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The Indian EXPRESS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 16 PAGES

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INVASION HAS BEGUN, SAY US & UK Putin puts Russia on war footing, backs separatist claims in east Ukraine

West moves on sanctions, Germany blocks key pipeline from Russia

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, YURASKARMANAU& AAMER MADHANI MOSCOW, FEBRUARY 22

RUSSIAN LAWMAKERS on Tuesday authorised President Vladimir Putin to use military force outside the country -amove that could presage a broader attack on Ukraine after the US said an invasion was already underway there.

Several European leaders said Russian troops rolled into rebel-held areas in eastern Ukraine after Putin recognised their independence. But it was unclear how large the deploy-



SIMPLY PUT **THE BREAKAWAY REGIONS PAGE 11**

ment was.



SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

"deep concern" over the escala-

tion of tension along the Russia-

Ukraine border and said it was

be resolved through diplomatic

Members of Russia's upper house, the Federation Council, voted unanimously to allow **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



INDIA SENDS WHEAT "convinced" the issue can only **TO AFGHANISTAN VIA PAKISTAN** CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 PAGE 7



Hijab freedom of expression, not of religion, can be curbed: Karnataka AG

JOHNSONTA BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 22

THE WEARING of hijabs is a right that falls under freedom of expression, which is subject to institutional discipline, and not under freedom of religion in the Constitution, the Advocate General for Karnataka argued on Tuesday during a hearing in the High Court on petitions filed by Muslim girls against the hijab ban in some colleges in Udupi. Advocate General Prabhuling Navadgi told a full bench of the Karnataka High Court, comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justice Krishna Dixit and Justice

[M Khazi, that wearing the hijab

is an optional practice in Islam

Sabse Pehle Life Insurance

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

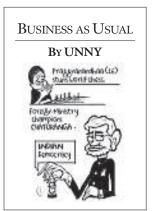


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Army recruitment on hold, morning run in UP villages is hope — and despair

hain (Please write that at night SHYAMLAL YADAV we herd bulls to protect our KOTWA, SONI & SORAON crops. In the morning we come (PRAYAGRAJ), FEBRUARY 22 to this ground for practice. Then

we sleep. Dreaming of being re-"LIKH DEEJIYEGA ki raat mein cruited in the Army, we are besaand hank kar fasal bachaate coming overage)," says Ajay hain. Savere is maidan mein aakar Maurya, 21, adding that he and practise karte hain. Fir jakar sote his friends won't vote for "this hain. Lekin Army mein bharti hone government". **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** ka sapna liye overage ho jaa rahe



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2 THE SECOND PAGE

FROM PAGE ONE

and security of the region."

India called for "restraint on all

sides" and stressed that the imme-

diate priority is "de-escalation of

tensions", taking into account the

security interests of all countries

and long-term peace and stability

briefing, called for by Ukraine fol-

lowing Putin's decision, is the

Council's third meeting in recent

weeks as tensions in the region es-

calated. Incidentally, the UNSC is

under Russia's Presidency for the

India strongly emphasised the

"vital need for all sides" to main-

tain international peace and secu-

rity, and asked "all sides" to inten-

sify diplomatic efforts to reach an

amicable solution at the earliest.

"We are convinced that this issue

can only be resolved through

diplomatic dialogue. We need to

give space to the recent initiatives

undertaken by parties which seek

to diffuse tensions,"Tirumurti said.

Delhi welcomes the intense efforts

underway, including through the

Trilateral Contact Group and un-

On the whole, India's state-

ment underlines its insistence on

diplomacy, which has been artic-

ulated by the Government on sev-

eral occasions, including by

External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar in Melbourne earlier

this month. At the same time, it has

also pointed out that the "well-be-

ing of Indian nationals is of prior-

ity". "The safety and security of

civilians are essential. More than

20,000 Indian students and na-

tionals live and study in different

Karnataka AG

obligatory religious practice.

and, as a consequence, is not an

fundamental right under Article

19(1)(a) to wear a dress to exer-

"It is their argument that it is a

Ukraine.

der the Normandy format.

In this context, he said New

month.

The UNSC emergency open

in the region and beyond.

Ukraine faceoff

Putin to use military force outside the country -- effectively formalising a Russian military deployment to the rebel regions, where an eight-year conflict has killed nearly 14,000 people.

Shortly after, Putin laid out three conditions to end the crisis that has threatened to plunge Europe back into war. Putin said the crisis could be resolved if Kyiv recognises Russia's sovereignty over Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014. renounces its bid to join NATO and partially demilitarises. Asked whether he has sent any Russian troops into Ukraine and how far they could go, Putin responded: "Ihaven't said that the troops will go there right now." He added that "it's impossible to forecast a specific pattern of action - it will depend on a concrete situation as it takes shape on the ground".

Later, the Russian Foreign Ministry said it has decided to evacuate Russian diplomatic personnel from Ukraine.

With tensions rising and a broader conflict looking ever more likely, the White House began referring to the Russian deployments in the region known as the Donbas as an "invasion".

For weeks. Western powers have been bracing for this as Russia massed an estimated 150,000 troops on three sides of neighbouring Ukraine -- and promised swift and severe sanctions if it materialised. The European Union and Britain announced Tuesday that some of those measures were coming -- and more were expected from the US, too.

Condemnation from around the world was quick. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

22.02.22, PAGE 10

IN THE ARTICLE, 'The Ukraine dilemma' (The Editorial Page) by C Raia Mohan, the sub-heading mistakenly reads. "Delhi can't continue to view Central Asia through Moscow's prism" The article discusses Central Europe, not Central Asia.

The error is regretted.

said he would consider breaking diplomatic ties with Russia and Kyiv recalled its ambassador in

Moscow. AP Delhi tightrope dialogue.

Underlining that they "cannot afford to have a military escalation", India also asked "all sides" to "exert greater efforts to bridge divergent interests".

In its strongest statement so far on the situation, India said it has been closely following the evolving developments relating to Ukraine, including "along the eastern border of Ukraine and the related announcement by the Russian Federation" -- and that "these developments have the potential to undermine peace and security of the region". However, it did not condemn

Russia's actions and decision to send troops to Ukraine. Significantly, its statement did not use the words "territorial integrity and sovereignty", which it usually deploys in the context of China's aggressive behaviour.

Some Western nations are likely to view this approach as one that condones Russia's action. But this is India's diplomatic dilemma. It has very important strategic ties with Russia, and is dependent on it for crucial military supplies -- 60-70 per cent of its military hardware is of Russian-origin. This is a consideration it cannot overlook, especially during a tense border standoff with China.

India has also not condemned Russia's statement of recognition of the two separatist regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. While India may like to portray its own statement as neutral, the Western bloc, led by the US, will not view this line through a similar lens.

Speaking at an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on Ukraine on Monday night, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti said: "We have been closely following the evolving developments relating to Ukraine, including developments along the eastern border of Ukraine and the related announcement by the Russian Federation.'

He did not refer to Russia's actions directly. However, in what is being interpreted as diplomatic cise the freedom of expression. language advising Russia not to The argument runs mutually de-

structive and contrary to the take steps that might inflame the situation further, he said: "The esproposition of hijab being essencalation of tension along the bortial because if their argument is der of Ukraine with the Russian accepted, then those who do not Federation is a matter of deep conwant to wear the hijab can also cern. These developments have choose not to wear it," Navadgi the potential to undermine peace told the court.

"It is either the right to freedom of religion under Article 25 (1) or the right to freedom of expression under Article 19(1)(a). It cannot be both...If women have an option of wearing the hijab, then it is a 19(1)(a) right and not a right under Article 25," he said.

"My submission is that what is optional is not obligatory and what is not obligatory is not compulsory and what is not compulsory is not essential. Therefore, it does not fall in the realm of essential religious practice," Navadgi said.

"In our country, there is no prohibition on wearing the hijab. However, the right to freedom of expression is subject to Article 19 (1)(2), where the state can impose reasonable restrictions in the interest of morality, public order and decency," he said.

The Karnataka AG said in his arguments that the right to wear hijab as freedom of expression in colleges is subject to state education rules that place reasonable restrictions.

"The wearing of the hijab is subject to institutional discipline... There is no restriction on wearing the hijab in the institution. The restriction is only in the classroom and during class hours. It is uniformly applicable to everyone and no one can wear anything beyond the uniforms, irrespective of religion and community," the AG said.

"In France, there is a total prohibition of the hijab in public life but I do not think that anybody can say that there is no Islamic religion in that country. This is a test I want to apply," he argued.

parts of Ukraine, including in its Justice Dixit intervened to border areas." Tirumurti said. point out that the Constitutional Many of these students are ensystem is different in different rolled in medical colleges in countries. "From nation to nation, the extent of liberty and freedom may not be similar to India," he said.

The advocate general also argued that identifying the hijab as an essential religious practice will make it compulsory for all Muslim women to wear it, which would be against Constitutional morality and individual dignity.

"The last submission is that assuming the court accepts all arguments of the petitioners and assuming that every proposition is correct, then in the light of the law laid down by the Supreme Court in the Sabarimala case, would it be possible today to accept the principle of hijab on the point of

Constitutional morality and individual dignity?" Navadgi asked. "Ultimately, if you see the claim of the petitioners, it is to wear a particular attire and if they are coming for a declaration that we want every woman of a particular faith to wear that, then would it not violate the dignity of the person whom we are subjugating? According to me, this is impermissible in this day and age," the AG said.

"It hits at the personal liberty of an individual and the choice to wear what they want," he said.

UP villages

There are dozens of them here this morning at the Tilak Intermediate College ground in Kotwa village, nearly 25 km from Prayagraj, running, exercising, anything for that elusive Army "bharti"

Meanwhile, they wait on, not even applying for other jobs, turning up at the ground every morning, touching its soil to their forehead before starting the day, hailing each other with the Army greeting "Jai Hind", and on Diwali, crafting a map of India out of diyas and coulours. The scenes play out in village after village here, mornit is 23. ing and evening.

Anuj Gaur, who belongs to Kotwa village, is now 23, "overage for soldier (general duty)" and hence trying for Territorial Army. Claiming none of his family members or even neighbours will vote for the BJP, an angry Gaur says: "Politicians have no problem with election rallies. But Army recruitment drives are stopped in the name of Covid!"

Most aspirants start trying out at the age of 17, with the next eight years or so a race against the upper age limit. Several try for police as well, though Army is clearly the first preference for many. Like Gaur, several are over the 21 age limit for soldier (general duty) and seething against the government. Since 2015, recruitment rallies

can be organised in an area only with prior registration. While before 2019-20, recruitment from each district was done at least once in the recruiting year, a reply by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the Lok Sabha on February 11 this year showed that no such exercise could be held in 2020-21 due to Covid.

On Tuesday, for the second time during the poll campaign, Rajnath faced angry slogans by youths asking why recruitment was on hold. The first incident was in Gonda, and Tuesday's at Ballia.

The upper age limit for soldier (general duty) - the bulk of the force - is 21 years, whereas for soldier(technical) and soldier(clerk),

EXPRESS AUDIO The unprecedented verdict in the 2008

Ahmedabad blasts case

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Kushal Yadav, 26, who missed

the bus for soldier and is now

preparing for Territorial Army,

while training others at the Kotwa

ground, says that since 2019

nearly 50 from the area have

dropped out after crossing the age

of 23. "They left for small jobs in

metros like Delhi, Surat, Mumbai."

the Kotwa ground, says he does-

n't really care who comes to

power. "Sarkar chahe jiski ho, raaj

whoever rules us, I need employ-

In a mango garden in Soni vil-

lage, nearly 3 km away, Ranjit

Kushwaha, 23, is practising push-

ups with a tractor tyre. He hopes

the government will open recruit-

ment soon and take into account

the years lost due to Covid, giving

concession to those who have

on an Army job, Kushwaha says.

'We ignored our studies because

of the rigorous practice for Army

entry. If we are out from competi-

tion because of delay in recruit-

ment, we will be neither here nor

the Phulpur Assembly seat. The

sitting MLA is Pravin Patel, for-

merly with the BSP, who won last

time on a BJP ticket. His main op-

ponent is Mujtaba Siddiqui, also

an ex-BSP leader, and MLA from

Both these villages fall under

They have put all their chips

crossed the age limit.

ment. I need the uniform)."

Daksh Tiwari, 18, exercising at

The Indian EXPRESS www.indianexpress.com

Discussing how a special court sentenced 36 people to death in the 2008 Ahmedabad blasts case, and how investigators seem to have failed to tie loose ends in the matter

> nearby Pratappur. Siddiqui is contesting on a Samajwadi Party ticket.

> Hope runs even stronger at the Mewalal ground in Soraon, which has been seeing youths come for practice since the '70s and from where several have made it to the armed forces. Rajkumar Patel, from village Jadavpur, 6 km away, is apprehensive he will cross the age limit too if recruitment does not start by November. "I have been practising here since 2017,

every day for four-five hours." chahe jo bhi kare, mujhe rozgaar chahiye. Mujhe vardee chahiye Their family will vote for the (Whoever forms the government, cycle(the SP)this time, Patel says.

The Soraon Assembly seat is reserved for SCs and the sitting MLA is BJP ally Apna Dal (S) candidate Jamuna Prasad Saroj. The SP nominee is Geeta Pasi of the SP, who unsuccessfully contested the same seat on a BSP ticket in 2017. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to address a

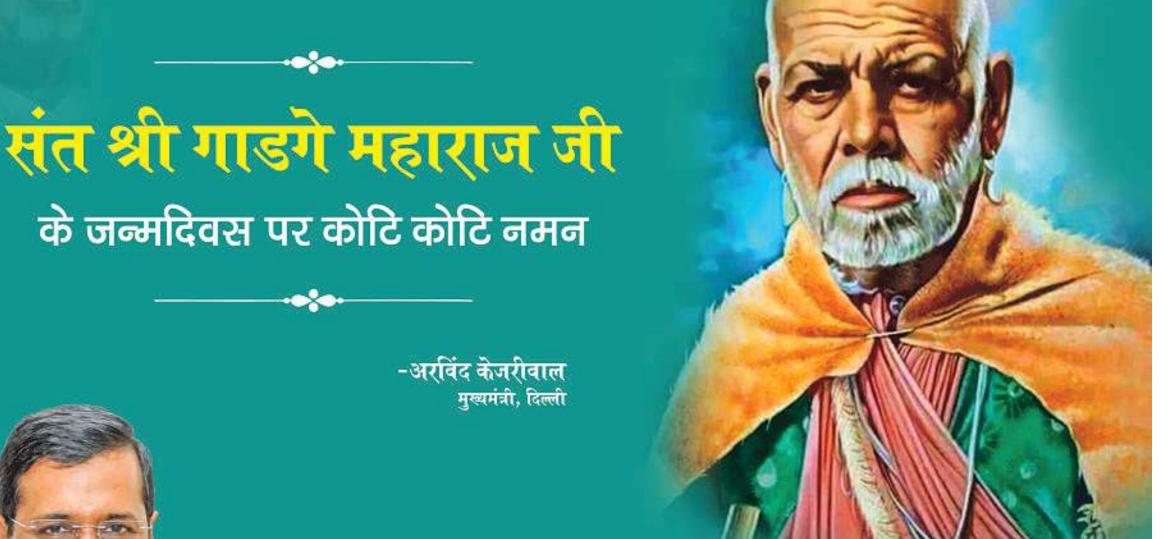
public meeting in Prayagraj on Thursday, in support of candidates of the BJP and its allies in the district.

Azad Yadav, 29, who is at the ground from a nearby village, says since 2019 he has seen the average number of aspirants drop to around 50 at a time, from 150. 'The government just doesn't seem to understand," says Vikas Yadav. "Recruitment may be in any numbers but if it is on a regular basis, candidates feel motivated and optimistic."

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there.'



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PIL IN HIGH COURT CCTVs in classrooms without consent violate right to privacy'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday asked the Delhi government to respond to a petition challenging its decision to install CCTV cameras inside classrooms of Delhi schools and allow live streaming of footage by parents.

The division bench of Chief Iustice DN Patel and Iustice Ivoti Singh listed the petition filed by Delhi Parents Association and Government School Teachers' Association, through advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, for the next hearing on March 30.

Installation of CCTVs inside classrooms without obtaining specific consent from either students or their parents and teachers is a "gross and direct violation" of the fundamental right to privacy, argues the plea. The act of live streaming footage without consent is a further vi-

olation of the right, it adds.

The groups of students' parents and teachers have

challenged the Delhi government's decision of 2017. Archive

"In the complete absence of a data protection regime or any other statutory/ regulatory

framework to protect citizens' data, the twin acts of obtaining and then storing children's data on private computer servers is fraught with danger," the petition contends.

The groups of students' parents and teachers have challenged the Delhi government's

Unmanned barricades

serve no purpose, cause

decision of 2017 in this regard and the circulars issued in 2019. The plea seeks immediate removal of CCTVs inside classrooms and de-

struction of the footage. The petition also argues that the fears of petitioners are further compounded by the present-day reality including morphing and abuse of footage and also its possible dissemination on social media and the internet.

With regard to teachers, the petition specifically states that their interactions with students will come under direct scrutiny and "shall naturally have a chilling effect". "Teachers are also deeply concerned about the psychological impact (that) constant monitoring shall have on the overall development of school children." it reads

Family of girl raped and killed in Narela leaves the capital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

THE FAMILY of a 14-year-old girl, who was gangraped and killed by two men, has left Delhi and doesn't plan to return, acquaintances said. She was killed at Narela and her body was dumped in a gunny bag, which was later found at a plastic cap manufacturing unit when the owner opened it.

While police have arrested a 32-year-old man in connection with the crime, the girl's family left their home in Delhi and moved to Haridwar. Locals said they will eventually go back to Bihar.

The girl's mother, who works at a factory, told the media. "We don't know much... When she didn't return in the evening, we went to the police station. They said 'mil jayegi ladki'. She was missing for a week. We approached police again, they said

VITEEE 2022 B.Tech. Admissions

they were looking. We have been in Delhi for over three years... Later, police said they had found her. A man had taken her and locked her

up... She was gagged and raped...' Said a neighbour: "We tried looking but couldn't find the girl. Police also came here... The family didn't speak much and just left after police found her body." Police said they received a missing person's report on February 15 and sent several teams to look for the girl. "On

Saturday, we got a call from a man complaining of a foul smell in his manufacturing unit. We went to the spot and found the girl's body wrapped in a gunny bag," said an officer. DCP (Outernorth) Brijendra

Yadav said the man also alleged that a worker was missing. "One of the accused was arrested from Sannoth village," he said, adding that they are looking for the other accused.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday took note of the presence of unmanned barricades on roads in the national capital and asked the Delhi Police to place on record the protocol that they follow in relation to setting up of barricades in the city while initiating a public interest litigation on the issue.

The division bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh sought status reports from the Commissioner of Delhi Police, Delhi government, the Centre, and South MCD and listed the matter for hearing on April 13.

"The issue raised by Shri O P Goyal requires consideration since the unmanned blockades on the roads prima facie serve no purpose and do indeed cause in-

The court registered the PIL on its own based on a letter by a man to the Prime Minister

convenience and harassment to the public at large. Such barricades are also being used to set up and run kiosks or parking vehicles," said the court.

The court registered the PIL on its own on the basis of a letter written in December 2021 by Goyal to the Prime Minister. Goyal is stated to be the president of the Delhi Pradeshik Agarwal Sammelan. In the letter, he raised grievances with regard to the setting up of unmanned barricades in Kalkaji, Govindpuri and CR Park police station areas, saying that these disrupt the free flow of traffic and cause harassment to the public.

Vellore Institute of Technology

Chintels Paradiso residents meet police commissioner

ing for several days demanding

the arrest of the society's devel-

oper. Sonam Arora, secretary of

the society, said the residents ex-

pressed their concerns on laxity

in police probe. Ramachandran

said, "The investigation will be

conducted as per scientific and

Gurgaon: Police commissioner Kala Ramachandran Tuesday morning met residents of Chintels Paradiso at Sector 109, where a large portion of a sixthfloor apartment had collapsed all the way through to the first floor earlier this month, killing two.

Residents have been protestevidence-based policing." ENS



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Branch Name & Address	Union Bank Of India, Patna Main Branch, Abhay Bhawan, Frazer Road, Patna -800001		
5. Name of the	M/s Savitri Furniture (Represented by Prop: Shri. Amount Due: Rs. 1,58,70,046.36 (Rupee One Crore Fifty Eight		
Borrower &	Chandrika Prasad), Mr. Chandrika Prasad, Mr. Ritesh Lakh Seventy Thousand fourty six and paisa thirty six only as on		
Guarantor/s	Kumar (Guarantor) Mrs. Savitri Devi (Guarantor) 31/05/2018 with further interest cost & expenses		

Property (1): Residential Flat in the name of Mrs. Savitri Devi admeasuring about 1065.00 sq. ft. situated at Flat No.: 306/C, 3rd Floor of Sunda Enclave, Block-B under Mouza-Dhirachak shakardih, Mohalla: Anisabad, Thana: Phulwari, Present Thana-Gardanibagh; bearing Plot No 1813,1814 & 1815; Thana No.: 16; Tauzi No.: 5140, Khata No.: 363 & 364; Ward No:10, Holding No: 370A/12 & 370 Dist: Patna. Reserve Price Rs. 42,65,000/- (Rupee Fourty Two lakhs and Sixty Five Thousand Only); EMD: Rs.4,26,500/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand an Five Hundred Only).

Property (2): Land admeasuring an area of 1 Katha together with construction in the name of Mr. Chandrika Prasad situated at Chitkohra Baza under Mouza-Dhirachak, Mohalla: Anisabad, P.S.: Gardanibagh; bearing Plot No.: 1904; Ward No.:12; Holding No.: 225A; Tauzi No.: 5318, Circle No.: 265; Dist: Patna. Reserve Price: Rs 1,04,89,000/- (Rupee One Crore four Lakh and eighty nine thousand only); EMD: Rs 10,48,900/- (Rupee Ten lakh Fourty eight thousand and nine hundred only).

Branch Name &	Union Bank of India,					ing Conal Dood	Detas 000001
Address	Union Bank of India,	PATNABURING	CANAL ROAD	D BRANCH, INGIA	а впачап, вог	ing Canal Road,	Paina – 60000 i

Address				
6. Name of the	M/s Sristhi Feeds Private Limited	Amount Due: Rs.1,02,10,544/- (Rupees One Crore Two Lakh Ten		
Borrower &	Mr. Kamlesh Kumar Kamal (Guarantor)	Thousand Five Hundred Forty Four Only) as on 07.07.2017 with		
Guarantor/s	Mrs Radha Kumari (Guarantor)	further interest, cost & expenses.		
Preparty In Eastery (Land / Langehold Bights) and Building at Industrial Crowth Control Cidha, Plat No. D. 15, Supray Plat No. 146/D) 147/D) 200/D)				

Property I: Factory Land (Leasehold Rights) and Building at Industrial Growth Centre, Gidha, Plot No. D-15, Survey Plot No. 146(P), 147(P), 209(P) Khata No. 451,27,185 Thana no.139, at Vill – Gidha, PS – Koilwar, Dist – Bhojpur, measuring 10000 Sq. Ft within the registration sub-district - Arrah and District - Bhojpur. Reserve Price: Rs.25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Only) EMD: Rs.2,50,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) Property II: Plant and Machinery installed at the said Premises. Reserve Price: Rs. 7,00,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Only) EMD : Rs.70,000/ (Rupee Seventy Thousand Only

Branch Name & Address	Union Bank of India Nawada Branch situated Near Old Rajauli Bus Stand, Sharfa Colony, Nonia Tola, Nawada-805110			
	Mr. Muneshwar Prasad Sinha (Borrower)	Amount Due: Rs. 26,80,773.80 (Rupees Twenty Six Lacs Eighty		
		Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Three and Paisa Eighty Only)		
Guarantor/s		as on 30/06/2019 together with further interest thereon.		

Property: All that Part and Parcel of Land alongwith Building admeasuring about 4.00 decimal in the name of Mrs. Renu Kumari Sinha, W/o Mr. Muneshwar Prasad Sinha situated at Professor Colony Line Par Mirzapur, bearing Old Plot No. 460; New Plot No. 185; Old Khata No.: 58; New Khata No.: 82; Thana No.: 360 in the district of Nawada (Bihar). Butted and Bounded by: In the North: Niz Land; In the South: PCC Road; In the East: Property of Mahendra Paswan; In the North: Niz Land, Reserve Price: Rs. 63,00,000 (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Only). EMD: Rs.6,30,000.00 (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Thousand Only).

Date & Time of E-Auction for aforesaid property:-	Date: 10.03.2022;	11:30 am to 01.30 pm
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For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TendelViewAllAuction.aspx

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit https://www	.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp
Date: 19.02.2022	(Sd/-)
Place: Patna	Authorised Officer









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RIOTS: TWO NORTHEAST DELHI YEARS LATER In most riot cases, probe still on, trial yet to begin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

YEARS since the TWO Northeast Delhi riots, the 758 cases registered to probe the violence are lingering on - investigation in 50% of the FIRs is still pending and trial has commenced only in at least 25% of the cases where police have filed chargesheets against the accused.

In the data submitted to Delhi High Court on January 27, police had said chargesheets have been filed in 367 cases and the investigation was pending in 384. While cancellation has been filed in three cases, four FIRs were quashed by the High Court last year. In at least 235 out of the 367 cases where chargesheets have been filed, police said the supplementary investigation remains pending.

Between October 2021 and January 2022, police had filed chargesheets in only six cases. As many as 695 out of the to-

tal 758 are being investigated by Northeast Delhi police. Sixtytwo cases were transferred to the Crime Branch and three dedicated SITs have been set up to probe them.

The Crime Branch has been probing murder cases connected to the riots. Investigation has been completed in a majority of those cases. While investigation is pending in eight of the cases alleging offence under IPC Section 302 (punishment for murder), chargesheets have been filed in 37.

In the main case alleging larger conspiracy behind the riots, chargesheets have been filed against several student activists but according to the Special Cell, the supplementary investigation continues to remain pending in it as well.

The police status report was submitted before the High Court in a bunch of petitions connected to the 2020 violence. The cases in the High Court too have remained in limbo.

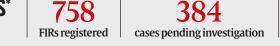
After a hiatus of many months and transfer to a different bench, the High Court last month began hearing the cases seeking SIT investigation and action against various political leaders for alleged hate

speeches along with action against police officials for al-



14-year-old Fiza (right) with her family. She lost her father, Md Muddassar, in the violence; (right) At Sunrise Public School in Loni, where around 300 kids, mostly from riot-hit families, study. Gajendra Yadav/Anand MohanJ











Across the divide, children who lost parents in 2020 violence struggle to move forward

ANAND MOHAN J NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

THE STRUM of the guitar moved Fiza(14) to tears. Her teachers had taken a group of children out for a school picnic, and when someone from the group sang 'Maa' from the film Taare Zameen Par, the teenager couldn't control herself. The memories of her father, Md Muddassar (35), came flooding back. The last time she saw him was when he left home to pay her school fee. He was shot dead as riots broke out in Northeast Delhi. "I was reminded of my father; I miss him a lot." said Fiza.

Two years since 53 people were killed in violence that broke out on February 23, 2020, children of families who lost members are still coming to terms with the loss.

Vir Bhan Singh (48), a father of three, was among those who lost his life in the violence. While two of his children managed to complete class XII, his youngest daughter, Khushi (15), almost dropped out of school. Singh's brother Mukesh said, "She used to sit for online classes but got fed up – she was scared of going back to school and was getting anxious as the lockdown lifted. Everyone in our family, including the grandparents, intervened and gave her a lot of love. She is



The school was opened two years ago by IIT-Delhi research scholar Aasif Mujtaba. Anand Mohan J

Sunita (30), whose husband Prem Singh (27), a rickshaw puller, also died in the violence, has been looking after her four daughters ever since. Two of them, aged 11 and 6, study at a local government school. "My children missed out on online classes as I don't have a smartphone. But I got them pri-

riculum' which involves various activities like skits, music events, picnics to bring them out of their shell. Most were unable to interact with others after witnessing the riots first-hand. We don't vet have a child psychiatrist who can help with those children who are in a dire condition," Mujtaba said.

At the school, Asad (10) is con-

fident of doing well in an upcom-

ing test, but finds it difficult to stop

his leg from shaking when he in-

teracts with others. His father

Jamaluddin (35) was beaten to

death by a mob near his house in

Shiv Vihar. Two years on, the child

has started interacting with oth-

ers - with a little help from his

friends. "I like maths a lot. I don't

Hindi and social science at the school, can empathise — he too had fled his home in Shiv Vihar during the violence. "Many of the students can't go back to the same schools since they were hotspots of violence. It is a bad memory. I knew them from before the riots. They were a joyful lot. Now, they find it difficult to even speak. But they have improved on their own by talking to each other and are making friends again," he said. Similarly, Mohammad Arsh

(15) fled his home when rioters set it ablaze along with his father's juice shop. Since then, though, he has made tremendous progress, even helping out with Covid relief during the lockdown. "I made friends here over video games," he said.

Then again, there are many whose life is still turned upside down. Naresh Saini (32), a vegetable vendor, was killed in front of his residence at Brahmpuri. His wife is now vying for a Delhi gov-

studies at a private school were free of cost. But I found it difficult to raise my children alone and have shifted to Jaipur. The Delhi government promised me a job which never materialised. I am yet to get the Rs 1 crore compensation announced by the Centre. I have completed my MA in these last two years and applied for a job in Rajasthan. Everyone forgot us and I have to raise my kids with the help of my family," she said.

Mallika (30) has not been able to send her two children, Khushi (13) and Rehan (5), to school since she does not have money to pay for their daily commute. Her husband, Musharraf (30), a driver, was killed on February 25, 2020. "I found money in a vestmaking factory and that barely covers the monthly expenses. How can I educate my children with no money?" she said.

Such was the financial distress at home that Zaid (17), who lost his father Aqil (40) in the violence, had to drop out. When he first went back to school, his teachers placed him in a special class, since his learning levels were inadequate to keep him in class IX and he had to be taught class V curriculum. But pressures at home forced him to opt for a job instead. He now works as an apprentice in a box-making unit, earning Rs 12,000 for 12 hours of work: "I do miss my school. I did not make any friends, but I liked it there. There is no one to look after my family, though, so I have to work."

HC raps cops on probe into death of man made to sing national anthem

SOFIAHSAN NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday rapped Delhi Police for failing to probe the death of 23-year-old Faizan, who was seen in a video lying injured on the ground as security personnel forced him to sing Vande Mataram and the national anthem during the 2020 riots. Police had last month told the court that it has identified and questioned a head constable in the case.

"This 66-paragraph status report is neither here nor there. It says nothing," said Justice Mukta Gupta after perusing the status report filed by police. The report was in a sealed cover and shown only to the court. On January 11, the court had guestioned the delay in probing the case and sought a detailed status report on the probe. Faizan died in 2020 soon after his release from a police stathe other victims had said that they cannot identify any policetion where he was taken after he had been allegedly assaulted by policemen on 66 Foota Road and, along with four others, was forced by them to sing the national anthem – as seen in a viral video. He was released late evening on February 25, 2020, from the police station and died at a hospital on February 26. Questioning police on why the report cannot be shared with the petitioner, the victim's mother, the court said there was "hardly any-

thing" in it. It listed the case for further hearing on March 15 and asked police to provide the status report to the petitioner's counsel, advocate Vrinda Grover, for her perusal in court itself. The petition filed by Faizan's mother Kismatun prays for a court-monitored SIT probe into her son's death.

The court also asked if statements of survivors, who are seen in the same video. have been recorded and if they have identified any police personnel. It also asked if any test identification parade has taken place in the case.

"These were five children who were assaulted. One has died. Four are still surviving. Have you got it identified from them? In any case, police will start investigation from an eyewitness. It is an offence of murder, right? In this case, you will not take the help of eyewitness but you will investigate all over the world," said Justice Gupta. When police submitted that

legedly being complicit in the riots. While the matter is listed for hearing on Thursday, most of the prayers in the petitions have become infructuous with time

According to police data, only 92 cases before the trial courts have reached the stage of actual trial where prosecution evidence is being presented. A total of 209 cases are at the stage of 'argument on charge'. While accused have been discharged in five cases, acquittals

have taken place in four cases.

Man attacks

rejecting him,

kills himself

woman for

going to school now." While some families are dealing with emotional scars, others are in dire financial conditions. riots. We planned a 'Smile cur-

vate tuition, spending around Rs 200. I am looking for a job at my children's school so that I can stay close to them," she said.

At Ghaziabad's Loni, just across the border from Northeast Delhi, around 300 children, mostly from riot-hit families, attend Sunrise Public School. opened two years ago by IIT-Delhi research scholar Aasif Mujtaba. "We opened this school keeping in mind that these children will find it extremely difficult to cope with the trauma of

I have a lot of friends here and they make me happy," he said. Islamuddin (24), who teaches ernment job to pay for the private school where her two children aged 10 and 9 study. Saini's brother Rajiv (44) said, "It is an uphill struggle to keep those children at a private school. Once we could not pay the school fee and the children were removed from the school WhatsApp group during online classes.

Poonam (37), wife of head constable Ratan Lal (42) who was like Urdu because I find it difficult to read. I like coming to school as shot dead by rioters when he was on duty, has had to leave Delhi as she was unable to look after her three children properly. "Their

men, the court asked, "Their statements have been recorded before the magistrate? Why don't you get their statements recorded before the magistrates so there is some authenticity?' Grover earlier argued that no investigation had taken

place with regard to Jyoti Nagar police station, where Faizan allegedly remained detained on February 24, hours before his death at a hospital.

moval of locks, Senior Advocate

Saniov Ghose, representing the

Waqf Board, told the court that the

month of Ramzan begins some-

where around April 2 and Shab-e-

known as Masjid Bangle Wali

comprising four floors along with

the place of ablution, would be re-

quired by worshippers in view of

the importance of prayers during

Shab-e-Barat as well as during the

holy month of Ramzan," said the

Waqf Board in its application filed

through advocate Wajeeh Shafiq.

Centre and police told the court

that areas at Markaz Nizamuddin

have already been earmarked af-

ter the joint inspection and the

only question remains on how

many people can be allowed to go

and offer prayers. "That would be

decided as per DDMA guide-

lines," he said, adding, however,

that entry be allowed only to the

The counsel representing the

"The mosque commonly

Barat is in the month of March.

Six of gang who 'shot dead cab BRIEFLY drivers to steal vehicles' held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GURGAON, FEBRUARY 22

New Delhi: A 25-year-old man committed suicide in Ghaziabad's Loni after he allegedly attacked a woman with a hammer for rejecting his marriage proposal, said police Tuesday. DCP(Northeast) Sanjay Kumar Sain said the woman was attacked by the man on February 21 at Meet Nagar.

3 men posing as cops kidnap student, held

New Delhi: A 19-year-old student was rescued after he was allegedly kidnapped by three men who posed as police officers and demanded Rs 2 lakh ransom from his aunt. Police Tuesday said they have arrested the trio. They said they recently lost their jobs and wanted to earn money. ENS

SIX MEMBERS of an inter-state

Jeetu, Ravi, Rahul and Rekha. Police said Vishal and Rekha are gang, who targeted cab drivers from Delhi and the others hail and allegedly murdered them to from Jaipur. Police said two spesteal their cabs, have been arcial teams were formed to arrest rested from Jaipur. Police said the accused after a 53-year-old cab driver from Delhi was found during preliminary questioning, they confessed to allegedly murmurdered at a crossing in dering three cab drivers in Narsinghpur on the southern pe-Gurgaon using a similar modus ripheral road (SPR) in the

operandi in the past six months. Badshahpur area Sunday night. Police said the accused have Subhash Boken, spokesperbeen identified as Vishal, Vinod, son, Gurgaon police, said, "With the help of CCTV footage and technical surveillance, the accused were arrested from Jaipur on Tuesday. The kingpin of the gang is Vishal. The accused said that they used to book cabs or take a lift from cab drivers and then shoot them dead. They used to dispose of the body on the way and decamp with the cars."

MCDs released in report **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

Achievements of three

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

ACHIEVEMENTS OF the three BJP-ruled municipal corporations were highlighted in a report released on Tuesday in the presence of the top leadership. Prepared by its affiliated think tank, Public Policy Research Centre, the report noted that the civic bodies, despite facing fund crunch, have become the "face of

local governance" by addressing issues including sanitation, education, health, and Covid prevention and preparedness.

Senior leaders including union minister Meenakshi Lekhi, state chief Adesh Gupta, MPs Parvesh Sahib Singh, Gautam Gambhir were present. "The MCDs have been able to serve the people of Delhi despite the AAP-led Delhi government's failure to transfer funds with an aim to paralyse their effectiveness," Gupta said.

Nizamuddin is listed for hearing EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE on April 21. Seeking hearing of the NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22 matter before that date and re-

'Mosque at Markaz

Nizamuddin can be

reopened next month'

As per Covid protocol, Centre tells HC

THE CENTRE and Delhi Police Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that Masjid Bangle Wali at Markaz Nizamuddin can be reopened next month, in accordance with DDMA's Covid guidelines. Granting time to the Centre and police for filing a status report in this regard, Justice Mukta Gupta listed the application, seeking removal of locks from the mosque, for hearing on March 4

Observing that the DDMA's Covid guidelines will apply to Markaz Nizamuddin as well, the court in November 2021 had ordered a joint inspection of the religious place, where public entry was banned in the aftermath of Tablighi Jamaat members testing ositive for Covid in 2020, by Delhi Police and the Delhi Waqf Board. The Waqf Board, in an application, told the court that a joint in-

spection report has been placed before it but the plea seeking easing of restrictions at Markaz

New Delhi

600 sign up at job fair for the differently abled

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

AFTER HAVING lost his job to a pandemic-induced lay-off, Rahul (28) is on the lookout for another. The Dwarka resident, who is hearing impaired and communicates using sign language, was at a job fair for the differently abled on Tuesday. "When I asked my manager why I was being laid off, he said the company only

needed a few people to work because of Covid," he said. At the fair, he was helping Ravi (28), a resident of Palam,

guage, to communicate better. Ravi, also hearing impaired, was working as a waiter when he lost his job during the pandemic. Speaking for both of them, Rahul said, "We have no expectations. There have been lots of problems due to Covid, and we are hoping we'll be able to find another job.'

who was still learning sign lan-

As many as 22 companies sought to hire through the job fair that was hosted by the School of Open Learning and organised by Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, a Bengalurubased NGO. The organisers were

The job fair was hosted by the School of Open Learning. Praveen Khanna

dates on the day, and received 600 registrations till afternoon. Around 175 were shortlisted.

The venue was bustling post noon, with candidates lining up for interviews, filling out forms, and discussing salaries.

While some were hunting for a job for the first time, others like Varun Singh (26) were looking for better opportunities. Singh, who is wheelchairbound, has been working with an NGO in Delhi for four years but was hoping to land a dataentry job through the fair. He gave three interviews Tuesday, but the locations offered to him

were far away, with no remote work option, he said.

Madhu Singh, a sign language interpreter who was working at the fair, said: "The idea is to help candidates earn for themselves".

Satish K, who is part of the team at Samarthanam Trust, said the companies at the fair sought candidates with different qualifications, from class XII to postgraduate degrees. "The salaries also vary from Rs 15.000 per month to Rs 30,000 or Rs 40,000. The companies are mostly from the IT and retail sectors," he said.

mosque at this stage.





WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 DECISION U 2022

MANIPUR UTTAR PRADESH • UTTARAKHAND • PUNJAB • GOA •

2.13 cr

voters

Poll panel lifts curbs on rallies & roadshows

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

THE ELECTION Commission on Tuesday lifted its restrictions on rallies and roadshows that were imposed to curb the spread of Covid19. The commission had earlier allowed 50% attendance in a series of relaxations announced earlier this month.

"Today, the Election Commission took a periodic review of the status of COVID in the country and specially in the poll bound States. As per updated information received from the Union Health Secretary, the COVID cases have already declined significantly (3.47 Lakh on 21st January, 2022 to just about 13.4 thousand as on today) and have come to a minimal level in the country," the commission said in a statement.

"Even in the reported cases, the maximum number of cases are from non-poll going States. Specially in the Poll going States of Uttar Pradesh and Manipur, total number of cases which were more than 16.7 thousand at peak on 22nd January, 2022 have come down to just about 500 cases on 22nd February,

2022," it added. The EC allowed political parties/candidates to hold their meetings and rallies subject to SDMA regulations lifting its earlier restriction of using only

50 percent capacity. Last week the EC had allowed political parties and candidates to campaign between 6 am and 10 pm with Covid-19 norms in place. It had earlier this month also reiterated that the ban on physical rallies and roadshows will continue to remain in effect in poll-bound states but granted more relaxation for physical public meetings in indoor halls and outdoor meetings.

Citing the rise in Covid cases, the poll panel had imposed a ban on physical rallies. roadshows and *padayatras* (foot marches) when it announced the poll schedule for Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur on January 8. Since then, the EC

UTTAR PRADESH: ROUND 4

SP BSP BJP Congress Apnal Dal (Sonelal) Peace Party of India (PECP)



BUNDELKHAND

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

HIS HOME constituency

Tindwari in Uttar Pradesh's

Banda district goes to the polls in

the fourth phase on Wednesday

but Rati Ram, a farmer from the

village of Jari, is not sure if he will

with Rati Ram and other farmers

on Sunday outside a paddy pro-

curement centre of the Food

Corporation of India (FCI) at

Vishisht Mandi Sthal on the

Banda-Mahoba road. By then,

they had been waiting for several

days with 19 tractor-trolleys full

laden trolley, Rati Ram said,

"Hamare paas 90-95 quintal

dhaan tha. Ab yahan liye pade

hain... (I had about 90-95 quin-

tals of paddy. I have brought it for

bandhak ya adhikari koi

vyavastha nahin hai jo yahan

dekhe ki kisan mar raha hai ki ji

raha hai. Aaj mujhe trolley khade

kiye terhwan din hai. (There is no

system in place or any manager

who can see what farmers are

Among the others in a simi-

lar predicament was Hanuman

Prasad from the district's

Tindwara village. "Teen din ho

gaye yahan aaye. (It has been

three days since I came here)." he

told The Indian Express, adding

that he too was not sure if his

crop would be procured before

He added, "Koi yahan ka pra-

Standing beside his paddy-

of crops to sell.

sale here).'

going through).'

election day.

The Indian Express caught up

be there to cast his vote.

BANDA, FEBRUARY 22





Prominent candidates:

59 seats

624

candidates

Rajeshwar Singh (BJP), Brajesh Pathak (BJP), Aditi Singh (BJP), Ashutosh Tandon **Gopal** (BJP), **Abhishek Mishra** (SP)

Key contests: Raieshwar Singh vs Abhishek Mishra (Sarojini Nagar) Aditi Singh vs Manish

Chauhan (Raebareli) Nitin Agarwal vs Anil Verma

(Hardoi) Yogesh Verma vs Utkarsh Verma (Lakhimpur)

Iai Devi vs Sonu Kannaujia (Malihabad)

Modi brings Ukraine into poll campaign, repeats claim of terror & SP link

MAULSHREE SETH LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 22

WITHOUT MENTIONING the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi. while addressing an election rally in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich Tuesday, said the world is in turmoil and that India needs to be stronger not just for itself but for the entire humanity. "Tough times need tough leaders," he said.

Keeping his guns trained on the Samajwadi Party (SP) on the terror issue, Modi accused the previous SP government of making attempts to withdraw cases against those involved in terror attacks in UP. The PM also charged that the SP dispensation was not in favour of prosecuting terrorists and banning terror outfits.

"Isi mitti ne dekha hai ki kaise pariwarwadiyon ne atanki humla karne walon par apna pyar umera hai...Jin logon par UP mein ek nahi kayi kayi bomb dhamakon ka aroop tha, yeh log un atankwadiyon ko jail se riha karne par pakka nirnaya karke baidhe the...Sajis kar rahe they...Yeh unpar mukaddma nahi chalana chahte the (This soil has seen how Pariwarwadis had given all their love to those indulging in terror attacks. Those who were accused of serial bomb blasts in UP, these people had decided to release such terrorists from the jail.. they were conspiring... They did not want to prosecute them)," the PM said.

"Samajwadi sarkar atanki sangathanon par pratibhandha lagane tak ke khilaf thi...Isliye main kehta hun..Jo log desh ki nahi soch sakte..Desh ki surkasha ko tak par rakhte hai woh UP ka kabhi bhala nahi kar sakte. (Samajwadi government was even against ban on terror organisations...That is why I say that such people, who can even keep country's security at stake, can never work for UP's welfare)," Modi claimed.

He again raked up the verdict of an Ahmedabad court giving capital punishment to 38 convicts in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts case to hit out at the www.indianexpress.com Opposition, especially the SP.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets supporters during an election campaign rally for the Manipur Assembly elections, in Imphal on Tuesday. PTI

Manipur's next 25 yrs will be decided in this poll: PM

JIMMY LEIVON IMPHAL, FEBRUARY 22

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the coming Assembly elections will determine the next 25 years of Manipur. "The foundation of peace and stabil-

ity in the last five **VOTES ON** years must be FEB 28, MARCH 5 made permanent

by giving an absolute majority to the BJP in Manipur," he said.

Modi was addressing an election rally at Luwangshangbam, which is part of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's seat, in Imphal East district. Manipur goes to the polls on February 28 and March 5.

"The people of Manipur have experienced the good governance and good intentions of BJP, which provided relief from bandhs and blockades that the state witnessed

In parched region, paddy farmers' plight: Long wait to sell their crop

Paddy farmer Rati Ram has been waiting outside a procurement centre in Uttar Pradesh's Banda district for close to two weeks. An official says about 30% of farmers have not been able to sell their crop yet. Harikishan Sharma

ing point in the district that is located in the parched Bundelkhand region. Bundelkhand receives average annual rainfall between 78.66 to 94.55 cm. This is less than ideal for a water-guzzling crop like paddy that requires 100-200 cm of rain. While canal irrigation is available at some places, at many places farmers draw groundwater from a depth of 100 to 125 feet.

However, more than losing out on a chance to exercise their franchise, the farmers The Indian Express spoke to said they were worried about not being able to sell their crop before the procurement season concludes on February 28. The process began on November 1 but several farmers are still struggling to sell their produce. Most farmers choose to sell

their crop at procurement centres rather than the open market since the centres buy their crops at higher rates. The procurement

in Manipur dates back to 1964

with the formation of the United

The quandary that the farmers are facing has become a talkcentres, which deal with only

minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 1,940 per quintal for common paddy and Rs 1,960 per quintal for grade "A" paddy. Though farmers visiting the centres bear a cost of Rs 20 per quintal to get the paddy cleaned and unloaded, they still ended up making more money as the prevailing rate in the open market was Rs 1,200-1,300 per quintal, said Rati Ram.

ties in the paddy procurement process, saying people with "political connections" were given preference.

ment's promise of doubling farmers' Income by this year, Rati Ram said while the MSP had been increased Rs 10-20 per quintal, fuel prices had skyrocketed. Their problems have also been compounded by a stray cattle menace and the unavailability of fertilisers.

Bank (DCB) chairman Badri Vishal Tripathi acknowledged

that delays in paddy procurement was a big issue, but added that like farmers his bank too was facing challenges.

"There are several procurement centres where farmers are still waiting to sell their paddy. About 30 per cent paddy farmers have not yet been able to sell their crop," Tripathi said.

He told The Indian Express that DCB, Banda, had procured 55,000 tonnes of paddy from farmers during the current kharif marketing season. This has to be delivered to rice mills but the mills, Tripathi alleged, delay the transport of the procured quantity. The weight of the paddy reduces in storage and it becomes a liability for cooperatives, he added.

District Food Marketing Officer CP Pandey said of the 64 procurement centres in the district, 26 were functional at present. Each of these can procure a maximum of 200 quintals a day.

Asked why farmers were waiting for days to sell their crop, Pandey said, "We have not seen such kind of pressure on paddy procurement in districts except Banda in February."

The official denied allegations of irregularities in procurement. He said an estimated 22 to 24 lakh quintals of paddy was grown in Banda during the kharif season, and so far, 12,000 to 13,000 farmers had sold their crop. Pandey claimed that the procurement process would be expedited after February 24 and crops would be procured from all the registered farmers by the end of the

FULL REPORT ON

during the previous Congress gov-

ernments," said Modi. The PM hit out at the Congress saying "it never understood the feelings and sufferings of the people of the Northeast", and "created a chasm between the people from hills and valleys for political gains". He said the NDA govern-

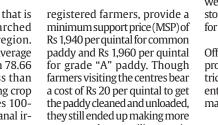
ment considered Northeast as the



the

country and its welfare was BJP's priority. "Seven out of 10 people are now getting the benefit of free ration. This became possible after our government rectified the irregularities in the

rice-distribution system." Modi blamed previous governments for not working for women. "The BJP government provided free gas connections and 3 lakh households are now getting tap water," the PM said.



He also alleged irregulari-

Banda District Cooperative

Questioning the BIP govern-

These valley-based outfits have

NSCN-IM controlling

most of it while press-

ing for "Nagalim"

(Greater Nagaland).

the valley as a "threat"

to Manipur's "territo-

had been reviewing the pandemic situation periodically and allowing some relaxations.

How big is insurgency threat in Manipur? Lup (KYKL), among others.

TRACKING COVID **UTTAR PRADESH** Deaths 23,438 **Deaths Today** 3 Cases 465 1,426 Feb 12 Feb 21 MANIPUR Deaths 2,104 **Deaths Today** З Cases 42 90 Feb 12 Feb 21

JIMMY LEIVON IMPHAL, FEBRUARY 22

DEFENCE MINISTER Rainath Singh, while addressing an election rally on February 14 in Imphal West, called upon insurgency groups operating in Manipur to shun violence and come to the negotiating table. He said the Centre is ready to hold dialogue with them to bring last-

ing peace to the region. The defence minister said Manipur has been pushing for development from the front and that the menace of insurgency had been waning."We are ready for dialogue with insurgency groups because all the problems vexing this region should be resolved, be it unemployment, poverty, among others," he said.

Rise of insurgency The emergence of insurgency

midable militant outfits. The rise of separatist insurgency in Manipur mainly attributed to perceived discontent over alleged "forced" merger of Manipur with the

Union of India and the subsequent delay in granting it fullfledged statehood.

While the erstwhile Kingdom of Manipur was merged with India on October 15, 1949, it became a state only in 1972.

The later years saw a slew of militant outfits being formed, including the People's Liberation Army (PLA), People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), and Kanglei Yawol Kanna

National Liberation Front (UNLF), been demanding an independwhich still remains one of the forent Manipur. The Naga movement in neighbouring Nagaland spilled over into

Manipur's hill districts with the EXPLAINEI which is perceived in rial integrity".

subsequent years, In Manipur had been caught in a spiral of violence as various militant outfits carried out deadly attacks on security forces or engaged in factional clashes.

While the hills account for nine-tenths of Manipur's geographical area, they are sparsely populated, with most of the state's population concentrated in the valley. The Meitei com-

munity forms a majority in Imphal valley, while the surrounding hill districts are inhabited by Nagas and Kukis.

month.

In 1980, the Centre declared the entire Manipur as a "disturbed area" and imposed the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act(AFSPA) to suppress the insurgency movement, which remains in force till date.

In the early 1990s, the ethnic clashes between Nagas and Kukis led to the formation of several Kuki insurgent groups, which have now scaled down their demand from a separate Kuki state to a Territorial Council.

The further continuance of insurgency led to the formation of smaller outfits like the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF). People's United Liberation Front (PULF) and other splinter groups.

Ceasefire agreement The NSCN-IM entered a

ceasefire agreement with the Government of India (GoI) in 1997, even as peace talks between them have still been continuing

Similarly the Kuki outfits under two umbrella groups, the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF), also signed the tripartite Suspension of Operation (SoO) pacts with the GoI and Manipur on August 22, 2008. Of the total 25 armed Kuki groups operating in the state, 17 are under the KNO and 8 under the United Peoples' Front (UPF). However, major valley-based militant outfits (Meitei groups) such as the UNLF, PLA, KYKL etc. are yet to come to the negotiating table. Many of their smaller outfits have however entered the SoO agreement with the state government, which has launched rehabilitation programmes for such groups.

- I Hereby Declare –

Uttar Pradesh Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) analysed affidavits of 621 of the 624 candidates in fray for 59 seats in Phase-IV of the UP polls on Wednesday.

LOWEST HIGHEST Rajiv Bakshi, Surendra Kumar, AAP, Lucknow West ASP. Bhagwantnagai ASSETS:₹56 cr ASSETS:₹5.000 Anoop Kumar Gupta, ■ Jitendra Kumar, SP. Maholi **BMP**, Sarojini Nagar ASSETS:₹52 cr ASSETS: ₹ 11,500 Shobhit Pathak, Vijay Kumar, BSP, Hardoi AAP. Khaga ASSETS:₹34 cr DECLARED ZERO ASSETS ASP: Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram); BMP: Bahujan Mukti Party CANDIDATES 1 CRORE+ 37% FACING

31%	LUC)	FAGII	NU
231 crorepatis		y-wise	SERIOUS CASES	
are contesting	breakdown of candidates with		SP	22 (<mark>39%</mark>)
polls in this phase. The BIP	assets		Cong	22 (38%)
has the highest		50(<u>88%</u>)	BSP	22 (37 %)
percentage of	BJP	<u> </u>	BJP	17 (30 %)
crorepatis. The	SP	48 (84%)	AAP	9(20%)
average assets of	BSP	44(75%)		ndidates face rape
the analysed candidates stand	Cong	25(48%)		five, murder and 14 face
at Rs 2.46 crore	AAP	16(36%)		t to murder charge

SHIVNARAYAN RAJPUROHIT

SEAT WATCH Anger high, Dy CM Keshav Maurya counts on caste math

SHYAMLAL YADAV SIRATHU, FEBRUARY 22

FOR KESHAV Prasad Maurva. Deputy Chief Minister in the Yogi Adityanath government, it's a high-stakes battle in Sirathu, an Assembly seat in Uttar Pradesh's Kaushambi district where caste equations have traditionally held the key.

Dominated by the three Ps -Pasis (Dalits), Patels (Kurmis, an OBC community) and Pandits (Brahmins) – Maurya, the party's OBC face, knows a win here is crucial to his political career notwithstanding the party's performance in the rest of the state. With a week to go for the

polls, Maurya told The Indian Express, "I am the son of this soil. I have contested and won from here before. I know the problems here. I have no doubt about my victory. I will win by a record margin.

On the ground, however, many openly express their annovance with Maurva's "lack of accessibility" and cite the fact that little has been done for the seat despite the high position he

holds in the Yogi Cabinet. Sirathu goes to the poll on February 27 in the fifth phase of elections.

Abhishek Kumar Pasi, from Bidanpur Amad Karari in Sirathu, says, "I worked for Keshav ji last time when he was elected from 2017 SIRATHU Winner: BJP's Sheetla Prasad. 78.621 VOTES Runner-up: SP's Vachaspati, 52,418 VOTES

here. But I have decided not to vote for him this time... he did not do anything for us.'

At a Patel dominated village in the constituency, the owner of a Common Service Centre (CSC), speaking on the condition that he and his village won't be identified, said, "I don't know who is going to vote for Maurya ji. More than 50 people visit my CSC every day and almost all of them

Kaushambi district

> seem unhappy with him. They say that as Deputy CM, he did nothing for the area.'

Maurya, who hails from Sirathu, last won from here in 2012, but resigned the Assembly seat after he won the 2014 Lok Sabha election from Phulpur. In 2017, when he joined the Adityanath government, he quit the Lok Sabha and was elected to the legislative council. In 2017, BJP's Sheetla Prasad defeated SP's Vachaspati by over 26,000 votes. This election, he is up against

Pallavi Patel of the Apna Dal (Kamerawadi), which is part of the SP-led alliance. Elder sister of Union minister Anupriya Patel, who is part of the rival faction of the Apna Dal, Pallavi's campaign has been focused on the Patels. Muslims and Yadavs. Says Raj Kumar Saroj, Pallavi's election of-

fice-incharge, "A few Pasi votes may go to the BJP, but the majority is with us. Our victory is certain." The Pasis are among the

biggest communities here, estimated to number over 60,000, followed by the Patels, Gautams (another Dalit caste) and the Maurya-Kushwahas. Among oth-

ers, the Brahmins and the Yadavs also number around 20,000 each.

Sources say that despite facing a seemingly tough battle, Maurya may have played his cards right in Sirathu, tactfully ensuring that the alliance candidates in neighbouring seats tick the right caste boxes.

In neighbouring Chail, for instance, the BJP replaced sitting MLA Sanjay Gupta with Nagendra Pratap Singh Patel, a SP leader who is now in the Apna Dal (S), a BJP ally. BJP sources say it's part of a strategy to keep Patel (Kurmi) voters in the larger area connected to the BJP and its allies, thus benefiting Maurya. FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

New Delhi

BALLOTIN Youths disrupt Rajnath's speech

Ballia: Some youths here disrupted the election speech of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh over the issue of Army recruitment and a man was detained after he raised a slogan in favour of opposition leader Akhilesh Yadav during the rally. The minister was addressing the rally at Banshi Bazar when the youths disrupted his speech and claimed that recruitment in the Army is on hold for three years now. To it, Rajnath replied that the process is underway.

When they did not relent, Rajnath told them that things turn wrong when politics is brought in (Netagiri se baat bigad jaati hai). "I have full understanding of the problem. Due to the Covid pandemic, this problem cropped up. This is for the first time we are facing such a pandemic. Entire world is appreciating India for the way Narendra Modi worked in this situation," he said. Later, when his address was about to end, a man raised a slogan "Garibon ka masiha, Akhilesh Yadav zindabad". When some BJP workers headed towards the man, Singh, from the dais, told them to leave him.







THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 6 GOVT & POLITICS



LOOKING UP, FINALLY

SENIOR CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi is finally set to travel

to Uttar Pradesh for campaigning. His absence from the cam-

paign for the first four phases of the election had surprised

many in the party. Rahul traveled to Goa, Manipur and

Uttarakhand and made several trips to Punjab but stayed away

from Uttar Pradesh so far. He traveled to Varanasi last week

but that was mainly to pay obeisance at Guru Ravidas temple

with an eye on Punjab. In the next couple of days, he is set to

PROF DINESH Saklani, the newly appointed director of National

Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), will also

be the chairperson of National Council for Teacher Education

(NCTE) for the time being. The NCTE chairperson's post was be-

ing held by Odisha cadre IAS officer Manoj Ahuja, who has

moved to Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Ahuja was also steering the CBSE as its chairperson, a post now

being handled as an additional charge by Vineet Joshi, Additional

travel to Prayagraj and Amethi, his old Lok Sabha seat.

ADDITIONAL CHARGE

DMK sweeps civic polls, Stalin says real revolution of Dravidian ideals

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 22

THE DMK-led by Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday registered a thumping victory in the urban local body elections, winning all 21 city corporations and 128 out of the 138 municipalities in Tamil Nadu. The party also won 400 out of 489 town panchayats. According to the results of

the elections, which were held on Saturday, not only did the ruling party retain its traditional strongholds, it recorded impressive wins in several bastions of the opposition AIADMK in Western Tamil Nadu.

While results for some seats were still awaited, the DMK won 925 out of total 1,374 city corporation seats, 2,360 out of 3,843 municipality seats and 4,388 out of 7,621 town panchayat seats.

The AIADMK won 161 city corporation seats and 638 municipality seats. It also won 15 town panchayats (1,206 seats). After the victory, Stalin in a

speech urged his cadres to remain humble. "I have said this earlier too... When people gift us massive victories, our work after that should be such that those who did not vote for us should regret for not voting for us. I assume that the same has happened now with



DMK workers celebrate in Chennai as the results started emerging on Tuesday. PTT

these results," he said.

"Even the Kongu region has been captured," Stalin said, referring to the impressive performance in Western Tamil Nadu.

Addressing reporters later, he said the credit for the victory goes to the DMK-led secular alliance. "In the recent past, we have had poll victories in Lok Sabha (2019), Assembly (2021) and rural local body polls (2019 and 2021). wish to say that the support of al-

liance partners played a key role here," he said.

tion of women candidates in this election means these results are a real revolution of Dravidian political ideals," Stalin said, adding that his party should celebrate the victory peacefully. While the DMK's alliance,

backed by Left, Dalit and minority parties, helped in the elections, the Stalin government's

UTTAR PRADESH ASSEMBLY POLLS

schemes within the first nine "The increased representamonths of rule are also being seen as reasons for the party's impressive performance.

For the AIADMK, the internal crisis as well as camaraderie with the BJP, which may have alien-

ated its secular, minority vote base, could have been possible factors. Unlike the DMK, AIADMK also lost their allies, such as PMK and BJP, which contested alone.

impressive beginning and

JAISHANKAR TARGETS CHINA 'Greater power should lead to restraint, respect for sovereignty'

It is in line with his sharp re-

marks in Australia on February

12, where, with Australian

Foreign Minister Marise Payne

by his side, Jaishankar slammed

China for "disregarding" the

"written agreements" with India

on not massing troops at the bor-

der and said it is "an issue of le-

gitimate concern for the entire

international community". On

February 19, again without nam-

ing China, Jaishankar criticised Beijing over debt-trap diplomacy

and cautioned countries in the

neighbourhood against falling

On Tuesday, Jaishankar said

into that trap and making "in-

the hosting of the forum at a time

Europe was grappling with a seri-

ous crisis (in Ukraine) reflected the

importance the European Union

attaches to its engagement in the

Indo-Pacific region. He said the

Indo-Pacific is at the "heart" of the

multipolarity and "rebalancing"

that characterises contemporary

changes, adding that engagement

of France and the EU in the region

"But it is essential that greater

power and stronger capabilities

lead to responsibility and restraint.

This means, above all, respect for

international law; territorial in-

tegrity and sovereignty," he said.

"It means economics free of coer-

cion and politics free from the

threat or the use of force. It means

observing global norms and prac-

tices. And refraining from making

Jaishankar said. The EU Ministerial

Forum on Indo-Pacific was organ-

ised by France in its capacity as

claims on the global commons.

would benefit it.

formed decisions".

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

UNDERLINING THAT "greater power and stronger capabilities" should lead to "responsibility and restraint", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in Paris on Tuesday that this means "respect for international law" and "territorial integrity and sovereignty", in comments seen to be directed at China for the aggressive behaviour along the India-China border.

While he did not name China, Jaishankar also said this means 'economics free of coercion" and "politics free from the threat or the use of force", "observing global norms and practices", and refraining from making claims on the global commons" -- all oblique references to China's aggression in India's neighbourhood, South China Sea, Taiwan and against Australia.

Addressing the European Union Ministerial Forum on Indo-Pacific in Paris, Jaishankar told the 27-nation grouping that it is important to deal with the challenges in the region collectively, saying they could extend to Europe as "distance is no insulation". The opening session was attended by his counterparts from France, Japan, Cambodia and Indonesia.

This is the third time in the last ten days that Jaishankar has spoken out against China on foreign soil -- he is usually very diplomatic in his choice of words, especially on China, more so while speaking abroad.



JAMMU AND KASHMIR Delimitation panel term extended 2nd time in a yr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

Secretary in Ministry of Education.

FOR THE second time in a year, the Central government has extended the term of the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission that was tasked with redrawing assembly constituencies in the union territory.

The Centre extended the term by two months by amending the notification issued on March 6, 2020. "In the said notification, in paragraph 2, for the words, "two years", the words, "two years and

UT was over. On March 6, 2020, the government had set up the Delimitation Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, to wind up delimitation within a year. As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill,

the delimitation process in the

the number of Assembly seats in J&K would increase from 107 to 114, which is expected to benefit the lammu region.

The panel was granted oneyear extension last year. In its draft report, the panel had

proposed an overhaul of assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the UT. The report was sent to the members Farooo

Yogi promises monthly stipend for cow protection

ENS&PTI AYODHYA, BARABANKI, FEBRUARY 22

WITH THE issue of stray cattle dominating the poll issue, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday promised a stipend of Rs 900 per month per cow to farmers and urged people to vote for those who "protect cows, and not those who kill them".

Addressing rallies in Ayodhya and Barabanki, the BJP chief minister said, "Our resolve was that we will neither allow cows to be slaughtered nor farmers' crops to be damaged."

Justifying his government's decision to close illegal "slaughterhouses" to save "gau mata", stray cattle. Adityanath said that after March 10 all butchers will be seen cell

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

THE ELECTION Commission(EC) on Tuesday barred BJP's Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh in Uttar Pradesh from making public statements for 24 hours after he reportedly violated the model

code of conduct by making inflammatory statements. According to the transcript of a purported video clip made part of the notice, Singh had said: "If you have to live in India, (you will have to) chant 'Radhey-Radhey', else like all those who went to Pakistan during the Partition, you can go

too. You are not needed here." The EC, in its order, said it sought an explanation from the BJP candidate. "Whereas, in the ementioned reply Sing

The EC, in its order, said it sought an

explanation from the BJP candidate

order said The EC said the statement was "utterly irresponsible and provocative that has the undertone and propensity to disturb re-

ligious harmony of society". An FIR has been filed against

The EC said: Commission strongly condemns the impugned statement by Singh, contesting candidate of BIP from 178-Tiloi Assembly con-

EC ban on BJP leader for

'Radhey-Radhey' remark

him under Section 298 of the IPC and Section 125 of the Representation of the People Act. "The

Now, the panel's term will end on May 6

two months" shall be substi-

tuted," a notification by the

The delimitation process is crucial for kick-starting the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said elections would be held in J&K after

Akbar Lone (Lok Sabha MPs from the NC) and Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore (BJP MPs) earlier this month. They were to submit their views by February 14. A final report is expected to be prepared considering the objections filed.

Abdullah, Hasnain Masoodi and ing vegetables. "Thode din aurinki garmi rehne do, 10 March ke baad sab shant ho jayega... Gau mata ki bhi raksha hogi... Har kasai bhi thela lagake subzi bechta dikhavi dega... (Let their haughtiness stay for a few more days. It will subside after March 10. While cows will be

people to deprive votes to those, who deprived them of Ram Temple. "They have deprived you of Ram Temple, you deprive them of vour votes... Trv it in such a manner that when the results are out on March 10, only smoke is seen on the faces of SP leaders," he said.

Ram

UP CM Yogi Adityanath

protected, every butcher will be

seen selling vegetables on carts.),"

the CM said at a rally in Ayodhya.

Narendra Modi had said that after

returning to power, the BJP gov-

ernment in UP would bring out a

new policy to tackle the issue of

Talking about the construction

Two days ago, Prime Minister

accepted the fact that the impugned statement was made by him on February 18, statement under question was made by him in reference to the Ahmedabad blast case and not in respect of any community in India and the same deprecates terrorists...," the

ituency and censures the above said violation. Under Article 324 of the Constitution, he is prohibited from holding any public meetings, processions, rallies, roadshows and interviews in connection with ongoing elections for 24 hours from 8 am on February 23."

Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar (centre) with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (left) and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell in Paris, France. Reuters

FODDER SCAM SENTENCING ED can identify, confiscate proceeds of crime: court

ABHISHEK ANGAD

RANCHI, FEBRUARY 22

A SPECIAL court in Ranchi that sentenced Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad and 74 other convicts in the Doranda treasury fodder scam case on Monday, also directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to hand over all the docu-Enforcement ments to Directorate (ED) as the assets bought from the proceeds of the crime 'could not be identified' and remain a 'subject matter' of investigation under the PMLA.

In his judgment, special judge SK Shashi said that within the confines of the law, the ED may confis-



Prasad

cate such assets, and launch an investigation The judge invoked Edward

Snowden - a computer intelligence consultant who worked for the National Security Agency (NSA) and exposed a surveillance programme in the US - in its order, saying: "The opinion of this

court in respect of the present accused person(Lalu Prasad) can be summarised in the words of



fices are excused from scrutiny; they should be setting the example of transparency'

The court quoted Mahatma Gandhi's famous words: "Earth

provides enough to satisfy every man's needs but not every man's

greed". The court also mentioned Albert Einstein while bringing in the guilt of Lalu Prasad: "The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.'

The special court sentenced Lalu Prasad to five-year jail pertaining to the illegal withdrawal of Rs 139.35 crore from Doranda treasury in 1995-96, besides slap-

ping a fine of Rs 60 lakh on the for-Snowden...'there can be no faith mer Bihar Chief Minister.

On the matter, the court said: "... I find that the properties/assets created from the proceeds of the crime by the convicts and (now) dead accused persons in this case could not be identified. It may be a subject matter of investigation under the PMLA, 2002. The ED, if wishes so, and if law permits, may proceed for identification and confiscation of such properties/assets created by convicts or now dead accused persons by the illgotten money. Thus, the prosecution (CBI) is directed to provide a copy of this judgement, FIR and charge sheet etc. of this case to the Enforcement Directorate for taking necessary action on their part."

Centre bans apps, social media accounts of 'Punjab Politics TV', cites SFJ link

Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967".

KRISHN KAUSHIK NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

THE UNION Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has banned the "digital media resources" of "foreign-based Punjab Politics TV", which, it said, is linked to the proscribed Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) outfit. In a statement issued on

Tuesday, the I&B ministry said it has "ordered blocking of apps, website, and social media accounts of foreign-based 'Punjab Politics TV' having close links with Sikhs For Justice (SFI), an organisation that has been declared unlawful under the Unlawful

The channel, sources said, was based out of the United Kingdom. "Relying on intelligence inputs that the channel was attempting to use online media to disturb public order during the ongoing state assembly elections, the ministry used emergency powers under the IT Rules on 18th February to block the digital media resources of 'Punjab Politics TV'," the ministry said.

"The contents of the blocked apps, website, and social media accounts had the potential to incite communal disharmony and separatism: and were found to be detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the

now on Feb 25 state, and public order. It was also **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** observed that the launch of new apps and social media accounts NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22 was timed to gain traction during the ongoing elections," it said. THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday It said the government re-

eignty and integrity."

of separatists.

deferred hearing on the petitions mains "vigilant and committed in the Pegasus spyware controto secure the overall information versy till February 25. Scheduled environment in India and thwart for Wednesday, the hearing was any actions having the potential postponed as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta cited his inability to to undermine India's soverattend and requested the court for The SFI was in the news ahead a different date

SC hearing in

Pegasus case

Mehta told Chief Justice of of voting in Punjab over the weekend after rebel AAP leader Kumar India N V Ramana he had to appear before another bench that Vishwas alleged that Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind was hearing a clutch of petitions challenging various provisions of Keiriwal wanted to become the Prevention of Money Punjab CM by taking the support Laundering Act, 2002.

> The top court was scheduled to take up the Pegasus petitions along with the interim report of the technical committee appointed by it to probe allegations of unauthorised surveillance us ing the Israeli software.

The SC had on October 27, 2021 constituted a three-member technical committee comprising Dr Naveen Kumar Chaudhary. Dean of National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar; Dr Prabaharan P, Professor at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Kerala; and Dr Ashwin Anil Gumaste, Institute Chair Associate Professor at Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for conducting the probe.

It also appointed former SC judge Justice R V Raveendran, to oversee its functioning, besides two other experts -- former IPS officer Alok Joshi and cyber security expert Dr Sundeep Oberoi -- to assist him.

Empanelment rule dropped for central deputation of DIG-level IPS officers

Centre's move may lead to new flashpoint with states, days after row over proposal to amend All India Service Rules

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

CLOSE ON the heels of the Centre sending a proposal to states to amend All India Service Rules that would allow it to call any IAS, IPS or IFoS officer on central deputation with or without the state's consent, the government has issued another order on DIG-level IPS officers that may not be palatable to the states.

In an order issued on Februarv 10, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has said that those IPS officers coming to the Centre at DIG-level would no

longer be required to be empanelled at that level with the Union government. The move is aimed at increasing the pool of DIG-level IPS officers for central deputation in the backdrop of massive vacancies in central police organisations (CPOs) and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of Ministry of Home Affairs for dispensing with the empanelment at the level of DIG with

immediate effect and carrying out the corresponding stipulated amendments, in the existing IPS Tenure Policy," the order said. According to previous rules, a DIG-ranked IPS officer with minimum experience of 14 years could be deputed to the Centre only if the Union Home Secretary-

led Police Establishment Board empanelled them as DIGs at the Centre. The board chooses the panel on the basis of officers' career and vigilance records. Only Superintendent of Police-level officers do not require empanelment at the Centre.

The new order changes that and makes the entire pool of DIGlevel officers in a state eligible for central deputation. "Normally, not more than 30-40% officers from a batch get empanelled at the Centre. In case of DIGs, it recently crossed 50%. The new order, however, makes everyone eligible," a senior government official said.

Sources said the officers would still have to be put on the offer list for central deputation and states would have to relieve them before they could join the Centre. However, if read with the proposal made by the Centre on deputation of IAS, IPS and IFoS officers recently, many states may see it as the Centre's attempt at pushing the envelope further on increasing its own powers over officers serving in the states.

In December last year and January this year, the Centre sent a proposal to various states to amend All India Service Rules which would grant the Centre powers to demand a certain quota of officers from the state for central deputation within a stipulated time frame. The proposal gave the Centre powers to call any IAS officeron central deputation in "public interest" within a stipulated time frame and in case the state failed to relieve the officer, he/she

lowing the date fixed. Most states have opposed the move. Opposition-ruled states have called it an attack on the federal structure of the Constitution.

would be deemed relieved fol-

"Given that it [new order] comes close on the heels of the

earlier proposal, some states may not like it although it is completely the Centre's call whether to have empanelment requirement," a senior IPS officer said.

Sources in Ministry of Home Affairs said the new order will not infringe on state rights and has been brought in to ease the selection process and have more DIGlevel IPS officers at the Centre. "Because number of DIGs is high, the empanelment process had become cumbersome and it was taking up to one year to just complete the process. At a time when vacancies at DIG-level are high, it was thought necessary to speed up the process," an official said.



ALMOST 50% of all posts reserved for IPS officers at DIG-level at the Centre are vacant, according to data sourced from various CPOs and CAPFs. Against 252 sanctioned posts of DIGs for IPS, there are 118 vacancies. IPS officers have a quota of 40% in CPOs and CAPFs while rest of the positions are filled by force cadre officers.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

HIMACHAL PRADESH 6 dead in blast at crackers factory

Shimla: Six women, all migrant workers, were charred to death and at least 14 others sustained burn injuries in an explosion at an illegal firecracker factory in Una, police said Tuesday. Leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha Mukesh Agnihotri sought a judicial probe into the incident. CM Jai Ram Thakur announced Rs four lakh each to the next kin of the deceased. ENS

NEW DELHI '3L km of roads built in 6 years'

New Delhi: Three lakh kilometre of roads have been constructed under PMGSY in the last 6 years, Union Minister for Rural Development Giriraj Singh said on Tuesday. Between 2009 and 2014, he added, only 1.88 lakh km of roads had been built. Singh was addressing a gathering after releasing the rural connectivity GIS data. NRIDA, implementation the agency of PMGSY also signed an MoU with three GIS firms. ENS

WEST BENGAL Student leader case: cops axed

Kolkata: A day after the the government formed an SIT to probe the death of student leader Anis Khan, an ASI and a constable were suspended and a Home Guard was demobilised on Tuesday due to alleged "negligence" in duty. The three were on duty at Amta police station on February 18 night

ENS

17,914 kids on the streets, highest in Maharashtra: NCPCR tells SC

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

when Anis died.

ESHAROY

From Delhi, with love: Trucks with 2.5k tonnes of wheat leave Attari for Kabul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AMRITSAR, NEW DELHI, FEB 22

A LITTLE over four months after India proposed to Pakistan about sending wheat to Afghanistan, the first convoy of trucks, carrying 2,500 metric tonnes of wheat, was flagged off from Attari-Wagah border to Afghanistan as a humanitarian gesture.

Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla Vardhan and Afghanistan's ambassador to India, Farid Mamundzay, flagged off 50 trucks along with World Food Program country director Bishaw Parajuli.

The wheat was brought in trucks from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns in Amritsar and the bags in these trucks were unloaded into trucks that had come from Afghanistan to receive the first consignment. They are likely to take three days to reach Afghanistan via Pakistan.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

The state assured the top court

that it will "in all senses...put on

should be sent to the CBI.

to the CBI.



An Afghanistan-bound truck loaded with goods passes through the Integrated Check-Post at Attari on Tuesday. PTI

Halt Param Bir probe until decision

Officials said the sacks are double-bagged for preservation of the consignment from moisture and infection, and shelf life of the wheat is a minimum 1 year

from the date of dispatch. They said fumigation of the consignment has been undertaken before handing over for transportation. The FCI is providing necessary

phytosanitary (for import requirements of plant-based exports) and fit-to-consume certificates before handing over. It is also getting the wheat quality-tested by a WFP-approved laboratory, officials said. Each bag is stamped with "Gift

from the people of India to the people of Afghanistan" in English, Pashto and Dari, officials said. Shringla said, "There is a strong

people-to-people connection between India and Afghanistan. We are extending our humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan in the form of 50,000 tonnes of wheat. We are flagging off our first consignment of 2,500 tonnes in 50 Afghan trucks today. It'll be delivered to the World Food Program for dissemination.'

Afghan envoy Mamundzay, who hasn't been to his country since the takeover by the Taliban, said: "I am back to [the] historic city of Amritsar after less than 6 weeks & this time to witness the flagging off ceremony of India's

wheat assistance shipment... Amritsar, a beautiful city with rich history and proud culture, is the shortest land route to Afghanistan and has historically proven to be the game-changer not only for 'aid but for trade' in this region. For over 2,500 years, the Grand Trunk Road linked the Indian Subcontinent with Central Asia via Kabul while passing through Amritsar.'

He said free trade without barriers is the "only way forward for lasting peace and economic prosperity" in this region. "It is an honor to witness the flagging off ceremony of India's wheat assistance shipment...50,000 metric tonnes or more than 2,500 trucks of wheat is one of the largest food contributions done by any country to support in this difficult hour."

"Free aid is good but it is not the solution. Afghanistan can develop only if trade is allowed through the borders and there are no restrictions," he said.

Out on furlough, **Ram Rahim gets Z-plus security**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 22

OUT OF jail on a 21-day furlough,

Ram Rahim, serving a 20-year term for raping two women disciples and life term for murdering a journalist, was released from Rohtak's Sunaria jail on February 7. During his furlough period, he is staying at his Gurgaon ashram. "In case the prisoner is released on parole, Z-plus security protection. may be provided as per existing rules, regulations etc as he faces a high-level threat from radical Sikh extremists in India and abroad." a communication from a senior Haryana police official to the Rohtak Range Commissioner said.

KARNATAKA



An elderly man greets the RAF personnel conducting a route march, in Shivamogga, Tuesday. PTI

Six arrested for Bajrang Dal activist's murder

cused in the past six months,

about the locations they visited

and people they met. We are in-

vestigating it from all angles. We

have few eyewitnesses in the case

and the accused are being inter-

rogated separately," the SP said.

Selvamani R, who also attended

the press meet, said prohibitory

orders under CrPC Section 144 has

been extended by two more days

till Friday morning. All schools and

colleges will remain shut for an-

other two days. "After analysing

the situation, we will take further

who was involved in at least five

cases of assault and attempt to

murder, was attacked by a group

of armed assailants, who came

who is camping in Shivamogga,

is monitoring the probe into the

Additional DGP S Murugan,

Harsha alias Harsha Hindu,

action." Selvamani said.

in a car.

murder

Commissioner

Deputy

KIRAN PARASHAR BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 22

SIX PEOPLE have been arrested in connection with the murder of a 26-year-old Bajrang Dal activist in Shivamogga district on Sunday night, according to police.

At a press conference on Tuesday, Shivamogga SP B M Laxmi Prasad said, "The arrested are Mohammed Kashif, Syed Nadeem, Afsifullah Khan, Rihan, Nihan, Abdul Afnan. Among them, four were directly involved in the murder while two were part of the conspiracy. Also, four of them have criminal backgrounds, including Kashif and Nadeem.

He said the investigation is underway to ascertain whether any organisation was involved in the killing of Harsha.

"We are collecting information on the movement of the ac-

UDUPI

Family eatery of hijab petitioner vandalised, her brother attacked

KIRAN PARASHAR BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 22

THREE PEOPLE have been arrested for their alleged involvement in an attack on the brother of one of the petitioners in the hijab case in Karnataka High Court, and vandalising a restaurant owned by the family, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Monday night, when a mob of around 50 people barged into Hotel Bismillah, belonging to the father of a girl student from a centre for the Talent Search Government PU College in Test 2022 conducted by the Udupi - the girl is among the pe-Gujarat Secondary and Higher titioners who have moved the Secondary Education Board HC to be allowed to wear hijab in (GSHSEB). classrooms. "Three people have been ar-Muslim girl students clad in hiiab and burga were at PP rested in the case and we are verifying their association with any Sawani School in the Hirabaug area to attend the first paper outfits," Superintendent of Police, Udupi, N Vishnuvardhan when some people allegedly told The Indian Express. He said shot videos of the girls and circulated them on social media. the attack allegedly took place over comments made by the pe titioner's father during a TV channel debate. They allegedly but were stopped by the secuattacked her brother over the rity guards. Soon, police same issue, the SP said. rushed to the spot and detained 12 activists, including According to police sources the incident took place around VHP Surat city general secre-9.30 pm on Monday - the fathertary Kamlesh Kayda. son duo was closing the eatery Nilesh Akbari (Surat VHP vicewhen a one person from the mob president) and Dipak Katodiya allegedly asked the petitioner's brother something and subse-(Bhagwa Army Sangathan quently slapped him. Soon, the vice-president)- were taken situation turned violent and the to the Kapodara police station mob started throwing stones at and released later in the evening. The cops also talked the restaurant, breaking its winto the school authorities and a dow panes, a police official said. Police personnel reached the team was deployed at the site and defused the situation. A school premises to control any case was registered under differuntoward incident. ent provisions of the IPC. The petitioner's brother was taken to a nearby hospital. The petitioner tweeted that her brother was attacked "...just because I continue to stand for My

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22 THE MAHARASHTRA government on Tuesday agreed to put on hold investigation in cases lodged against former Mumbai Police **Commissioner Param Bir Singh** until the Supreme Court decides on whether to transfer the cases

CBI is probing. The CBI, too, has backed this.

Court's September 16, 2021 judg-

hold" the investigation in the cases after a bench of Justice S K Kaul and M M Sundresh said the "...investigation being completed have the possibility of creating a problem", as the court is yet to take a call on whether the matters Singh had approached the apex court against Bombay High

ment dismissing his plea challenging the two preliminary inquiries initiated against him by Maharashtra government. He has also argued that the probe in criminal cases lodged against him in the state be transferred to CBI, as they are linked to the case against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Desmukh, which the

Hearing arguments in the matter on Tuesday, the SC bench echoed the concern that completion of the probe by state police may have implications on petitions pending before it. Fixing it for final hearing on March 9, Justice Kaul told senior advocate Darius Khambata, who appeared for Maharashtra, "meanwhile, you please completely stay your hand".



Param Bir Singh, former Mumbai Police chief

Khambata, however, urged the court not to state so in the order and said he will instead give assurance that the probe will not proceed until the SC takes a call.

Responding, Justice Kaul said the court will not issue any direction but will record Khambata's assurance.

The bench said in its order that "in view of the aforesaid (concern about completion of the probe

Maharashtra agrees to put probe on hold; court says will record assurance posing problems to petitions pending before it), we put a query to Mr Darius Khambata on this is-

> Appearing for Singh, senior advocate Puneet Bali said although SC had in the past allowed investigation in the cases to continue, it had restrained the state from filing charge sheets. But despite this, a charge sheet had been filed in one of the cases, he said. Bali said this was done to pre-

vent some of the other accused from getting default bail.

sheet was only against the other accused and not Singh. He contended that the submissions by Singh were intended to "prejudice" the court "unnecessarily".

on transfer of case to CBI, says SC

Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has been given Z-plus security cover by the Harvana government "due to a high-level threat to his life from pro-Khalistan" elements, officials said on Tuesday.

STUDENTS IN HIJAB STOPPED IN GUJARAT, **12 VHP MEN DETAINED**

> Surat: Twelve members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) who tried to stop Muslim girls wearing hijab and burga from taking a board competitive examination at a trust-run school were detained in

> > On Tuesday, around six

Later. VHP members

Those detained - Kayda,

reached the centre to protest

Gujarat's Surat Tuesday. The incident happened at Varachha's PP Sawani School

14 killed in Uttarakhand Chandigarh faces massive outage

Khambata said that the charge

sue, and he gives an assurance to this court that in all senses the matter will be put on hold We take the assurance on record..."

Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) informed the Supreme Court that there are 17,914 street children, or "children in street situations" across the country. The Commission also said that Maharashtra has the highest number of children living on the streets.

According to the affidavit filed by the Commission on Monday in the SC, there are 17.914 living on the streets, out of which 9.530 children live on the streets with their families, 834 children live on the streets alone, and 7,550 children live on streets during the day but go back to families living in slums during the night. Amongst them, 10,359 children are boys and 7,554 are girls.

The NCPCR has filed its compliance affidavit in response to a SC order on January 17th in a suo moto writ petition on children living in street conditions.

This latest data compiled by states till February 15th and uploaded on "Bal Swaraj" – a portal created by the Commission, excludes the 2 lakh children that had been identified by Save the Children on behalf of NCPCR in an earlier exercise, it said.

The data reveals that Maharashtra has the largest number of street children at 4,952 followed by Gujarat (1,990), Tamil Nadu (1,703), Delhi (1,653) and Madhya Pradesh (1,492). But UP has the highest number of children living alone on the streets at 270.

Malayalam actor **KPAC** Lalitha dies

Kochi: Noted Malayalam actor KPAC Lalitha passed away late on Tuesday at her residence in Tripunithura near Kochi, film industry sources said. She was 74. Lalitha is survived by her actordirector son Sidharth Bharathan and daughter Sreekutty. She was married to the legendary Malayalam film director late Bharathan. PTI

THE NATIONAL Commission for Protection of Child Rights as SUV returning from wedding falls into gorge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 22

AT LEAST 14 people, including a five-year-old child, were killed, and two were injured after the SUV they were traveling in fell into a deep gorge on Sukhidhang-Dandaminar road in Uttarakhand's Champawat district early on Tuesday.

The accident occurred around 3 am, when the group was returning from a wedding in Tanakpur, police said. They were headed towards Danda Kaknai village.

Their bodies were recovered from the gorge after a nearly 11hour-long rescue operation, PTI reported, quoting Superintendent of Police, Champawat, Devendra Pincha. The two survivors are being treated at hospitals in Tanakpur and Champawat.

According to a statement issued by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the vehicle fell into the gorge after the

driver lost control of the vehicle. "According to the information received, the incident took place between Budham and Kaknayi. The vehicle had total 16 people. who were returning from Panchmukhi Dharamshala in

Tanakpur after attending a wedding. So far, 14 of them have been confirmed to be dead," the SDRF stated. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi announced ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of those killed in the accident and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

Five more lives were lost in separate accidents in Pauri and Tehri districts on Tuesday, PTI reported, quoting the police.

Three teachers were killed near Kotdwar when the vehicle in which they were travelling fell into a gorge, while two people died when their car fell into a gorge near Gooler in Tehri district, it reported

municipality. Others were identi-

fied as Amal Manohar, 26, Vimin

reminding the CPI(M) about how

the party had handled those who

past. He was speaking at a meet-

ing held in protest against an at-

local temple festival at Punnol.

dress, similar cases should be reg-

Kodiyeri Balakrishnan," he said.

In a video that emerged hours

KV, 26, and Suresh Babu, 39.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 22

MANY PARTS of Chandigarh faced power outages on Tuesday, a day after employees of the electricity department launched a 72-hour strike in protest against privatisation. The outage since Monday night forced government hospitals in the UT to reschedule elective surgeries, and adversely af fected residential, industrial and commercial areas in the city.

The UT administration imposed Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) late Tuesday evening, but with little result. The Punjab and Harvana High Court has, meanwhile, summoned the chief engineer on Wednesday.

The outage began around midnight and was continuing when this report was filed Tuesday evening

The outage led to Government Medical College Hospital-32 postponing its elective surgeries; there was chaos on roads as traffic lights did not function; water supply to residential areas was affected; and the industrial area had to stop



A stretch of 'VIP' Sector 16 on Tuesday during power outage following a strike by power department staff. Kamleshwar Singh

manufacturing activities.

The administration pegged the day's losses at Rs 60 crore to Rs 70 crore

UT Adviser Dharam Pal said: "We managed to restore power in some parts, but at least 40 per cent of areas is still (in) dark. I believe the problem will be remain for the next 24 hours. After that, we will be in a position to restore power

throughout Chandigarh". Gopal Dutt Joshi, president, UT Powermen Union, blamed winds for disruption of power. "We never disrupted supply deliber-

ately. Employees hired from civic body and Punjab and Haryana probably are not able to detect and correct the fault," he said.

Political parties, including Congress and AAP, have extended support to the protesters.

"Shopkeepers and traders are feeling harassed over the disruption of electricity supply in the city. Electricity is an essential service and the administration should take appropriate steps to restore it," said Chandigarh Beopar Mandal president Charanjiv Singh WITHPTIINPUTS

> #Hijab which is MY RIGHT. Our property was ruined as well. Why?? Can't I demand my right? Who will be their next victim?"

Kerala: 4 RSS-BJP men held for CPM worker's murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. FEBRUARY 22

FOUR BJP-RSS workers were on Tuesday arrested on charges of conspiracy in the murder of CPI(M) worker K Haridas in Kannur district.

Haridas, a 54-year-old fisherman, was hacked to death outside his house at Punnol near Thalassery on Monday.

to the murder. All those arrested are RSS-BJP activists."

Police Commissioner R llango said, "Based on the probe... so far, it seems that political rivalry led

Of the four arrested, K Lijesh, 37, is BJP Thalassery mandal pres-

J&K new contours: Paharis press for ST status, NC loses key leader ident and councillor at Thalassery

was made.

ARUN SHARMA JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

after the killing, Lijesh was seen IN A setback to the National Conference in J&K's Pir Panjal region comprising Poonch and assaulted their workers in the Rajouri, former minister Syed Mushtaq Ahmed Bukhari on Tuesday resigned from the party tack on BJP-RSS workers during a saying he was being told to stop his fight for Scheduled Tribe status to Pahari-speaking people in BJP state chief K Surendran the twin border districts.

said the arrest of the party councillor was political vendetta. "If he The resignation came two was arrested based on a public addays after Bukhari shared dais with BJP J&K president Ravinder istered against CPI(M) leaders, in-Raina at a conference of Pahari cluding party state secretary leaders from Rajouri and Poonch, where the demand for ST status

Paharis have been seeking ST status for 30 years, since the grant of the same to Gujjars and Bakarwals in J&K in 1991, leading to reservation in jobs and seats in educational institutions for them.

After the Delimitation Commission recently recommended political reservation for them as well, Pahari leaders have come together to make a fresh

near three-decade association with the NC and join the BJP.

Describing himself as an NC loyalist who had stood by the party through thick and thin, Bukhari, in a brief resignation letter to NC president Farooq Abdullah, said: "Your constant insistence on me foregoing the Pahari cause has made this relationship untenable for me."

The main NC face in Poonch district's Surankote area, Bukhari has been elected twice as MLA from here, and served as a minister as well as vice-chairman of the Pahari Board. He was considered close to the Abdullahs.

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

Protests on, but CM, MLAs' salary up

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Assembly, which had been facing protests over hijab and a pro-Hindu outfit worker's death, on Tuesday passed Bills enhancing salaries and allowances of the Chief Minister, ministers and legislators on Tuesday.

Facing disruptions for the fifth day due to a protest by Congress MLAs, who demanded the resignation of BJP minister KS Eshwarappa over his remarks on the national flag, the session was cut short, but not before passing the two Bills.

The session has now been adjourned till March 4, for the It also proposes to increase the

house rent allowance of ministers from Rs 80,000 per month to Rs 1.20 lakh and for maintenance and upkeep of residence and layout and maintenance of gardens from Rs 20,000 per month to Rs 30,000. The petrol expenses that the government pays have been increased from 1,000 litre to 2,000 litre. ENS

Budget session. The Bill proposes to increase the CM's salary from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 per month, of ministers from Rs 40,000 to Rs 60,000, and sumptuary allowance from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 4.50 lakh per annum.

ENS

was done, he would break his

push for the same.

Sources said that during Sunday's conference, Raina said the BJP was committed to granting ST status to Paharis. And Bukhari announced that if this

New Delhi

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE ENGLISH, NO LONGER AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE, NOW

GROWS FROM MANY ROOTS. -SALMAN RUSHDIE

The Indian **EXPRESS**

∽ Founded By ∽ Ramnath Goenka BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

TRUST AND LOAN

States may view Rs 1 lakh crore loan from Centre as impinging on their fiscal independence. Their concerns must be heard

N THE UNION budget 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had provided for Rs 1 lakh crore in loans to state governments to enable them to increase their capital expenditure. These are to be interest-free, repayable after 50 years in a one-shot bullet payment. However, some states have expressed apprehensions, arguing that such an arrangement raises larger questions over the framework that governs Centre-state fiscal relations.

Much of the concern revolves around Article 293(3) of the Constitution. According to this provision, without the consent of the government of India, states may not raise any loan, as long as "there is still outstanding any part of a loan which has been made to the state by the Government of India." Thus state borrowings are circumscribed by the Centre's approval. But, over the past decade or so, the Union government has done away with the loan component in the central plan assistance. States' liabilities towards the Centre have in fact been declining as per the 15th Finance Commission. Thus, over time, states would perhaps not have any obligations towards the Centre, increasing their degrees of freedom. But this process is also interrupted by the treatment of loans from multilateral agencies to states being routed through the Centre, something that will not end in the foreseeable future. In this context, the budgetary proposal read along with the constitutional provision can be seen as endowing the Centre with greater sway over the states' fiscal management at a time when it had been decreasing, Undoubtedly, greater leeway to states is necessary for more fiscal flexibility, especially during periods of crisis. It is also true, at the same time, that the Centre is responsible for the country's overall macroeconomic stability. Some have also voiced concerns over the possibility of conditions being attached to these loans - will the Centre's expenditure priorities match those of states? Further, there has also been criticism of this amount not being transferred to the states in the form of a grant - a grant is shown as part of revenue expenditure, while loans have been shown as capital expenditure.

Ultimately, the burden of execution will fall on the states. It is conceivable that states politically aligned with the Centre or those whose finances are in a precarious position may opt for this option. It is equally possible that some may not borrow – they are within their rights to deny the loan. Some may witness a degree of substitution - funds meant for capital expenditure may be shifted towards revenue expenditure, with the fall in capital spending being offset by these loans. Considering the current environment of distrust, where the faultlines in Centre-state relations have deepened, an arrangement that states view as impinging on their fiscal independence or as an attempt towards greater centralisation, may become a deeply contentious political issue.

LOWERING THE BAR

Barring students from studying Indian history or culture in foreign universities speaks of prickliness and prejudice

EW GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES that forbid students applying for the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) from studying Indian history, culture and social sciences in foreign universities amount to irrational meddling. The scholarship provides crucial financial assistance to low-income candidates from Scheduled Castes, denotified nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes, and landless communities in pursuing a Master's degree or PhD abroad. While the number of Indian students opting for education in foreign universities is significant and growing, only a tiny number of students from underprivileged communities manage to make that leap, given the formidable odds. To then suddenly put conditions on the span of knowledge available to them shrinks their opportunities, and puts a ceiling on their academic ambitions. This goes against the very purpose of the scheme. Second, it is not the business of governments to decide what students can - or cannot - study; the academic autonomy of scholars cannot be so casually disregarded. Third, the specific bar deprives a vast swathe of inquiry from the scholarship of people from the marginalised communities, whose lived experience and intellectual keenness can only illuminate blind spots of those fields. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has justified these new guidelines by arguing that going "abroad was not needed to study Indian history, culture or heritage"; and that foreign universities are better suited for gaining other, presumably more technical, expertise. This is an incredibly short-sighted and narrow view of knowledge, which cannot be carved up into neat nationalistic silos. Some of the most enriching work on Indian history, politics and culture has been carried out by foreign scholars and in universities across the world - political scientists Paul Brass, Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph, international relations expert Stephen P Cohen; economist Amartya Sen and constitutional historian Granville Austin; literary scholars like Sheldon Pollock and Francesca Orsini, to name just a few. Not to discount the research being done in departments of Sanskrit and Indology in several European universities. The illogic of the government's argument has invited apprehensions that the new guidelines are a back-handed way of censoring contentious debates about the faultlines of contemporary Indian life. It is no secret that academics on foreign campuses have contributed to a strong, articulate anti-caste movement as well as anti-Hindutva mobilisations. But the government's prickliness about Western critique must not be used to curb academic freedom and restrict academic careers of scholars from India's most marginalised communities. This bar on scholarship must go.



MUCH HAS BEEN written on the hijab controversy and its ideological and political meanings. Some plain truths ought to be evident to anyone with an iota of decency. The spectacle of humiliating students and teachers by asking them to remove the hijab is a new level of public moral cretinism. If that spectacle did not shock you, then you are unlikely to be moved by any moral consideration.

It is also evident that the motivating principle behind the call to remove the hijab is not progressive equal rights for all. It had four functions: An instrument by which to browbeat minorities and erase Muslim cultural presence in the public sphere; to continue and create a sense of dread and fear; to trap self-described progressives into a politics of "ifs and buts"; and to foment more violence. All four things have come to pass.

What the meaning of hijab is to people who wear it is none of my business; it is not for me to judge. Like many symbols, it can signify anything from dignified faith, selfassertion and empowerment, to oppression. But the important thing from a public point of view is that it does not, on its own, interfere with any project of civic empowerment: It does not interfere with education, holding a job, voting, participating in public life, or achieving anything in life. To, therefore, use it as a pretext for disqualifying someone from teaching or going to college is a travesty.

Nor is the argument from a narrowly construed formalism about uniforms and dress codes persuasive. After all, any decent society makes lots of small accommodations and should do, for a janeu, a tilak, a choti, and turban or, in public spaces, even scant attire of sadhus, that might otherwise outrage modesty. These small accommodations also gave Indian society a texture and depth, a lived diversity. The only guiding criteria is whether the particular practice in question impedes any civic purpose or substantial interest of the person who wears it. From a public point of view, the only question is whether there is any form The mistake in this position is to construct the meaning of the hijab without reference at all to the subjectivity of those who wear it. The court will make the same mistake when it adjudicates the matter under the essential practices test that most of us have been saying is an insidious piece of judicial chicanery. This is religion by fiat, not by the freely defined subjectivity of its adherents. The court can decide what compelling state interest might be under Article 14 or 21. But it should leave the interpretation of religion alone. There is no 'objective' determination of the matter, as the court in its hermeneutical foolishness has always tried to maintain.

WTO Trips

of civic equality that the hijab, to repeat, on its own, impedes. The answer is: None.

So progressives fell into a trap by getting into the meaning of hijab. It does not matter what the meaning is. It could well signify patriarchy or anything else; that is a debate to be carried out in the realm of culture, not enforced by administrative law. It is one thing to worry about a culture that might not send girls to school or marry them early, or prevents them from working, or creates a wall of silence around violence against them. But it is absurd to make the argument that someone can uniquely determine the meaning of a choice of clothing and put the entire weight of sociological emancipation on that. If someone wears only saris, what does that signify: Aesthetic preference, sartorial conservatism, patriarchy, national loyalty or what? So this whole question of meaning is a bit beside the point.

In India's particular context, the progressives fell into the trap of being seen to oppose or defend the hijab, where the truth is that it is presumptuous to do either. Neither is necessary. They also fell into the trap of another equivocation. The hijab is not a moment where liberty or equality are being tested. It is coming when there is an attempt to visibly erase Muslims from India's public culture. It is also to give progressives that last bit of pretext to be comfortable with the BJP, as if the BJP was carrying out the completion of a liberal project that the Congress had no courage of conviction to pursue. That equivocation, "I am not anti-Muslim, but I am against the hijab," is in this context simply a pretext to be comfortable with state-sponsored cruelty. It is the code for saying, "They (the minorities) are reactionary." All communities have all kinds of internal fault lines, but right now the hijab functions to create the stereotype of Muslims that both the BJP and so-called progressives share. The liberal Muslims, justifiably feeling that this should not turn into a Shah Bano moment, are also drawn into the debate over the hijab. That is a cultural debate that might be worth having.

But it is irrelevant to what schools are doing to students and teachers.

The mistake in this position is to construct the meaning of the hijab without reference at all to the subjectivity of those who wear it. The court will make the same mistake when it adjudicates the matter under the essential practices test that most of us have been saying is an insidious piece of judicial chicanery. This is religion by fiat, not by the freely defined subjectivity of its adherents. The court can decide what compelling state interest might be under Article 14 or 21. But it should leave the interpretation of religion alone. There is no "objective" determination of the matter, as the court in its hermeneutical foolishness has always tried to maintain. A secular court has to define a secular purpose in terms of the core article of the Constitution and leave it at that. Whether Islam or Hinduism is compatible with that is not its problem. It is not clear that the hijab in school or an odd religious symbol worn by students violates the core interests of the state in liberty and equality.

But the worst part is that these arguments are beside the point. The moral gravity of the moment is that we pretend as if the usual conventions of a healthy democracy are working: That people are making moral arguments in good faith, that disagreements can be negotiated, that the ruling dispensation has no investment in violence and that the courts are here to do constitutional justice. The BJP has succeeded in its aims of constructing the Muslim as a figure of threat. It has also succeeded in fomenting violence and will now play the "Hindus are victim" card. We feel so tainted that even the pretence of making fine distinctions seems only to reinforce this strategy, not combat it. This debate is not about competing visions of secularism. It is about finding every pretext to institutionalise state sponsored cruelty. It will twist even the most liberal ideas or finegrained distinctions in that direction.

> The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

It is a pity that the TRIPS waiver that is finally being talked about will be a limited one

The liberal trap

Progressives are being seen to oppose or defend hijab.

It is presumptuous to do either

TREASON OR POETRY

France's language watchdog is worried that English words are degrading culture. India can offer a lesson

EING A CONSERVATIVE, even of the most benign sort, can't be easy in the digital age. History, culture, religion and language traverse borders at the speed of thought, and even the proudest societies are subject to outside influences that force them to change and evolve. The Académie Française has a particularly difficult task in this regard. Formed in 1635 under King Louis XIII, its task is to guard "pure French" as a language. In a report released earlier this month, the organisation has flagged threats to "social cohesion" and the "degradation of language".

The Académie is particularly incensed by the growing use of English words in entertainment, fashion and even on announcements on government-run trains. "Californisms", a result of the fact that most tech companies originate on the US west coast, also drew its ire. The final straw has been the pandemic, thanks to which terms like "cluster" and "testing" have entered everyday use. Since these words are "often distorted" to fit French grammar, the report says, they have led to "the creation of hybrid forms that are neither English nor French".

The French language police's insecurity appears to stem from English theorist Terry Eagleton's statement: "Language is the root of all identity. To tamper with it is either poetry or treason." The good people at the Académie Française seem to have forgotten that around the time the organisation was formed, there existed no "pure French". It was only after decades of state-imposed uniformity that a singular French language emerged throughout France. Perhaps the new hybrids are just history's revenge for all the "French" cultures that were lost. Or, maybe, there's a lesson the French can learn about the inclusion of "distorted phrases" as a sign of their language and culture's capacity to adapt - from Indians. Take the sentence "Train late hai" - a majority of English words, completely Hindi in syntax. Since the hybrids aren't treason, let's think of them as poetry.

PRABHASH KANJAN

WHILE THE DEVELOPED world is rolling out booster doses for Covid-19, barely 11 per cent of Africans have been fully vaccinated. This statistic reveals the magnitude of global inequality that poses an existential threat to global capitalism, as Thomas Piketty warned. When the Covid-19 pandemic pounded the globe, India, with South Africa, piloted a proposal to waive key provisions of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement on Covid-19 vaccines, drugs, therapeutics, and related technologies.

The TRIPS agreement is part of the international legal order on trade enshrined in the World Trade Organization (WTO). The core idea behind the proposal is that intellectual property (IP) rights such as patents should not become a barrier in scaling up the production of medical products like vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics essential to combat Covid-19. The WTO had a golden opportunity to accept this proposal and send out a loud message that it prioritised the right to health over the supranormal profits of pharmaceutical corporations. This would have enabled the WTO to keep itself from becoming irrelevant. It would have also allowed global capitalism to present a human face and demonstrate its adaptability to changing circumstances. Instead, the WTO floundered and has failed to adopt a TRIPS waiver to date. Now, we hear, that the developed world is talking of a TRIPS waiver that would be geographically limited and exclude India. There are also attempts at limiting the

It is a pity that India, which has been at the forefront of fighting for the TRIPS waiver at the WTO, is at risk of being edged out. This is a failure of India's economic diplomacy. However, it would be inappropriate to lay all the blame at the door of Indian diplomacy. Several failures domestically have undesirably impacted India's global campaign.

waiver to vaccines alone, leaving out diagnostics and therapeutics.

It is a pity that India, which has been at the forefront of fighting for the TRIPS waiver, is at risk of being edged out. This is a failure of India's economic diplomacy. However, it would be inappropriate to lay all the blame at the door of Indian diplomacy. Several failures domestically have undesirably impacted India's global campaign. First, during the entire pandemic. India rarely made use of the existing flexibilities under the Indian Patent Act, such as compulsory licences (CL), which are consistent with the TRIPS agreement, to increase the supply of Covid-19 medical products despite being nudged by the judiciary to do so. On the contrary, during the peak of the second Covid wave in May last year, the central government filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court stating that the main constraint in boosting the production of key drugs is the unavailability of raw materials, not IP-related legal hurdles. This stand completely contradicted India's argument internationally that views IP as an obstacle to augmenting the supply of Covid-19 medical products.

Second, India did not proactively develop a national strategy to implement the TRIPS waiver as and when it is adopted. In other words, a TRIPS waiver at the WTO would only be an enabling framework. It would then require member countries to amend their domestic IP laws to implement the waiver. India, as a country leading the TRIPS waiver battle internationally, should have

developed a draft model law enunciating how it would implement the waiver. This would have not only fortified India's position internationally but would have also acted as a pressure point to influence the negotiations.

Third, the government failed to get the Indian pharmaceutical industry on board. Pharmaceutical bodies are a divided lot with many Indian companies speaking against the waiver, thus denting India's global campaign.

Fourth. India is one of the few countries that has successfully developed a fully indigenous Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin — a remarkable achievement. Given the involvement of taxpayers' money in developing the vaccine, India should have unlocked its technical know-how to the world. While technology transfer agreements for Covaxin have been inked with domestic companies, making the vaccine technology available to anyone interested globally, at a minimal price, would have exhibited India's resolve to walk the talk on the TRIPS waiver. It would have also shamed the developed world.

Western diplomats, it seems, have keenly followed India's internal actions and have found out about this duplicity. While India would oppose the attempted exclusion, the lesson is that for economic diplomacy to flourish, it should be backed by concrete actions on the domestic front.

The writer is a professor and vice dean, Jindal Global Law School, O P Jindal Global University. Views are personal



FEBRUARY 23, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

DELHI SUMMIT

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi stressed the need for agreement on immediate global negotiations "to make international economic cooperation more efficacious". Inaugurating a three-day meeting of 44 developing countries in New Delhi, Mrs Gandhi said, "We cannot remain silent spectators and must exert ourselves to arrest the visible deterioration in the global economy. Unchecked, this disturbing trend could have disastrous consequences for mankind." The need for an agreement on the immediate launching of global negotiations was the first of the nine points she underlined for consideration by the delegates, whose agenda, she

said, "deals with issues concerning the functioning of a viable system of global economic co-operation".

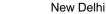
ENCOUNTER KILLING

[HALWAN, A DACOIT of Banda district in UP, was killed in an encounter with the police in 1978. Or so it was reported. The circle officer of the Kervi sub-division and the station officer of the Badausa police station had received President's medals for bravery in 1980. A dacoit named Jhalwan, arrested four months ago, is now in the local jail. An official confirmed the news being discussed by everyone in this town. If he is the real dacoit, then who was the man killed in the encounter? So far, the district administration has not taken any steps to find out. An embarrassed official said: "A letter has been sent to the state government. We do not want to get involved in this.'

THIRD WORLD PRIZE

TANZANIAN PRESIDENT JULIUS Nyerere, who received the Third World Prize for 1981 on Monday, warned that only a disaster could "befall the Third World if it continues to try to catch up with the North. We need to reject the notion that the world's goals have inevitably been set by the technological and social patterns of the North." He was speaking at a function at Vigyan Bhavan.





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Government must reconsider cut in food subsidies, be attentive to risks of high fiscal deficit and relax conditions on state borrowings



C Rangarajan and D K Srivastava

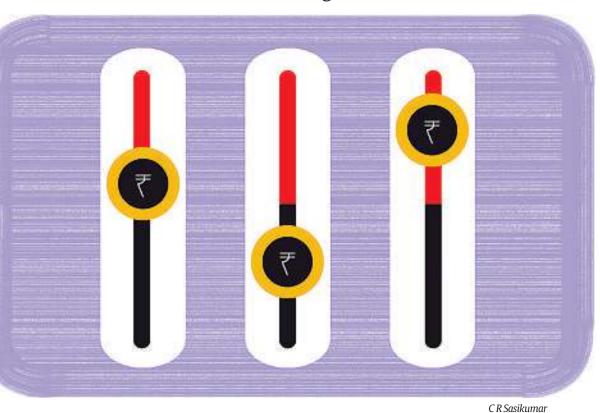
THE BUDGET FOR 2022-23 has been discussed from several angles. In this article, we want to raise three important issues, which have a bearing not only on the current year but also on the coming years. One, is enhancing capital expenditure the best way to stimulate an economy in the current situation? Two, can the government function with a high fiscal deficit for several years in a row? And three, what should be the mechanism to determine the level of borrowing of states?

What stands out prominently in the budget is the emphasis on capital expenditure which is expected to rise by 24.5 per cent over the revised estimates for 2021-22. This is a welcome directional change that continues the trend of the previous year. In 2022-23, 45.2 per cent of the fiscal deficit will be used for financing capital expenditure. In the UK, they have endorsed the golden rule of fiscal prudence under which there would be no limit on fiscal deficit so long as all of it is used to finance capital expenditure. Of course, the budgetary definition of capital expenditure does not fully correspond to economists' concept of it. Even lending is treated as part of capital expenditure.

Enhancing capital expenditure not only creates additional demand immediately but also lays the base for further growth. In the planning era, all our plans were focused on raising the investment rate. Therefore, in principle, augmenting capital expenditure appears to be the right approach. Capital expenditure has a higher multiplier, but it takes a longer duration to work itself out. Revenue expenditure has a lower multiplier, but its impact is almost immediate. In the context of the situation created by Covid-19 in terms of loss of employment and income, a question arises whether revenue expenditure, such as income support for vulnerable groups, should also get high priority.

In the budget, the allocation for MGN-REGA has been reduced. It is possible that as overall production increases, the need for it may come down. If this happens naturally, it is fine. Otherwise, the government should not stint on expenditure in this regard.

On subsidies, the reduction in petroleum subsidies is well taken. But on food subsidies, there has to be a rethink. Thus, there is concern about the reduction in some of the revenue expenditure. As we have argued elsewhere, there is some fiscal space available for higher spending and as revenues increase over targeted levels, revenue expenditures



desirable. Even then it is extremely high. In 2021-22, it is 6.9 per cent of the GDP and is expected to be 6.4 per cent in 2022-23. The norm that we had set was 3 per cent of GDP. As a consequence, the Centre's debt-GDP ratio is expected to be at 60.2 per cent of the GDP in 2022-23 as against the desired level of 40 per cent of the GDP. For the Centre and states taken together, it would touch 90 per cent of the GDP. One can understand the compulsions; the impact of Covid-19 had brought the economy to a grinding halt. In 2021-22, the economy is expected to touch the level of where we were in 2020. Extraordinary measures had to be taken to kickstart the economy. Government expenditures had to rise. But we should not belittle the situation that we are facing.

It is argued sometimes that our debt-GDP ratio is low compared to other countries such as Japan. But that is not an appropriate comparison as tax revenue to GDP is high and interest rate is low in Japan — interest payment on debt constitutes only 4.7 per cent of revenue receipts. The corresponding figure for India, considering the Centre and the states together, was 25.8 per cent in 2019-20. In the case of the Centre alone, interest payments will equal 42.7 per cent of revenue receipts in 2022-23. This is a large preemption, leaving less for other productive expenditures. Such a large public borrowing poses a problem. In 2022-23, the Centre and states will borrow an amount equivalent to 10.4 per cent of the GDP. The savings of the household sector (which is the only surplus sector) in financial assets do not exceed 7.5 per cent of GDP. Thus the borrowing programme can be completed only with the support (though indirectly) of the RBI. This is what we used to do in the 1980s. Such support from the RBI will have an impact on inflation, if not immediately at least with a lag. Of course, one has to take into account its favourable impact on output. At present, the target appears to be to take the Centre's deficit to 4.5 per cent by 2025-26. Even this may or may not be achieved. But will it be adequate? A medium-term plan of fiscal consolidation is urgently needed, showing the period over which a sustainable level of fiscal deficit will

Article 293 of the

Constitution stipulates that states need permission from the Centre to borrow so long as they are indebted to it. Prior to the 12th Finance Commission, the Centre used to borrow for the purpose of lending to the states. The 12th FC recommended that this system be stopped and that at least all major states should be allowed to acquire their entire borrowing directly from the market. It was our hope that as this new system takes root, a stage would be reached when the states would not be indebted to the Centre and that they would then borrow based on their own assessment.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"[New law against fake news] casts a dark shadow on the state of constitutional democracy in Pakistan and makes the citizens vulnerable to greater persecution." — DAWN

Indignity made invisible

The state denies the extent, scale of manual scavenging and how caste prejudice reinforces the practice



Manoj Jha and Pragya Srivastava

THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, we have undergone profound changes in power dynamics and political ideals that have transformed individual lives as well as the idea of the collective. But the modernising forces have been deeply biased. Caste is an overbearing reality. It is not simply a tag of identity but dictates a way of life. It continues to reinforce inequality as a basic value and the allocation of labour is one of its prime manifestations. Caste hierarchy reinforces occupational hierarchy and the idea of occupational purity and pollution are further embedded in the lives of individuals.

As BR Ambedkar pointed out, caste leads not only to the division of labour but of labourers as well. Dalits often face discrimination when seeking employment in sectors that are considered "pure". Manual scavenging or cleaning of dry latrines, for instance, is a job that the Dalit classes have been burdened with. Although the practice was banned under the Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers Act, 2013, the inhumane exercise continues. According to government data, 97 per cent of manual scavengers are Dalits. The breakdown of numbers reveals that 42,594 manual scavengers belong to Scheduled Castes, 421 belong to Scheduled Tribes and 431 belong to Other Backward Classes. These statistics are disturbing, a reminder of our collective failure to rise above caste lines and provide dignity of labour to all. These numbers also beg the question: Would manual scavenging still exist if it was not relegated to Dalits?

Work is fundamental to how we realise our destiny in this world; to provide economically for oneself and one's family is central to dignity — a lack of it leads to alienation and stunted human growth. Dalits are expected to clean dry latrines, carry loads of human excrement, and clear sewage for little or no income. They are trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty and social exclusion. Even when manual scavengers get an education and a degree, the burden of caste is heavy. Ambedkar had observed that "in India, a man is not a scavenger because of his work. He is a scavenger because of his birth irrespective of the question whether he does

scavenging or not".

that is the latest data we have. According to the Census (2011), there are 26 lakh dry latrines and as of 2017, only 13,384 manual scavengers had been identified by the government.

Simple math and logic reveal obvious ex-clusion errors in identifying manual scavengers. In the latest reply to a question in Parliament, the Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment revealed that 66,692 manual scavengers have been counted and the majority are from Uttar Pradesh. Assessments from civil society reveal that the numbers are much higher. Moreover, when questioned about what steps the government had taken to replace manual scavenging by machines, it said that since the practice has been banned, the question does not arise. According to some well-researched media reports, the Indian Railways, the army, and urban municipalities remain the biggest bodies that still have workers engaged in manual scavenging. They either find ways to outsource such work to contractors so as not to be held directly accountable or liable or simply misrepresent such workers as "sweepers".

The government's response reflects a deep sense of apathy. While one acknowledges that progress has been made on mechanised sanitation, to say that the question of updating technology does not arise adds injury to insult. Denial only contributes to the delay in solving the problem. There has been a rushed attempt to declare India 'open defecation free". We have stopped acknowledging that sewer deaths are still a reality. According to the Safai Karamchari Andolan, at least 472 people have died cleaning human excreta during the last five years. One would expect the Swachh Bharat Mission to solve sanitation problems but to exhibit the success of the PM's flagship programme, we have made invisible the labour of sanitation workers.

We are still a long way from the rehabilitation of manual scavengers. The government scheme provides for one-time cash assistance of Rs 40,000, skill development training, and capital subsidy for self-employed projects. But the lack of a reliable database makes these efforts futile. Strict enforcement of the law is also needed. As of now, the provisions for punishment are both weak and more importantly, as highlighted by activists, there have been next to no serious legal proceedings against people and organisations accused of engaging workers for manual scavenging. Activists further demand that the law needs to be read along with the SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, to strengthen it.

The diminishing government support was also evidenced in the 2021 budget – the

directed towards providing social safety nets should be raised. Even on capital expenditure, the government should bring out a separate document listing major projects in which investment will be made not only by the government directly but also by public sector enterprises.

The next issue is the level of fiscal deficit. The question is how long can we continue with a very high level of fiscal deficit. Fiscal deficits are way beyond what was considered to be appropriate under the FRBM Act. The Centre's fiscal deficit in 2020-21 was 9.2 per cent of the GDP. Part of it was, of course, due to some cleaning up operations, which is there is no interest burden on the states. That's a sweetener. It is also appropriate here to recall one recommendation of the 12th FC which was to set up a loan council comprising the Union government, states and the RBI which could take the decision on how much states should be allowed to borrow. This recommendation was not acted upon earlier. This needs a relook.

be reached. "Crowding out" of private in-

vestments may not happen now. But even-

tually, it will become a problem, if we have

governments and the Centre's role in it. The

government has agreed to raise the borrow-

ing limit of states to 4 per cent of the GSDP for

2022-23. But it imposed the condition that

0.5 per cent of this will be contingent on the

states implementing power sector reforms.

This condition is unnecessary. Power sector

reforms are needed and inducement can be

provided through other means. The limit for

2022-23 should have been raised without im-

posing any condition. Article 293 of the

Constitution stipulates that states need per-

mission from the Centre to borrow so long as

they are indebted to it. Prior to the 12th

Finance Commission, the Centre used to bor-

row for the purpose of lending to the states.

The 12th FC recommended that this system

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would not be indebted to the Centre and that

they would then borrow based on their own

Against this background, the proposal in

the budget of the Centre to provide an inter-

est-free loan for a 50-year period needs reex-

amination. If the Government of India feels

that states need to spend more on infrastruc-

ture, they should just be allowed to borrow

more. Of course, under the present proposal,

assessment.

The last issue relates to borrowing by state

prolonged high fiscal deficits.

Rangarajan is former chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and former governor, RBI. Srivastava is chief policy advisor, EY India and former director, Madras School of Economics. Views are personal Caste-based prejudice has been normalised to such an extent that the plight of manual scavengers does not get the attention that it deserves. Both the central and state governments are notorious for enshrouding the problem. There has always been an attempt to fudge the data, and contradictions are found in government data itself. In a reply to a question in Parliament, the government said that there is no report of people currently engaged in manual scavenging and no death has been reported due to the practice in five years. The government carried out two surveys in 2013 and 2018 for the identification of manual scavengers and

rehabilitation fund was trimmed. Further, it is important to understand that this is not just a problem of technology or financial assistance but also of social prejudice. The state must accept the role of caste and should actively solve it.

Manual scavenging in the 21st century sounds an abhorrent alarm about caste domination. The failure to acknowledge it is deplorable. We must show impatience and a sense of urgency. Equality, the dignity of labour, and justice have waited for too long.

Jha is MP, Rashtriya Janata Dal and Pragya Srivastava is a LAMP fellow



Reforms farming needs

Strengthening APMCs will improve access, give bargaining powers to farmers

POORNIMA VARMA AND NIKITA GUPTA

THE REPEAL OF the central government's three contentious farm laws, which sparked more than a year of farmers' protests across the country, has finally cleared the way for a shift back in focus to the much-needed APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) reforms. It is irrefutable that the APMC markets need a revamp and an overhaul. While the APMC model Act of 2003 and APLM (Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing) Act of 2017 have partially resulted in the opening of alternative marketing channels for farmers, several shortcomings still exist. Our field visits to three APMCs in Maharashtra (one of the first states to adopt and implement the APMC Model Act, 2003 in 2006), shed light on several crucial areas that require attention.

First, is the need to increase the number of markets. At present, the country has about 2,477 principal regulated markets and 4,843-sub-market yards. As per the recommendations made by the National Commission on Farmers in 2004, the country needs approximately 41,000 markets to enhance market access to farmers. The density of regulated markets also varies considerably across the country, from 118.78 sq km in Punjab to 11,215 sq km in Meghalaya. The commission recommends that a regulated market should be available to farmers within a radius of 5 km. Currently, farmers travel on an average of 50-

100 km to sell their produce.

Second, improve the infrastructure facilities. Most markets are riddled with a large number of middlemen and multiple layers like *kachcha arhtiyas* and *pakka arhtiyas*. The commission is levied for merely mediating, without providing any grading or sorting facilities to farmers. In principle, quality testing in laboratories is available for online transactions. However, only a very small fraction of the total produce is assessed in labs. The rest of the quality testing takes place through traditional methods of examining the produce by hand. Therefore, APMCs should adopt artificial intelligence machines for quality testing in order to hasten the testing process.

Third, ensure effective and transparent functioning of e-NAM. Currently, 1,000 markets located in 21 states and three union territories(UTs) are integrated into the e-NAM network. But this e-NAM is in shambles, and the market integration to it is limited, with no benefits accruing to farmers. A significantly lower share of trade in APMCs takes place on e-NAM. It is the traders themselves who trade in both online and offline platforms. The government website clearly mentions that markets must have laboratories with computers, crop testing machines and trained professionals to operate them. After getting registered in a market at gate entry, a farmer has to get his lot weighed, the sample crop tested and then wait

for e-NAM prices to be declared to her/him. She/he need not have any knowledge of digital media to benefit from the perks of online trading. It is clear that it is the commission agents who benefit from e-NAM.

Digital interventions and training services are needed to increase farmers' integration into e-NAM-enabled markets. Otherwise, e-NAM will be limited to traders who trade in both online and offline platforms in the form of intramandi trading. While the comparison of e-NAM vs offline auction price data might show more price realisation on e-NAM, such an analysis is flawed: Most e-NAM-enabled APMCs tend to report the auction price of the high-quality lot as the e-NAM price.

Fourth, ensure the minimum support price (MSP) as the starting price for bidding. In principle, while bidding in these APMCs is supposed to start at the MSP for products that are covered under the MSP programme, in practice, traders manipulate and exhibit a tendency to fix a price below the MSP, citing poor quality. To mitigate this, some mechanisms to ensure that the prices do not fall below MSP by a certain percentage, or strict adherence to quality checks, need to be implemented.

In several APMCs, farmers do not need to pay any fee or commission to the commission agents; traders have to pay commission agents. Though this seems as though it would come as a relief to farmers, the fact is that the traders

who have to pay the commission can further depress the price margin received by farmers through collusion.

Fifth, implement reforms within APMCs with direct selling provision. The farmers' decision to sell outside the APMC is largely dependent upon the price difference between the two and bears eloquent testimony to farmers using the APMC as a bargaining chip. The greater number of marketing options are partly the result of APMC model acts, rather than the three farm laws that would have resulted in bypassing the existing APMCs. The direct selling provision of the model acts, without undermining the importance of APMCs, provides an edge to farmers.

As a way forward, there is a need to encourage and facilitate direct selling by farmers without necessarily routing it through APMCs, complemented by the establishment of an effective regulatory infrastructure through APMCs. Such a strengthening of the system will counterbalance the existing imperfect market structure by providing farmers with an effective bargaining chip -- the APMCs - for negotiation and price realisation.

Varma is a faculty and chairperson at the Centre for Management in Agriculture, IIM Ahmedabad. Gupta is a doctoral student at the Centre for Management in Agriculture at IIM Ahmedabad. Views are personal



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEEKER OF TRUTH

I FIRST GOT to know Ravish Tiwari of The Indian Express when I was posted as Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture. He was around 30. He was a very bright journalist, with an exceedingly pleasant personality, and the inquisitiveness that made him a shining example of his profession. The best part was his adherence to truth. He would never report something unless he was convinced that it represented the truth. I instantly liked him on my first encounter. The Bihar connection further cemented it. After I retired in 2012, I stayed in touch with him and sent my views on important matters to him. He was clued into politics and governance issues and his insights also helped me understand these matters.

I have lost a good young friend, a bright star of Indian journalism, a good man, who was self-made, pursued his passion for journalism and not money, and was a seeker of truth. A great soul has left us all early.

P K Basu, former secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & former member, Central Administration Tribunal, via email

UNDIGNIFIED TALK

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'The vicious cycle' (IE, February 22). Elections are now a free-for-all and running each other down is the name of the game. Having said that, it is expected that the nation's PM will be somewhat careful of the words he chooses while addressing the voters. Alas, this is wishful thinking. The sweeping statement made by Modi linking Samajwadi Party's poll symbol, the cycle, to terrorism is like hitting below the belt in a boxing ring. It is not to be argued that Modi is an excellent speaker and his oratorical skills are meant to draw thunderous applause from the masses. But is it necessary to put the dignity of the highest office at stake for this?

Vijai Pant, Hempur

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'The vicious cycle' (IE, February 22). Narendra Modi's linking of the Samajwadi Party's election symbol, the bicycle, to the Ahmedabad serial blasts in 2008, is totally unwarranted. It is not at all expected from the prime minister of the largest democracy in the world. Modi's jibe is also a patently unfair attack on cycles, which ironically most politicians turn to in order to stress their humbleness. MPs frequently cycle to Parliament to strike a feeble blow in the fight against pollution. Perhaps, the SP's bicycle symbol too could similarly pedal its triumphant way past the electoral post on March 10, when UP's votes are counted. Then Modi will have no option but to withdraw his cheap comments.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 **10** The World



MEANWHILE

COLOMBIA DECRIMINALISES ABORTION

Having an abortion is no longer a crime under Colombian law, the country's top court ruled, in a decision that paves the way for the procedure to become widely available across this historically conservative, Catholic country. The ruling by Colombia's Constitutional Court follows years of organising by women across Latin America for greater protections and more rights, including access to abortion, and significant shifts in the region's legal landscape.

OIL PRICES JUMP, NEARING \$100 A BARREL,

SECURITY COUNCIL MEETS, world leaders condemn recognition to separatist territories NEARLY 5,000 U.S.TROOPS IN POLAND, working to set up centres for those fleeing the conflict

highest in more than seven years **EU nations unanimously OK Russian sanctions**

RAFCASERT **BRUSSELS, FEBRUARY 22**

SHOCKED BY Russian President Vladimir Putin's order to deploy troops to separatist regions of eastern Ukraine, world leaders moved quickly Tuesday to impose as forceful a response as possible in hopes of averting a full-blown war in Europe.

The rest of the European Union soon followed, with a first set of sanctions taking aim at Duma legislators who voted in favour of recognising separatist regions in Ukraine, as well as several Russian officials. They also sought to limit Moscow's access to EU capital and financial markets.

"This package of sanctions ... will hurt Russia and it will hurt a lot," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said after chairing a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Paris. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson went as far as naming five Russian banks and three wealthy individuals who the UK

hit with sanctions on Tuesday. The US was moving closer to sanctions too, with the White House calling Russia's troop deployments an "invasion" - a red line that President Joe Biden has said would result in heavy U.S. sanctions against Moscow. Action

could follow later Tuesday. And if Putin pushes further into Ukraine, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg insisted the West would move in lockstep. "If Russia decides once again to use force against Ukraine, there will be even stronger sanctions, even a higher price to pay," he said.

The West insisted Putin's bold



A family crosses from pro-Russia territory controlled by separatists on Tuesday. AP

moves in Ukraine violated countless international agreements and since diplomacy has failed, it was time to move towards action.

Western powers have long made clear the fate of Ukraine wasn't worth a direct military confrontation with Russia and the potential of a world war, so sanctions were the only, limited, option to channel their anger.

"No lows too low, no lies too blatant, no red lines too red to cross." Lithuanian Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte said in summing up the political disgust felt by nations from Europe to North America and the democracies hugging Russia's borders in Asia like Japan and South Korea.

Russia said it was sending what it called "peacekeepers" into eastern Ukraine, but EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell stressed they were "troops" on sovereign Ukrainian territory. "I wouldn't say that's a fully-

AP

fledged invasion, but Russian troops are on Ukrainian soil," Borrell said.



Ukrainians wave their national flag and EU flags, while protesting outside Russian embassy in Kyiv on Tuesday. Reuters

We consider the Donbas part of

Ukraine," the EU official, Josep

Borrell, said in Paris. "I wouldn't

say it is a fully fledged invasion,"

Borrell said, "but Russian troops

are on Ukrainian soil." Overnight.

they were Russian forces.

Russian troops have entered east Ukraine, say two EU officials

POLAND'S MINISTER of defence and the European Union's foreign policy chief said on Tuesday that Russian military forces had entered separatist regions of eastern Ukraine that were recognised as independent states by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia a day earlier.

The officials stopped short of calling it an invasion. "Russian troops have entered into Donbas. China expresses concern, calls for respect for territorial integrity

CHINA ON Tuesday did not criticise orders by President Vladimir V. Putin recognising two separatist enclaves in Ukraine and deploving Russian troops to them. It offered no support either.

footage of army convoys moving through the separatist territories China's foreign minister, circulated on social media, but it has Wang Yi, expressed concern been difficult to determine whether about what he called a worsening situation in Ukraine during a NYT

telephone conversation with Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, according to a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Without mentioning Russia,

Wang called on all sides to uphold the principles of the United Nations Charter, which protects member states' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Germany puts a stop to Nord Stream 2

CHANCELLOR OLAF Scholz said on Tuesday that Germany would halt certification of the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline that would link his country with Russia, one of the strongest moves yet by the West to punish the Kremlin for recognising two separatist regions in Ukraine.

The German leader's announcement came hours after President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia ordered armed forces to the separatist regions, the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics.

Germany's allies in Europe and the US had been pressing Scholz for weeks to state publicly that the \$11 billion pipeline, which was completed late last year and runs from Russia's coast to northern Germany under the Baltic Sea, would be at risk of being blocked in the event of a Russian move against Ukraine. "The situation today is fundamentally different," Scholz told reporters in Berlin. "That is why we must re-evaluate this situation, in view of the latest developments. By the way, that includes Nord Stream 2."

Ukraine's government welcomed Germany's decision. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba called it "a morally, politically and practically correct step in the current circumstances.'

The Tuesday's announcement rescinds the previous government's approval, and the project will now be re-examined under Scholz's economy ministry, which is led by a member of the environmentalist Greens party. The pipeline had been certified by Chancellor Angela Merkel's government before she left office. NYT



How much separatist land will Russia recognise?

THE RUSSIA-BACKED separatists and Donetsk regions that is curwhose independence President Vladimir V. Putin recognised on Monday claim three times more

EXPLAINED sages on what Russia would define as the en-

rently controlled by the separatists, it could deploy Russian forces into that territory without using force. But if it decrees that. as the separatists

claim, the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics comprise the entirety of the Luhansk and

Donetsk regions, then the Kremlin could cite that as jus-The significance of that decision was potentially momentous. If tification to launch an assault

There will be losses': Ukraine braces for war

THE NEW YORK TIMES MOSCOW, FEBRUARY 22

ATOUGH global response to moves by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia against Ukraine began to take shape on Tuesday as European nations prepared to impose sanctions and Germany halted a key gas pipeline, but the Russian leader remained defiant in the face of world-

wide condemnations. A day after Putin red two breakaway territories in eastern Ukraine as independent.

two European officials said on Tuesday that Russia had sent troops into the area, but Russia's Foreign Ministry denied having done so yet. Fearful Ukrainians boarded buses out of the separatist areas even as Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, urged his beleaguered nation to 'keep a cool head" in the crisis.

But at the same time. Zelensky insisted that Ukraine would not yield territory, and his defence minister, Oleksiv Reznikov, ap-

troops for battle.



"Ahead will be a difficult trial," Reznikov, said in a somber message released by the military. "There will be losses. You will have to go through pain and overcome fear and despondency."

Still, there was no immediate sign of major military escalation in eastern Ukraine, and much of the focus on Tuesday was in European capitals, where leaders were preparing what they said would be a harsh sanctions package against Moscow, US and European the separatist regions, the socalled Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics created after Russia fomented a separatist war in eastern Ukraine in 2014.

In Moscow, Putin dismissed what he described as speculation that Moscow planned to "recreate the Russian Empire in the empire's boundaries." "This absolutely does not correspond to reality," Putin said in televised claves' official boundaries. remarks alongside President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan, a for-

territory than they control. As Russian lawmakers on Tuesday moved to endorse the recognition, Moscow sent mixed mes-

In central Kyiv on Monday. NYT peared to be girding his country's

Imran: Will like TV debate with Modi to resolve issues

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Tuesday that he would like to have a TV debate with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to resolve differences between the two neighbouring countries. Khan made the remarks during an inter-

view with Russia's state-run television network RT on the eve of his maiden two-day visit to Moscow during which he will hold talks with President Vladimir Putin and review exchange views on major regional and international issues. "I would love to debate with



Narendra Modi on TV," Khan said. He added that it would be so good

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



Shri Brij Lal, Constable (GD) 23rd FEBRUARY, 2002 Sashastra Seema Bal fondly remembers and cherishes the valiant act of the Brave heart CT/GD Shri Brij Lal, who made supreme sacrifice of his life in the line of duty for Nation on this day in the year 2002. He attained martyrdom in an attack by terrorists when he was deployed at Suleiman

Complex, Srinagar (J&K) for protection of Tele-communication Building near Dal Gate. His gallant act will continue to inspire us all. We salute the valor and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldier.

SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL



23-02-1998

CT/GD S C KONNUE **RSTP RAMAGUNDAM**

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these bravehearts.On this day, they laid down their lives for the nation. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds



Meur's Road,Ranchi, Jharkhand, 0651-2281522, 0651-2282458 iprd123@gmail.com Tender for Strengthening, Automation and Networking of Suchana Bhawan

Corrigendum

Memo No. 284,

dated 22-02-2022 Due to unavoidable reason the last date for submission of Tender for Strengthening, Automation and Networking of Suchana Bhawan published vide PR No. 262090, dated 21-01-2022, PR No. 263657, dated 11-02-2022 & PR No. 264190, dated 18-02-2022 has been extended till 25-02-2022, 02:00 pm. The tender will be opened on 25-02-2022, 03:00 pm.

All terms & conditions will remain same. PR 264581 IPRD(21-22)D Director



2018, he had asked India to sit down at the table and resolve the Kashmirissue, but added it did not vield a positive response.

former

sourced reports by the Calcalist

business daily, which said po-

lice spied on politicians, pro-

testers and even members of

Benjamin Netanyahu's inner

circle, including one of his sons

The paper said police used

Pegasus, a controversial spyware programme developed by the

Israeli company NSO Group, with-

In its announcement, the

"There is no indication

out obtaining a court warrant.

Justice Ministry said the investi-

gation led by the country's deputy

attorney general found no evi-

dence to support the claims.

Prime Minister

Israeli probe finds no sign of police abuse in Pegasus case

JOSEF FEDERMAN JERUSALEM, FEBRUARY 22

AN ISRAELI investigation found "no indication" that police illegally hacked the mobile phones of dozens of public figures, the Justice Ministry announced Monday, contradicting the key claims of a series of explosive investigative reports in a leading Israeli newspaper.

Israel's attorney general ordered the investigation last month in the wake of the un-



ware used by police and also in the Railways website www.ireps.gov.is. found no signs of wrongdoing. ACMS(H)/CLW/CRJ The Calcalist reports Like as on : www.facebook.com/ciwrailways prompted a public uproar. AP

UN expert slams China, Russia for for over a billion people of the subarms sales to Myanmar

> Geneva: An independent human rights expert working with the United Nations is criticising China and Russia for allegedly supplying weapons used by Myanmar's

PT

military against civilians since it seized power last year. Tom Andrews, a special rapporteur working with the UN human rights office, urged countries to halt such sales. He also called on the UN Security Council to hold an emergency meeting to discuss a possible ban on sales of arms used by Myanmar's military against civilians. "The people of Myanmar are imploring the UN to act,"

Andrews said on Tuesday. AP

leaders have condemned Putin's mer Soviet republic that has decision on Monday to recognise close ties to Ukraine and Russia.

Russia chooses to recognise only the territory of Ukraine's Luhansk

against Ukrainian troops stationed at the front line. NYT

23.000 INDIAN STUDENTS STUDY IN CHINESE COLLEGES China promises to 'work for early return' of stranded Indian students

KJMVARMA BEIJING, FEBRUARY 22

CHINA HAS promised to India to work for the "early return" of over 23.000 Indian students stranded at home for over two years due to Beijing's rigid Covid-19 visa ban and assured New Delhi that they will not be discriminated in any manner as their resumption of studies is not a "political issue".

In its first positive communication on the vexed issue of stranded Indian students, mostly studying medicine in various Chinese colleges, the Chinese

Foreign Ministry has informed the Indian Embassy "they are cognisant of the welfare of all foreign students, including Indian students".

'The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of China has assured the Embassy that they are cognisant of the welfare of all foreign students, including Indian, and have also conveyed that they will work on their early return to China in a coordinated manner and will continue contact with the Embassy on this matter," an Indian Embassy press release said on Tuesday.

"Chinese MFA also conveyed

nated in any manner while deciding on the return of foreign students to China to resume their education," it said. The assurance followed the

that the return of Indian stu-

dents was not a political issue

and they will not be discrimi-

Embassy "continuously highlighting these issues with the relevant Chinese authorities in the last two years", it said.

The MFA, too, has made vague assurances in the last two vears whenever the Indian media questioned the delay of the return of the students and the plight they suffered at home despite paying hefty fees. PTI

A BID FOR UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST LATEST FLASHPOINT BETWEEN JAPAN & SOUTH KOREA apan wants to showcase gold mines' history — just not all of it

MOTOKO RICH & HIKARI HIDA

SADO ISLAND, FEBRUARY 22

ABOUT 40 miles off the northwestern coast of Japan, Akiyoshi Iwasaki is eager to share some history of the mountainous, lightning-bolt-

shaped isle where he grew up. After years of lobbying by local residents, Iwasaki, a bar owner, is delighted that the Japanese government has nominated three gold and silver mines on Sado Island for UNESCO World Heritage designation, hoping to showcase them alongside Mount Fuji, the Hiroshima Peace



A gold and silver mine on Sado Island, Japan. NYT

Memorial and Kyoto's shrines. The mines supplied precious metals to the shoguns who ruled Japan during the two and a half centuries when the country was all but cut off from the rest of the world. Yet there is a darker part of Sado's history that Iwasaki, 50, knows little about: the period during World War II when about 1,500 Koreans were conscripted to work in the mines as subjects of Japan's colonial rule.

"People in my generation don't know about those workers in the mines," Iwasaki said.

In Japan, such history is often viewed as best forgotten, or at least consigned to a settled past. But in South Korea, the wounds of Japan's 35-year occupation remain raw, and that has made Sado the latest flash point between these two Asian neighbours that seem irrevocably divided.

When Prime Minister Fumio

Kishida of Japan announced late last month that his country would seek the UNESCO designation, the South Korean government denounced the nomination as "ignoring the painful history of forced labour" and called on Japan to immediately suspend the bid. The spat has worsened rela-

tions that were already at their lowest point in decades. While the US has urged its two allies to work together to help counter the rise of China and a nuclear buildup in North Korea, the two sides publicly aired their differences after a meeting in Hawaii this month with Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken. NYT





New Delhi

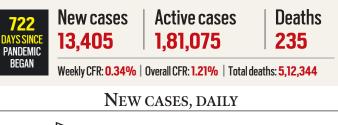
THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 EXPLAINED

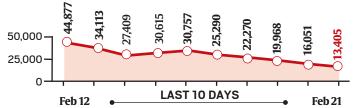
@ieExplained#ExpressExplained

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 21

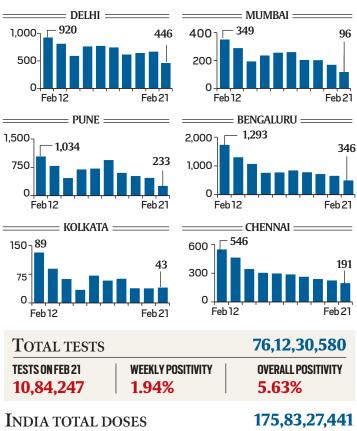




SURGE IN THE STATES

State		Weekly		
	New cases	Active cases	Deaths	positivity
Kerala	4,069	59,729	128	13.15%
Mizoram	1,675	9,628	3	0.06%
Madhya Pradesh	847	6,897	2	1.62%
Maharashtra	806	14,525	7	1.88%
Tamil Nadu	788	14,033	1	1.37%

CASES IN THE CITIES, LAST 10 DAYS



(Adults 1st dose: 90,77,66,680; 2nd: 75,46,81,879; 15-18 age group 1st dose: 5,38,88,975; 2nd: 2,28,28,488; precautionary:1,91,61,419)

First dose Second dose		FEBRUARY 21: 37,01,731	
35,00,000 -	23,73,749	3,25,482	

Ukraine's breakaway areas

Russia has formally recognised the Luhansk and Donetsk 'People's Republics' in Ukraine's Donbass. A look at the history of the troubled region, its connections with Russia, and what the recognition signals to the West.

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

ON MONDAY, Russian President Valdimir Putin formally recognised the Luhansk "People's Republic" and Donetsk "People's Republic", two breakaway areas of the Donbass region of Ukraine. Putin has ordered Russian troops into these areas for "peacekeeping". The deployment is viewed as bringing Russia and the US-European alliance closer to war, even though the international community has not yet pronounced it an invasion of Ukraine. Efforts continue to find a diplomatic resolution to the crisis.

The two areas

Luhansk and Donetsk are areas in southeastern Ukraine, both major industrial centres in an area collectively known as the Donbass that borders Russia. They had declared themselves independent of Ukraine in 2014, encouraged by Russia's annexation of Crimea, but had remained unrecognised by Moscow and the international community. Western intelligence reports have spoken about the presence of Russian troops in these two areas since then, but this was denied by Russia.

Donbass has the largest coal reserves in Ukraine. Donetsk, with a population of about 2 million, is the fifth largest city in Ukraine, and is known for a wide range of metallurgical industries. Luhansk, also an industrial city centred on metal industries, has a population of 1.5 million.

Almost 40% of the people in these two areas are ethnic Russians, forming the largest minority in the Donbass region. While ethnic Russians were present in large numbers in the region even in the pre-war years as part of the industrial workforce, it was after the war, when Stalin undertook a reconstruction of the Donbass, that waves of Russians arrived in the region. Ukraine's role in the war – some sections collaborated with Nazi Germany – may also have spurred the Russian settlement.

The Russian language is today spoken by a majority of the people in the both Donetsk and Luhansk, as even non-native Russians identify themselves as Russian speakers. The affinity with Russia is pronounced both in culture and in politics.

Rebellion against Kyiv

After Ukraine's independence from Russia in 1991 through a referendum following the break-up of the Soviet Union, Donbass became the centre of rebellion against Ukrainian centralisation.

The Kyiv government ignored demands



for devolution of powers and recognition of the Russian language. The 1990s were also a time of economic collapse across the former Soviet Union, and Donbass was badly hit. As Ukraine struggled to get on its feet, it undertook economic reforms under the supervision of the World Bank. As with the rest of the former Soviet Union, state assets were sold, creating a new class of power elites who were politically connected, extremely corrupt, and took control of industries and businesses. A great number of these oligarchs rose up in Donbass.

Ukraine, one of the 15 republics in the Soviet Union, had chafed under Soviet rule and produced one of the earliest dissident movements against Moscow's control. It had opposed Stalin's Russification project of the 1930s. Stalin is accused of genocide against Ukrainians after a famine killed a massive number of people,

After the Soviet Union's collapse, it was the turn of the government in Kyiv to face accusations of excessive centralisation. The oligarchs of Donbass, with their Russian leanings, became the spearhead of the dissidence against Kyiv.

In 2004, one of these oligarchs, Viktor Yanukovych, who would go on to become President of Ukraine from 2010-2014, raised autonomy demands in southern and eastern Ukraine after his presidential win that year was cancelled following widespread protests – known as the Orange Revolution – against electoral fraud. When he became President in 2010, Yanukovych became an advocate of closer economic and military ties with Russia. In 2013, his decision to cancel the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement, and lean closer to Russia and the Eurasian Economic Union, led to a massive



A militant stands at a platform in Donetsk, as evacuees board a train on Wednesday. *Reuters*

uprising in Ukraine called the Euromaidan, and his ouster.

Putin's annexation of Crimea came soon after, in a period in which Crimeans also voted in a controversial referendum to accede to Russia.The referendum was not accepted by Ukraine.

In the civil war situation that prevailed at the time, Donetsk and Luhansk too held their own referendums and proclaimed themselves independent republics. But Moscow did not recognise these two "republics" then, even though the actions were believed to have had Putin's full backing. The two areas have remained in the grip of violence since then between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russia groups backed by Russian combatants.

Minsk Protocol

European powers led by France and Germany took the initiative for peace talks. giving rise to what is now known as the 'Normandy format", under which Ukraine, Russia, and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, also called the Trilateral Contact group, began a dialogue. On September 4, 2014 they signed an agreement in the Belorussian capital Minsk. Also signatories to this were the leaders of the unrecognised Luhansk People's Republic and Donetsk People's Republic. The agreement included a ceasefire and devolution of powers by Ukraine to these areas. But it failed to end the fighting, and collapsed as separatists took control of the Donetsk airport.

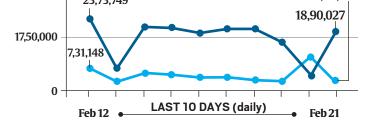
A second round of negotiations led to Minsk 2, an agreement signed in February 2015 by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany, more elaborate than the first on ceasefire, and the holding of elections for local governance. This agreement could not be implemented either. However, the international community believed — at least until February 21 when Putin put his signature on the official decree of recognition of the two "republics" — that the Minsk agreement remains the best way forward.

Putin's formal recognition has paved the way for Russian troops to officially occupy both areas that they have been accused of helping for over seven years. Late on Tuesday, Russian troops were said to be marching into these two areas for "peacekeeping". Concerns have grown over the day that they will not stop at the borders of these two Russian-recognised "republics".

The US had until late on Tuesday not described the situation as an "invasion", announcing only a set of limited financial sanctions against Russia, and continuing to maintain that a diplomatic resolution will continue to be pursued. Germany, the most reluctant of the European Union and NATO members on a military resolution of the crisis, has taken the step that it was seen as loathe to consider — suspending the process for certifying Nord Stream 2, a gas pipeline project that would double its supply from Russia.

Even after all this, Putin may be still hopeful of pulling off a diplomatic victory and getting western powers to address his demands for the restructuring of the European security framework. After all, Europe and the US have continued to engage with Russia diplomatically even after Crimea. Talks between US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Russia Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov were scheduled for this Thursday. French President Emmanuel Macron has suggested another Biden-Putin summit. The world is hanging to the hope that war, whose consequences will be felt across the globe, can yet be averted.

How higher oil prices can hit Indian economy







SANDEEP SINGH & KARUNJIT SINGH MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

BRENT CRUDE prices hit \$96.70 per barrel on Tuesday, the highest mark since September 2014, following Russian President Vladimir Putin's deployment of troops to Donetsk and Luhansk in Ukraine. Amid global tensions, oil prices have surged nearly 40% since December 1, 2021 when it was trading at \$69.50. On Tuesday, the benchmark Sensex at BSE fell by over 1,250 points in the early trading hours and hit a day's low of 56,394, while the rupee fell 33 paisa or 0.44% to hit 74.84 to the dollar. Between January and February, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pulled out a net of Rs 51,703 crore from Indian equities.

Why have crude prices jumped?

The spike has been driven primarily by fears of supply side disruptions as the threat of a Russian invasion in Ukraine looms large. An invasion could also lead to sanctions by the US and Europe. Russia is the world's second-largest oil producer, and prices have been rising over the last couple of months.

There is also concern over the growing imbalance between demand and supply following the opening up and normalisation of the global economy after the ebbing of the Omicron wave.

The price of dated Brent, or physical North Sea crude oil cargos set to be delivered on specific dates, has already crossed \$100 per barrel. The dated Brent benchmark established by S&P Global Platts hit \$100.80 per barrel on February 16, the highest since September 2014.

How will it impact the Indian economy?

The rise in crude prices poses inflationary, fiscal, and external sector risks. Crude oil-related products have a direct share of over 9% in the wholesale price index (WPI) basket and, according to a report by Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis, a 10% in-

crease in crude would lead to an increase of around 0.9% in WPI inflation.

"Our baseline forecast for WPI is 11.5-12% for FY22 and 6% in FY23, which might increase by around ~0.9-1% because of increase in crude prices," says the report.

India imports more than 80% of its oil requirement, and these oil imports account for around 25% of its total imports. Rising oil prices will impact the current account deficit — the difference in value between goods and services imported and exported.

"In FY22, the share of oil imports in India's total imports has increased to 25.8% (Apr-Dec'21) as oil prices inched up. With oil prices on an uptrend again, the oil import bill is likely to swell further... We estimate that a 10% hike in oil prices will lead to an increase of India's CAD by US\$ 15bn or 0.4% of GDP. This will have a negative impact on INR," Sabnavis said in his report.

Higher crude oil prices are also expected to lead to a rise in subsidy on LPG and kerosene.

How do high oil prices impact consumers?

High crude oil prices contributed to the record highs that petrol and diesel prices hit across the country in 2021. Pump prices fell in November as the Centre cut excise on petrol and diesel by Rs 5 and Rs 10 per litre respectively, and most states followed by cutting VAT.

Petrol and diesel are currently retailing at Rs 95.30 and Rs 86.70 per litre respectively in the national capital. Since the tax cuts in November, oil marketing companies have not revised prices, even as Brent crude fell from about \$84.70 per barrel at the beginning of November to under \$70 at the beginning of December. Higher crude prices now could result in higher fuel prices for consumers, even though they did not get the full benefit of the fall in crude prices in November and December. Fund managers, meanwhile, say stock

markets are likely to remain volatile in the near term.

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2014 sanctions didn't stop Putin, new ones may not either: here's why

ANILSASI

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden has signed an executive order to "prohibit new investment, trade, and financing by US persons to, from, or in the so-called DNR and LNR regions of Ukraine", an abbreviated reference to the breakaway regions of Donetsk and Luhansk that were recognised as "independent" by Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday.

The two self-proclaimed republics, where Russian-backed rebels have been fighting Ukrainian forces, are located in the Donbass region on Ukraine's eastern periphery. The White House described the Russian action as a "blatant violation" of Moscow's international commitments, and said that economic sanctions were on the way.

Given that Biden has ruled out putting American boots on the ground in Ukraine, sanctions are the West's most powerful weapon against Russia. But despite threats of "economic consequences like no one has ever seen", there are question marks over how far they can go. What is clear is that Russia's situation now is markedly different from what it was when it seized control of the Crimean peninsula over seven years ago.

2014 and 2022

After the annexation of Crimea in March 2014, the US imposed a series of sanctions mainly targeting Russia's access to financial markets and its exports, especially military equipment. The question is: did the sanctions hurt Russia's economy to the extent the US had expected, and succeed in tempering Russian foreign policy belligerence?

A growing view that the earlier set of sanctions were largely ineffective is backed by the facts of Russia's military build-up over the past weeks, and the brazenness of its decision to recognise the independence of the two Donbass regions. Chances that it will be deterred by Washington's posturing and the threat of fresh sanctions going forward, appear dim.

For one, the two self-proclaimed republics

have very limited dealings with US citizens. The immediate US move to curb investments in that region is likely to be only symbolic.

More importantly, Russia in 2022 is not what it was in 2014-15. Russia was economically far weaker then, going through a recessionary phase following the financial crisis of 2014. The country underwent massive currency devaluation and the Central Bank of Russia burned a lot of forex reserves trying to keep the Rouble afloat.

Since then, Moscow has been able to stabilise its financial system and, as of early February, it had nearly \$635 billion in gold and forex reserves. While possible Western sanctions against Russian banks could lead to a surge in market volatility, Russia will likely withstand the restrictions given its abundant reserves, Finance Minister Anton Siluanov was quoted by Reuters as saying last week.

The sanctions, Siluanov said, would be "unpleasant", but the state would ensure that all bank deposits, and all transactions, including those in foreign currencies, are secured. "Thank god we have enough forex liquidity and enough forex reserves," Siluanov told reporters.

Possible SWIFT ban

According to reports, US and European officials are finalising an "extensive package" of sanctions including, possibly, Russia's exclusion from the SWIFT financial system. The SWIFT system stands for the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, a secure platform for financial institutions to exchange information about global transactions such as money transfers. While SWIFT does not actually move money, it operates as a middleman to verify information.

However, SWIFT operates out of Belgium, and for the US to push Russia off the platform, it would need its European allies to be on board with the decision. Theoretically, being cut off from SWIFT would make it tough for Russians to send money overseas or receive money from outside, and for Russian financial institutions to transact internationally. It could have a cascading impact on Russian

businesses, especially its global energy companies. But the ban must be ratified by Brussels -- and given that SWIFT operates commercially as a neutral platform, it may not be keen to be viewed as an organisation controlled by the US.

Also, over the last seven years, Russia has worked on alternatives, including the SPFS (System for Transfer of Financial Messages), an equivalent of SWIFT developed by the Central Bank of Russia. The Russians are reported to be collaborating with the Chinese on a possible venture, a potential challenger to SWIFT.

Pipeline predicament

The package of sanctions prepared by the European Union in case Russia invades Ukraine includes measures targeting the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer said on Monday. And on Tuesday, Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the certification process for the \$11 billion project would be halted because the "situation" had changed "fundamentally". But that is easier said than done. Germany is almost entirely reliant on natural gas imports, with Russia meeting more than half of supplies to that country in 2020, according to IHS Markit. Some of the gas will also be piped to Austria, Italy, and other central and eastern European nations. Besides Russia's state-owned Gazprom, the pipeline has been built with the backing of five European energy firms: Austria's OMV, France's Engie, Britain's Shell, Germany's Uniper, and a unit of BASF.

Views within Germany differ. The stakes are enormous, and the backers of the pipeline include Gerhard Schroeder of Scholz's own SPD Party, who was Germany's Chancellor before Angela Merkel. Schroeder holds key posts at the Russian state oil company Rosneft and Nord Stream, and has defended Nord Stream 2 in interviews.

It will not be easy for Germany to walk away from the pipeline that is ready to be commissioned amid a continuing energy shortage in that country. Putin is aware of the predicament in the Western camp.

New Delhi





Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Ashwani Kumar S/O, Prayag Chand Chachan R/o 63, Nai Anaj Mandi, Ward No 12, Nohar Hanumangarh, Rajasthan -335523 have changed my name to Ashwani Kumar Chachan for all purposes. 0040603925-1 I DEED KIIMAR SHARMA S/O.SUKHRAM SHARMA, ADD 308, D.D.A FLATS, NEW RANJEET NAGAR.CENTRAL DELHI-

110008, Changed my name to DEEP SHARMA, permanently

0040603931-6

I, hitherto known as UPIENDER SINGH BABRA, alias UPIENDER SINGH son of Jasparkash Singh, residing at J-101. Saket. New Delhi-110017 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as UPIENDER SINGH. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this 0040603944-2 connection.

I, hitherto known as **GURPRAKASH SINGH, alias GURPARKASH SINGH son of** Baljit Singh, residing at J-101, Saket, New Delhi-110017 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **GURPARKASH SINGH. It is** certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040603944-1

I. Dimple Bisht W/o Ashish Bisht R/o 676 Pocket-E Mayur Vihar Phase-2, Delhi-110091, have changed my son's name from Reyansh Bisht to Reyanshh Bisht. 0040603886-1

I,Zeenat Perween D/o Badre Alam R/o-Mohalla Shahqani Post-Distt.Aurangabad, Bihar 824101, have changed my name to Zeenat Ayesha Alam for all-0040603938-5 purposes. I,Virinder Kumar S/o Dhan

Raj,R/o 5C/95, Second-Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to Virinder Kumar Kohli. 0040603933-2

I.Syed shuaib ahamd, S/o- Syed Ahmad mian, Address. FA-14/15 3rd-floor thokar no-4 Abul-Fazal part-1 okhla Jamianagar, new-Delhi -110025, changed my name to Syed shuaib ahmad 0040603933-5

I,Sunita Mehra,W/o-Gaurav Navyer, D/o-Late Vinod Mehra,R/o A-182,Meera Bagh, Paschim Vihar, Sunder Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi-110087, have changed my name after marriage from Sunita Mehra nee Nitti Nayyer for Future Purpose. 0040604001-5 I,Seikh Mafuj Ali,S/o Seikh Livakat Ali.R/o C-128 Kilokari Jangpura, Delhi-110014, Have changed my name to Mafuj Ali, for all purposes.

0040603931-2 I.Saniav Mendiratta. H.No.276/4, Marla Model Town Gurgaon,(Haryana),have changed my Minor Daughter name, from Nishita to Nishita Mendiratta. 0040604005-4

I,SWATI SINHA SPOUSE OF RAJ KUMAR.R/O VILLAGE/PO-NANAND DISTRICT-NALANDA **BIHAR-803115.HAVE CHANGED** MY NAME, FROM SWATI SINHA TO KUMARI SWATI SINHA, VIDE-AFFIDAVIT, DATED.22-FEB-2022

I,Rajeev Saxena,S/o-Hari Ram Saxena.R/o-H.No-E-15. Basement, Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi-110048,have changed my name, from Raieev Kumar, to Rajeev Saxena, for all 0040603933-10 purposes.

I,RAM SARAN, S/O.RITI PAL, ADD-17/2-B SULTANPUR GHITORNI VILLAGE, SOUTH DELHI-110030, Changed my name toRAM SARAN MAURYA. 0040603938-1 Permanantly.

I,Promila/Promila Gupta W/O Parveen Kumar R/O,C-101, Antriksh APPT Sector-14 Extn Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Promil. 0040603931-7

I,Poonam Devi,D/O Sanjay Kumar Dubey R/O,No-77/18,Block-A,Gali.No-1, Stya-Vihar.Burari Delhi-110084.have changed my name to Poonam Dubey 0040603933-7 I,PRITI SINGHAL/ PREETI GUPTA,W/O ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA.H.N-C-709, A-FIRST FLOOR, GALI.NO.3, GANESH NAGAR-II, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092.have changed my name to PRITI GUPTA, permanently. 0040603931-10

I,Nirmala Kumari w/o-Mohan Kumar R/o-373-A.DDA Flats, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096.have changed my name to Nirmal Yadav for all, future purposes.

0040603931-9 I,Naveen Kumar Jain,S/o late Shri Puran Chand Jain R/o C-36, DDA-Colony, West Gorakh-Park Extn.Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Naveen Jain. 0040603931-1 I,Mohmmad Rafique S/o Asgar

Ali R/o G-122/3, Ram Colony, Chattarpur Mandir, Delhi, have changed my name to Mohammad Rafique. 0040603933-1

I,Lalita parakh,w/o kamal parakh.r/o Y-54 1st-floor.hauzkhas,New delhi-110016,have changed my name to Lalita Devi.w/o K.C.Mukim.for all 0040603933-6 purposes.

I,Kritika Sharma,D/o Om Prakash,R/o Village Shakrori.P.O.-Chaba, Tehsil-Suni, Dist.-Shimla, H.P.-171301, have changed my name to Kritika for all purposes 0040604001-4

I, Jaspreet Singh S/o paramjeet Singh R/o-A-256,Block-A Newfriends colony New Delhi-110025, have added chandhok as surname, for all future 0040603897-2 purposes I,Hardeep Kaur,D/o Sohan Singh,W/o Ranjeet Singh,R/o Rz-114/133, Dharampura Phase-1, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043.have changed my name from Sumitra Kaur to Hardeep Kaur, for all purposes. 0040603938-10

I.Gvan.S/O Shri Kuldeepak and Mother name Madhu, R/O-B-8/67,Sector-3,Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Gyan Mehra, S/O Shri Kuldeepak Mehra and Mother name madhu mehra.

0040604001-2 I,Muskaan Thaman W/o-Anubhav Sharma.H.No.G 601. Microtek Greenburg, Sector-86, Gurgaon (Haryana) 122004, have changed my name to Muskaan Anubhav.

I,Ajaya Kumar Mohanty S/o Bishnu Charan Mohantv R/o-Flat-No.188, Pocket-1, Sector-4, Harmony Apartments, Dwarka. Delhi have changed my name to Ajay Mohanty.

> I,AYUSH,S/O.JITENDER,ADD-13/451. BLOCK-13. TRILOK PURI EAST DELHI-110091, changed my name to AYUSH MALHOTRA, permanently.

> > 0040603933-4 I, Tarannum Saifullah Azfar W/o Saifullah Azfar,R/o-Rz-160 plot.No-48/1, Sayeed-Nangloi Paschim Vihar, Sunder-Vihar delhi-110087, have change my name from Tarannum Saifullah Azfar to Tarannum Azfar, for all future purposes

0040603938-4

0040603897-4 I, Surinder Kumar Jetely, S/o Jagdish Lal Jaitly, R/o WZ-81, Gali-7, Janak Park, Harinagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to SURINDER KUMAR JAITLY 0040603888-1 I, Suraj Goyal alias Ram Bhaj S/O Ram Pratap R/o H.No.B-9/378, Sec-3, Rohini, North West Delhi-85. Have changed my name to

Ram Bhaj. 0040603982-1 I, Sunder Lal s/o Kana Ram, R/o F-135-A, (FF), M.B. Road, Lal Kuan, Badarpur, New Delhi-44. have changed my name to Shyam Sunder Bagari.

0040603891-1 I, Sanjeev Kumar Singhal S/o Atma Ram Singhal R/o 1/9667, Street No.6. Pratap Pura. Babarpur Road, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 hereby declare that Sanjeev Kumar Singhal and Sanieev Singhal are the name of one and the same person as per the Affidavit Sworn in before the Notary Public, Delhi on 21.02.2022.

0040603883-1 I, ROSY KOUL D/O OMKAR NATH PANDITA W/O BHARAT BUSHAN KOUL, DOB 06.11.1973, R/O M-2 C-24, Raj Heights, Shalimar Garden Ext.2. Sahibabad. Pasonda, Ghaziabad, UP-201005 have changed my name ROSY PANDITA TO ROSY KOUL for all future purposes.

I, Punita Jain, W/o Shri Raj Kumar Jain, R/o D-93/2, New Govind Pura, Gali No.1, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Pushpa Jain for all future purposes. It is also stated that Pushpa Jain and Punita Jain is the one & same person that is myself.

I, Nikhil S/o Late Mohan Lal Kaushik R/o Flat No.-401, Tower-12, Max City Park Sapphire, Ramprastha Greens, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010, have changed my name to NIKHIL KAUSHIK for all future purposes. 0070774175-1

I, Katyayani Wadhawan W/o Prateek Popli R/o Flat No-321, Guru Appartments, Plot no-2, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi 110075 have changed my name to Katyayani Wadhawan Popli 0070774149-1

I. Charu Raj Krishan alias Charu Sharma Wife of Mr. Ankit Kumar Sharma, resident of Flat No. 403, Block A3, Avalon Garden, Alwar Bypass Road, Bhiwadi Alwar, Rajasthan-301019, hereby solemnly affirm I, Mamta Kwatra W/o Baldev Raj PUBLIC NOTICE R/o-107/5. East Azad Nagar. Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 DTICE is hereby given to all eryone that Mr. Krishore Kur have changed my name to Gupta is the Original and Absolu Dwner of property No. 10-A (GF), DD Flats-C.R. Park, New Delhi- 11001 Mr. Gourav Gupta his grandson o anyone claiming ownership through hi Parul. 0070774174-1 Ruby Kant W/o Girish Ahuja R/o WZ-295, Tihar Village, Tilak shall be void and illegal and anyor dealing through them will do so at the

Nagar, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Ruby Ahuja permanently. 0070774170-1

I Rohit Kumar S/o Ram Krishna Gattani R/o 106. Ground Floor. Pocket-1, Jasola, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Abhishek Gattani 0070774161-1

B. C. Pandey / Bhal Chand Pandey S/O, Ram Lakhan Pandev R/o 8/490 Khichri Pur Delhi-110091 have changed my name to Bhal Chand for all purposes 0040603923-1

LOST & FOUND

It is information that my Original Qualifying Certificate of Secondary, Examination Year-2016 Roll No.6174484 issued by ICSE-Board has been actually lost Srijan Srivastava S/o Saniav Srivastava R/o B-44. FF, Sector-31, Noida,U.P.

0070774172-1 I,Tajinder Kaur Gandhi,wife of Shri Surender Singh Gandhi,R/o-C 43 Third-Floor, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014, inform that, my Original Agreement to Sale duly attested, by Notary Public, New Delhi, regarding of Fourth-Floor, (Half Front Side Portion) of R-31, Masjid Road, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014,has been Lost,if found,contact me+91-9310043335. 0040603933-11 I Rakesh Chauhan S/o Sh. Bhagwan Swarup Chauhan R/o A-1/2, Shakti Nagar Extn., Delhi have lost my Original Relinquishment Deed and Conveyance Deed of above said property. Finders may contact at Mobile No.9810057470. 0040603884-9

I Ravi Chaturvedi S/o Sh. S.C. Chaturvedi R/o E-3/16, 2nd Floor, Balram House, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002 have lost my Original Allotment Letter of Unit No.LGF-103, Hypernova, Sector-94, Noida, Uttar Pradesh Finders may contact at Mobile 0040603884-10

l, Radha Krishan s/o Late Sh. Possession letter, NOC(Water and Electricity)etc.of shop no 0040603889-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022



On behalf of the president of India, DRM (Commercial), E.C. Railway, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya invites e-tender form reputed and experienced firms/Advertisers/ Companies/ Individuals for award of under nentioned work over Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. Details are as under: (1) Name of work with its location and completion period: Installation of LED TV through Commercial Publicity Route for displaying Coach Indication Board (First Part) & Commercial Advertisement (Second part) n 50:50 time slot sharing basis at Gaya station for 05 years. (2) 1st year Reserve price (excluding GST & TCS) (in Rs): 36,714/-(3) Earnest Money (in Rs): Rs. 3,900/-, (4) Date and time for uploading of tender: Upto 14.03.2022 till 15.00 hrs. (5) Website particular, where complete details available: www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (C), East Central Railway, DDU

PR/01719/DDU/COML/T/21-22/28

7770/HRY

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि० CIN:U31200UP2003SGC027460 ई–निविदा सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा निम्नलिखित सामग्री की आपूर्ति/कार्य कराने हेतु ई–निविद नामंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा के संबंध र वेस्तुत नियम व शर्ते निविदा अभिलेखों उल्लिखित है जो उ0प्र0 शासन व ई—प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.ir वं दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि0 कं वेबसाइट www.dvvnl.org पर उपलब्ध करार्थ जा रही हैं। क्रम संख्या, निविदा संख्या, सामग्री ⁄ कार्य का विवरण, निविदा खुलने का दिनांक नेविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि (रूपये मे ज्मानुसार∣ 1. ई0एस0सी0∕ए0∕टी–06 (2021—22), विद्युत भण्डार खण्ड, कानपुर व नन्तर्गत पोल इकाई, कानपुर एवं एक विद्युत ाण्डार केन्द्र से दूसरे भण्डार केन्द्रों व अन्य खण्डों से पी.सी.सी. ⁄ एस.टी. पोलो की लदाई ढुलाई एवं चट्टा लगवाई आदि कार्य 5.03.2022, रू. 5,900.00, रू. 2.40 लाख 2. ई0एस0सी0 / ए0 / टी—07 (2021—22) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता. विद्यत भण्डार मण्डल भागरा एवं अधीनस्थ अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत भण्डार खण्डों हेतु डीजल चलित कार्मिशयल वाहन मय ड्राईवर रखे जाने का कार्य, 15.03.2022, रू. 1,800.00 रू. 10,000.00 | निविदा में यदि कोई संशोध अथवा निविदा खुलने की तिथि में विस्तार होत है तो इसकी सूचना ई—टेण्डर वेबसाइट tender.up.nic.in पर तथा निगम कं बिसाइट www.dvvnl.org पर उपलब्ध करा र्द जायेगी । अधी0अभि0, वि0भं0मं0, आगरा ७ / अधी.अभि.(भं०) / आ / निविदा दिनांकः 21.02.2022 राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें



TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited from firms with professional expertise for Hous Keeping Services at Army Public School Delhi Cantt. Tender Forms can be downloaded from school website www.apsdelhicantt.com. Tender Form dully completed in all respect be submitted to APS Delhi Cantt by 16 Mar 2022 along vith DD (Tender Form Fee Rs 2500/- & EMD of ₹ 1,00,000/-) as Tender Form fee EMD respectively in favour of Army Public School Delhi Cantt. For any queries contact APS Delhi Cantt on 25693777, 8700817317. Presiding Officer

नीलामी नोटिस

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि लघु सचिवालय में स्थित उपायुक्त कार्यालय सै.–12, फरीदाबाद में सरकारी विभागों के कंडम वाहनों/सामान की नीलामी जो दिनांक 03.03.2022 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे की जानी थी। वह अब दिनांक 10.03.2022 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे कमरा नं. 603, छठी मंजिल में की जाएगी तथा नियम एवं शर्तें पूर्व में प्रकाशित नोटिस के अनुसार रहेंगे।

> हस्ता./ कृतेः उपायुक्त, फरीदाबाद।

MAHARASHTRA JEEVAN PRADHIKARAN DIVISION LATUR e-Tender Notice No. 3 for 2021-2022 (2nd Call)

Executive Engineer, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran Division Latur invites e-Tenders for works of Somnathpur Water Supply Scheme Tq. Udgir- Rs. 11,72,05,824/- (Civil & Mechanical Work) under Jal Jeevan Mission Programme in the State of Maharashtra.

The e-Tender details are available on www.mahatenders.gov.in from Dated 22/02/2022.

All relevant dates will be as per the Tender published in web portal:www.mahatenders.gov.in

Date 22/02/2022 (dgipr/2021-22/4604)

- Executive Engineer, M.J.P. Division Latur

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one male namely **Shailender** S/o: Sh. Charan Pal, R/o Gali No. 25A, Swatantra Nagar, Narela, Delhi, Age: 40 years (Now 47 years) Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Normal, wearing Maroon colour Shirt with Strips & White colour Pant and Plastic Chappal in feet, has been missing/kidnapped

from her house since 14 02 2014. In this regard a DD No. 19A, dated 21.03.2014 has been lodged at P.S. Narela Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

DP/1581/ON/2022	Ph: 011-27282350, 27285839
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 243686	
Fax: 011-24368639	••
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in	SHO
website : http://cbi.nic.in	

	🍐 cov	ERNMENT	OF HARY	ANA	TENC	DER NOT	CE 🐤
SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NO		DPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EM (APPROX.) II RUPEES		E NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	THE BALLABGARH COOP. MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD	CONVERSION GENERATING SET DUAL SYSTEM (PI ALONGWITH LAY PIPE LINE 50MM M TRAIN ON TURN K PER SPECIFICATION	T 500KVA ON NG & DIESEL) ING OF GAS NB WITH GAS CEY BASIS AS	21.02.2022 12.03.2022	50000/-	www.vitaindia org.in	a. 9968604725 vitablb@gmail. com
776	D/HRY FOR	FURTHER INFORMATION	N KINDLY VISIT: <u>w</u>	ww.haryanaep	rocurement	t.gov.in or <u>www.ete</u>	nders.hry.nic.in
•	5 cov	ERNMENT	OF HARY	ANA	TENE	DER NOT	ICE 🐄
SR No.		NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DAT CLOSING DAT (TIME)	E EMD (A	UNT/ PPROX.) PEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFI- CER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	GMDA GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF MASTER ROAD AND ROAD SIDE DRAIN	21.02.2022 28.02.2022		l.68 CS	https://www.gmda. gov.in	xen1infra1.gmda@ gov.in

0040603892-1 No.8448839487. 0040603901-1

Hukam Chand, R/O A5-B/69 B, Janak Puri, N.D-58, I have lost the original-Will, demand letter, Possession Slip, 5, Block-A5B/A5C, DDA Shopping Center, Janak Puri, New Delhi58, Vide NCR NO. LRNO. 127905/2022 date -14/02/2022



My client/s Mr. Prem Nath Gulati S/o Mr. Som Nath Gulati is the owner of Property/House No. 5-B Om Vihar Phase-IIA. Uttan Nagar, Delhi, Initially Prop. was the name of **Ms** Salochna Gulati. Later or Ms. Salochna Gulati died urvivor Certificate of Late

PUBLIC NOTICE General Public is hereby informed that My Client Ms. Sharda Brata Ghosh W/o Mr. Ashok Kumar, resident of Vila No. 35, Street 09, Springs 11, Dubai, UAE, is desirous to disassociate from her father Mr. Lakshmi Narayan Ghosh resident of H. N. 63/B/5 Sector 04, Rohini, New Delhi. My Clie Ms. Sharda Brata Ghosh will no be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by her father Mr. Lakshmi Narayan Ghosh. Anybody dealing with him for any matters shall do so at their

Hemant Kishor, Advocate 89, Rajokari, New Delhi. PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to notify to the general public that my clients Sh. Harish Kumar S/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar Mahant and his wife Mrs Renu Mahant both R/o 85 Bhawani Kunj, Pocket D-2, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070 have debarred their son Sh. Nipun Kumar R/o E-182, Dharam Colony, Palam Vihar, Gurugram, Haryana and his wife Shweta Chaudhary from their family, movable or immovable properties and relations. My clients will not be having any relation and concerned with them or any other person having any concern with them in any manner whatsoever. Sd/- SANDEEP SHARMAL

own risk and cost.

Sd/- SANDEEP SHARM ADVOCAT CHAMBER: B-72, B.G. BLOCK, TIS HAZARI COURTS DELHI-11005

PUBLIC NOTICE As per instruction/ guideline of m Client Mrs. Pushpa Devi Bokadi W/o Mr. Bajrang Lal Bokadia R/

Vivek

own risk, cost and consequence. The Gift Deed dated 16.12.2021 is false, fabricated, void and has no lega validity and is revoked. Any persor dealing through Mr. Gourav Gupta shal we no legal binding right on my clie Ir. Kishore Kumar Gupta. Sd/- ROHIT KHURANA (Advoca A-33, Nizamuddin East, New Delhi-PUBLIC NOTICE VOTICE is hereby given to all averyone that Mr. Krishore Kumar Gup s the Original and Absolute Owner

everyone that Mr. Kristiore reading is the Original and Absolute Owner of property No. 10-A (GF), DDA Flats-C.F Park, New Delhi- 110019. By this public interformers/Annuls th Gift Deed date 16.12.2021 registered a Document no. 7053 in Book No. I volum No. 16328 on pages 159 to 167 o 18.12.2021 in favour of Mr. Goura Gupta his grandson. The Gift Deed dated 16.12.2021 is fals abricated, void and has no legal validity. Any person dealing through Mr. Gourav Gupta shall have no legal binding right nm y client Mr. Kishore Kumar Gupta. Sd/- ROHIT KHURANA (Advocate)

A-33, Nizamuddin East, New Delhi-1 सार्वजनिक सुचना मेरी मुवक्किला कके शर्मा पत्नी उमे शर्मा निवासी-एफ-72, F/F वैस्ट ज्वाहार पार्क, लक्ष्मी नगर, दिल्ली 10092 ने अपने पति उमेश शर्मा ह अभद्र व्यवहार, गलत संगत, घर मे शराब पीकर लडाई झगडा करने वे कारण इनसे सभी सम्बन्ध-विच्छेद क लिये हैं। इनके कार्यों/ लेनदेन/व्यवह के लिए मेरी मुवक्किला सपरिवा जेम्मेदार नहीं होगीं।

पवन चौधरी, एडवोकेट EN NO. D 2235/2004

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all concern that my client satya Bhama Gupta W/o Late Sh. Sri liwas Gupta R/o 2408, First Floor, Main ota Ram Bazar, Delh-i 110035, disowned nd severed all relationship with her son namely **Deepak Gupta and his wife Ko Gupta**, and her Grand Son Devank Gupt Niket Gunta and deboard " behaviour & mis-conduct and their natu being disobedient, abusing and quarrellin with my client, so my client have broken i her relations with them. Any person deali and having relation with them in any mann shall be at their own risk, cost consequences and my client shall not treesponsible from any act and dead of them

le for any act and deed of the SURENDER KUMAR (Advo

Enrl. No. D-152/8

0040603938-9

I.Bhanu.D/o Jai Kishan.R/o-H.No.1296-A/II,Tirthankar Nagar, Jain Nagar, Karala, Delhi-110081, in my School Record my father name wrongly mentioned as Jai Kishan Baroda but his correct name is 0040604001-1 Jai Kishan.

I,SURESH CHAND,S/O SHRI.CHIDDU,R/O D-72,NEW JANKI-PURI.UTTAM-NAGAR. WEST-DELHI, DELHI-110059, DECLARE THAT SURESH CHAND AND SURESH KUMAR THE BOTH NAME ARE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON.BUT MY CORRECT-NAME IS SURESH CHAND, THAT MY BANK-ACCOUNT NO.55013572680.

0040603933-8

I.Sargam Chopra W/o Jaspreet Singh,R/o B-30,First-Floor Chander Nagar Janakpuri Delhi-110008, changed my name to Sargam Gulati.

0040603938-2

I,TARUN s/o Naval kishor R/o 7/26 Dakshinpuri New Delhi-62, that I have changed my name to Tarun Kumar for all future purposes. 0040603752-1

LSARBJIT KAUR W/O MANINDERJEET SINGH R/O 8303/29,3rd-FLOOR, RAMSWROOP BUILDING. **ROSHANARA ROAD, DELHI** 110007. CHANGED MY NAME TO SARABJEET KAUR.

0040604005-6

I,SAD AKHTAR,s/0 AKHTAR ZIA,R/o 1440 GALI GONDNI WALI KALAN MAHAL DARYA-GANJ.DELHI-110002.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAAD AKHTAR. 0040603933-3

I,Rajinder kaur W/o Jaspal Singh R/o-A-256 Block-A NEW-friends colony,New Delhi-110025,have added chandhok as my surname, for all future 0040603897-1 purposes

I, Sanjeev Kumar R/o E-443, Budh Nagar, Inderpuri, New Delhi - 110012 have changed my minor daughter's name from

Shivagya to Ginni for all 0040603924-1 purposes.

I. Mohammad Raisuddin Saifi S/O, Chottey R/o C/o: Chottey, D-12, Near Fountain Park Sector-56, Noida, GB Nagar, UP - 201301 have changed my name to Rahisuddin for all 0040603938-11 purposes.

I,Gulshan Khosla S/o Hari Chand R/o Flat.No.27,Plot No.24/3, Bhagyalaxmi Apartment. Sector-9 Rohini Delhi-110085. changed my name to

Gulsharan Khosla, 040604005-2 I,Dimple Malhotra,W/o Vijay Kumar Malhotra.R/o-1/187/4. Sadar-Bazar Delhi-Cantt.New

Delhi-110010, have changed my name to Sudha Malhotra. permanently. 0040603933-9 I,Deepak Kumar,S/o Shri Kirpal Singh,R/o E-10/527, Nehru

Vihar.Delhi-110094.have changed my name to Deepak Negi for all future purposes. 0040604001-3

I.Chirag s/o-Satish Kumar Taneja r/o.H.no-5A-101,Block-A NIT-5 Near Janta Band Faridabad Harvana-121001.have change my name to Chirag Taneja, for all, future purposes. 0040603931-5

I.Chainrai.S/o Amarpal Singh, R/o VPO. Rattanthal. Tehsil Kosli, Rattan Thal (180), Rewari (Haryana)-123301,have changed my name to Chainraj Chauhan. 0040604005-3

I,BANO DESWAL MALHOTRA, W/o SOURABH MALHOTRA H.NO-953.SECTOR-17. FARIDABAD, HARYANA 121002, Changed my name to BANO DESWAL.

I.Aman S/o Raiender Singh R/o M-308 Shakurpur Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Aman Dhilod for all purposes. I, Ajeet Singh S/O Pritam Singh R/O, H.No-1/7, Indira-Vikas Colony Dr. Mukheriee Nagar.

name to Ajit Singh

I Shilpi Barman W/O, Shailendra

I. NAND KISHORF PRASAD NEW DELHI-110010 have Affidavit dated 08.02.22.

0040604005-5 changed my name from Charu Raj Krishan alias Charu Sharma to Charu Sharma for all purposes in future.

Ankit Kumar Sharma alias

Ankkit Sharma Son of Mr Keshav Dev Sharma, resident of Flat No. 403, Block A3, Avalon Garden, Alwar Bypass Road, Bhiwadi Alwar, Raiasthan-301019, hereby solemnly affirm and declare That I have changed my name from Ankit Kumar Sharma alias Ankkit Sharma to Ankkit Sharma for

all purposes in future. 0040603778-2

I. Ankit Chauhan Alias Aaki, S/o Jagdish, R/o-H.No-70, VPO-Palla, Delhi-36, declare that my name has been wrongly written as Ankit Chauhan Aaki in my educational documents. My actual name is Ankit Chauhan Alias Aaki.

Vijander S/o Sh. Kartika Nande R/o B-412, Aditya Apartment, Union Residency, Akbarpur Behrampur, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201009 have changed my name to Vijendra Bijalwan

I. Asha Rani Sharma W/o

Sharma.

Sachin Kumar.

changed my name to Asha

I, Sachin S/o Shiv Kumar, R/o

have changed my name to

H.No-195, VPO-Palla Delhi-36,

0040604005-1

0070774179-1

for all purposes. I Tanay Kushgawkar S/o Shri Brajesh Kumar R/o Qtr No.E9, Type 5B (Ansal Plaza), Hudco Place Exten, Andrewsganj, 0040603931-8 South Delhi-110049 have change my name to Tanay Gautam for all future purpose.

0040603938-3 I, Om Parkash Verma S/o Than-Singh Nagar, Anand Parbat delhi-110005, have change my name from Om Delhi-110009, have changed my Parkash Verma to Om

0040603931-3

Sharma R/o K 504, Amrapali Sapphire, Sector 45, Noida Gautam Budh Nagar Up 201301 have changed my name to Shilpi Sharma for all purposes.

0040603926-1 residing at SMO M-28, CAMERO COMPLEX, SUBROTO PARK, changed my son Name from ALEKH to ALEKH PRASAD vide 0040603920-1

Ms. Salochna Gulati wa not obtained. Any persor having any claim in respec of the above said mentione property thereof by way o inheritance, transfer 0040603778-1 mortgage or otherwise whatsoever, are requested to inform the same in

writing with documentar evidence to th undersigned on below mentioned address withir 15 days from the date o publication hereof togethe with copies of all document on the basis which claim area made, filling which any such right, title, interest, o claim, if any will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on my clients Manoj Kumar, Advocate, Ch. No. 192, Tis Hazari Courts, (Civil Side) Delhi-110054 Vobile No. 9868581889

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Entire Third Floor, with roof rights "said floor" part of Property bearing No. 1/4331, Old No. 1413-P/112-A, and area 0070774176-1 measuring 90 sq. yds., out of 185 sq yds falling in Khasra No 587, situated a Village Sikdar Pur in the abadi of Achary Bhave Marg, Ram Nagar Extension Illaga Shahdara, Delhi-110032 ereinafter referred to as "said property Notice is hereby given to the general publi including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc that, as informed by our clientess, Mrs Alka Gupta W/o Shri GOPAL GUPTA R/C 40603884-8 Gupta Wio Shri GOPAL GUPTA R/O 14331 T/F KH NO.587 RAM NAGAR EXTENSION SHAHDARAAMBEDKAR, GATE BAL GOPAL SCHOOL NORTH EAST DELH-110032, she is the owner and in possession of the said floor vide Sale Deed executed by Mrs. Babita Aggarwain in her favour in respect of the said floor, and registered with the concerned Sub-Registrar of Assurances as Document No. 2796 in Book No.1, Volume No. 1241, pages 95-101, on 11.06.2012. (SRO-IVA) and that since then she is the owner in Possession of the said floor withou tarry objection/s or claim/s by any person in general. Our clientess has further informed us that the said property was owned by Mrs. Babita Aggarwal vide Sale Deed registered as Document No.2688 dated 17.07.2007 executed by Mrs. Kanti Devi in her favour. Now, our clientess intends to mortgage the said floor with IDFC FIRST Bank Limited for availing loan facility. We have been further informed by our clientess that the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any Itigation pending. If any person, society, bank, financtal institution or other institutions have any objection against the absolute ownership of our clientess on the said tour 1/4331 T/F KH NO.587 RAM NAGA 0040603918-1 Banwari Lal Verma.R/o-286/A-3 Prakash, for all future purposes 0040603897-3 I,Gaurav Agarwal,s/o Hanuman parshad Agarwal r/0 1106, sec-9 Faridabad have change name to GOURAV AGARWAL FOR ALL. 0040603931-4 Sandeep Sharma R/o G-4/166 Sector-11 Rohini Delhi-110085

Amit Kumar Khurana, Advocat

stated that her Property's Document named SALE DEED NO. 2785, BOCK-1, VOLUME NO. 365 ON PAGES 35-42 DATED 03.07.2007 REGD. WITH S.R IVA, DELHI, related to Property No. 25, measuring 48-sq yds., situated at Friends Colony Industrial Area, Delhi-95, has been misplaced and not traceable despite of best efforts. If anyone traced the same pls. inform on M.No. 9223373628. Sd/ Mayur Chauhan stated that her

Sd/- Mayur Chaul (Advocate CHAMBER NO. G-308 KARKARDOOMA COUR SHAHDARA, DELF

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform public at large that m client namely Smt. Pinki Alias Poonar W/O Late Sh. Dhanbir Bud Chauha Wo Eale Sin, Dahlbil Ubahla, Rang Pur Malikpur Kohi, South West Delhi, Delhi 110037 debarred and disowned he Married Daughter Sneha D/O Late Sh. Dhanbir Bud Chauhan R/o 586 Chauhae Mehelle. Decen Buri Mellikou Chauhan Mohalla, Rang Puri Maliky, Kohi, South West Delhi, Delhi-11003 (As per the Aadhar Card) from all he Movable and Immovable property du to her Greediness, Criminal Ac dishonest and disrespectful behavic dishonest and disrespectful behavio towards my client. My client also breaks all relation as well as the entire family and taking legal action against he Daughter. My client not be responsible for the eat of the above named person any persons dealing with him do sc entirely at his/her own risk and

SACHIN TOMAR ADVOCATE Chamber -44. Tehsil Building. Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-11005

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informe that my client Smt. Sarla Dhyani the absolute owner of terrace econd floor upto the sky wi proportionate rights in the comm area along with proportiona ndivided indivisible ownersh rights in the land of property bea no. B-1,South Extension Part-1, New Delhi- 110049. Further, my client is vested with absolutely clean, clean and marketable title. Any person any manner dealing with the above mentioned share of my client shall of mentioned share of my client shall d so at his own risks and perils, withou in any manner affecting the rights o my client in the same. Sandeep Sharma Advocate Ch. No. 344, Delhi High Court Sher Shah Road. New Delhi-0 M: 9811022432

"IMPORTANT"

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GUBUGBAM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in 7767/HRY

OF SECTOR 70A

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

WELFARE HOUSING ORGANISATION (CGEWHO)

(Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs)

6th Floor, 'A' Wing, Janpath Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi-110 001

CORRIGENDUM

This is with reference to the advertisement dated 18.12.2021 in the News Papers i.e. The Tribune (Chandigarh), Indian Express (Delhi), The Times of India (Delhi, Jaipur and Lucknow) and Dainik Jagran (Delhi & Lucknow) Competent Authority has extended the last date for submission of application for recruitment of Director (Finance), Dy. Director (Admn.) and Dy. Director (Technical) on deputation basis in CGEWHO from 18.01.2022 to 31.03.2022.

2. The other details/ conditions as stated in the CGEWHO website remain unchanged.

Further details, please visit CGEWHO website: www.cgewho.in.

Chief Executive Officer CGEWHO, New Delhi

davp 20105/12/0014/2122

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, रॉची पूर्व, रॉची। ई0 प्रोक्योरमेन्ट निविदा सूचना

T. Reference No. :- Different Tolas SVS - 37/2020-21(1st Call) Date 21.02.2022

Si.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of BOQ (Rs.)	Time of Completion
1.	Construction of Rural Pipe Water Supply				
	Scheme through D.T./HYDT/GPT/HYGPT				
	Solar based 1 HP/ 2 HP D.C. Motor pump				
	Complete set for different tolas of concern				
	village which is not included in MVS and has				
	no electricity or le ss electricity to supply				
	water 2000 LPH maximum at least 15/30				
	Years for 24 X 7 Supply with 100 % Coverage				
1.1	by TAP Water Facility under J.J.M JARGA SVS GROUP OF SCHEME (ANGARA BLOCK)	1,33,95,100.00	2,68,000.00	10000.00	6 Months
1.1	ASARI SVS GROUP OF SCHEME (ANGARA BLOCK)	29,96,200.00	60.000.00	5000.00	4 Months
2,	Date of Tender Uploading on Website	02.03.2022/04.00		5000.00	4 Monuis
3.	Document Download / Sale Start Date	02.03.2022/04.00			
4.	Bid Submission Start Date	02.03.2022/04.00			
5.	Document Download / Sale End Date	10.03.2022/04.00			
5. 6.	Bid Submission End Date	10.03.2022/05.00			
		,			
7.	Last date of Submission of Cost of BOQ and EMD (in Hard Copy)	11.03.2022/01.00	J PM.		
8.	Date of Opening of Tender	12.03.2022/11.00	AM.		
9.	Name & Address of Office Inviting Tender	Executive Enginee	er, Drinking Wa	ter & Sanitat	ion Division,
		Ranchi East, Ranc			
10.	Name & Address of Opening Officer	Executive Enginee		ter & Sanitat	ion Division,
		Ranchi East, Ranc	hi.		
11.	Contact No. Of Procurement Office	0651-2480155			
12.	Helpline No. Of e-procurement cell	0651-2480345			
त्तोटः—१.	विशेष जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट – http:/	//jharkahndte	nders.gov.i	n पर देखा	जा सकता है
				क अभियंता	
R 2645	537 Drinking Water and Sanitation(21-22)	o पेयजल प	रवं स्वच्छता !	प्रमंडल, रॉच	गी पूर्व, रॉची



objection against the absolut ownership of our clientess on the sai floor and subsequently rightfu mortgage of the sald floor in favour of IDFC FIRST Bank Limited by out clientess, may raise linker of up of objection/s, In writing, by Registered AE post, to the undersigned, within 14 days on address mentioned below. Otherwise after expiry of 14 days from the date o publication of this notice, the said floo shall be mortgaged by our clientess in favour of IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd. and no objection shall be acceptable again such mortgage

> M/s Intellective Law Offices A-74 LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi-24

SILVER

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 13 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 57,300.68 ▼ 382.91 (0.66%) NIFTY: 17,092.20 ▼ 114.45 (0.67%) NIKKEI: 26,449.61 ▼ 461.26 HANG SENG: 23,520.00 ▼ 650.07 FTSE: 7,500.97 ▲ 16.64 DAX: 14,706.75 ▼ 24.37

SECTOR WATCH AVIATION

Kyiv evacuations: First AI flight lands, two more to fly out



Air India flight passengers from Kyiv arrive at the Delhi airport on Tuesday. Gajendra Yadav

'High levels' of tension

On Sunday, India asked the

family members of embassy

officials in Ukraine - as well as

students and citizens whose

stay is not vital – to leave the

eastern European nation amid

its rising tensions with Russia.

The directions to students and

other nationals came from the

Indian Embassy in Kyiv on

Sunday and this was its second

advisory in a week with a

stronger tone than the previ-

ous one - citing "high levels"

of tensions and uncertainties.

Tensions remained high

especially after Monday

evening when Russian

President Vladimir Putin

signed a decree recognising

two Russian separatist-held

order blocking trade and in-

Renault has a 69 per cent stake,

said on Tuesday it was looking to

secure different supplies of semi-

dairy

clamps down on electronic

Situation in Ukraine

PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

AIR INDIA'S flight to Ukraine, which had departed on Tuesday morning from Delhi to evacuate Indian citizens and family members of the Indian embassy staff from Kviv, landed at Delhi airport around 11.40 pm with 240 passengers.

The evacuation plan

This is the first of three evacuation flights to be operated and two more flights are planned later this week on Thursday and Saturday. The flight, which is being operated on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner with 256 seats. reached Boryspil airport in Kyiv on Tuesday evening and evacuated Indian citizens from there.

Bookings via Air India

Air India has said bookings on these flights were opened through its booking offices, its official website, call centres and authorised travel agents.

WATCHING CRUDE; UKRAINE SITUATION ANOTHER HEADWIND: FM **LIC IPO to go ahead; worried** if market situation conducive'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 22

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the government will go ahead with the initial public offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) amid concerns being raised over the possible impact of the escalating tension between Russia and Ukraine. She, however, said the government is "equally worried if the market situation is conducive".

"The LIC draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) is out and we are seeing quite a buzz in the market about it. We are moving ahead with it," said Sitharaman.

On February 13, LIC had filed its DRHP with the market regulator. The government plans to sell nearly 5 per cent stake in the life insurance giant for around Rs 65,000 crore, which could make it the most valuable company in the country.

Sitharaman said that the government is watching the Russia-Ukraine crisis closely. On being asked about its impact on trade. the Finance Minister said the Russia-Ukraine impact was yet to



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das at the Financial Stability and Development Council meeting. PIB

be felt on trade and added that the government is careful that exports do not suffer.

Sitharaman added she is looking into corporate governance lapses at the National Stock Exchange when Chitra Ramkrishna, its former MD & CEO. was at the helm, and if adequate corrective action was taken by the regulator. She said: "Although you would perceive that charges involving NSE matter are well established, I do not want to preempt the matter. I am going through the details and will come

back after that." Ramkrishna has come under the scanner of multiple investigating agencies on allegations of leak-

ing confidential information of the biggest crude oil suppliers outside exchange to a third party.

On Tuesday, Sitharaman also chaired a meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) in Mumbai.

Sitharaman said that increasing crude prices was discussed at the FSDC meeting. 'Very difficult to say how the crude prices are going to be; have

to see how crude oil prices go; will keep a watch. Crude was one area which the FSDC looked at; situation in Ukraine is another headwind," Sitharaman said.

Crude oil prices have recently been on the rise due to the escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine. Russia is one of the

oil cartel OPEC. On the issue of extension of

compensation cess collection, the finance minister said the GST council had decided that the compensation cess collection will continue up to March 2026. "This has been decided to meet the shortfall in compensation cess collected and to pay the interest on borrowed money." said Sitharaman.

GOLD

On compensation to the states, Sitharaman further said that finance ministers of every state are present in the GST Council and there is no room for preferential treatment for any of the states. "What is applicable for one state is applicable for all," she said.

IT Min pitch for 'value-added' data sale: Opinion divided over contours, risks

OIL

DRAFT INDIA DATA ACCESSIBILITY & USE POLICY

Section 10 (1993)

Note: Gold, silver rates at Mumbai spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of February 21

THE CONCERNS ■ India is yet to finalise

the countours of a data

pushback from Big Tech

monetisation of large-

scale data collection

model, similar to the

one proposed by the

ators of the data very easy.

"The stress on High Value

Datasets is also worrying since of-

ten the most sought after datasets

are those that contain sensitive

personal data of individuals, for ex-

ample medical history, financial

data. Considering a number of per-

sonal and sensitive personal data

will be shared, the anonymisation

standard should be of the highest

possible standard," said Shweta

Mohandas, a researcher at the

Centre for Internet and Society.

protection law

Policy could face

companies whose

business model is

based on the

IT Ministry

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

AASHISHARYAN&

RUPEE

₹74.84

 \odot

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and Information Technology's proposal to monetise data collected at the Central level has data policy and other experts divided. While some policy experts have said that the new policy will encourage data sharing among government departments and potentially help the investor ecosystem, others are wary of the state's control extending further as there will be a financial incentive to collect more data.

What are the concerns flagged on draft of the India Data Accessibility and Use Policy?

One of the major concerns most experts flagged is that the new draft policy has been announced at a time when India is ve to finalise the contours of a data protection law. The policy, they said, could also face pushback from big tech companies whose business model is based on the mon-

tion model, similar to the one proposed by the IT Ministry. "The government had made its intentions of monetising data clear quite some time back. The thought process to consider nonpersonal data as community or

etisation of large-scale data collec-

national resource, in itself is commendable. EXPLAINE However, data monetisation should not happen at cost of individual privacy," said Salman Waris, partner at TechLegis.

The idea of monetising citizens data for greater public good was first floated by the government in the Economic Survey of 2018-19, which had noted that since such data is generated and belongs to the people, it should be used for the people. The survey had also noted that private sector could be granted access to "select data-

a "perverse incentive for the gov-

ernment to collect mo

bases" for commercial use. The problem with this, said Apar Gupta, executive director at policy advocacy group Internet Freedom Foundation, is that it gives

Apart from suggesting that the data, which has been collected by e Central government and dergone some value addition, be allowed to be sold for some price, the draft suggests new framework for identifying "high value dataset" on the basis of the data's degree of importance in the market.

56,900 regions - Donetsk and troops into two breakaway regions Luhansk - in Ukraine as indein eastern Ukraine, tempered by a 56.438.64 pendent. Following this, US 56,300 declaration from Germany's President loe Biden on Chancellor that the nation would Oper Close Feb14 not certify the \$11 billion Nord Monday signed an executive

SENSEX

57,500

trade, as per a *Reuters* report. The



nerable than other regional indices due to the country's heavy reliance on Russian gas supplies and lack of energy companies on the index,

Fuel demand expected to grow 5.5% next fiscal

The country's fuel demand is likely to grow 5.5% in the fiscal year beginning April 1, as economic activity picks up after devastation caused by Covid. as per PPAC stimates

low 1.85 per cent. REUTERS & PTI

DEMAND FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS grew by 4.9% in first nine months of fiscal 2020-21with fuel consumption at 148.3 million tonnes (MT) in April-December 2021, and 194.3 million tonnes in FY21

On Wall Street, at 1:26 pm ET,

the Dow Jones was down 494.94

points, or 1.45 per cent, at

33,584.24. The yield on 10-year US

Treasury notes rose 2.1 basis points

to 1.951 per cent, after an early

morning price jump sent vields be-

Some experts also pointed to the lack of details on what constitutes value addition and the pricing or licensing mechanism

on the same. "While this is an interesting manner in which the government can monetise the wide range of data it currently

holds, it remains to be seen how the pricing mechanism would work. It is important to understand that datasets can not be priced uniformly, and the value of a particular dataset varies depending on the context in which it is solved," said Kazim Rizvi, founder of public policy think tank The Dialogue.

What does the draft of the India Data Accessibility and Use Policy propose?

Russia-exposed cos wary hind the Lada brand in which

Stream 2 pipeline.

AGENCIES

LONDON/MUMBAI, FEB 22

OIL ROSE to its highest since 2014

on Tuesday after Moscow ordered

of its employees. Britain's BP, the largest foreign investor in Russia with a 19.75 per cent stake in state-run oil giconductors in case Washington ant Rosneft, declined to com-

nent when scled shout n

vestment in the regions. India Brent crude, the global benchmark, was up \$1.26, or 1.3 per cent, has called for restraint on all sides at an emergency meetat \$96.65 by 11:13 am EDT, having earlier reached its highest since ing of the UN Security Council. September 2014 at \$99.50.

The Russian rouble on Monday suffered its biggest one-day drop since the Covid outbreak, but it regained some ground in volatile

Ukraine fears: Stocks tank, oil nears \$100 ₹VS\$ inverted scale intra-day

was hit the hardest, falling 0.9 per cent intra-day. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 0.4 per cent. Meanwhile, the Sensex closed

lower by 382.91 points or 0.66 per cent at 57,300.68 points. The rupee depreciated by 29 paise to close at 74.84 against the US dollar, as per a *PTI* report.

is to shield their businesses from new Western sanctions.

London: Foreign companies with

exposure to Russia were poring

over contingency plans on

Tuesday, with some looking at

whether to shift production or

Renault's carmaker Avtovaz, Finland's Nokian Tyres . Coca-Cola HBC and German retailer Metro all said they were watching the Ukraine situation closely. Avtovaz, the carmaker be-

BRIEFLY -

RBI caution

Nestle declined to comment tial new sanctions.

on sanctions and said the safety Anglo-Dutch oil company of its staff was its highest prior-Shell owns 27.5 per cent of the ity. Danone, the world's biggest Sakhalin-2 liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, which has an anvoghurt maker which controls nual capacity of 10.9 million brand Prostokvashino, said it too was tonnes and is operated by focused on ensuring the security Gazprom. REUTERS

IN 2019-20, India had consumed 214.1 MT of petroleum products such as petrol, diesel and LPG

PETROL SALES is expected to rise 7.8% to 33.3 MT in FY23 Source: PPAC/PTI

Grover also sought the SIAC's

director of the company, pending

the arbitration. Grover's decision

to move the Singapore court

comes after a fight ensued be-

tween him and the board. FE

data", which, in turn, may lead to further imbalance of the power imbalance between the state and the citizens. "The core problem with the government selling citizens' data is the revenue generation. The political risk of gathering more information is well established. The problem with this policy particularly is that when you start selling citizen data. even if anonymised. the government gets into business its making money. And once you start making money, it's very hard down the independent commitfor you to reduce that activity or to tee appointed by the board. In adregulate it in a manner where you dition, it sought an order directing are impartial to the public," Gupta the BharatPe board "not to rely on told The Indian Express. the reports delivered by the

Experts have also flagged concerns around the lack of proper standards and framework on data anonymisation, and said that it is possible that such data may be "reverse-engineered", thereby making re-identification of the gener-

The draft also suggests that a new framework for identifying "high value data-set" on the basis of the data's degree of importance in the market be put in place.

The draft has also suggested setting up of a Central India Data Office will be created under MeitY, while all the Central government's line ministries will have to form their respective Data Management Unit, which will be headed by a Chief Data Officer. These chief data officers along with the India Data Officer will together form the India Data Council, which will decide on the policy matters of data accessibility and its usage. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 41,42/2021-2022/KWA/PHC/TVLA(RT-1). JJM-2021-2022 Pipe Line Extensions and Providing FHTCs at various places in Elanthoor and Mallappuzhassery Grama Panchayaths. EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/-, 2,00,000/-Tender fee : Rs. 16,800/-, 11,200/-. Last Date for submitting Tender : 07-03-2022 02:00:pm. Phone : 0469-2600162. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in. Superintending Engineer KWA-JB-GL-6-1084-2021-22 PH Circle, Pathanamthitta



Head Office, Information Technology Department, Star House 2, C-4, "G" Block, 8" Floor, Bandra - Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400 051, E-mail: Headoffice.it@bankofindia.co.

TENDER **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) NOTICE**

BANK OF INDIA INVITES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR "Selection of Vendo for Printing and Supply of Personalised and Non-personalised Chip Based EMV Contact Contactless/ Dual Interface (DI) Debit card and Pre-paid, NFC Tags including Collater and Administration" Last date for submission of RFP 11.03.2022 by 05:00 PM Details available on Bank's Corporate Website: www.bankofindia.co.in under "Tende



e-Procurement Re- Tender Notice

Lr.No : 58/TA/Stores/MLP & AC/2022-3, Dt.: 19-02-2022 Online tenders are invited in 2 bid system for supply of 70GSM Maplith Printing Paper (with Akademi Logo) in Reels and Art Card in Sheets (150 GSM & 200 GSM) from Type A Manufactures as per IS 1848;2007 on "All India Basis" for the Academic Year 2021-22. Last Date for Submission of Online Tenders is 02.03.2022 upto 04.00 PM. Details can be downloaded through www.eprocurement.gov.in from Dt. 23-02-2022 at 11.00 AM onwards . (Paper Tender ID : 298474)

DIPR No. : 2731-PP/CL-Agency/Advt./1/2021-22

Sd/- Director Telugu Akademi

BHARATPE CO-FOUNDER SEEKS TO QUASH COMPANY'S PROBE INTO ALLEGED FINANCIAL FRAUD Grover files plea in Singapore arbitration centre

New Delhi: The RBI said Gurgaon-registered 'sRide Tech Pvt Ltd' is operating a pre-paid instrument (wallet) through its car-pooling app 'sRide' sans obtaining required permissions, as it cautioned the public against using applications issued by unauthorised entities.

RARCLplea

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal set aside an NCLT order that rejected an appeal Reliance Asset by Reconstruction Company Ltd(RARCL)to initiate insolvency proceeding against Narendra Plastics.

Vistara hiring

New Delhi: Vistara plans to ramp up its staff to 5,000 by year end, from 4,000 at present, CEO Vinod Kannan said

BPCL, Hero

New Delhi: BPCL and Hero MotoCorp have tied up to set up charging infrastructure for two-wheeler EVs. PTI

Canada DST plan

Bengaluru: The office of United States Trade Representative (USTR) said it opposed Canada's plan to enact a digital services tax (DST) and urged it to abandon plans for such a step. **REUTERS**

SALMANSH

Russian

BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 22

EVEN AS BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover has filed an emergency plea before the SIAC seeking to quash the company's investigation into an alleged financial fraud and mishandling of company funds, the two parties are understood to be moving closer to an out-of-court settlement.

Grover will likely seek indemnity from any future liabilities while selling his stake back to the company. Grover, who owns around 9.5 per cent in BharatPe, had reportedly asked the board to buy out his shareholding for Rs 4,000 crore in cash. Grover is also

exploring options with external investors to buy out his stake, according to multiple news reports. In his pleas before the Singa-

pore International Arbitration Centre(SIAC), Grover said the "review committee" formed by the BharatPe board earlier this month, to look into the allegations of financial fraud, was violative of the terms approved under the shareholder's agreement (SHA).

FE has reviewed a copy of the



Ashneer Grover will likely seek indemnity from any future liabilities while selling his stake back to BharatPe. via Twitter @Ashneer_Grover

plea document submitted before the arbitration court

"The Review Committee which is constituted in violation of the terms of the SHA, continues to act Review Committee in its current to the detriment of the Claimant. form and constitution..." The Claimant stands to suffer extreme prejudice if the operation of the Review Committee is not intervention to keep in abeyance prevented and stands to suffer irthe appointment of Suhail Sameer reparable harm and damage," the as director asking he be restrained from discharging any functions as plea before the SIAC court read.

The plea also quoted various clauses under the SHA and the articles of association (AoA) between Grover and the company as the primary basis to strike

UAE to benefit from lower tariffs

rules

www.indianexpress.com

India's

Full report on

Other key developments

'Swiggy eyes \$800 mn IPO

early next yr' that this deal contains strict rules Bengaluru: Swiggy has started of origin to prevent other countries from using the agreement to preparations to raise at least \$800 reroute their exports through the

million in an IPO early next year, the Nikkei reported on Tuesday, citing sources

Swiggy has begun adding independent directors to the board, and plans to position itself as a logistics company and not just a food delivery firm, according to the report. The company did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Swiggy doubled its valuation to \$10.7 billion in its latest funding round, Reuters reported last being month, citing sources.

Rival Zomato Ltd, which saw a stellar market debut last year has struggled to keep the momentum going. **REUTERS**



UAE FTA likely in force by May: First ever with digital chapter; 10 lakh jobs expected Boost to bilateral trade value. The deal, which is likely to

KARUNJIT SINGH NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

INDIA AND the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have signed a Compre-

hensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with the aim of increasing bilateral merchandise trade to \$100 billion by 2030.

chandise and services by 2030.

as textiles and garments where Indian exporters have thus far been facing a competitive disadvantage in import tariffs.

Significance of the pact

The India-UAE CEPA marks the first trade pact India has made with a major trading partner in over a decade. The last major free trade agreement (FTA) India inked was with Japan in 2011. The CEPA is the first in a series of FTAs that India is pursuing to boost exports sharply to \$1 trillion each in merThe UAE is set to eliminate ducome into effect in the first week of May, is expected to generate "an additional 10 lakh jobs" in India.

'Sensitive' goods excluded

India has excluded certain goods from the agreement through a "sensitive list" of products amounting to 10 per cent of tariff lines that are excluded completely from the agreement.

Certain other areas such as those that have seen sharp growth in domestic production or areas where the government is incentivising manufacturing through production-linked incentive schemes have also been excluded.

Mechanisms to avoid misuse

The India-UAE CEPA marks the first time India has included a chapter on digital trade in an FTA, indicating willingness to discuss this topic in bilateral agreements. India

has previously refused to enter discussions on e-commerce at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over concerns that ecommerce proposed at the WTO could harm domestic trade.

The Centre has emphasised

ties on 80 per cent of its tariff lines that account for 90 per cent of India's exports to the country by value. This is important for exports in highly competitive areas such

Commerce Secretary BVR

Subrahmanyam said Indian tex-

tile and leather exports face 5 per

cent duty in the UAE, while prod-

ucts from Bangladesh and

Vietnam have zero duty access.

Zero duty access for Indian prod-

ucts to the UAE is set to expand

over 5-10 years to 97 per cent of

the UAE tariff lines corresponding

to 99 per cent of India's exports by

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY Dated: 18/02/2022 **E-TENDER NOTICE**

tender is invited from reputed a experienced contractor by the undersigned, for and on behalf of the president of India, for the following vork:- Tender No.: ELECT-GEN-BPL-1 06-2022. Name of work: Bhopa division- Replacement of old powe supply cables at various railway stations Completion Period: 04 Months Estimated Cost in Rs.: 73,48,274.32 Earnest Money in Rs.: 1,47,000/- Date and Time for closing of tender 16/03/2022 at 11:00 hrs. Validity o offer: 45 days. The details of complete tender documents and its related information may be seen at https:/ www.ireps.gov.in and notice board o this office. Manual offer, for above said tender is not acceptable and if any manual offer submitted, will not be considered. Corrigendum/ Updating, i equired, will be uploaded on website, it may be seen at above said URL and notice board of this office, till the date of closing of tender. Since this contract i above Rs. 50 lakhs so as per para 10 c GCC eligibility criteria will be applicable

Before participation in tender, contracto first read this condition. Documents for ame should be uploaded on the IREPS website, by the contractor. Uploade documents will be considered for finalization of tender, only. The brief o same has also been given in the specia condition attached with the tender.

Like us on : 👔 facebook.com/WesternRly DRM's Office, West Central Railway, Bhopal Near Railway Crossing (Naka), Habibganj On behalf of President of India

Any Food Related Complaint, Pleas Call Toll Free Helpline 1800111321

E-Tender Notice No. CRW-HRT-M-CRS For and on behalf of President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut invites open e tender for the following works as detailed (1) Name of work with its location Corrosion repair work, Refurbishing work o coaches by outside agency & Supply installation and commissioning of Ventury type natural ventilation in lavatory of coaches as per Eco Railway (MCW Drawing no. MW-M-1-15 & MW-M-1-16" fo 03 years through open e-tender basis at Carriage Repair Workshop Harnaut. (2) Approx. Cost of the work: Rs 2,15,46,225.00 (Rupees Two Crore Fifteen Lakh Forty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Five only), (3) Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 2,57,700.00 (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty-Seven Thousand Sever Hundred only), (4) Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: The tender have to be submitte online on www.ireps.gov.in website up to 12.00 hrs. on 14.03.2022 and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 hrs. (5) Website particular. Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: www.ireps.gov.in & full details of notice can be seen on notice board in the office of chief Workshop Manager, Administrative Building, Carriage Repai Workshop, Harnaut, Nalanda, Bihar 803110. All corrigendum will be uploaded or

Carriage Repair Workshop/Harnaut PR/01720/HRT/MECH/T/21-22/48

डीजल चलित वाहन मय चालक किराये प उपलब्ध कराने हेतु ई−निविदा संख्या ⁄ निविदा का संक्षिप्त विवरण क्रमानुसार निम्नवत है:-(1) नि0सं0 विनविमंअ-68 / 2021-22 . अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत नगरीय वितरण खण्ड – प्रथम, अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ (2) नि0सं0 विनविमंअ-69 / 2021-22 उपखण्ड अधिकारी, उपखण्ड—प्रथम, बाराद्वारी अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ। (3) नि0सं0 विनविमंअ-उपखण्ड अधिकारी, उपखण्ड

नियम 9	92 (1) (क) (ii))			CORRIGENDUM
ई—निविदा आन मध्यप्रदेश शासन, iiक 67 दिनांक : 21-02-202	नगर पालिक निगम	।, ग्वालियर	: 21-02-2022	E-Tender No.: EPC_WR_SnT_01R Dated: 07/02/2022, It is notified that there is an
निर्माण	समय व दिनांक	संभावित राशि	पूर्णता अवधि (माह)	addition of attachments in the tender document Please visit www.ireps.gov.in
14-ग्रामीण विधानसभा प्रंतर्गत विभिन्न स्थानों पर 11उण्ड्रीवॉल निर्माण कार्य।	दिनांक 19.02.2022	1,78,27,943/-	365 दिन	for further details. All other terms & conditions will remain same. D-0735 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly
ता वेबसाइट http://gmc.mpt	enders.gov.in पर एनआईर्ट	देख सकते हैं।		WESTERN RAILWAY

इच्छुक बोलीदाता वेबसाइट http://gmc.mptenders.gov.in पर एनआईटी देख एनआईटी में संशोधन, यदि कोई होता है, तो केवल, वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जायेगा और समाचार पत्र में नहीं। 3. किसी भी स्पष्टीकरण की आवश्यकता हो तो कृपया नगर पालिक निगम, ग्वालियर में सम्पर्क करें। मख्य समन्वयक अधिकारी, ग्रामीण विधानसभा, नगर निगम, ग्वालियर

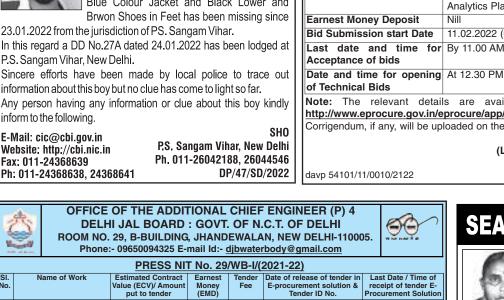
छावनी परिषद् कार्यालय, दानापुर छावनी पटना, बिहार - 801503 (i) बस, मैक्सी (ii) टैम्पू, टैक्सी एवं (iii) हॉकिंग शुल्क वसूलने हेतु

निविदा ई-नीलामी सूचना

दानापुर छावनी परिषद् का निविदा वार्षिक वर्ष 2022-23 के लिए (i) बस, मैक्सी, (ii) टैम्पू, टैक्सी एवं (iii) हॉकिंग शुल्क वसूलने को ई-नीलामी माध्यम से आवंटन हेतु कार्यालय पोर्टल eChhawani_Danapur एवं पोर्टल https://eauction.gov.in/eauction/#/ पर प्रकाशित की जा चुकी है। संबंधित महत्वपूर्ण तिथियों के साथ अन्य आवश्यक विवरण eChhawani Danapur एवं पोर्टल https://eauction.gov.in/eauction/#/ से प्राप्त करने हेतु पोर्टल पर जाएं। उक्त ठेका हेतु प्रारंभिक तिथि 18.02.2022 से 04.03.2022 तक की तिथि अंकित है जिसमें नीलामी तिथि

अपर पत्रांक सी.बी.डी./टी.एस./ब.मै.टे.टे./नीलामी	मुख्य अधिशार्स
442	अधिकारी
दिनांक 2022 दानापु	र छावनी परिषत

	/105/2019-DM&A Tent of India
	Aayog
	arg, New Delhi
e-i ENL	DER Notice
Tender ID	2022_NITIA_673303_1
Name of the work	Selection of Project Management
	Consultant for National Data
	Analytics Platform
Earnest Money Deposit	Nill
Bid Submission start Date	11.02.2022 (6.00 pm) onwards
Last date and time for	By 11.00 AM on 29.03.2022
Acceptance of bids	
Date and time for opening	At 12.30 PM on 31.03.2022
of Technical Bids	
Note: The relevant detail	s are available on web-site
http://www.eprocure.gov.in/e	procure/app/
Corrigendum, if any, will be up	loaded on the above website only.
	Sd/-
	(Liankhankhup Guite
	Assistant Directo
davp 54101/11/0010/2122	Tel: 011-2304250



Date of release of Tender in Last date/Time receipt of Tender

e- procurement solution through e-procurement solutio

SI.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract	Earnest	Tender	Date of release of tender in	Last Date / Time of
No.		Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender	Money (EMD)	Fee	E-procurement solution & Tender ID No.	receipt of tender E- Procurement Solution
	Rejuvenation of 22 Nos. water bodies on DBO basis in various parts of Delhi under E.E. (WB)-I. (Re-Invited)		₹ 66,74,000/-	₹ 1500/-	21.2.2022 2022_DJB_217178_1	21.3.2022 At 03:00 PM
urth	er details in this regard car	n be seen at https://g	ovtprocure	ment.dell	ni.gov.in	
SSU	ED BY P.R.O. (WATER)					Sd/-
Advt.	No. J.S.V. 1154 (2021-22)					E.E.(WB)-I
	"STOP CORONA, WE	AR FACE MASK, FO	LLOW PHY	SICAL DI	STANCING, MAINTAIN HAI	ND HYGIENE"
Ż	Sec. 1	JAL BOA RD			T OF DELHI NEER(E&M)-II	
2	OFFICE	OF THE EXE	CUTIVE	ENGI		

Tender Id

P.S. Kashmere Gate. Delhi Website: http://cbi.nic.in Ph. 011-23967889, 8750870123 Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/1638/N/2021 (Missing). APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

SHO

Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Black T-Shirt,

Brown Pant, (2) Namely: Opelen S/o Bimal

Mormo, R/o: Gosaigaon, Baganpura, Sapkata,

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED

(A State Government Undertaking) ck No. 16 & 17, SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-171009 No.: 0177-2621583, 2621703, 2620539 FAX: 0177- 2625537, E-mail Address: himapurtiho@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for supply of Classical and Proprietary Ayurvedic Medicines from HP Based manufacturers. Date of

online publication 23.02.2022 last date of tender submission and

submission of samples 08.03.2022. For details visit website

Kokarjhar, Assam Age: 14 Years, Height: 4'2", Built: Thin, Complexion:

Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: White Shirt and Black Pant, has been

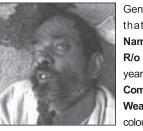
missing/kidnapped since 04.07.2019 form 811/1 Chhota Bazar, Chabigang,

In this regard a FIR No.179/19 U/s 363 IPC dated 04.07.2019, has been

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information

Any person having any information or clue about this Boys kindly inform to

https://hptenders.gov.in



DP/2004/N/2022

in the area of PS. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

registered at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

about this boys but no clue has come to light so far.

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person Namely: Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age: about 35-40 years Height: 5'5", Face: Oval, Complexion : Shallow, Built : Thin, Wearing: Printed jursey and Blue colour pant has been found dead at

Hanuman Mandir under Pull,

Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 06.02.2022. In this regard a case vide DD No. 22A dated 06.02.2022 has been lodged at Police Station Kashmere Gate, Delhi

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-SHO

P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi North Distt., Delhi Tel. No. 011-23967889, 23968730

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Aarti C/o Mathi Vanan R/o H.No. 589, Pkt-6, Sec A-05, Narela, New Delhi - 110040 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CC No. 452/2018 U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Aarti can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Aarti has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Aarti of CC No. 452/2018 U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.03.2022 Bv Order

Ms, Arushi Parwal,

W.

S.

ion/Repairing

Metropolitan Magistrate-02 DP/1993/N/2022 Room No-203, 2nd Floor, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi



ई-निविदा सचना पश्चिमांचल विद्यत वितरण निगम लि. के अन्तर्गत जनपद सम्भल में संचालित एण्टी पावर थेफ्ट पुलिस थाना सम्भल के कार्यालय उपयोग हेतु 01 नग वातानुकूलित डीजल चलित वाणिज्यिक पंजीकरण वाहन महिन्द्रा बोलोरो (चालक सहित) को आगामी एक वर्ष के लिए उपलब्ध कराने हेतु अनुभवी, प्रतिष्ठित ठेकेदारों/कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से निम्नानुसार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd.

(CIN U45203MH2002SGC136979)

8th Floor, World Trade Centre -1, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400005

TENDER NOTICE

MADC invites tender for

1. Appointment of an agency for providing Aviation Management

Selection of agency for End to End maintenance of

Cessna Citation CE560 (Citation XLS, VT-VDD) Aeroplane

The tender documents and other details can be downloaded from e-

services to Government of Maharashtra.

for Government of Maharashtra.

ई-निविदा सं. 01/अ.पु.अधी./पविविनिलि/मेरठ/वाहन/2022 {नि.मू. रु. 1,180.00 (जी.एस.टी. सहित) धरो. रा. रु. 3,000}) आर.टी.जी.एस. /एन.ई.एफ.टी. के माध्यम से अपर पुलिस अधीक्षक (प्रवर्तन) पी.वि.वि.नि.लि. मेरठ के नाम, बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा में संचालित चालू बैंक खाता सं. 41450200000273 (IFSC Code BARB0MEEGAR) (IFSC Code का पांचवां शब्द शून्य है) में जमा कराया जायेगा।

निविदा खुलने की दिनांक : - 21.03.2022 को समय 02.00 बजे राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें

अपर पुलिस अधीक्षक (प्रवर्तन), पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. मेरठ, उ पुलिस अधीक्षक प्रवर्तन, पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. मेरठ, पत्रांक 14 दिनांक 22.02.2022

SEARC	H FOR MISSING BOY	(
	General public is here by informed that one boy Name: Deepak Jain, S/o Sh. Dinesh Jain, R/o H. No. G-12/456, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi,	:
E	Age: 21 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue Colour Jacket and Black Lower and	Tender ID Name of the wor

Brwon Shoes in Feet has been missing since 23.01.2022 from the jurisdiction of PS. Sangam Vihar.

In this regard a DD No.27A dated 24.01.2022 has been lodged at P.S. Sangam Vihar, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this boy but no clue has come to light so far.

inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in	SHO
Website: http://cbi.nic.in	P.S. Sangam Vihar, New Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639	Ph. 011-26042188, 26044546
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641	DP/47/SD/2022

Cost Money (Rs.)

On behalf of the president of India, DRM Commercial), E.C. Railway, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya invites e-tender form registered company/proprietorship firm/partership firm/Cooperative society for award of under mentioned work over Pt. Deen Dava Upadhyaya. Details are as under: (1) Name of work with its location and completion

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY

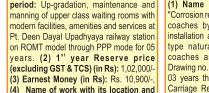
General public is hereby informed that one lady namely Sushila, W/o Late Umesh, R/o C-70/71, Yadav Nagar Libaspur, Delhi. Age 55 years, Height 5'1", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Strong Built, Wearing Green colour saree and red colour sweater

has been missing since 20.12.2021 Sushila at 3.00 pm from her house. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this lady but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 109-A dated 21.12.2021 has been lodged at at PS Samaypur Badli, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing lady may kindly inform to the follwing. Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Email: cic@cbi.gov.in

SHO Fax: 011-23011334



completion period: Up-gradation

maintenance and manning of upper class

waiting rooms with modern facilities,

amenities and services at Gaya railway

station on ROMT model through PPP mode

for 05 years. (5) 1st year Reserve price (excluding GST & TCS) (in Rs): 5,12,987/-

(6) Earnest Money (in Rs): Rs. 54,500/-,(7

Date and time for uploading of tender: Upto 14.03.2022 till 15.00 hrs. (8) Website

Divisional Railway Manager (C

East Central Railway, DDU

available: <u>www.ireps.gov.in</u>

Railway Mumbai - 400 020

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

website - www.ireps.gov.in or see the details on notice board of Principal Chief

	07.03.2022 भी शामिल है। सभी विवरण उक्त पटिल से प्र	प्राप्त कर	1
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42	पत्रांक सी.बी.डी./टी.एस./ब.मै.टे.टे./नीलामी		अधिकारी

जनसंपर्क RO क्रमांक 67 दिनांक : 21-02-2022

14-ग्रामीण विधानसभा

बाउण्डीवॉल निर्माण कार्य

एन.आई.टी.

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PR/01718/DDU/COML/T/21-22/40

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WESTERN RAILWAY

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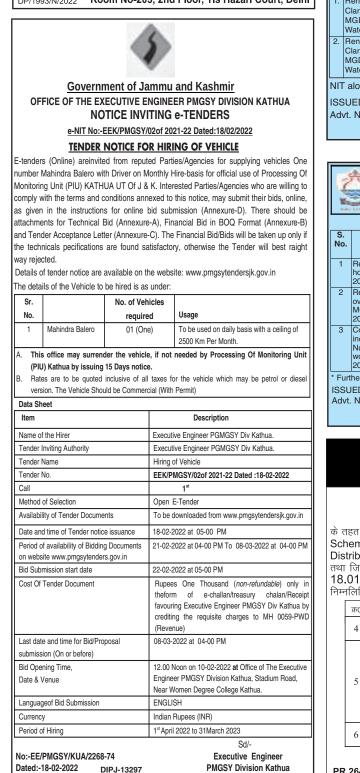
WESTERN RAILWAY PROVISION OF KAVACH & LAYING ARMOURED FIBER OPTIC CABLE Tender No.: EPC_WR_SnT_03 F Dated: 21/02/2022 Name of Work Provision of KAVACH (formerly know as Train Collision Avoidance System TCAS) and laying of 48 Fiber Armoure OFC (in two routes) in connection with work of raising of speed up to 160 Kmph on automatic section of 96 Km section Vadodara - Ahmedabad of Western Railway. Approx Cost of Work ₹49,19,91,851 EMD: ₹24,60,000 Time & Date for submission an opening of e-Tender: Submission upto 15.00 Hrs. on 01/06/2022 & opening or same date at 15.30 Hrs. For viewing complete details of tender, please visi

Signal and Telecom Engineer, 5th Floor Station Building, Churchgate, Wester Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General)

🔘 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🎑 E-Tender Notice

website if required. Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि० निविदा सचना



	Clarifier /IGD	No. 12 at 3rd 40 Plant Wazirabad Vorks. (Make:- HDO)		2022_DJE Publi	ser Id: 8_216614_1 sh Date 5:00 PM onward	2-March-2022 up to 12:15 PM	
	Clarifier AGD F	tion/Repairing of No. 8 at 2nd 40 Plant at Wazirabad Vorks. (Make:-HDO)	ate 80000/-	2022_DJB Publis	der Id: _216614_ 2 sh Date 5:00 PM onward	2-March-2022 up to 12:15 PM	
เรรเ	JED B . No	with all terms & condition Y P.R.O. (WATER) J.S.V. 1158 (2021-22) STOP CORONA; Wear DELHI JA		Physical Dis	stancing, Maint	Sd/- (Pankaj Rajvar Executive Enginee ain Hand Hygiene"	nshi)
1.00.00		OFFICE OF THE E	XECUTIVE EN NIWASPURI: N			SDW S/E	
		•	PRESS N.I.	T. No. 60 (20)21-22)	•	
S. No.		Name of Work	-	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Date of release tender in E- procurement sol	of tender thro	solution 11A dated
1	hortic	vation and face lifting of ma ulture of filling point at Okh _DJB_217179_1		/ 39,26,450/-	21.02.2022	04.03.202 up to 3.00 F	
2	over (MGD 2022_	nstruction and strengthening Gravity ducts from Security PST at Okhla STP. _DJB_217179_2	Guard office to 12	2	21.02.2022	04.03.202 up to 3.00 F	
3	includ Nurse works	uction of sump well an ling P/Laying sewerage sys ery, Security huts, AE Offi at Okhla STP. _DJB_217179_3	tem for Horticulture	e	21.02.2022	04.03.202 up to 3.00 F	
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			U	<u>द्र पत्र–</u>			registered in mentioned in Idन मिशन SI
Sch Dist तथा 18.0	emes ributio जिसक 01.20	एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया ज तीय वर्श 2021–22 में चक्र (SVS) in Different on Lines, Source (as r ज ई0 निविदा सूचना संख्य 022 तथा जिसका PR सं । संशोधन किया जाता है। शे	धरपुर प्रमण्डल अंत Block, compi required)and F ा – SVS/MWS ख्या – PR 2619	ार्गत Constru rising of s HTC all cor SS in differe 918 (West S	uction of Solar uitable R.C.C nplete job in th nt Block :- 09	Based Mini Water /Framed structure e Different block से /2021-22 (1st Call	r Supply e ESR, संबंधित है), दिनांक कारणवश
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	4	बीड प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 22.02.2022		जतक।	26.02.2022 अपराहन 4.00 ब तक।	online): 25.0
	5	अग्रधन की राशि एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	अपर कार्यपालक अभियंत एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंख अभियंता का कार्यात अंचल, चाईबासा / व कार्यालय, पेयजल	त्ल, चक्रधरपुर∕अ लय, पेयजल एवं क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभिग	पेयजल कार्यपालव धीक्षण एवं स्वच्ध स्वच्छता अभियंता व पंता का अंचल, चा ग, राँची कार्यालय,	28.02.2022, समय 2.00 बर अपराहन तक । 5 अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेय ज्ञा प्रमंडल, चक्रधरपुर / अधी ठा कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्व ईबासा / क्षेत्रीय मुख्य अभियंत पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, प्रक्षेत्र राँची	of technical यजल धाण विष्ण त का रॉकी of technical or next wor 03.03.2022 a obtained from https://eproo
I ſ		तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि	दिनांक 24.02.2022	अपराहन ४ ०० त	जे तक। दिनांक	01.03.2022 अपराहन 4.00 ब	बजे
	6					तक। कार्यपालक अभियंता	COVID-19 - DON'T SP

x: 011-23011334 : 011-23014046, 23015218 /1590/ON/2022	PS: S		r Badli, Delhi 11-27854799		70 / 2021–22, उपखण्ड अधिकारी, उपखण्ड –द्वितीय, सासनी गेट, अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ
				-	(4) नि0सं0 विनविमंअ– 71/2021–22, अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत नगरीय वितरण
APPEAL FOR			ΑΤΙΟΝ		खण्ड–द्वितीय, अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ। (5) रिक्तांव विजनिगंधर, 70 (2001, 20
APPEAL FOR	General p				(5) नि0सं0 विनविमंअ— 72 / 2021—22, उपखण्ड अधिकारी, उपखण्ड—प्रथम, रामघाट
Construction of	informed th		-		रोड, अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ। (6) नि0स0 विनविमंअ– 73 ⁄ 2021–22, उपखण्ड
A second second	person Nan	n ely : Ja	gdish, S/o :		अधिकारी, उपखण्ड–द्वितीय, रावण टीला
1.	Ram Singh,	R/o : R	ain Basera,		अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ। (7) नि0सं0 विनविमंअ—
2 m 2 M	Avantika S		-		74 / 2021—22, अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत
	about 45 ye		•		नगरीय वितरण खण्ड—तृतीय, अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ। (8) नि०सं० विनविमंअ— 75 /
	Shallow, W	-			2021—22, उपखण्ड अधिकारी, उपखण्ड—
	was admitted Sec-6, R				प्रथम, गूलर रोड, अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ।
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ed on 24.01.2022. In		-			अच्छण्ड आद्यकारा, उपखण्ड— ।द्वताय, औद्योगिक आस्थान, अलीगढ के प्रयोगार्थ।
A dated 24.01.2022	-				(10) नि0सं0 विनविमंअ— 77 / 2021—22,
har, Delhi.					अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत नगरीय वितरण
ny person having any i	nformation or	clue abo	out this dead		खण्ड—चतुर्थ, अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ। (11) नि०सं० विनविमंअ— 78 / 2021—22,
erson may kindly inform	to the followi	ng:-	SHO :		(11) 1न0स0 1वनावमअन 787 2021–22, उपखण्ड अधिकारी, उपखण्ड– प्रथम,
	P.S.	Vijay V	ihar, Delhi		घण्टाघर, अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ। (12) नि0संठ
			istt., Delhi		विनविमंअ– 79/2021–22, उपखण्ड
P/1310/RD/2022 Tel.	No. 011-27	061294	, 27061295		अधिकारी, उपखण्ड– द्वितीय, जमालपुर, अलीगढ के प्रयोगार्थ। (13) नि0स0
				.	विनविमंअ— 80 / 2021—22, अधिशासी
BRUHAT BENG					अभियन्ता, विद्युत नगरीय परीक्षण खण्ड,
Office of the Exe	cutive Engine a Zone, Benga				अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ। (14) नि0स0
.: BBMP/YNK/EE(P)/T	-				विनविमंअ— 81 / 2021—22, सहायक अभियन्ता (मीटर), परीक्षणशाला—प्रथम /
OTICE INVÍT			R (NIT)		तृतीय, अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ। (15) नि0सं0
SHORT	TERM TEN	DER			विनविमंअ– 82/2021–22, सहायक
(Through GOK e-I e Executive Engineer					अभियन्ता (मीटर), परीक्षणशाला—द्वितीय ⁄ चतुर्थ, अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ। (16) नि0संo
MP invites tenders from					विनविमंअ– 83/2021–22, अधीक्षण
istered in to any State					अभियन्ता, विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल,
ntioned in the table belo	ow.	EMD	A		अलीगढ़ के प्रयोगार्थ। (17) नि0स0
Name of the Pr	ojects	EMD (Rs.)	Amount put to Tender		विनविमंअ— 84 / 2021—22, उपमुख्य लेखाधिकारी, अलीगढ़ क्षेत्र, अलीगढ़ के
Providing Data Entry	Operators /	. ,			प्रयोगार्थ। (18) नि०सं० विनविमंअ–
Computer Operators f		2.00 Lakhs	115.00 Lakhs		85 / 2021–22, मुख्य अभियन्ता (वितरण),
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lendar of Events:					(19) निर्णसंग विनावमंअ— 8672021—22, पुलिस उपाधीक्षक (प्रवर्तन) अलीगढ़ के
wnloaded from the e-Pro Karnataka. (2) Last da					प्रयोगार्थ। (20) नि०स० विनविमंअ—
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technical bid: On 02. next working day. (विनीवमंअ– 88 / 2021–22, निराक्षक, विद्युत चोरी नियन्त्रक थाना, अलीगढ के प्रयोगार्थ
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ained from the above of					उ०प्र० शासन की ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल
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	Distancing		Hygiene		राष्ट्र हित न विजला बयाय





SPORT/CALENDAR 15

Rangnick ready for emotional battle at Atletico

Upskilling on speed

REUTERS FEBRUARY 22

MANCHESTER UNITED coach Ralf Rangnick said his side are ready for an "emotional" battle in their Champions League last-16 first leg at Atletico Madrid on Wednesday, heaping praise on the hosts' manager Diego Simeone for instilling such passion.

While Atletico have reached the knockout rounds for the eighth time in the last nine seasons, United are in the last 16 for the first time since 2018-19.

Staying in the top four in the English Premier League has been a struggle for United, but they topped their Champions League group - something Rangnick is adamant does not make them certain to reach the latter rounds.

'To say that a club like United should regularly be in the semi-final of the Champions League is not unique (to them)," Rangnick told a news conference on Tuesday. "I can recall a few other clubs in Europe where this could also be the case

"They (Atletico) are always an emotional side and this reflects the character of the manager. Diego Simeone is probably one of the best emotional managers in Europe. The way his team play reflects those emotions. "We need to match the levels of energy in both games. It will be physical, it will be emotional and we will have to be mentally strong in both games.'

Staying in the top four in the **English Premier League has** been a struggle for United, but they topped their Champions League group - something Rangnick is adamant does not make them certain to reach the latter rounds.

Cristiano Ronaldo's goals were crucial to United advancing to the last 16, with the veteran forward scoring crucial late strikes against Atalanta, home and away, and Villarreal. United midfielder Bruno Fernandes believes the experience of Ronaldo, and that of multi-European Cup winner Raphael Varane, will be vital in Madrid, while insisting the squad remains unified, despite media reports to the contrary. "He (Ronaldo) has that smell for the goal," Fernandes said.

"Having players that can decide games in any moment is helpful," he added. Uruguayan striker Edinson Cavani has not travelled with the squad as he is still ruled out with a groin problem.

Tokyo Paralympics champion Pramod Bhagat found ways to use his weaker left leg as an attacking tool during training stint in Paris; to focus on increasing agility eyeing 2024 Paralympics

SHIVANI NAIK MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 22

PRAMOD BHAGAT went all the way to Paris to fall in love with his weakest link. All his life, the Tokyo Paralympics gold medallist Odisha shuttler in S3 category has worked every remaining muscle of his body to compensate for a disability in his left leg, brought on by polio. Never had the four-time World Champion been told that it was his perennially-protected leg that ought not to be shielded, but launched into attack while lunging

In the first 10 minutes of his 10-day training camp in Paris at France's badminton development centre, the European coaches had lobbed a hitherto unheard poser at him: Why was he 'hiding' his left leg, so to speak, when playing?

On a two-month training stint in Spain where he will proceed to play a clutch of tournaments, Bhagat is upbeat about this refreshing way of thinking that was spelt out to him when he travelled for a short camp to Paris. "I normally under-utilise my left leg, because I know it's weak and affected. But coach Mike there (he only addressed the English coach at Paris with his first name) told me that I can and should start taking training load on the left leg. I've loved the idea, and his plan, and I'll follow through on that line of thinking," Bhagat stresses.

The technical advice he received, Bhagat reckons, is an extension of the way Europe culturally views disability. "They don't look at you with pity and sympathy They said I'm an elite athlete and have to turn every muscle into strength, maybe the weaker one will require more training. They don't see disability as demotivating," he recalls. "When I started, I thought they'll use the usual shadow and multi-shuttle feed. But after just 10 minutes, they had me recorded, analysed on video, and we spent the next hour and a half on planning on how to achieve perfection in my weak leg," he adds. The Tokyo champion needed a reboot of his game, after a string of felicitations left him restless about resting on his laurels.

What followed was a training plan in Spain to get back into the groove. "I've trained in India for 20 years, with great benefits and achieved the milestone of winning the Paralympics. But I need extra tech inputs. Everyone is working hard, but if I just go with the flow, it won't be enough. I have to become better." he says

European badminton - especially Spain and France, the next Olympic hosts - have fast-tracked their development programmes



Pramod Bhagat (second from left) and Sukant Kadam (second from right) with the coaches at France's badminton development centre; Bhagat during a training session.

and are relying heavily on sports science to catch up with Asian dominance in badminton. "They might not be as good as Asians on skill," says the 33-year-old Bhagat who honed his hand skills at an Indonesian camp in 2016, "but they are working at another level on speed to reach under the shuttle early. They tend to be tall, but are adding power on the hitting shoulder with biomechanics and all drills are focused on speed."

Eye-opener

For someone who grew up nurturing reverse returns and dribbles, maxing out the full strength on the smash and then tempering it to half power for variations, has been a new priority, if not entirely a revelation. "In India, we do this in parts. But here, I trained with their able-bodied 15-19-year-olds. And their speedwork is something else," Bhagat stresses. Their idea of taking a breather was playing at the BlazePod, a light-based reflex training system where one taps on audio clues of different colours.

"What I also learnt was to put more power on the third smash than the first and second.'

The dynamic nature of his training in Paris where coaches didn't just hand out a schedule of drills, but paused after knocking

'I normally under-utilise my left leg, because I know it's weak and affected. But coach Mike there told me that I can and should start taking training load on the left leg. I've loved the idea, and his plan, and I'll follow through on that line of thinking. What I also learnt was to put more power on the third smash than the first and second. Just hard work doesn't matter if I have to defend my title. I'll have to get double better"

PRAMOD BHAGAT

every few minutes to completely analyse his game and prop up weak strokes (parallel game in his case), has left Bhagat regaining his own tinkering, tweaking spirit where he constantly fiddles with technique. His rallying style also was revised - less of the box game, more of the European two-line playing juggles

TOKYO PARALYMPICS GOLD MEDALLIST

"Just hard work doesn't matter if I have to defend my title. I'll have to get double better," he says, adding the world better watch out in both Games as Carolina Marin isn't a rare phenomenon, and the French surge is imminent. "Who made the Syed Modi men's singles finals?" he asks, referring to a pair of Frenchmen

Express

Shuttle-throwing robot machines are all over French elite academies, spitting out toss, drop, smashed birds. And with 4-5 coaches for 14-15 players, there's more personalised attention. "I'll return and train for longer," he says, now back in Spain.

Bhagat was most impressed by parking spots earmarked for the disabled, and a whole range of accessibility tools available to him. "Since we are staying a little far off, we hired a specially designed rental car. Took some time to get used to it, but now I'm scared I'll struggle to drive back in India," Bhagat says.

The language posed a challenge initially, though he makes light of communication which has flowed ever since. "Google baba zindabaad! Meri bhi English mein kamzori hai, aur French players ki bhi. Aur dushman ka dushman dost hota hai (I am weak in English, and so are the French players. Two negatives combined to make a positive), I learnt basic French greetings and even spoke to the English coach in French," he laughs.

US Soccer, women's team reach deal

REUTERS FEBRUARY 22

THE US women's national soccer team (USWNT) and the governing body US Soccer have agreed to resolve the equal pay claims in litigation that has been pending since 2019, the two parties said on Tuesday.

"We are pleased to announce that, contingent on the negotiation of a new collective bargaining agreement, we will have resolved our longstanding dispute over equal pay and proudly stand together in a shared commitment to advancing equality in soccer," US Soccer and USWNT said in a joint statement on Tuesday.

US media reported that under the terms of the agreement, players will receive a total of \$24 million and a pledge from U.S. Soccer to equalize pay for the men's and women's national teams, in all competitions including the World Cup, in the next collective bargaining agreements. The settlement is contingent upon the ratification of a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the USWNT players' union and the federation. Once a new CBA has been ratified, final approval of the settlement by the District Court will be scheduled. Players will receive \$22 million in back pay as direct compensation as part of the resolution of the long legal dispute, which goes back to a 2016 complaint filed to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. "Getting to this day has not been easy. The U.S. Women's National Team players have achieved unprecedented success while working to achieve equal pay for themselves and future athletes," the joint statement added. "Today, we recognize the legacy of the past USWNT leaders who helped to make this day possible, as well as all of the women and girls who will follow."

The World Cup-winning team sued the governing body in 2019 seeking \$66 million in damages under the Equal Pay Act, alleging gender discrimination in compensation and nearly every other aspect of playing conditions. US Soccer argued the women's team had received more compensation than the men's team over the last decade. In May 2020, a United States District Court judge for the Central District of California threw out the players' claims for equal pay but allowed their claims about playing conditions to go forward. The players reached a settlement on the conditions part of the lawsuit and had appealed against the wage decision portion. USWNT striker Megan Rapinoe said the settlement was a "huge win".

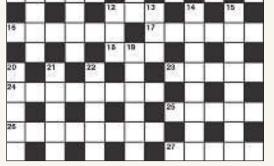
"We're so happy. We've all been in the trenches of it for so long. I think I honestly don't even understand how monumental this is," Rapinoe told The Athletic.

DAY TODAY ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) Perhaps you have overstepped the mark and allowed yourself to be lessons. Perhaps you have pushed into a corner, with the realised that, while it is noble result that you simply have to

CROSSWORD 4671



OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



ACROSS 1 Prohibition most of all is boring (5)8 There's no point in it for the loser, however sporting (4,4) 9 A flowering shoot; rose perhaps (5)10 Times are changing for Arab states(8) 11 Such law presumably implies a suspended sentence(5) 12 She's not allowed in $\dot{bed}(3)$ 16 What I'd be doing in the circus? 17 Falsely disloyal (6) 18 Not at home in the youth centre (3) 23 France's flow of capital (5) 24 All the money that may be made with apples?(8) 25 Crook hiding in safe London hideout(5) 26 An editor fiddled when on an allowance(8) 27 Possibly fired leaving a space to be filled (5)

DOWN 2 It really is a breathtaking experience(8)3 Can a rich reconstruction be so chaotic?(8) 4 Male and not male(6) 5 Picked up the sound of cattle (5) 6 Something done in the Channel Islands for plants (5) 7 About to notice for instance returning birds(5) 12 An essay concerning time past (3) 13 Fruit put in crackers? (3) 14 Note the actual combination it's heavenly (8)15 Refuse to reduce the volume (4,4)19 Odd vigil held by distraught nun(6) 20 Shop value (5) 21 Muse sheds a tear with love

Solutions Crossword 4670: Across: 1 Open prison, 6 Find, 10 Sworn, 11 Watergate, 12 Euphoria, 13 Steps, 15 Nonplus, 17 Service, 19 Prevail, 21 Species, 22 Catch, 24 Gruesome, 27 Observant, 28 Rated, 29 Sash, 30 Blue pencil. Down: 1 Oust, 2 Eloquence, 3 Pinch, 4 Inwards, 5 Outlaws, 7 Image, 8 Dress sense, 9 Preserve, 14 Inspectors, 16 Leathery, 18 Idiomatic, 20 Lugsail, 21 Scuttle, 23 Tasks, 25 Spree 26 Idol

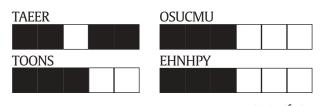
(5)

22 Stop or pass on (5)

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to $% \label{eq:constraint}$ the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

The day, water, sun, moon, night - I do not have to ____ these things with __. - Plautus (8,.,5)

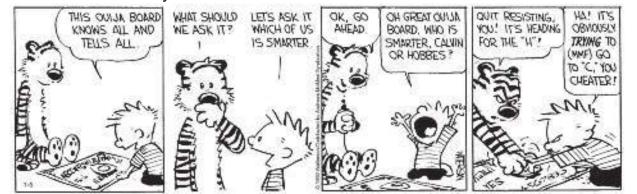


sutus - Plautus Answer: The day, water, sun, moon, night - I do not have to purchase these things with SOLUTION: EATER, SNOOT, MUCOUS, HYPHEN



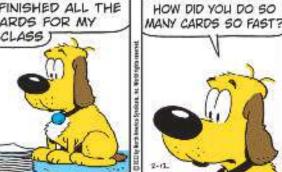


CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong







3 1 2 1 6 5 4 3 2 2 5 8 7 9

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4753

6

3

7	2		6	3	4	1	5	9
5	1	6	8	2	9	4	3	7
3	9	4	1	7	5	2	8	6
2	3	5	9	8	1	6	7	4
8	6	1	2	4	7	5	9	3
4	7	9	5	6	3	8	1	2
1	8	2	7	9	6	3	4	5
6	4	7	3	5	8	9	2	1
9	5	3	4	1	2	7	6	8

retaliate in order to protect your position. However, friends are still on your side, and that is reassuring news.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Stick to the straight and narrow and place your faith in

dialogue and reason. It is long-term relationships which are important to you, so please pay attention to partners' wants and desires. Watch out for a legal minefield and don't bend the rules.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Sometimes it is wiser to let things take their own course rather than intervene at every turn. Consider current developments with great care, for your interference may exacerbate a number of complex situations. Oh, and prepare for a financial squall.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Your planetary patterns have been intense, and there must have been many moments during past few months when you have come close to throwing in the towel. However, you are by vour nature a fighter and unlikely ever to admit defeat. That is among your major

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

strengths

Neptune is one of those planets which has a particular meaning for you. Right now it is likely to bring offers of practical assistance that should keep you active and prevent you from dwelling on past associations which may have turned remarkably sour.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) Try to get away from

your usual environment as new encounters could lead to associations which are emotionally rewarding or potentially profitable. Events, connected to higher education or the law, are highlighted. But so are artistic and athletic interests.

to give than receive, you must not promise what is beyond your power to deliver. That way, you won't be caught out by family members.

BY PETER VIDAL

Under stressful

planetary aspects

you have no doubt

learned a few harsh

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Mercury's talkative role in your life is now stronger than ever, and the temptation must be to force others to divulge all you think you have the right to know, and perhaps one or two items that are none of your business. You must know where to draw the line.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

A particular emotional tie is much more important to you than you care to admit. From now on, maintaining such vital associations will require more effort than you have been prepared to put in, in the past. That could leave you with more time in the long run.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) Look upon this as a time for psychological spring-cleaning. Challenging planetary pressures are being transformed rapidly

into harmonious influences, and all parts of your life will benefit. It's amazing how easy it is to make a fresh start when you really want to.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21- Feb 19) You will soon be so

preoccupied with unexpected developments related to your home life, that you will be forced to abandon a number of commitments if you are to stand a chance of restoring order. That's probably no great burden though, for there are responsibilities that you'd be happy to see the back of.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Few of you have avoided some sort of major upheaval recently. Whether your experience was fortunate or not, it seems to have made you that much more understanding and broadminded. On the other hand, you must never forget that occasionally, just once in a while, you do have to judge others.

New Delhi







Difficulty Level 5s

To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

must appear in each of the

each of the nine horizontal

nine vertical columns, in

rows and in each of the

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;

3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;

5s = Very Hard; 6s =

every digit from 1 to 9

Instructions

nine boxes

Genius

Difficulty Level

Ŵ

4

SUDOKU



8

4

8

4 7

3 5

9

16 Sport

BRIEFLY —

NZ women beat India to take 4-0 lead

Queenstown: The Indian women's cricket team's horror tour of New Zealand continued as the White Ferns demolished the visitors by 63 runs in a rain-curtailed fourth WODI on Tuesday to inch towards a clean sweep in the five-match series. The game became a glorified 'T20' due to rain as Amelia Kerr stole the show with a 33-ball-68 which took New Zealand to 191 for 5. Amelia, one half of the famous Kerr sisters, then mopped up the tail with 3 for 30 as India managed only 128 before being all-out in 17.5 overs. Teenager Richa Ghosh's counter-attacking 52 off 29 balls was the only silver lining in an otherwise disastrous performance which has now led to five defeats on this tour including the one-off T20. The bowling performance of the Indians seemed to have nose-dived with each passing game and it was the worst on Tuesday where only Rajeshwari Gayakwad (4-0-26-1) looked the part. Meghna Singh (1/45 in 4 overs) and Deepti Sharma (1/49 in 4 overs) were two bowlers taken to the cleaners by Amelia who had 11 fours and a six in her kitty.

Warner, Hazlewood, Cummins to miss start of IPL

ΡΤΙ

Melbourne: Australia's star players, including David Warner, Josh Hazelwood and Pat Cummins, will miss the start of the IPL despite skipping the limited overs series against Pakistan, which is set to coincide with the lucrative T20 league. Though the BCCI hasn't officially announced the dates of IPL-15, the league is expected to begin in the last week of March. Warner, Hazelwood and Cummins are part of the Test squad for the series in Pakistan, starting March 4-25, but will be skipping the limited overs assignment, beginning March 29. However, they won't be able to link up with their IPL teams before April 5 as Australia's selection committee chief George Bailey made it clear on Tuesday that centrally contracted players who are not part of the limited-overs matches against Pakistan will not be available for the league until the bilateral series ends. Hence, the trio will return home following the Tests in Pakistan and prior to starting their IPL stints in India.

UK wants CL final moved from Russia

London: The British government led calls for the Champions League final to be taken out of Russia on Tuesday to punish its deepening intervention in Ukraine, prompting UEFA to say it would reconsider hosting rights. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson highlighted concerns about the showpiece men's game being played in St. Petersburg on May 28 as he urged Russian President Vladimir Putin not to

Not a final goodbye

He may have been left out of the SL series, but Ishant's qualities & track record mean he may still have plenty to offer

SANDIP G FEBRUARY 22

IT'S THE era of athletes ageing gracefully. Of them delaying the inevitable vagaries of time; of them not stopping the clock, but running alongside it; of them accepting their age and finding ways of resisting that good night in their sporting middle age.

Last month, Rafael Nadal, with a ravaged 35-year-old body, outlasted a 25-year-old in a gruelling five-setter for his record 21st Grand Slam title. His great peer Roger Federer, at 40, could still be fuelled by the dream of chasing Nadal. Elsewhere, 37-yearold Cristiano Ronaldo is pummelling goals with the relish of a 17-year-old in the toughest football league in the world, just like Jimmy Anderson, who turns 40 this year, was harassing batsmen for fun last summer.

So 33-year-old India pacer Ishant Sharma, snubbed for the two-Test series against Sri Lanka, needn't feel old. Or that he wouldn't be considered for Tests ever after, as is the popular perception. His omission is perceived in some quarters as the equivalent of handing him out the retirement papers. Far from it. Ishant could still be a relevant, and more importantly, a vital force in Indian cricket. He just had a couple of difficult games, there were young fast bowlers waiting to be groomed, and so he was dropped. A pragmatic performance-based, future-oriented decision.

It should not be misconstrued that Indian cricket no longer needs his services. For all the depth of newfound fast-bowling riches and resources, India's is not a vastly-experienced bowling unit. Mohammed Shami had notched up 57 caps; Umesh Yadav 52 and Jasprit Bumrah 27. Of them, Shami and Yadav would turn 32 and 35 this year. Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur, however impressive they had been, are in the nascence of their career. The young crew of Avesh Khan and Prasidh Krishna have not experienced much first-class cricket either. An injury or two, a bad run of form, or the necessity to rotate them, or a big series, and India could trust Ishant with the new ball.

Even if most of them were fit and available, his experience and knowledge could be invaluable. He is a leader, whose presence was at times missed in South Africa. And of all the bowlers in the squad, he seems the most natural person to groom the young brigade, for none of them have seen as much cricketing life as Ishant has, countered as much censure or ridicule, bad days or exit



From a merchant of the big-booming in-swinger, Ishant Sharma went on to add subtle layers in his game to become one of the fiercest bowlers around.

True that he had been lacklustre in recent outings. He was India's most potent bowler in the first innings of the World Test Championship final and penetrative in the Lord's Test against England. He bowled in just three more innings after that, and went wicketless in 44 overs.

calls, as Ishant has.

Few have also transformed as dramatically as Ishant in recent times, perhaps in world cricket. From a merchant of the bigbooming in-swinger, he went on to add subtle layers in his game to become one of the fiercest bowlers around, a clever manipulator of length, angles and lines, resulting in a late-career bloom. From 2016 to 2021, in 33 Tests, he averaged just 25.3, as against 41 before that. He is an anthology of career lessons for the new generation.

True that he had been lacklustre in recent outings. He was India's most potent bowler in the first innings of the World Test Championship final and penetrative in the Lord's Test against England. He bowled in just three more innings after that, and went wicketless in 44 overs. Even there he didn't look like a spent force. He clocked effective pace, regularly moved the ball and occasionally produced a gem or two.

Rather, Ishant seemed just tired and afflicted in his last two games. There were no signs of terminal decline, and it seemed just a matter of sorting out injuries, taming the rebelling body parts, regaining rhythm and lifting his morale.

He has been unfortunate with injuries just before the tour to New Zealand in 2020, be twisted his ankle and fractured it when appealing in the follow-through; the hamstring injury he sustained in the Indian Premier League the same year jeopardised the tour to Australia; then he injured his right arm while fielding in the WTC final, before he dislocated a finger on the right hand in Kanpur. Fast bowlers take time to reclaim their best after injuries, and Ishant could be wading through such a fleeting phase.

Road ahead

In the meantime, he could take a break, some time off the game, regain full fitness, rehab at the National Cricket Academy, perhaps fly out for a county stint and return refreshed for the last phase of his career. It's rather more advisable than straightaway slogging in the Ranji Trophy in a desperate comeback bid.

It would be a travesty of justice if Ishant's potential is stalled forever. There's more he could offer Indian cricket, just as Indian cricket could do its bit to preserve him with sharp workload management. Not being picked for the IPL is a blessing, he could channel all his energy into Test cricket.

Much, though, would depend on Ishant's own determination, the state of his body, his awareness of the state of his body, how he would preserve it and how the team management regulates his workload. Fitness has seldom been a concern for him —his longevity bears testimony (among fast bowlers, only Kapil Dev has played more Tests than him). Fitness is an underappreciated aspect of his career — there have been few long injury-enforced lay-offs or an injury that seemed to threaten his career. He has not gone through lengthy rehabs or action tweaks to ward off injuries.

For motivation, Ishant could look towards

Anderson and Stuart Broad. Anderson seemed a force on the wane in 2015, before masterfully adding more tools to his kitty; like the more profuse use of the leg-cutter, wobble-seamer, reverse movement from a good length (as when he scythed through India at Chepauk last year), better use of the old ball, and an absolute mastery on batsmen's mind.

After his 33rd birthday, the England legend gulped 227 wickets at an average of 21, as opposed to his pre-33 average of 29.

Not just Anderson, Curtly Ambrose played till 37, Courtney Walsh till he was 39, and both were every bit as sharp as they were in their late-20s, the supposed fast bowlers' peak. After his 33rd birthday, Glenn McGrath continued to be the metronomic force as he had been and added 141 more wickets at 22 to his haul.

So, it's utterly conceivable that Ishant not just makes a comeback but goes on to enjoy a productive late-career surge in the milieu of gracefully ageing athletes.

Back on court, Djokovic shows no signs of rust

REUTERS

DUBAI, FEBRUARY 22

WORLD NUMBER one Novak Djokovic belatedly began his 2022 campaign with a convincing 6-3 6-3 defeat of Italian teenager Lorenzo Musetti at the Dubai Championships on Monday.The 34-year-old showed no sign of rust or mental baggage from the Australian Open visa saga that rocked the sports world, producing a polished display to ease into the second round, afterwards describing it as a "pleasant experience."

It was Djokovic's first match this year after his Australian Open hopes were dashed when he was deported following an 11-day saga revolving around his decision not to have a COVID-19 vaccination and a controversial exemption he had been granted to play in the event.Two court hearings were required before Djokovic was expelled on Jan. 16 having spent several days in a hotel, with the country's immigration minister ruling he could fuel anti-vaccine sentiment if allowed to compete.

Back on a tennis court of Dubai's Aviation Club, Djokovic showed just why he would have been favourite to win a 10th Australian Open crown and beat Rafa Nadal to a men's record 21st Grand Slam title.

Crowd show support

After being cheered on to court by the late night crowd, he moved through the gears, breaking Musetti's serve in the fourth game of a routine first set.Djokovic, watched by his entourage including wife Jelena, got an early break in the second set with a forehand winner.

He briefly wavered when serving at 3-2 and was forced to save break points, but never looked threatened as his supporters, many with Serbian flags, cheered his winners. Djokovic crunched a superb forehand winner in the final game and claimed victory on his first match point. Even if he wins the Dubai title for a sixth time, he could lose his world number one ranking this week should Russian Daniil Medvedev win the Acapulco title. But for Djokovic, enjoying an ATP record 361st week as number one, that was the last thing on his mind as he put one of the darkest episodes of his career behind him.

"I couldn't ask for a better reception. It's been a while since I played the last match and I couldn't pick a better place to kick-start the season," Djokovic, who had not played since the Davis Cup Finals in November, told fans after performing his trademark salute to all sides of the arena.

New generation of Formula 1 cars set to hit the track in Barcelona

ASSOCIATED PRESS BARCELONA, FEBRUARY 22

FORMULA ONE will get a glimpse of what the season may look like when its new generation of cars hits the track in a test session in Barcelona on Wednesday.

It will be the first preseason session following one of the biggest regulation changes in the series, and the first time drivers and teams and to get a closer competition going on for the future while still leaving it a meritocracy so the best teams still win," F1 motorsport boss Ross Brawn said.

The last time F1 underwent drastic rule changes was in 2014, when the turbo-hybrid era started. In 2017, F1 had already introduced design changes that made cars wider and faster to try to make the series more exciting, though that didn't keep Mercedes and Pad Bull from dominating

Red Bull from dominating.

two parts, with the first sessions taking place from Wednesday through Friday in Barcelona and three more scheduled for March 10-12 in Bahrain ahead of the seasonopener on March 20. "Now with the new regulations, you have to get used to the car. It's not like you just jump in and it's an upgrade from last year," Verstappen said. "A lot is unknown about the car ... I'm very curious to see how the car is behaving on track." ars will also use a higher ratio of sustainable fuel, and new safety features. There will be a lower budget cap for teams, and adjustments have been made to the race weekends to allow drivers and teams to arrive later to tracks. Both practices on Fridays will take place in the afternoon so media availability can be held in the morning instead of on Thursdays. There will be some changes to the sprint race weekends as well, with more points awarded through to the eighth-place finisher and the top qualifier on Friday being attributed with the pole position for statistical purposes and not only to start up front in the Saturday sprint race.



conduct a full invasion of Ukraine. Russia sparked an outcry by announcing on Monday that its recognition of independence for areas in eastern Ukraine extended to territory currently held by Ukrainian forces. "It's absolutely vital in this critical moment that President Putin understands that what he is doing is going to be a disaster for Russia," Johnson told the House of Commons. "He is going to end up with ... a Russia that is more isolated, a Russia that has pariah status, no chance of holding football tournaments in a Russia that invades sovereign countries." In response, European football's governing body for the first time acknowledged a risk to Russia staging the event.

teams will get a real feel about what to expect in 2022. F1 implemented major changes to improve racing and try to make the series more competitive, with new aerodynamic and tyre requirements that will make the cars look and feel different from previous years. They will be sporting new rear and front wings, as well as bigger wheels, to allow drivers to race closer together and hopefully increase the number of overtakes.

The older cars used to lose downforce and their ability to go through turns faster the closer they got to the cars ahead. The changes were aimed at reducing that loss of downforce and give the trailing drivers more chances of overtaking.

"Every decision we have made has been towards not dumbing down the sport but making it more achievable for more of the

"I honestly don't think the regulations will change the general order of things dramatically," Brawn said. "It will bring it a lot closer and I think we'll see some of what were the mid-field teams challenging. I think we'll have a bigger group of competitive teams."F1 is coming off one of its greatest seasons as Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton battled for the title to the end, with Verstappen winning with Red Bull on the last lap of the last race to end Mercedes' sevenyear dominance. "I'm optimistic about the coming season," Brawn said. "The good teams will always do a good job. They've got the expertise and the experience. Although I'd love to see it, I don't think we're going to see teams further back all of a sudden dominating this year." Because of the regulation changes, preseason testing was divided in

It will be the longest F1 season yet with 23 races, with the Miami Grand Prix debuting in May on a street course. Races in Japan, Canada, Australia and Singapore have returned after dropping out because of the F1 implemented major changes to improve racing and try to make the series more competitive, with new aerodynamic and tyre requirements that will make the cars look and feel different from previous years. *Reuters*

coronavirus pandemic.

Michael Masi was dropped as race director in fallout from the controversial ending to the final race last season. Niels Wittich and Eduardo Freitas will act alternately as race director with the assistance of permanent senior advisor Herbie Blash.

George Russell was promoted to

Mercedes to replace Valtteri Bottas, who will be with Alfa Romeo alongside Zhou Guanyu, the first Chinese driver in F1 history. Russell's place at Williams has gone go to Alex Albon, while two-time world champion Fernando Alonso is back with Alpine at age 40 – the oldest driver on the grid following the retirement of Kimi Raikkonen.

'DEAD IN WATER'

Saudi-backed rebel league suffers major jolt as big names reject idea



It is now hard to imagine anyone joining the league, fronted by Australian great Greg Norman, that Rory McIlroy had described as "pre-Champions Tour."

ASSOCIATED PRESS LOS ANGELES, FEBRUARY 22

GREG NORMAN has had his share of major disappointments on Sunday.

This one might rival any loss on golf's biggest stages, whether it was Augusta National or Shinnecock Hills, Inverness or Royal Troon. At least then he had a club in his hand.All he could do on this Sunday was listen as his hopes for a Saudi-financed "Super Golf League" took one body blow after another as top players left him behind.

"I am fully committed to the PGA Tour," Dustin Johnson said.

"I want to make it very clear that as long as the best players in the world are playing the PGA Tour, so will I," said Bryson DeChambeau on Twitter a few hours later.

That was followed by four words – "Dead in the water" – from Rory McIlroy, who two years ago became the first of golf's biggest stars to reject the idea of a rival league funded primarily by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund. The week began with rumblings that Norman and his LIV Golf Investments were closing in on the target of 20 players before announcing — finally — firm details of what they had had and where the league was going. By Sunday afternoon, it was hard to imagine anyone joining a league that McIlroy had described as "pre-Champions Tour."

"Who's left. Who's left to go?" McIlroy said, and the numbers supported him. None of the top 12 players in the world ranking has indicated any interest.

"Greg Norman would have to tee it up to fill the field," McIlroy said. "I mean, seriously, who else is going to do it? I don't think they could get 48 guys." To call it dead might be premature because that would assume it ever had life, when for months all it produced was rumor and speculation. Still, the threat was real — and considering the source of funding, perhaps it still is — even though Norman's group only announced who was filling up the C-Suite, not the tee sheet.

The purported plan was said to be 12 four-man teams competing in 54-hole events. Players would be offered huge contracts for joining — one report had DeChambeau being offered \$130 million, which he said was "wrong" — and purses would be in the \$20 million range.

No one seemed to have any answers.

"I feel like the two organizations, the PGA Tour and the league, are playing some kind of chess game and we're sort of pawns in it," Xander Schauffele said. "I feel like we're just waiting for someone to make a move."

And that wasn't just players. Among the biggest unknowns was whether Augusta National would still invite players to the Masters if they were part of this rival league. The PGA Tour made it clear players couldn't be part of both. There were serious Ryder Cup implications, which explains why Europe has yet to select a captain. Even without anyone taking a shot or cashing a check, this was disruptive. So was Phil Mickelson.

His words were among the most powerful of the week from an interview last fall with Alan Shipnuck, formerly of Sports Illustrated and now part of a group called Fire Pit Collective. He is writing a biography on Mickelson due in May.

Mickelson bashed the Saudis and the PGA Tour with equal doses of venom and then said he didn't care if the Super Golf League even succeeded as long it allowed him leverage to make the changes he wants to see on the PGA Tour. "They're scary mother (expletive) to get involved with," Mickelson said.

New Delhi

"We know they killed (Washington Post reporter Jamal) Khashoggi and have a horrible record on human rights. They execute people over there for being gay. Knowing all of this, why would I even consider it? Because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape how the PGA Tour operates."

Justin Thomas described the comments as "egotistical." McIlroy used that word and more. "I don't want to kick someone while he's down, obviously, but I thought they were naive, selfish, egotistical, ignorant," he said. "It was just very surprising and disappointing. Sad. I'm sure he's sitting at home sort of rethinking his position and where he goes from here." The broader question is where Norman goes from here.

The PGA Tour had a previously scheduled players meeting Tuesday at the Honda Classic. Mickelson has not played since the Saudi International two weeks ago, and he's not in the field for the Honda Classic or the PGA Tour Champions event in Arizona that he played a year ago. There was talk at the start of the week Norman would announce his roster of players during the Florida Swing, which then was said to be after the Masters, and then after the PGA Championship.

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