH NAGAR,PALAM-COLONY PALAM-VILLAGE DELHI 110045. have changed my name to RANJEET KAUR. 0040602793-2

I,Ramesh Chandra S/o Golai Ram R/o house No.102 C,Sector-2E Kamna,Vaishali Ghaziabad UP have changed my name to Ramesh Chandra Patel. 0040602790-1

I,Pooja Sachdeva W/O. Harshdeep Singh R/O.D-111, 3rd floor,Ajay Enclave, New Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Pavneet kaur for all purposes. 040602790-9

I,Parvindra Kaur,W/o Bharat Singh,R/o H.no.2/22U/F/F, Nihal-Vihar Phase-2, Nilothi, Delhi-110041,have changed my name to Parwinder Kaur. 0040602796-5

I,PRASANNAN PILLAI KUTTAN PILLAI, S/O.KUTTAN PILLAI, ADD-2928-A SECTOR-55 FARIDABAD HARYANA-121004. Changed my name to PRASANNAN PILLAI, Permanently 0040602796-1

I,Km Shallu Sharma,W/o Vikas Sharma R/o-21A,Gali.No.11 Molarband Extension,Delhi-110049,have changed my name to Shallu Sharma. 0040602796-4

I,KUSHAGR S/O SANDEEP DIXIT R/O 2/116,3rd-FLOOR,SUNDER VIHAR,PASCHIM VIHAR,DELHI-110087.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KUSHAGR DIXIT. 0040602793-5

I,Gulshan Malhotra,S/o Milkhi Ram Malhotra,R/o-267 GH-6,Prachin Apartment Paschim Vihar,Delhi-110087,have changed my name to Gulshan Kumar. 0040602822-1

I,Gaurav Kumar S/o Ram Krishan R/o.B-4/1002 Panchsheel Greens-2 Sector-16,Greater Noida West.G.B Nagar UP,have changed my name to Gaurav Kumar Arora. 0040602790-5

I,Gargi Gill alias Gargi Bhat,D/o Hardip Singh Gill,W/o Firdous Manzoor Bhat R/o-183/184, Pocket D-15,Sector-3,Rohini, Delhi-110085,have,changed my name to Gargi Gill for all, purposes. 0040602796-9

I,Deen Mohammad S/O-Rozdar Khan R/O-Ali Meo Hodal Palwal Haryana-121106,Have Changed My,Name To Din Mohammad,. For All Future Purposes. 0040602802-3

I, Sumana Dua D/o. Mr. Ashwani Dua, R/o. 36/55, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026 have changed my name Sumana Dang to Sumana Dua for all future purposes. 0040602687-1

I,Bhod Raj Malhotra,S/o Sundar Dass,R/o 4580, Gali.No.13,3rd-Floor, Jai-Mata Market TriNagar,Onkar-Nagar,New Delhi-110035,have changed my name to Bodh Raj Malhotra. 0040602793-6

I Suman W/o Sanjay Kumar R/o RZ-7, Ground floor, Gali no.3 kailash puri Extn, Palam colony, New Delhi-110045 have change my name to Suman Lata 0040602713-1

I, Prem Chand S/O Sitaram, R/o House No-A-356, Daksh Prajapat, Chattarpur, Lavanya Hospital, Chhattarpur, Delhi-110074, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Prem Daksh. 0070772944-1

I, Diksha Upadhyay W/o Shri Sanjay Upadhyay R/o 33, Shiv Ratan City Navoday Nagar, Haridwar, Uttrakhand have changed my name from Juna Chamola to Diksha Upadhyay for all future purposes. 0070772929-1

I,Chaman Saini S/o Naresh Kumar Saini R/o-125/1A, Gali.No.3, East Moti-Bagh, Sarai Rohilla,Delhi-110007,have changed my name to Lakshay Saini. 0040602802-7

I Ruchi Garg W/O, Vivek Gupta R/o C-122/B3, Shalimar Garden Extension 2, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Up -201005 have changed my name to Namrata Gupta for all purposes 0040602709-1

I,BINESH/BINESH KUMAR YADAV S/O HUKUM SINGH YADAV,95, PASCHIM ENCLAVE,PASCHIM VIHAR,DELHI-110087.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BINESH KUMAR. 0040602793-9

I,BECHAN RAY,S/O SHRI.MISRI RAY, R/O. A-145 NEW FRIENDS-COLONY SOUTH-DELHI PIN-110025, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VED PRAKASH. 0040602793-3

I, Kavita Verma d/o Dinesh Kumar Sirohi r/o House No.-22, Sahakari Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001 have changed my name to KAVITA SIROHI. 40602685-1

I, Inderjeet Pawar D/O Amerjeet Singh, R/o C-50, DDA Flats Kalkaji, Delhi-110019 . have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Inderjeet Kaur 0070772916-1

I Sugreev Singh, Army No. 2710871M, Rank Constable, S/o Mahipal, R/o Navali Har, Tehsil, Ater, District Bhind (MP) have changed my brother name from Ankit to Ankit Yadav for all future purposes. 0040602774-1

I Shiwani D/o Narender R/o Mann Chaupal Wali Gali, 169 Village, Iradat Nagar Alias Naya Bans Delhi-110082, have changed my name to Shiwani Mann 0070772904-1

I Santos Goswami S/o Leela Giri Goswami R/o. E-99/A, Gali No.-1, Phase-5, Aya Nagar, Delhi-110047 have changed my name to Siddhant Goswami. 0070772931-1

I Sanjay S/o Dharm Singh R/o RZ-7, Ground floor, Gali no.3 kailash puri Extn, Palam colony, New Delhi-110045 have change my name to Sanjay Kumar 0040602711-1

I Komal D/o Narender Singh R/o Mann Chaupal Wali Gali, 169 Village, Iradat Nagar Alias Naya Bans Delhi-110082, have changed my name to Komal Mann. 0070772907-1

I Ekta Goel D/o Anil Kumar Goel and W/o Varun Kumar R/o H. No. 738, Urban Estate Near Manav Chowk Ambala City, Sector-8 Haryana-134003, have changed my name to Ekta Garg. 0070772906-1

LOST & FOUND

I Ramesh Chander Arora S/o Late Siri Chand R/o 1349-50, Faiz Ganj, Bahadur Garh Road, Delhi-110006 have lost my Original Registry of Property No.B-5/70, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi. Finders may contact at above address or Mobile No. 9871232765 0040602686-4

LOST & FOUND

Lost Original Documents i.e. DDA ALLOTMENT LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, SITE POSSESSION , LEASE DEED AND OTHER RELATED PAPERS of Flat No. D-401, 4th Floor, Kaveri Apartments, Alkananda , New Delhi favouring Smt. Sudesh Soeny W/o Kewal Krishan Soeny FIR Lodge Vide LR. NO. 126038/2022. Founder inform at above address..

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **Mr. Amarjit Singh S/o Didar Singh and Mrs. Jaspreet Kaur W/o Mr. A.S. Punihani, Both R/o S-138, Greater Kailash, Part-II, New Delhi** {Hereinafter collectively referred as "the owners" acting through their General attorney Mrs. Rinku Punihani} have agreed to sell to my client (Name not disclosed due to certain reasons), a residential property described in the Schedule hereunder written ("the said premises") with clear and marketable title free from all encumbrances and with vacant possession.

All persons/entities having any kind of claim against or in respect of the said premises or any part thereof by way of any agreement or agreement to sale, sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, possession, lease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pre-emption rights, pledge, guarantee, easement, loans, advances, injunction or any or other attachment, or under any decree, order or award passed by any court of law, Tribunal, Revenue or Statutory Authority or Arbitration or otherwise howsoever or in possession of any documents in respect of the abovesaid property are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned herein below within 7(Seven) days from the date hereof, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such persons shall be considered to have been waived and/ or abandoned and my client shall proceed with the transaction.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO ("the said premises")

Entire Third Floor and Entire Terrace over and above the Entire Third Floor of the proposed building with Four Car Parking spaces in the Stilt Area with separate Gate and with Separate Gate and also space for one Utility with common WC in the stilt area together with 22.5% undivided, indivisible and impartible ownership rights in the plot of land measuring 306 Sq. Yards, bearing no. S-138, Situated at Greater Kailash Part-II, New Delhi with all rights, title and interest, easements, privileges and appurtenances thereto, with all fittings, fixtures, connections, structure standing therein.

Issued on this 14th Day of February, 2022.

Sd/- SUNIL KUMAR Advocate (E. No. D/421/93) 103, Aditya Arcade, Preet Vihar, Delhi-110092 CHAMBER: 206, LAWYERS CHAMBER, DELHI HIGH COURT, NEW DELHI-110003. TEL: 011-23389146

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Ramrati W/o Late Sh. Dalel Singh R/o H. No. 613/45, Gali No. 4, Harijan Basti, Bindapur, New Delhi-110059 has debarred her sons Namely Sh. Deepak S/o Late Sh. Dalel Singh and his wife Smt. Bala, Sh. Sandeep S/o Late Sh. Dalel Singh his wife Smt. Pooja, Sh. Arun S/o Late Sh. Dalel Singh his wife Smt. Renu from their movable and immovable property and served all the relationship in future due to the misbehavior and misconduct of them. None of the above persons are not take care of mine in any manner and harassed me. Any person dealing with the said persons shall be doing so at own risk and responsibility.

Sd/- **RAKESH SHARMA** (Advocate) **Ch. No.** 603, Lawyer's Chamber Block Dwarka Court Complex, New Delhi- 110075

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरी मुवक्किला श्रीमती विम्मी पत्नी श्री गुरदीप सिंह निवासी मकान नं. आर जेड–ई–06, न्यू रोशनपुरा, नजफगढ़, नई दिल्ली–110043 के मकान नं. आर जेड–ई–06, न्यू रोशनपुरा, नजफगढ़, नई दिल्ली–110043 रकबा 110 वर्ग गज के मूल दस्तावेज व फोटो कापी चैन गुम/ खो गये हैं अगर भविष्य में उपरोक्त मकान के मूल दस्तावेज या चैन फोटो कापी मिलती है तो मोबाइल नं. 9990325953 पर सम्पर्क करे, वापिस कर दें। अगर भविष्य में कोई व्यक्ति उपरोक्त मकान के मूल दस्तावेजों व फोटो कापी चैन का गलत प्रयोग करता है तो वह स्वयं जिम्मेदार होगा इसमें मेरी मुविक्कला की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी। **BIRBAL SINGH-ADVOCATE Ch. No. 722, District Court Dwarka, New Delhi -110075**

Public Notice

My Client Mr. Balbir Singh S/o Hari Singh, R/o - 66, Patparganj Village, Delhi. He has evicting his younger son Bhupender Singh from all his movable and immovable property. In future he will not have any relation with any of his acts/transactions.

Udyan Vats, Advocate Off. No. 1, Building No. 10, Patparganj Village, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr. BALDEV RAJ** S/o Sh. Nand Lal, R/o WZ-384, Tihar Village, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, has severed his relation from his son **Mr. Ankit Sharma** S/o Baldev Raj and daughter-in-law **Smt. Goldy Sahni Sharma** W/o Ankit Sharma R/o WZ-384, Tihar Village, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 disowned and debarred them from all moveable and immovable properties and shall not be responsible for their acts, deeds and things done by them in past, present and future. Anyone who deals with them shall be doing at their own cost and risks and my above client will not be held responsible of their acts hereafter.

Shiv Datt Atri (Advocate) SR-II-B, Distt. Centre, Janakpuri, Delhi-58

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Baljeet Singh @ Baljit Singh S/o Sh. Kartar Singh R/o House No.147, Neb Sarai, IGNOU, New Delhi - 110068, has disowned his son namely DEEPAK KUMAR, his wife ANKITA VERMA and their children, from all his Properties (Moveable & Immoveable) from today onwards and severed all relation from them due to their misconduct & unlawful behavior towards my client. Anybody deals with them, then it will be at his/her own risks, costs and consequences and my client shall not be liable for that.

Sanjeev Kumar (Advocate) Office: 255/2, Neb Sarai, Main IGNOU Road, New Delhi-68

PUBLIC NOTICE

MY CLIENTS SH. BRAHM DEV PANDEY S/O LATE SH. KEDAR NATH PANDEY AND HIS WIFE SMT. USHA PANDEY BOTH R/O H.NO.383, GALI NO. 7, BABA HARIDAS GEETANJALI ENCLAVE, JHARODA DELHI-110072 HAVE SEVERE ALL RELATIONS & DEBAR THEIR DAUGHTER **DIVYA PANDEY** FROM ALL MOVABLE-IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(S) DUE TO HER MISCONDUCT & MISBHEVIOUR. MY CLIENTS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF HIS ACTS IN FUTURE WHATSOEVER.

DIWAKAR CHAUDHARY (ADVOCATE) CHAMBER AT: T-33 TEHSIL ROAD, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Clients, Mr. Naresh Kumar Dixit @ Naresh Dixit S/o Sh. B.S. Sharma & Lata Dixit W/o Sh. Naresh Kumar Dixit both R/o G-45, SFS Flats Gaurav Apartments, Saket New Delhi-17 have disowned and debarred their son Vineet Dixit and his wife Ms. Akshara Khurana from all their moveable & immoveable properties & have severed all relations from them. As their marriage was inter caste marriage & from day one of the marriage they are living separately from our clients in a different accommodation & due to their Hostile/Cruel behavior and mis conduct of aforesaid Sh. Vineet Dixit & his wife Ms. Akshara Khurana. Our Clients will not be responsible for their any good or bad acts & conducts with anyone.

Deepak Mittak (Advocate) Ch. No. 564, Saket Court, New Delhi -17

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my original title deed of Property Rectangle No. 5, Killa No. 3/2 (4-0), 3/3 (0-9), 4/2/1 (0-18), 7/2 (5-2), 13/1 (6-0), 8 (8-0) 14/1/1 (2-7) total measuring 26 Kanal 16 Marla i.e. 3.35 Acres, situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Naurangpur, Tehsil Manesar, District Gurugram, which falls in Sector-80, Gurugram, Haryana registered as Conveyance Deed dt. 28.03.2014 executed by M/s Innovative Infra Developers Pvt. Ltd., in our favour named as M/s 4A Financials Securities Service Pvt. Ltd. registered as duly registered as Document No. 3173, Book No. 1, Volume No. 222/131, on Pages 196/97 to 98 dated 28.03.2014 in the office of Sub Registrar, Manesar, Gurugram, has been lost by me in the market of Jasola, Delhi at about 2.16 PM on 10.02.2022 and in this regard he has got registered information Report vide SO No. 430/2014 and LR No. 120968 Date 11.02.2022. Any person who will find out the said document, kindly contact to the undersigned at Mobile No. 8130555067.

Sd/- **MEENU SHARMA (Advocate) (Mob No. 9711028091)**

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SH. HARISH DUDANI, DJ (COMMERCIAL COURT), DWARKA COURTS, NEW DELHI PUBLICATION NOTICE DEFENDANT (Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

Suit No: CS(COMM): 152/2020
Krishna Industries Vs. M/s Kanak Exports
To,
1. M/s Kanak Exports Through its Prop. / Auth. Signatory/ Auth. Representative
2. Mr. Bhupinder Pal Singh Lamba Prop. / Auth. Signatory / Auth. Representative of M/s Kanak Exports

Both At:
i. C-195, Phase-2, First Floor, Mayapuri Industrial Area, New Delhi-110064
ii. House NO. A-1/268, Janakpuri, New Delhi- 110058 **Defendants**.

Whereas you are intentionally avoiding services of summons. If is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the day of **05.03.2022 at 10.00 A.M.** i.e. The day fixed in the matter, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Seal Sd/- Judge

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Rajeshwar Dayal Bhardwaj son of Sh. Mangey Ram Bhardwaj and his daughter in-law Smt. Latika D/O Sh. Sudarshan Kumar both residents A-37, Third Floor, Jail Road, Fateh Nagar, Delhi-110018 have debarred/disowned their son/husband respectively namely Sh. Deepak Bhardwaj S/O Sh. Rajeshwar Dayal Bhardwaj R/O K1-59, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. 201002 from all their moveable & immoveable properties and their personal life & ceased all relations with him due to his misbehavior. My clients will not be responsible for his acts & deeds and dealings with any person.

Sd/- **G. P GOYAL (Advocate) Ru-352 Pitampura Delhi.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my original title deed of Property No. 95, Pocket-II, Jasola, New Delhi registered as Sale Deed dated 28.05.2013 executed by CBG Impex Pvt. Ltd., in our favour named as M/s Navrang Tradelinks Pvt. Ltd. registered as Document No. 4483, Book No. 1, Volume No. 12809, on Page 168 to 175 dated 28.05.2013 in the office of Sub Registrar-V, New Delhi, has been lost by me in the market of Jasola, Delhi at about 2.16 PM on 10.02.2022 and in this regard he has got registered Information Report vide SO No. 430/2014 and LR No. 120959/2022 Date 11.02.2022. Any person who will find out the said document, kindly contact to the undersigned on Mobile No. 8130555067.

Sd/- **MEENU SHARMA (Advocate) (Mob No. 9711028091)**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all concerned that my client Smt. Mohinder Kaur W/o Lt. Sh. Gurdayal Singh R/o, Z-155 B.Block, Gali No. 5, Narsingh Garden, New Delhi 110018 has disowned/ debarred her son namely Sh. Jaspal Singh from all movable and immovable properties due to his conduct, misbehavior and being out of her control. Any person dealing with her son in any manner shall be on his/her risk and consequences. My client shall not be responsible for any acts, things or liability done by her son.

PUNEET KUMAR ADVOCATE 3rd Floor, Building No. 9, DDA Mkt. Ashok Vihar Ph-II, Delhi-110052.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client RAM PRASHAD S/O RAM JEEVAN R/O PLOT NO.10/6 & 10/8, KH. NO: 160/23 & 24, KRISHAN VIHAR, BAWANA, DELHI, do hereby disown/debar his son DEEPAK Daughter-in-Law namely PINKI from all movable-immovable properties due to misconduct & being out of control. Anybody deals with them, shall do at his/ her own cost & risk. My client will not be responsible for their any acts/ deeds

Sd/- **Sudeep Yadav Advocate Ch.No. 306, Rohini Court, Delhi**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client UMA SHANKAR S/O BHAGWAN SHAH R/O N-9 C/3, LAL BAGH, LAL BAGH, DELHI-110033, do hereby disown/debar his son MANOJ GUPTA & Daughter-in-Law namely PRIYA KUMARI from all movable-immovable properties due to misconduct & being out of control. Anybody deals with them, shall do at his/her own cost & risk. My client will not be responsible for their any acts/deeds

Sd/- **Sudeep Yadav Advocate Ch.No. 306, Rohini Court, Delhi**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information that my client has entered into an agreement for the purchase of office space bearing private No. 203, on the second floor, measuring 25 sq.yds. in the property / Industrial Plot No. 42, situated at DLF Industrial Area, Najafgarh Road, New Delhi with (1) Smt.Pooja Bharara (45% undivided share) W/o Shri Rajan Bharara R/o E-41, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi (2) Smt. Mamta Dham (45% undivided share) W/o Shri Rakesh Dham R/o E-63, Second floor, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi (3) M/s Sumit Gas Agencies Private Limited, (10% undivided share) having its registered office at 40, DLF Industrial Area, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi, through its authorized signatory Mrs. Ekta Sehgal.

My client has been assured that the property is free from all encumbrances and on that assurance my client is going to purchase the aforesaid portion. Anybody having any interest, title or concern in the aforesaid property may contact with valid documents within seven days from the publication of this notice.

Sd/- **PURSHOTTAM SINGH** (Advocate) **Chamber No.** 548, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

"IMPORTANT"

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

KALOJI NARAYANA RAO UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES TELANGAGA STATE

NOTIFICATION FOR ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR BHMS COURSE

Application forms online are invited from NEET-UG-2021 qualified candidates for admisison into BHMS course under Management Quota for 2021-22 in Private Homoeo colleges affiliated to KNRUHS from 20.02.2022 to 26.02.2022.

Applications forms online are invited for All India Quota seats from candidates qualified in NEET-UG-2021 for BHMS course 2021-22 in private Homoeo colleges affiliated to KNRUHS from 16.02.2022 to 20.02.2022.

For detailed separate Notifications and Prospectus refer to KNRUHS website: **www.knruhs.telangana.gov.in**

Date: 14.02.2022 **REGISTRAR**

R.O. No. : 21344-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22

NPCL NOIDA POWER COMPANY LIMITED

CIN:U31200UP1992PLC014506

Notice Inviting Bids for Procurement of Power on Short Term basis

Bids are invited by **"Noida Power Company Limited having its registered office at Electric Sub-station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida – 201310 (U.P.)"** for procurement of up to 85 MW power during 01.04.2022 to 20.10.2022 as per the Guidelines of Ministry of Power, GoI dated 30.03.2016. Bid Document is available on www.mstcecommerce.com.

The Company reserves the right to reject all or any of the Bids or cancel the bidding process at any stage without assigning any reasons whatsoever and without any liability.

For any clarification, contact at e-mail id powertrading@noidapower.com or mobile no. 9718804966.

Head (Power Purchase)

Mangalore SEZ Limited

Mangalore Special Economic Zone, Sy.No. 168-3A, Plot No. U-1 Administrative Building, Bajpe Village, Mangalore Taluk - 574 142 Dakshina Kannada (Dist), Karnataka. Phone: 0824-2885501/02 Fax:0824-2885503. Website: www.mangaloresez.com CIN: U45209KA2006PLC038590

14.02.2022

INVITATION FOR E-BIDS FOR SUPPLY OF POWER
Tender No: MSEZL/Short Term PP/2022

MANGALORE SEZ LIMITED (MSEZL), a deemed distribution licensee under Electricity Act, 2003 for supply of power at Mangalore Special Economic Zone, invites e-bids for selection of seller for supply of power on short term basis for a period of 6 months through E-Tendering and E-Reverse auction process.

S. No	Event	Date & Time
1.	Publication of Request for Proposal (RFP) / Activation of Event	15.02.2022 10:00 Hrs
2.	Submission of RFP Bids including EMD (On line digitally signed non financial technical bid and IPOs)	21.02.2022 (up to 15:00 Hrs)

The Request for Proposal (RFP) documents for participation can be downloaded through DEEP E-bidding portal of **www.mstcecommerce.com.**

Sd/-, Chief Executive Officer Mangalore SEZ Ltd, Mangaluru

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Parmod Kumar** S/o Ram Kumar R/o H.No. 266, Gali No. 20, Sant Nagar Burari, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 678/2007 u/s 392/411 IPC PS. Timarpur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Parmod Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Parmod Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. have been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Parmod Kumar** accused of FIR No. 678/2007 u/s 392/411 IPC PS. Timarpur, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **12.04.2022.**

By Order: Sh. Anurag Kumar Metropolitan Magistrate-02 (Central), Room No. 26, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/1971/N/22

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER WAYS DIVISION, GARHWA

e-Procurement Tender Notice 2021-22.

Tender Reference NO.:- **WRD/W.W.DIV.GARHWA/ F_2-01/2021-22,** Dated:- 11.02.2022

1	Name of the work	Anti erosion/ flood protection work in left bank of Panda river near Singhpur village block Ketar in Garhwa district under Waterways Division, Garhwa
2	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs 1,01,33,600.00
3	Earnest money (Rs.)	Rs 2,03,000.00
4	Cost of Tender Paper (Rs.)	Rs 10,000.00
5	Time of Completion	3 Month
6	Date of Publication of Tender on website	16.02.2022 at 05:00 P.M.
7	Last date/ Time for receipt of bids	03.03.2022 up to 05:00 P.M.
8	Date of Receipt of hard copy, cost of bid documents & EMD	05.03.2022 up to 05:00 P.M.
9	Date of Opening e-tender	07.03.2022 at 02:00 P.M.
10	Name & Address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer Waterways Division, Garhwa
11	Contact no. and E-mail ID of Procurement officer	7543912403 eewwgarh-cemed-jhr@nic.in
12	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	06562-240841

Note :- 1. Only e-Tender will be accepted.
2.Estimated cost may vary. Online BOQ amount shall prevail.
3.Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhand tenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer Waterways Division, Garhwa.

PR263830 (Water Resource)21-22*D

Govt. of Jharkhand Energy Department Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)

3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

Short Notice Inviting Bid (Urgent)

Tender Reference No. : 19/JREDA/DPR/CANAL/21-22 Dated: 12.02.2022

Sealed bids are invited from reputed and experienced firms/agencies having experience of similar nature of work for the following:

1	Name of the work	Preparation of Feasibility-Cum-Detailed Project Report (FDPR) of MW Scale Canal Top Solar PV Power Project for JREDA, Ranchi.
2	Estimated Cost	**Rs. 8,00,000 /-**
3	Period of work completion	**02 (Two) Months**
4	Date of publication of SNIT on website:	**14.02.2022 (Monday)**
5	Last date & time for receipt of bids(Technical bid & Financial bid) (Offline)	**02.03.2022 (Wednesday)** upto 5:00 PM
6	Tender Fee (Non-refundable)	**Rs.1000/- (One Thousand) only**
7	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 16000/- (Sixteen Thousand) only**
8	Bid Opening Date	**03.03.2022 (Thursday)** upto 3:00 PM
9	Name & address of office inviting tender	Project Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency(JREDA) 3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002 (Jharkhand)
10	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491167/68/61
11	Helpline no.	7004806449

Terms & conditions:

1. Tender documents can be purchased from the office of the undersigned during office hours on any working day till the day before submission of the tender after depositing the cost of Tender document (Non-refundable) in the shape of Bank Draft in favour of Director, JREDA payable at Ranchi. Tender document can also be downloaded from JREDA Website (www.jreda.com). In that case the cost of the document in the form of DD is to be enclosed with the technical part of the bid.
2. No postal request for issue of Tender document will be entertained.
3. The tender must be accompanied with the Earnest Money Deposit (refundable) in shape of Bank Guarantee or Demand Draft issued from any Indian nationalized/scheduled bank in favour of Director, JREDA payable at Ranchi. Proof of EMD must be attached with tender documents otherwise the tender will be rejected without assigning any reason thereof.
4. The undersigned reserves the right to issue the tender document /extend the date of sale/submission of tender/opening of tender and cancellation of tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Project Director, JREDA, Ranchi

PR 263811 (Energy) 21-22 (D)

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹49,519	₹75.60	$92.15	₹63,827

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of February 11

SENSEX: 56,405.84 ▼ 1,747.08 (3%) **NIFTY:** 16,842.80 ▼ -531.95 (3.06%) **NIKKEI:** 27,079.59 ▼ 616.49 **HANG SENG:** 24,556.57 ▼ 350.09 **FTSE:** 7,505.28 ▼ 155.74 **DAX:** 14,910.77 ▼ 514.35

International market data till 1900 IST

POLICY WATCH
NATIONAL SECURITY

Why did govt ban 54 more apps with China connections

AASHISH ARYAN & SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on Monday issued orders to ban 54 more apps which either have originated in China or have some Chinese connection. These apps were banned for being threat to national security.

EXPLAINED

What are the new apps? Why have they been banned?

As per the new list, video editing apps such as Viva Video Editor- Snack Video Maker with Music and Nice Video Baidu, which are used extensively for making short videos, games such as Onmyoji Chess and Conquer Online II have been banned in India. Garena Free Fire- Illuminate, a game which had gained popularity among children, teenagers and youth in India after the ban on PUBG, has also been banned.

The new apps, IT Ministry officials said, have been banned using emergency powers under Section 69 of the Information Technology Act. Most of these apps, the officials said, were operating as clones or shadow apps of the apps that had earlier been banned by the government.

The ban was recommended by the Home Ministry, IT Ministry officials said, adding that they have also been removed from the Google PlayStore. In its statement, Google said that it temporarily blocked access to the apps in India.

Which other apps have been banned in the past?

In June 2020, the IT Ministry had, in a similar order issued under Section 69 of the IT Act, banned 59 apps, including TikTok, ShareIt, UC Browser, Likee, WeChat, and Bigo Live. The ministry had said these apps were "prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of india, security of state and public order". The first ban was followed by another set of 47 apps being barred from operations in India from July 2020.

FINANCE MINISTER MEETS WITH RBI'S CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FM on cryptos: Govt, RBI 'on board', will continue to have 'discussions'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

THE GOVERNMENT and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are "on board" with respect to the treatment of cryptocurrencies even as discussions are on concerning regulatory treatment digital virtual currencies, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday at a press conference. She was speaking after having addressed the Central Board of Directors of the RBI in its customary post-Budget meeting.

Sitharaman said there is a lot of positivity around the upcoming initial public offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation. With the government planning to sell its 5 per cent equity, the LIC IPO is expected to the biggest in the Indian capital market. "A big decision like this is never a knee-jerk reaction. It is done with consciousness ... And I can see after the announcement, the reception, there is a buzz in the air," Sitharaman said. LIC filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the markets regulator on Sunday.

On the issue of taxation and regulation of cryptocurrencies, she said: "RBI, government are on board, discussions are going on. Whatever decisions government or RBI takes, is taken after discussions. We are all discussing prior to the Budget, discussion continues and we shall continue to have discussions. All the decisions which have been taken on it, obviously it has a very serious, it is a digital currency from the central bank of some description, so obviously with more focus having had consultations."



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das, in New Delhi, Monday. *ANI*

Reiterating the central bank's serious concerns over cryptocurrencies, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das last Thursday said these are a big threat to the country's financial and macroeconomic stability and also warned investors that cryptocurrencies do not have any underlying asset, not even a tulip. The Union Budget 2022-23 has proposed a 30 per cent tax on private cryptocurrencies and non-fungible tokens.

To another query on whether the plan to include government securities in international bond indices is being held back, Das on Monday said the work and process is underway with regard to this proposal. "Inclusion in the global index is a process and earlier fully accessible route was introduced whereby certain G-sec, it is fully accessible to the foreign investors. We are moving towards that it is work in progress so far as inclusion in index is concerned," he said.

On inflation, Das said that the "momentum of inflation is on a downward slope" and the central bank would continue to strike a delicate balance between the need to contain price rise and ensure economic growth.

Das said issuance of green bonds, another proposal for the next year's Budget, will widen participation of investors in the Indian market. "With regard to green bond...cash and debt management group will meet next month and they will plan for it. The main rationale behind going for green bond is that world over there are lot of investors who have dedicated funds to invest in green bonds. So basically when you float a green bond which has a specified and dedicated purpose, when you float a green bond you are basically widening the participation of international investors in the domestic bond market…," he said.

To a query on whether the CBI has been slow in taking action in ABG Shipyard case, Sitharaman said bankers actually took "lesser than what is normally an average time to detect these kinds of frauds." The CBI Saturday said it has booked ABG Shipyard Ltd (ABGSL) and its directors for fraudulent loan default to the tune of Rs 22,842 crore. "This is actually an account which became an NPA in November 2013. After that, because it is a consortium of banks who had a business with them, they had all sat together to see how best restructuring can be done, which is due process done for any account under stress more so it is a big account and also becoming a NPA. So that initiative was taken by the consortium, SBI had been the lead, ICICI Bank is another big bank, all of them sat together and started working on it. So 2014 onwards this process was going on," she said.

Vedanta & Foxconn to make chips in India

REUTERS
TAIPEI, FEBRUARY 14

FOXCONN SAID on Monday it had partnered with Vedanta Ltd to make semiconductors in the country, as the electronics giant looks to diversify its business amid a global chip shortage.

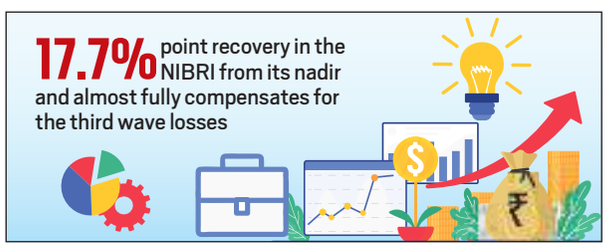
Foxconn, the world's largest contract electronics manufacturer and a major Apple supplier, has expanded into areas including electric vehicles (EVs) and semiconductors in recent years. In a statement, Foxconn said it had signed a memorandum of understanding with oil-to-metals group Vedanta to make semiconductors, calling it "a significant boost to domestic manufacturing of electronics in India.

"Foxconn said it would invest $118.7 million to set up a joint venture company with Vedanta, which would be the majority shareholder of the new venture. Foxconn would hold 40% of the venture's shares, it added.

The Taiwan company has in recent years counted semiconductors among its core businesses and last year formed a partnership with Yageo Corp to make semiconductor chips.

'Muted impact: Biz activity back to pre-third wave level'

The last week saw a pick-up in business activity to the pre-third Covid-19 wave levels, according to the Nomura India Business Resumption Index



***Trends** in ultra-high frequency data suggest a more muted impact of the third wave on growth overall, the impact is concentrated among contact-intensive services, and is not broad-based; and growth is likely bottomed at end-January and appears set to rebound in February*

Source: Nomura/PTI

Mobility indicators are returning to pre-third wave levels, pointing out that Google workplace and retail and recreation mobility rose by 5.6 pp and 7.9 pp, respectively, while the Apple driving index rose by 18 pp

Labour participation rate inched lower to 40.3 per cent from 40.5 per cent in the previous week, while power demand fell by 1.5 per cent week on week as payback from the preceding week's 13.3 per cent rise

Cryptos 'worse' than ponzi: RBI DG

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 14

STRONGLY RECOMMENDING for a ban on private virtual currencies in India, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar on Monday said cryptocurrencies are very much like "a speculative or gambling contract working like a Ponzi scheme".

"More substantially, they can (and if allowed most likely will) wreck the currency system, the monetary authority, the banking system, and in general Government's ability to control the economy," Sankar said. "They threaten the financial sovereignty of a country and make it susceptible to strategic manipulation by private corporates creating these currencies or Governments that control them," he said at an IBA meet. "They are akin to Ponzi schemes, and may even be worse," Sankar said. "From what we have seen so far, there does not appear to be any case to allow cryptocurrencies to be legitimized in India."

He said increased acceptance of cryptocurrencies would result in effective 'Dollarization' of our economy. "Dollarization, it is well understood, would undermine the ability of authorities to control money supply or interest rates, as monetary policy would not have any impact on the non-Rupee currencies or payment instruments," Sankar said. "When that happens, India loses not just its currency, a defining feature of its sovereignty,

"More substantially, they (cryptos) can (and if allowed most likely will) wreck the currency system, the monetary authority..."

T RABI SANKAR
DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

but its policy control of the economy. With loss of traction for monetary policy, the ability to control inflation would be materially weakened," Sankar said.

He said there are already indications that private cross-border flows are taking place in cryptocurrencies. "If this trend is legitimised, a part of the flows related to trade payments, personal remittances or cross border investments would be made in these cryptocurrencies. As they are non-reserve currencies, this could have adverse implications for India's foreign exchange reserves, which lend stability to the external sector," Sankar said.

It has been argued that the original scheme devised by Charles Ponzi in 1920 is better than cryptos from a social perspective, he said. Even Ponzi schemes invest in income earning assets. "A bond with similar cash flows would be valued at zero, which, in fact, can be argued as fundamental value of a cryptocurrency. If everything eventually returns to its equilibrium value, then the prognosis for investors in cryptocurrencies is not a happy one," he said. *Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

Sebi cancels registration of 4 stock brokers

New Delhi: Sebi on Monday cancelled the registration of four stock brokers and 11 depository participants. It said the registration of four stock brokers — Karvy Stock Broking, Conard Securities, Anee Securities and Credential Stock Brokers — have been cancelled upon expulsion from the stock exchanges.

The entities whose registration has been cancelled as depository participants are — Wellindia Securities, BRH Wealth Kreators, Fairwealth Securities, Vrise Securities, MK Chandan Broking (RTG Share Broking), KSBL Securities, Vineet Securities, Anee Securities, Sumpoorna Portfolio.

Sebi on Monday also came out with trading features pertaining to electronic gold receipts (EGR) on stock exchange platforms, as per a *PTI* report. **ENS, WITH PTI**

BRIEFLY

Textiles PLI

New Delhi: The Textiles Ministry has extended the last date for submission of applications for the Production Linked Incentive scheme for textiles to February 28 from February 14. **ENS**

CSR disclosure

New Delhi: The government has put in place a detailed disclosure framework for CSR spending by firms. **PTI**

Texas sues FB

Washington: The Texas attorney general's office has sued Facebook, alleging it violated privacy norms with facial recognition tech. Meanwhile, the Dutch antitrust watchdog fined Apple $5.7 million, its fourth such fine. **REUTERS**

Adani Ent result

New Delhi: Adani Enterprises on Monday reported a 99.4 per cent decline in consolidated profit to Rs 1.8 crore for the December quarter. **PTI**

CGN, Vidya Sagar

New Delhi: CBR Global Network (CGN) and Chennai-based Vidya Sagar have launched a new course, based on the CBR (Community based rehabilitation) guidelines for all those who work in the sector. The online training programme was developed by the WHO. The courses are being jointly hosted by CGN and Vidya Sagar, which include 8 modules on management, health, education, livelihood, social, and empowerment. **ENS**

LIC holds stocks worth ₹9.79 lakh crore

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 14

INDIA'S LARGEST insurer, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), held stocks worth a "carrying value" of Rs 9,79,843 crore (close to $130 billion), or 24.77 per cent of its total investments, as on September 30, 2021, making it the wealthiest investor in the stock markets.

LIC's investments in listed equity represented approximately 4 per cent of the total market capitalisation of the NSE, says the IPO prospectus filed by the Corporation with Sebi. LIC holds sizeable stakes in most of the large- and mid-cap stocks listed on the stock exchanges. Carrying value, or book value, is the original cost as reflected in the balance sheet minus the depreciation.



Life Insurance Corporation, Mumbai. *File*

The Corporation, which is going for an IPO, says profit on sale/redemption of investments rose by 47.27 per cent from Rs 31,361.67 million in fiscal 2020 to Rs 46,186.75 crore in fiscal 2021 which was on account of realised profits on sale of equity. Over 90 per cent of the corporation's policyholders' equity investments on a standalone basis are held in stocks that are a part of the Nifty 200 and BSE 200 indices as on September 30, 2021, LIC said.

According to stock exchange data, LIC's 6.13 per cent stake in Reliance Industries alone is worth around Rs 97,000 crore. It holds 12.16 per cent stake in Larsen & Toubro, which is worth around Rs 31,000 crore as per the current market valuation. LIC's 16.21 per cent stake in ITC Ltd is worth over Rs 44,000 crore.

Out of the total investments of Rs 39.55 lakh crore, 37.45 per cent (Rs 14.81 lakh crore) is in Central govt securities, 24.62 per cent (Rs 973,800 crore) in state govt securities, 8.06 per cent (Rs 318,894 crore) in bonds and debentures and 3.07 per cent (Rs 121,297 crore) towards loans.

Among sectors that comprise over 5 per cent of the total investments, financial service activities, except insurance activities, account for Rs 1,26,476 crore, or 21.98 per cent of total investments, and infrastructure-related activities Rs 60,528 crore, or 10.52 per cent.

As of September 2021, LIC policyholders had total investments of Rs 39,49,516.37 crore on a standalone basis. This is more than 3.3 times higher than total assets under management (AUM) of all private life insurers in India and approximately 16.2 times more than the AUM of the second-largest player in the Indian life insurance industry in terms of AUM — SBI Life had the second largest AUM of about Rs 2.4 lakh crore — and is also 1.1 times the AUM of the entire mutual fund industry, which had AUM of around Rs 36.7 lakh crore as of September. "The investment policy maintains a 'safety first' objective, reflected in our investment in sovereign bonds, high-rated corporate bonds and equities," LIC prospectus says. *Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

Small caps most hit as Sensex records biggest fall in 10 mths

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 14

FEARS OF a Russian attack on Ukraine led to a global sell-off, with the Sensex also taking a 3 per cent hit. The benchmark 30-share index crashed 1,747 points to 56,405.84 while the Nifty50 plunged 532 points to 16,842.80 in the sell-off led by finance, banking, metals and realty stocks.

The decline was led by the small-cap index, which fell 4.15 per cent. The rupee plunged by 24 paise to close at 75.60 against the US currency as geopolitical tensions pushed investors towards safe-haven assets.

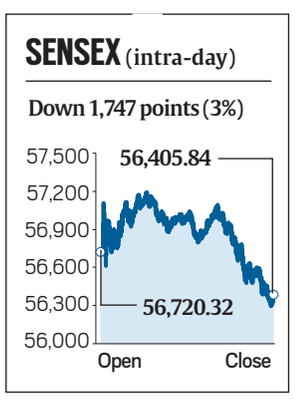
According to analysts, global cues are now dictating the trend and the prevailing geopolitical tension between Russia and Ukraine, combined with a steady uptick in crude oil, is not going well with the participants.

Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services, said, "The risk sentiment was further dampened ahead of the US Fed's emergency meeting, which heightened fears of aggressive monetary tightening ... annual WPI inflation eased marginally to 12.96 per cent in January from 13.56 per cent in December, but still high..."

Analysts cautioned investors against blindly taking fresh positions. "... Investors are advised to keep strict stop loss considering volatility in the markets. Also buy on dips is suggested but investors should plan their position keeping adequate liquidity," said Rahul Sharma, co-owner, Equity 99.

On Wall Street, at 1:39 pm ET, the Dow Jones was down 155.56 points, or 0.45 per cent, at 34,582.50 while the Nasdaq was up 32.79 points, or 0.24 per cent, at 13,823.94, as per a *Reuters* report.

Brent crude rose 0.5 per cent to $94.91 a barrel by 1:28 pm ET, after touching its highest since October 2014 at $96.16.



Inflation: Fed officials call for measured reply

New York: US Federal Reserve officials are pushing back on the idea that central bankers might raise interest rates in between meetings and made it clear that while they are poised to begin lifting rates in March, the initial rise may be smaller than what investors have begun to expect. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis president James Bullard said the Fed needs to react to data in an "organised" way. **NYT**

Jio enters satellite broadband service market, forms joint venture with SES

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

JIO PLATFORMS has formed a joint-venture with Luxembourg-based satellite-linked content connectivity solutions provider SES to deliver satellite broadband services across India.

INVESTMENT PLAN

■ **As part of investment plan, the joint venture will develop extensive gateway infrastructure in India to provide services**

Contours of the deal

In a press statement, the companies said that the joint venture will use multi-orbit space networks that is a combination of GEO (geostationary equatorial orbit) and MEO (medium earth orbit) satellite constellations capable of delivering multi-gigabit links and capacity to enterprises, mobile backhaul and retail customers across the length and breadth of India and neighbouring regions. The joint venture will be the vehicle for providing SES's satellite data and connectivity services in India, except for certain international aeronautical and maritime customers who may be served by SES. It will have availability of up to 100 Gbps capacity from SES and will leverage Jio's sales reach in India to unlock this market opportunity. As part of investment plan, the joint venture will develop extensive gateway infrastructure in India to provide services within the country, the companies said.

Differences with Starlink or OneWeb

Yes, SES primarily has satellites in the GEO and the MEO, while those of Elon Musk-led Starlink and Bharti Group's OneWeb are in the low earth orbit (LEO). While GEO satellites are positioned at an altitude of 36,000 km, MEO and LEO are lower at altitudes of 5,000-20,000km and 500-1,200 km, respectively. The altitude of the satellite is directly proportional to the area of earth that it covers. Therefore, the higher a satellite is positioned, the larger an area it covers.

Advantages and disadvantages

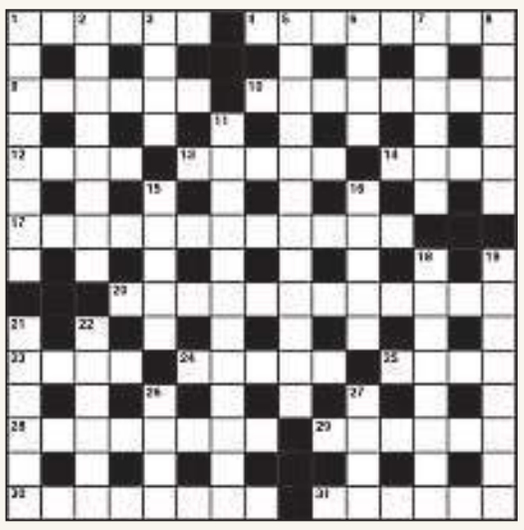
GEO and LEO satellites are considered to be the two extremes in satellite communications. While GEO satellites provides a larger coverage and therefore only three satellites can cover the whole earth, hundreds of LEO satellites are needed to provide coverage to a larger area. And given that LEO satellites are closer to the earth's surface, connectivity provided through these typically has lower latencies that connectivity through GEO satellites is bereft of. Further, LEO satellites are smaller and are cheaper to launch than GEOs or MEOs. *Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

Jio to invest $200 million in Glance

Mumbai: Glance, an artificial intelligence-driven lock-screen platform, is planning to raise $ 200 million (around Rs 1,500 crore) from Jio Platforms Ltd in its Series D round of funding.

The proposed investment by Jio is aimed at accelerating Glance's launch in several key international markets outside of Asia such as the US, Brazil, Mexico and Russia. The company is aiming to create the world's largest live content and commerce ecosystem on the lock screen and will use the funds raised to expand globally. In addition to Jio Platforms, Glance is also backed by technology giant Google and Silicon Valley-based venture fund Mithril Capital. **ENS**

CROSSWORD 4664



ACROSS

1 Improve on casual acquaintance (4,2)
4 What prompts consumer demand (8)
9 An encroachment on the public highway? (6)
10 Nuts go well with cheese (8)
12 A drawer of money (4)
13 Europeans one may meet in noisy taverns? (5)
14 Report a fringe fashion (4)
17 Settle after a fresh start in North America (12)
20 Is her job to type, sort out or gather pens? (12)
23 There may be a catch in it (4)
24 Pass out with many a twitch (5)
25 Deep sea fish (4)
28 Schoolwork every prisoner should have (8)
29 Winning ticket-holder goes back for the prize (6)
30 Artist is to become a writer (8)
31 Roman with a settled routine in public transport (6)

DOWN

1 Priest in trouble remains pure (8)
2 Legislation that went against the grain (4,4)
3 Erect as a tree (4)
5 His clients need to have their heads examined (12)
6 How some artists scratch a living? (4)
7 He cometh in play or cinema production (6)
8 Officer found on the staff (6)
11 Landing prize jobs at the end of the courses? (7,5)
15 Shout out in one direction (5)
16 Insert in a ballad (5)
18 Cook heats pan for bird (8)
19 Struggles to maintain faith in the past (8)
21 Two articles appear at opposite points in the city (6)
22 Least common form of arrest (6)
26 Mark shows unending alarm (4)
27 Accept as sound (4)

Solutions Crossword 4663: Across: 1 Tiger, 4 Lunatic, 8 Ida, 9 Fruitless, 10 Naivete, 11 Athos, 13 Rather, 15 Debris, 18 Marie, 19 Sackbut, 21 Termagant, 23 Lip, 24 Flashed, 25 Susan. **Down:** 1 Thinner, 2 Gladiator, 3 Rifle, 4 Laurel, 5 Nitrate, 6 The, 7 Costs, 12 Harebells, 14 Eyewash, 16 Set upon, 17 Island, 18 Motif, 20 Cites, 22 Ria.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You won't be alone in deciding that friends and colleagues are just being too much trouble. One minute they're all over you, the next it's all over. Neither at home nor at work will you be free from such capricious people. And, if children, friends or lovers want most of the attention, you'd better let them have it.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
The time may not yet have come for decisive action at home. In any event, there is so much potential for misunderstanding this week that you might be well advised to stick to uncontroversial matters, difficult as this restriction may be to observe. Really, you need to make up your own rules.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Bearing in mind that you are passing through a phase of existence that must be described as favourable, you may survive a financial crisis intact. However, you should insure yourself by taking every possible precaution. After all, a good gambler always calculates the odds in advance.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It is now time to start holding peace talks. Even if friends and colleagues are still behaving irrationally, you must make every effort to pour oil on troubled waters and distinguish fact from fantasy. And, as an added aside, don't let anyone over-charge you.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
What you need now is a bolt-hole, somewhere to hide from the attacks and criticisms that seem to be heading in your direction. One of your fears is that personal friction will disrupt your working life. Perhaps you're just a little too thin-skinned today.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
The strongest planet of the moment is Venus, which is currently indicating emotional turmoil. This is not an easy time for you practical Virgoans, but it is certainly easier than last week, and I suspect that you will handle partners' demands better than most people.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Obstinacy doesn't suit you. It never did, and it certainly doesn't now. According to an old Chinese saying, the branch which does not bend in the wind will break. Right now, you are that branch, so it is vital that you adopt a pragmatic approach.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
Your planetary pictures are so contradictory that it is honestly impossible to say whether this is a good moment for you to travel or not. Much depends on how you handle your personal relationships. I think that it's time to tie up loose ends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)
Around this time of year, when the Sun is beginning to pass through materialistic regions of your chart, you are forced to pay more attention to other people's needs. The sense in such an approach will become clear if you consider the financial consequences of a personal rift.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
You do tend to feel over-dependent on people around you, and the determination of others to exploit your discomfort may make you feel uneasy about the future. Yet, if you are to be entirely truthful, you must see just how far you are responsible for the current situation.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Very little in astrology is subject to fate, or to circumstances we can't influence. Difficult planetary aspects are not bound to bring personal disputes to the fore, but this may be precisely the result you get unless you take the initiative and try to force everyone to co-operate.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
It is said of the Piscean that he, or she, finds it almost impossible not to share in other people's unhappiness. Yet you know that, at times like these, it is so much more helpful if you attempt to soothe their ruffled feathers. Bring a smile to a partner's lips.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Time has a wonderful way of weeding out the____. - Howard H. Aiken (7)

EPPAR

EORVLT

DLVII

CENOXV

SOLUTION: PAPER, LIVID, REVOLT, CONVEX
Answer: Time has a wonderful way of weeding out the **trivial**. - Howard H. Aiken

SUDOKU 4746

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 nine boxes.

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

2		6	8				9	
	4				3		6	
						2		
			1			6		5
1				3				9
7		5			4			
		1						
	8		6				2	
	2				7	3		8

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4745

2	1	4	7	8	9	6	3	5
9	3	6	4	2	5	1	7	8
5	7	8	3	6	1	2	9	4
4	8	9	6	1	3	5	2	7
1	6	5	8	7	2	3	4	9
3	2	7	9	5	4	8	1	6
7	4	2	5	3	6	9	8	1
6	9	3	1	4	8	7	5	2
8	5	1	2	9	7	4	6	3

Haldia Energy Limited
CIN: U74210WB1994PLC066154
Regd. Office: 2A, Lord Sinha Road, First Floor, Kolkata-700071, West Bengal, India

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB) for WET LIMESTONE BASED FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION SYSTEM AND AUXILIARIES (WLFGD)

Haldia Energy Limited (HEL) intends to set up Wet Limestone Based Flue Gas Desulphurisation (WLFGD) System and Auxiliaries for its 2X300 MW Coal Based Thermal Power Plant at Haldia, Purba Mednipur, West Bengal, India.

HEL invites sealed bids through ICB mode from eligible bidders for the following Tender:

Tender No: HEL-FGD-MPS-01:Supply of Main Plant Equipment for WLFGD System and Auxiliaries

For scope of work and other terms and conditions of NIT, please visit our website: **www.haldiaenergy.co.in**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PLANNING AND INVESTIGATION DIVISION
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT (RCD), RANCHI
Nirupan Bhawan,3rd Floor,Room No. 401,56-Set,Doranda,Ranchi-834002

e-Procurement (Very Short Tender Notice)
Letter of Invitation (LOI) No.-37/2021-22
2nd Call
Tender Ref No:– RCD/PI Div./Ranchi/37/119 Date:-11.02.2022

1	Name Of Work	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Construction of Bridge Underpass at NH-32 near Nehru Udyan between Karkend-Putki Bazar in Dhanbad in the State of Jharkhand from empanelled consultant with RCD under **category-II** vide letter No. 686(S) WE Dated 29-01-2019.
2	Dimension of Bridge Underpass	Bridge Underpass should have minimum clear span of 12.00 meter and minimum vertical clearance of 6.00 meter with Approaches 500.00 meter on both side of Bridge Underpass.
3	Period of Completion of Work	30 Days
4	Cost of Tender documents	Demand Draft/Banker Cheque of any Scheduled Bank (non-refundable fee) of Rs 5,000/- (Five Thousand) only. EMD:- 2 % of the quoted amount (Net of GST) in the form of current issue of NSC, Fixed Deposits of a Scheduled Bank (all the above mentioned form of Security deposits money issued within the State of Jharkhand), Bank draft and Bank Guarantee issued by any Scheduled bank anywhere in India Payable at Ranchi in favour of Executive Engineer, Planning& Investigation Division, Road Construction Department,(RCD), Ranchi for a period of 120 days beyond the validity of bid.
5	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering(http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	15.02.2022,10:30 AM
7	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	22.02.2022, 12:00 PM
8	Last Date/Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	22.02.2022, 12:00 PM
9	Date and Time of Bid opening	23.02.2022, 12:30 PM
10	Bid validity	120 days
11	Bid Submission Address	Chief Engineer(Communication), Road Construction Department,1st Floor, Engineer Hostel No.-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
12	Designation and Contact no. of Tender inviting Officer	Executive Engineer, Planning and Investigation Division, RCD, Ranchi Mob-94311-65712
13	Previous PR NO.	262259 (Road) 21-22 (D)

Note-:Only e-Tender shall be accepted. For more information Please visit the site e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)

Sd./-
Executive Engineer,
Planning & Investigation Division,
Road Construction Department (RCD),
Ranchi-834002.

PR 263845 (Road) 21-22 (D)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE (Through e-Tendering)

Name of work with its location	Trenching, cable laying & termination in location boxes/relay room/relay hut in connection with work of ROB/RUB over LC gates in DLI-UMB and DLI-BTI sections of Delhi Division.
App. Cost of the work	₹ 1,04,09,569/- only
Earnest Money Deposit	₹ 2,02,100/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender	Tender uploading/closing date & time-09.03.2022 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in** & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

No.: 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-1369 Dated: 14.02.2022 **336/2022**

Serving Customers with a Smile

CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. DRMWNGP-06-2022 Date: 11.02.2022

Sr. No. 1 - Name of Work : Annual sectional contract (Zone) 2021-22 & 2022-23 for repairs & maintenance, white wash, colour wash, painting, snowcem & miscellaneous works etc. of staff quarters, Service building & bridges for the year 2021-22 & 2022-23 under IOW Wardha section on ADEN Wardha. **Sr. No. 2 Name of Work :** Same as Sl. No. 1 under IOW Warora section on ADEN Warora. **Approximate Cost :** ₹ 60,00,000/- each for Sr. No. 1 & 2, **Earnest Money :** ₹ 1,20,000/- each for Sr. No. 1 & 2. **Date & time of closing:** 07.03.2022 at 15.00 hrs. Details on Railway website www.ireps.gov.in

EXP/11/214 ***DRM (Works), Nagpur***

RailMadad Helpline 139

DELHI JAL BOARD
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)-VIII
SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (WSTP), DWARKA SECTOR 16D, PAPPAN KALAN, DELHI-110078
Email:- eesdw8@gmai.com

PRESS NIT No. 19 (2021-22)/EE (SDW)VIII

S. No	Name of work	Estimate Cost	E/Money	Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date /time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Augmentation/ up-gradation of various existing STPs in Delhi (package-1)	465.3 Cr	2.70 Cr.	1500/-	2022_DJB_216643_1 Dt. 11.02.2022	18.03.2022 at 3.00 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at (**https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**)

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1124(2021-22)

Sd/-
(J.C. Garg)
EE(SDW)VIII

Stop Corona: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing and Maintain Hygiene

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-
Traffic Engineering Cell, N.R.Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No: EE/RI-TEC/TEND/08/2021-22 **Dated: 11.02.2022**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through **GOK e-Procurement Portal** only)

The Executive Engineer, (RI-TEC) invites tenders from eligible Firms/Agencies/ Contractors for the work of annual maintenance contract for pothole filling on Arterial & Sub Arterial roads in Bengaluru City detailed in the table below.

Package	Appx. Length in KM	No. of Automatic Machine	EMD ₹.in Lakhs
A. Annual Maintenance Contract for Pot holes filling using hot bituminous concrete on Arterial & Sub Arterial roads in Bengaluru City, Pothole filling Machine with inbuilt Chamber for storing Asphalt mix with heating arrangement, in Built spraying gun for bitumen/ emulsion, inbuilt vibratory Compactor of Minimum 10 tons capacity without obstructing traffic. B. Cutting of edges with mechanical road cutting machine etc., complete as directed by Engineer in charge.	180.00	02 Nos	7.5

Calendar of Events: 1) Downloading of RFP Document from e-procurement on **16.02.2022** after **4:00** pm. (2) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting is on **21.02.2022** at **3:30** pm. (3) Last date for submission of Bid Document is **02.03.2022** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Technical Proposal is **03.03.2022** after **4:30** pm. (5) Opening of Financial Proposals **Will be intimated to the Bidders.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-TEC

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, इन्दौर
102-103 पालिका प्लाज़ा (द्वितीय चरण), एम.टी.एच.कम्पाउण्ड, इन्दौर, ई-मेल: rddc_imc@yahoo.co.in

योजना शाखा

निविदा वि. क्र.: 08/ योजना /2021-22

निविदा विज्ञप्ति

दिनांक : 11.02.2022

ई-टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से केन्द्रीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से म.प्र. नगरीय प्रशासन एवं विकास विभाग द्वारा जारी इंटीग्रेटेड स्टेण्डर्ड शेड्यूल ऑफ रेट्स दिनांक 02.08.2021 पर प्रतिशत दर पर निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित है।

अ. क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित राशि (₹)	अर्नेस्टमनी (₹)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	समयावधि
1	MR-3 (पिपल्यापाला रीजनल पार्क से बायपास तक) सड़क का सीमेंट कांक्रीट कैरेजवे, मिडीयन, सेन्टर लाईटिंग, पुल निर्माण एवं इलेक्ट्रिक लाइन शिफ्टिंग आदि कार्य करने बाबद।	₹ 48,41,16,866/-	₹24,20,585/-	50,000/-	24 माह

1. निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय एवं प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांक : 16.03.2022 (सायं 5.30 बजे तक)
2. प्री-बिड मिटिंग दिनांक : 02.03.2022 (सायं 4.00 बजे) अधीक्षण यंत्री, (योजना) कार्यालय, 101-102, पालिका प्लाजा द्वितीय चरण, एम.टी.एच. कम्पाउण्ड, इन्दौर
3. तकनीकी प्रस्ताव ऑनलाइन खोलने की दिनांक : 17.03.2022
4. शासन के निर्देशानुसार नियमानुसार जी.एस.टी. का भुगतान ठेकेदार को पृथक से किया जायेगा। जी.एस.टी. के अतिरिक्त समस्त कर के भुगतान का दायित्व निविदाकार का होगा।
5. विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा प्रपत्र एवं अन्य दस्तावेज देखने ऑनलाइन क्रय करने एवं प्रस्तुत करने की सुविधा वेबसाइट: http://www.mptenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

प्रतिबंधित पॉलीथीन, कैरीबैग के निर्माण/ विक्रय/ उपयोग करने पर दंड व सजा का प्रावधान है।

अधीक्षण यंत्री, (योजना)
नगर पालिक निगम, इन्दौर

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD BUILDING, ASSAM, GUWAHATI-3

No. CE/TB-IV/123/2022/...

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Building), Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites Bids for Technical & Financial offer as per Request for Proposal from qualified and experienced firms (criteria as per in REP document) for providing "**Project Management Consultancy Services**" for the following work :

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of the project.
1	**PMC services for** "Construction of Proposed New Assam House, at Sector-13, Dwarka, New Delhi".	Rs.1986.28 Lakh
2	**PMC services for** "Construction of the Annexe-II Building with Extended floors and including Interior and Furnishing works at Dispur, Guwahati-6.	Rs. 6831.97 Lakh
3	**PMC services for** "Construction of New G+5 office Building (Block-11) in Janata Bhawan Complex, Dispur Assam".	Rs. 7384.99 Lakh

- The details may be seen in e-procurement portal website i.e. **www.asssarntenders.gov.in**.
- The validity period of the Bid shall be 180 days from the date of submission.
- The Bidders must be registered with the E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. (website: http//assamtenders.gov.in)
- The Chief Engineer P.W.D (Building), Assam reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without showing any reasons what so ever.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, PWD (Bldg.),
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

Bid Cancellation Notice

No. CE/TB-IV/89/2021/5,
It is for general information of all concerned that the bid invited vide No. SMC/89/2021/3, dtd. 6-12-2021, with online Tender ID No.: 2022_PWBNH_24224_1, for the work "Construction of Integrated Directorate Complex at Betkuchi, Guwahati, Assam" is hereby cancelled due to technical reasons.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Bldg)
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
Janasanyog/C/12074/21

MESSI TAKES ON REAL MADRID IN UCL

Having secured the services of a four-time Champions League and seven-time Ballon d'Or winner this season in Lionel Messi, PSG hopes it will be a game-changer. And the former Barcelona great is now under pressure to deliver against Madrid. PSG hosts the 13-time winners in the first leg of a Round-of-16 match on Tuesday at the Parc des Princes. **AP**

BRIEFLY

Washington ruled out of WI T20Is

Kolkata: Spin-bowling all-rounder Washington Sundar was on Monday ruled out of the three-match T20 International series against the West Indies owing to a hamstring strain, adding to his never-ending woes. The All-India senior selection committee has named Kuldeep Yadav as Washington's replacement, the BCCI said in a statement. "All-rounder Washington Sundar suffered a left hamstring muscle strain during fielding in the third ODI against the West Indies played at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Friday. He is ruled out of the upcoming three-match Paytm T20I Series to be played in Kolkata from 16th February," the BCCI said. Washington will join Axar and KL Rahul at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) for rehabilitation. The 22-year-old Washington was bought by Sunrisers Hyderabad for Rs 8.75 crore in the two-day IPL mega auction. **PTI**

Valieva to stay, but no medal ceremony

Beijing: Russian teenager Kamila Valieva has been cleared to compete in the women's figure skating competition at the Winter Olympics despite failing a pre-Games drug test, setting her up for an attempt at a second gold medal. Whatever happens on the ice, Valieva will not get a medal ceremony moment in Beijing. Nor will any skater who finishes in the top three with her. The CAS cleared Valieva to skate less than 12 hours after a hastily arranged hearing. A panel of judges ruled that the 15-year-old Valieva, the favorite for the women's individual gold, does not need to be provisionally suspended ahead of a full investigation. The court gave her a favorable decision in part because she is a minor, known in Olympic jargon as a "protected person". **AP**

Smith to recover from concussion

Sydney: Australia batter Steve Smith is expected to make full recovery within a week from his latest concussion episode and be available for the tour of Pakistan. Smith, who has a history of concussions, hit his head hard on the SCG turf in an audacious leaping attempt to stop a six near boundary rope in the second T20I against Sri Lanka which Australia won in Super Over on Sunday. Cricket Australia (CA) said the 32-year-old will be subject to "low level protocols" over the coming days before an recovery within the week. **PTI**

FC Goa aim to halt ATKMB charge

Bambolim: FC Goa will look to carry forward their momentum from the last game and stop ATK Mohun Bagan from completing a hat-trick of wins when the two sides meet in an Indian Super League match here on Tuesday. ATK Mohun Bagan climbed to second spot after their win over NorthEast United FC in the last game, stretching their unbeaten run to 10 matches. Ferrando will be up against his former side, and the last time they met the green and maroons ran out 2-1 winners. **PTI**

Spin in a tailspin

Indian tweakers have failed to make an impact in ODIs for a long time now, and domestic cricket fails to produce exciting options

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 14

Since the 2019 World Cup, India's spinners have the worst economy rate, 5.72, in One-Day Internationals among the 12 ICC full-member teams. India's average of 48.38 and strike rate of 50.7 are better than only Zimbabwe's and marginally, England's. After the recent South Africa ODIs, coach Rahul Dravid had pointed out the need to improve India's wicket-taking options through the middle stage of an ODI innings, when spinners are used more often than not.

"Mr (Sunil) Gavaskar would tell me, 'you go for 50 runs in 10 overs but get me three wickets, and I'll be happy with that.' And mind you, 50 runs in those days was big," says Laxman Sivaramakrishnan.

In his debut ODI series, the World Championship in Australia in 1985, the former India leg-spinner memorably tossed up the ball and made it drift, dip and turn to lure batsmen to their fall. The magic was to vanish soon but what Sivaramakrishnan showcased then was classic one-day wrist-spin; the tightrope art of dangling the carrot of boundaries for the batsmen but not actually conceding them, and instead using that bait to reel in wickets.



For a few seasons, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal were a threat for batsmen before the former's returns plummeted. *File*

Over the decades, an already difficult art has become harder. ODI rule changes and the rise of T20 are global reasons. The failure to develop, in particular, wrist-spin bench strength in ODIs, and the two different worlds of domestic and international cricket. These are specific to the Indian predicament.

"The real big change to the game was the red ball changing to white," Sachin Tendulkar had told this paper in an interview published last Friday. "The red ball became soft, got discoloured, and was hard to pick. So, if a spinner was bowling, one had to watch the hand closely as it was tough to see the 'spin' on the ball while it was in the air."

Spinners took a hit again when two new white balls, one from each end, were introduced after the 2011 World Cup. "A ball would get used only for 25 overs from one end," said Tendulkar. "Even when the spinners came to bowl later in the game, it was not too difficult to sight."

In 2012, the ICC restricted the number of deep fielders in ODIs to four instead of five from the 11th to the 40th over. The middle overs went from 'boring' to boundary-fests, and the spinners, who operated usually in that period, bore the brunt.

"This changes the psyche of both batsmen and bowlers," Tendulkar says. "In case that extra fielder was at, say, long-on, the batsman would think twice before hitting."

In late 2017, 'KulCha' became the flavour in Indian cricket, threatening to turn the bread-and-butter of finger spin to toast. In early 2018, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal looted 33 wickets in the six-match ODI series in South Africa.

But gradually, Kuldeep's returns started falling, as did his game time, even in the IPL. India went back to the left-arm spin of Ravindra Jadeja, who's averaged 58.75 at 5.5 runs an over since the 2019 World Cup.

In the South Africa ODIs, the home spinners took nine wickets, India's managed three. Forget Tabraiz Shamsi and Keshav Maharaj, even Aiden Markram had more wickets than R Ashwin.

Virat Kohli led India's white-ball teams for nearly five years, but not a single wrist-spinner not named Chahal or Kuldeep got a single ODI under him. Rahul Chahar did get a game, but under Shikhar Dhawan in the second-string side that toured Sri Lanka last year. Once Kuldeep faded - and why his decline couldn't be arrested deserves a story in itself – there was no real back-up. The team management tried to plug the hole with finger spin, but that was replacing apples with oranges.

"A captain has a huge part to play in handling spinners. In my time, Sunil Gavaskar was outstanding as skipper. His man management was superb. Mahendra Singh Dhoni was better than Virat the way he led the spinners," says Sivaramakrishnan.

Feeder line empty

Not that the cupboard is overflowing with options. In the last five years in the one-day Vijay Hazare Trophy, only two of the top 10 spin wicket-takers are wrist-spinners – Mayank Markande and veteran Piyush Chawla. That number doubles to four – Chawla, Shreyas Gopal, Chahar, M Ashwin -- for the T20 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy though.

"Domestic pitches are much slower than your usually true international surfaces," says Chawla. "We get very few paatas (flat pitches) these days. Also, we have a lot of matches at the same venue, so the pitches get tired. The odd game should be played at a high-scoring venue so that spinners get that experience.

"Also, domestic batting line-ups are not that aggressive," Chawla adds. "So often teams end up playing safe. A score of say, 275 or 280 is, seven or eight times out of 10, a winning score. But the opposite is true in international cricket.

"A spell of 10-0-50-0 is considered very normal nowadays, and there are plenty of domestic finger spinners who will give you that. So captains feel why should one risk bowling a leggie with only four deep fielders."

"Now leg-spinners are playing only T20s," says Sivaramakrishnan. "They get wickets caught in the deep when batsmen are trying to slog them."

That doesn't work to the same extent in ODIs, according to the 56-year-old commentator. "People have been mistaken. Fifty-over cricket is not an extension of T20. It is a restriction of Tests. A batsman can pace his innings in a one-day game, but a bowler has only 10 overs, so you have to be really excellent in order to succeed.

"(Shane) Warne and (Anil) Kumble, both high-quality Test bowlers, were high-quality ODI bowlers. Mystery can take you only so far as a spinner. What happened thereafter… (Sunil) Narine and (Ajantha) Mendis could bowl only four overs.

"But spinners lack heart now. They are happy to go at a decent economy rate without going for wickets. Even in the U19 (World Cup) final, most of the (England) wickets fell to pace. Only one wicket fell to spin and that too off a slog-sweep."

The basics of spin bowling are being gradually lost, feels Sivaramakrishnan. "People do not use their body much these days, they bowl with their hands.

"You are supposed to spin the ball more, not just bowl quick through the air. You need to give it a proper rip. The amount of turn you get also depends on the pitch, yes, but spin happens in the air. You can say there is nothing in the pitch but that is where your craft comes in."

Sivaramakrishnan advocates a spin-bowling coach for every team. "We have forgotten that our strength is spin. All teams should have a spin-bowling coach, and there is no one to teach it better than Asians."

FIH Pro League: Fast-emerging France expose old frailties in Indian hockey

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 14

IN THE space of 20 seconds during the break between the third and fourth quarters against France, Gregg Clark used the word 'patience' four times in his address to the players. At first, it was directed at drag-flickers Harmanpreet Singh and Jugraj Singh, who were repeatedly thwarted by the French defenders. By the time the huddle broke and the team dispersed, Clark, in a stern yet calm tone, passed the same instruction to every player.

As the former junior India chief coach, when it was led by Manpreet Singh, Clark – now the assistant coach of the Manpreet-led senior side – is aware of the players' mindsets. And he knows old habits die hard.

Indian hockey has taken giant steps between 2013, when Clark coached the junior team, and now. But a couple of aspects have remained constant – inconsistency and impatience, especially when playing against teams that maintain proper structure and discipline, as France did in the FIH Pro League game.

India faced France twice last week, besides playing South Africa two times, in Potchefstroom. They won the first match 5-0 although, as chief coach Graham Reid pointed out later, that result came against a team which had landed in South Africa barely 48 hours before the match. The 5-2 defeat on Saturday, however, gave a lot more insight into the team that is looking to build on its Tokyo Olympics bronze medal.

France, in recent years, have constantly punched above their weight. The 2-2 draw against the Netherlands, who are undergoing a rebuilding phase, underlined their status as a fast-emerging team in world hockey. Yet, it wasn't expected they'd demolish India the way they did last Saturday.

This was the second time in recent games that India conceded five goals against a team ranked lower than them; in December, Japan had stunned India 5-2 in the semifinals of the Asian Champions Trophy. In both those defeats, there was a pattern.

Turnover troubles

Reid, in his brief analysis of the defeat to France, said he hoped the team would start a match well and be the first to the ball. "It's about focus and commitment," he had said. In the Asian Champions Trophy, he had urged the players to 'wake up' while his team was getting steamrolled by Japan.



Harmanpreet Singh couldn't find the target in the 5-2 loss to France. *HI*

France were aggressive in winning back possession and maintained intensity on turnovers, slicing open the Indian defence with speed and precise passing. It's ironic, given that India are known as a predominantly counter-attacking side and have used the speed of their movement and passing to open up defences.

Japan troubled India in a similar way, pointing at the fragility in the midfield and the weakness in defence in dealing with counterattacks.

Profligacy in attack

While two French goals came late into the match, when India had committed a lot of men forward, the bigger concern for Reid would be the profligacy inside the attacking third. "We created opportunities, big word was execution," Reid admitted.

India entered France's circle once almost every two minutes but were able to find the back of the net just twice. A lot of times, the final pass was missing and even though the attackers, when pushed away from goal, were able to find a foot inside the 'D' and earn a penalty corner, the drag-flickers were ineffective because of their one-dimensional approach.

Harmanpreet's drag-flicks are often unstoppable and newcomer Jugraj Singh, too, showed his power with a hat-trick against South Africa. But against quick first-rushers who are prepared to throw their bodies in the line of the ball, like Victor Charlet, their angles were quickly shut down, rendering the attempts ineffective.

Inconsistent, impatient

Unable to get past a solid French defence and with their most potent weapon, drag-flicks, misfiring, the players were left frustrated. And even though Clark urged them to stay patient, the players lost the plot, and the match.

The two matches against France captured India's inconsistency. In both games, India entered the French 'D' 35 times each. But in one match, they scored five while in the other, they conceded five.

Such inconsistency was the hallmark of Indian hockey until very recently. Reid had instilled a sense of stability and calmness into the side, which was one of the key reasons they finished on the podium in Tokyo.

That calmness was missing during the second match against France and in patches in Sunday's game against South Africa, when the hosts were able to hold possession and create scoring chances. India seemed rushed and tried to force the issue, especially in the final third, leading to mistakes.

Reid will have around 10 days with the team before India play eight matches at home – two each against Spain, Germany, Argentina and England – on back-to-back weekends. And his message is likely to be similar to Clark's instructions during the quarter break: remain patient.

INTERVIEW: CHARU SHARMA

'Injury to my right shoulder brought about this strange happening'

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 14

CHARU SHARMA stepped in at the last minute to take charge of the IPL auction after auctioneer Hugh Edmeades collapsed on stage. Sharma, a veteran commentator and presenter, talks about how he went about conducting the event, his stint with Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2008 and the roles he has played in his varied career.

What a bizarre two days! How did it all unfold?

It wasn't just the fall of auctioneer Hugh Edmeades that got me into the IPL auction but also another injury - to my right shoulder - that brought about this strange happening. I had fallen in Kathmandu where I had gone for an auction for a cricket league and damaged my shoulder. I have been at home now for weeks, getting my physiotherapy done; (IPL chairman) Brijesh Patel knew I was a professional auctioneer and that's why he called me.

Do you have any special prep-up technique or a routine that you do before getting on stage? What's the biggest challenge in auctioneering?

I don't have one. Just a little word to myself that 'keep it straight, keep it quick, keep it a bit light and humourous'. The auction itself isn't such a big deal. Let me be honest, I don't think it's some real tough job. The context was a bit unusual of course and the producer told me we are in the middle of a bid for Wanindu Hasaranga. I tell him, 'don't worry, it's all par for the course for me." And this auction was well-structured anyway.

The big thing is how much time do you wait for a bid to come through? For the teams to come up with the numbers. You can't rush them too much and you can't wait eternally.

It's the IPL, the owners are high-profile; you have to do a professional job. Only thing is that I had to be a touch more generous as there are high-stakes in the IPL. You don't want to be cruel or brutal. But there are so many players to go through; you can't waste time either.

Do you think you slipped up on any occasion in the last two days?

There was thisone time for an uncapped player when Chennai Super Kings came one microsecond after I had said 'passed'. Then they said 'hello hello', and I said I will allow that as no one else was bidding anyway and this is a matter of life and career for the athlete as well, who otherwise would go unsold. They bid 20 (lakh), the minimum, and took the player.



Charu Sharma (R) with Hugh Edmeades on Day 2 of the IPL auction. *Twitter/IPL*

You were involved with the IPL before as CEO of RCB in 2008 but were sacked by Vijay Mallya. How did you shrug that off?

> **Brijesh Patel called. Can you get to ITC Gardenia right now?" I say, 'what?' as I hadn't been watching the auction and had no idea what had transpired. "The auctioneer has collapsed," he goes. Oh Damn. "Get a coat and run"**
>
> **-CHARU SHARMA**
> COMMENTATOR

I have a laidback approach to life. That helped me, I guess. Even as I say that, it was four days to a week of a really dark period.

It troubled me as my father had died at the start of that tournament. There was so much work with the IPL that I could barely even go help my brother, who said, 'go do the IPL, I will take care.' So that was churning in the background; I had given three-four months of my life to it. I worked harder than ever before in my life. Then to be treated the way I was; it was brutal.

I was pretty upset and down for a while. Life is so much bigger, I have so many interests - and all that realisation begins to seep in and that's how I got over that.

I remember my wife was so delighted with the phase after that. I have never been so loved by my wife as I was in that phase! Because she had warned me, going into that IPL job, 'don't take it. Don't enter this cauldron. Don't work with him. What are you doing?' I would say, 'leave it to me, it's only cricket, I will be okay!' And after that she told me, 'see, I told you!"

Two things did pain me. I had thrown everything into it. Had the responsibility to take everybody along. Then I got cut off so brutally.

That experience skewed something somewhere as I seem to have lost the relations that I had with the(television) channels. After having worked so much, over so many critical events, but after this IPL, for some strange reason, the channels treated me as persona non-grata.

You began broadcasting in the 1982 Asian Games just after your sporting career.

Yes, I was the junior champion for seven years from the age of 11. I can safely say that I was among the top three springboard divers in the country, the first two were from the Army and were backed. I had qualified for the 1978 Commonwealth Games but had to give up as I had to go at my own expense. I had done well but quit at the ripe age of 19! I was also a first-division cricketer in Kolkata. The broadcasting career started and it took off once the country liberalised and more networks began to come in the 90s.

Looking back, how do you assess your career - sporting one in the teens, then broadcaster, CEO, auctioneer?

I have been a child of immense good fortune. By sitting around, zero ambition really, by not wanting things desperately, so many things have come to me. I have had such a blessed life that it's not even funny. Sometimes, you have to admire people who go out, have a drive, a dream, and get it. I am quite the opposite, laidback. I don't want to reach anywhere; let the things that come to me, come. And when they come, they are sweet!

Did you feel sad that Edmeades came back in the end?

No, he had come all the way to do this. I was just a substitute. He felt good enough to come back and do it in the end. All good.

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LONG READ

Murder in the squash court

India's new coach Chris Walker breaks down legacies of sultans of the sport Jahangir and Jansher, recalls the 2001 British Open final loss to David Palmer, and the time he made the Queen of England wait

SRIRAM VEERA
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 14

CHRIS WALKER, India's new squash coach and former world no. 4, is sitting naked. A few carefully arranged squash balls save the blushes. It was for a photoshoot in the '80s. An ingenious idea from a photographer friend to attract potential clothing sponsors; he was UK's No. 1 player then, and without an apparel contract. So why not strip? "It worked, I got one immediately!"

Walker is sitting on the toilet pot. The Queen of England is waiting for him in the squash court to inaugurate a tournament. When he eventually saunters out, a panicking sentry yells, "I have found him!" And asks him to rush along. "The Queen waits while Walker sat on the throne," ran a headline in the Evening Standard the next day. Walker laughs at the memory.

He is trying his best to work around the pandemic hurdles to coach the Indians — "I have high hopes and confidence that we can do something special" — but that's in the future. It's his past that fascinates us for now. A long career that allowed him a close peek at the greatness of the squash sultans from Pakistan: Jahangir Khan and Jansher Khan in the end 80's and early 90's, and his gruelling battle against David Palmer in the 2001 British Open final which he lost after leading 2-0 that he still revisits now and then. But before we go to Birmingham 2001 for some masochism, it's best to travel to Karachi 1993 for some awe.

The greatest squash player ever Jahangir Khan awaited him in that world cup semi-final in Karachi in 1993. "Jahangir would break down the opponents — mentally and physically. All-out attack, relentless, you can feel him breathing down your neck. Nothing remained of you by the end of a match. You might just have won a few points in games but he would have so brutally left you gasping for breath. It was sensational," Walker gushes.

At his pomp, over an astonishing five-and-half years, Khan never lost a match, winning a ridiculous 555 matches in a row. A miracle that people gathered around the glass walls in courts around the world to catch a glimpse. Around this time, Channel 4, a television network from the UK, sent their man to Khyber Pass in Pakistan along with Khan to retrace his story. A scene stands out. Men sit hunched around, rifles slanted on their shoulders. Uncles, neighbours, friends of Khan's older relatives. What do they make of Khan? "Achaa hai, ab jawaan hai. Aage jaake acha khiladi banega! (Good, he is young, will become better in the future!)," says one. The documentary host convulses into a gobs-macked-laughter, a gentle grin stretches out from Khan's lips. No wonder, he racked up 555 triumphs; they don't get easily swayed in the mountains.

But in '93, the reporting grapevine those days was that Khansaab had come out of retirement to play in the tournament. "I am playing 60% for the crowds here," Khan would say ahead of the game. Walker had played him a few times before, lost all, but was faster, younger and fitter now.

"The court was dead and I thought now my better fitness would prove to be the difference." Khan was up and away in a flurry though Walker would win one game to make it 1-2. But the balls went a bit soft, after 45 minutes of Khan pummelling them. "Now, there wasn't much bounce. That threw me off. But Jahangir went all out with his shots. I don't know how he did, but he did. It was hard to get the ball back at times." Walker was run ragged, but his pride was intact.

"I once read a book by my squash hero Jonah Barrington, 'Murder in the Squash Court - The Only Way to Win', on my way to a tournament and carried away by the sheer bloodymindedness described in the book, I had won that tournament. Jonah is of course right. It's a bloody gruelling sport, you do get murdered. Khan did me in, all right!"

The most bruising loss though, is the 2001 British Open final against David Palmer. He was leading 2-0, but would run out of gas to lose the next three. "I still think about it. British Open was my childhood dream; it was the trophy I so wanted." Still, it was a miraculous run that year. Unsure about his future, he had taken time away from the sport, choosing to travel around the world for six months.

"The love for the game was back at the end of the trip and I began training. I had to go through the qualifying rounds also that year to make it to the main draw. I had a couple of draining five-sets in the tournament and I guess I was finished physically by the final." For the first two games, he was all over Palmer, mixing his drop shots, volleys, pace-and-cross-court-angle changes but once the fatigue set in and Palmer started to run him down, the match began to slip away.

Considering that he was evaluating his career just a year before the tournament, it was an astonishing accomplishment. "Still, I was leading 2-0 …" There is a pause in the WhatsApp call and it isn't due to the internet buffering. The question blurts out, "Are you still haunted by it?" Walker refutes but admits it does rankle him. "But I did play and beat Palmer in a match next year. So, that was a nice feeling, I had had my revenge. And I know I was good enough to win that British Open if not for the body." Murder on the squash court, but memories live on.

"The funny thing is that immediately after the loss, one of the first persons I spoke to after I stepped off the court was Jahangir Khan, who had retired of course but was there. And what does he tell me? 'Chris! Why didn't you play more shots?! Ha ha ha! Thank you Jahangir, you should have shouted that at me in the middle of the match. Why didn't I play more shots, indeed?! Crazy times. Loved those years."

A nerve of memory stirs - a moment with Jahangir Khan years before he would face-off as opponents, when he was just a 14-year old kid happy to be with a star. Later, he retrieves photographic evidence of the special day. A black-and-red jacket zipped to the neck, right hand on his hip, a radiantly happy self-possessed smile as opposed to self-conscious. Years later, on court, Jahangir would do his best to break down Walker's spirit and body. "Showed the picture to him a while back. He thought it was pretty cool. I do remember going on court with him then, extremely excited and nervous, and thinking how calm and confident and relaxed he was!! Don't remember the conversation though. Maybe he said I should go for more shots!!"

Squash isn't easy on the body. Forget playing it, even watching it makes one wince. Crouching bodies contorting in obtuse angles; blinding turns; hands, legs, and heads yanked in all directions in claustrophobic glassed walls — "What's not to love?!" Walker laughs at that observation.

Walker has had both his hips replaced a couple of years ago. Jansher Khan had multiple back surgeries last year. Jahangir Khan's brother's heart stopped on the court, mid-game. "It is indeed a physically gruelling sport - and yet such artistry, skill is involved." That it is.

"You have to be supremely fit." Like Jahangir, but what else set apart the champion from Pakistan that allowed him to win the British Open 10 times between 1982-93 and be a six-time world champion?

"Jahangir was always relentless with power and ability to hit the ball so crisply. And he would get on the ball so early — literally breaking you down and leaving you with nowhere to hide. You will fall apart by the end of a game against him. That's what he did time and time again and people couldn't deal with it. No wonder, it took five-and-half years for anyone to beat him."

Jahangir's career would be forever hyphenated with Jansher Khan, in the minds of fans of a certain vintage, and Walker breaks down how Jansher beat Jahangir.

"So at some point came Jansher trying to figure out how to bell the cat. He doesn't have the physical presence of Jahangir, so he wasn't going to win the pace and power game. He had to figure out how the hell to tire out this guy, how to make him vulnerable enough to get some points and win a match.

"Jansher's philosophy was that 'I am going to keep Jahangir on the court for an hour and half to get him at least tired enough to play a game of squash against him! Until then, he is going to absorb the pressure before he can start applying his skills. Which he obviously had as he is a great player; he has shots, strategies but none of that is going to work for the first hour and half against Jahangir!" Walker chuckles. "So you got two totally different players. He had to develop this strategy purely to outplay Jahangir."

Time to get into the hot seat. Jahangir or Jansher? "I have to say Jahangir by a tiny margin because he was unbeatable for five-and-half years - that's unf******believable! Jansher had total belief in himself in how he was going to beat Jahangir and he was mentally tough. At his pomp, though, Jahangir's game was something else. You didn't go into games against Jansher with an apprehension that he is going to break you down. Jahangir could and regularly did." Such was Jahangir's reputation that professionals would book flight tickets for the day after the game against him.

Jahangir might have asked questions of his opponents that they had no answer but the question that totally stumped Walker came from the Queen. That day when he made her wait. "Well, not entirely true. She was late and it was then that I rushed to the toilet! Once I greet her - and I was advised not to shake her hand but just bow, she has a look at the glass court behind me, and goes, 'Have you played in one of these before?!' I say, 'actually yeah, we use these portable glass courts all over the world.' And she goes, "Oh good! So you have had some practice. Good luck!"





(Left) A 14-year-old Chris Walker (left) with six-time world champion Jahangir Khan; Walker at his home in England. *Express*

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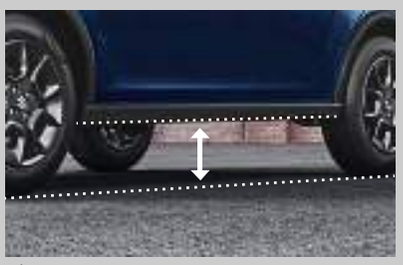
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