

March demanding justice for school student who killed himself in Faridabad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 26

TWO DAYS after a student of a private school in Greater Faridabad committed suicide, with a police complaint by his mother alleging he was harassed over his sexuality and the school ignored her complaint, his family, acquaintances and locals carried out a candle march Saturday, demanding "justice".

In the police complaint, the boy's mother has alleged that a year ago, he had confided in her that some boys in school had harassed him over his sexuality and she had filed complaints with the school authorities who, she claims, did not take any action. On Friday, the mother had told *The Indian Express* that in March 2021, her son was sexually harassed in the school washroom by some boys.

While the school principal and other authorities have not responded to this specific allegation, the principal had Friday said that children are nurtured and not harassed there. "We want an impartial enquiry so that the truth comes out and the school is vindicated," she said. Meanwhile, police on Saturday said the boy's mother was called to record the statement.

Arjun Dev, the SHO, said, "The statement could only be partially recorded since the family is still grieving and they had been busy in the last rites. We will speak to her again and verify allegations and conduct the investigation accordingly."

The boy's mother alleged on Saturday, "I went to the police station and have told them the entire incident, including repeated incidents of harassment by the school and some students. If the school authorities had acted on time and lis-

In the police complaint, the boy's mother said that a year ago the boy had confided in her that some boys had harassed him over his sexuality

tened to him, we could have saved my child. He had been suffering from depression and had panic attacks due to bullying, and he developed a phobia about going to school. He was troubled that despite repeated complaints, no one was taking action. He often said 'koi sunwai nahi hai' (no one is listening to us)".

His mother said he had creative interests and wanted to pursue a career in arts. Pointing to his room's wall, which had an intricate pattern of a design of leaves and trees, his maternal uncle said he had painted it all by himself recently.

"He may have struggled a little in conventional subjects but he was extremely talented, especially in nail art, design and painting. Schools should nurture and support such children, instead of reprimanding them. When he requested the assistance of a scribe for writing the exam, the school authorities instead accused him of creating drama. This is very unfortunate," he said.

On Friday, police had found a purported suicide note, wherein the student blamed his school and higher authorities. On the complaint of his mother, police had registered a case of abetment of suicide under IPC section 306 against the academic head of the school and others.

Friday's march was taken out from the boy's residential colony till the police station.

Former sarpanch shot over personal enmity

Gurgaon: A former sarpanch of a village in Gurgaon was shot at by unidentified assailants on Saturday. Police said the victim suffered two gunshot wounds and was rushed to a private hospital, where his condition is said to be critical.

Police said the victim, Yogesh Yadav (50), former sarpanch of Babupur village, has a construction business and the attack may have been perpetrated over a rivalry related to some accused demanding a share in it.

According to police, the incident was reported around 3 pm

when Yadav was outside his house. Three armed men arrived on a motorcycle and fired at least six gunshots at him, said police.


Police said they have recovered CCTV footage in which three armed men, wearing helmets, accosted the victim as he is on his phone, and start firing indiscriminately before running away.

DCP (West) Deepak Saharan said, "Preliminary probe suggests the accused had conducted a reconnaissance and followed him, before shooting at him multiple times. We are probing if enmity was the reason for the attack." ENS

Developers should provide better quality of homes, says Khattar


Gurgaon: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Saturday said his government has set a target of developing five big cities in an area of 2.5 lakh hectares near Kundli Manesar-Palwal (KMP) expressway.

He also said it was the duty of developers to provide better quality houses as people have an emotional attachment to their house. "The government is taking steps to provide housing for all," he said. ENS

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Last date for submission of EMD	23-03-2022
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Date of e-Auction	24-03-2022
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PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:	131
OXYGEN SUPPORT	51
VENTILATOR SUPPORT	13

DELHI: TOTAL CASES	Total		Vacant		
	HOSPITAL BEDS		11,113	10,940	
	ICU BEDS		2,501	2,431	
18,59,054					
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Feb 25	460	649	2	56,984	
Feb 26	440	460	2	53,173	
Total	2,063*	18,30,872	26,119	3,62,92,600	

* Total active cases in Delhi

*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA		
	Feb 25	Feb 26
Cases	81	N/A
Deaths	0	N/A
GURGAON		
Cases	169	156
Deaths	2	1

AS CASES FALL BELOW 500

No fine on people travelling without mask in private cars: New DDMA order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

THERE WILL be no penalty on people not wearing masks and travelling together in private four-wheelers in Delhi, with effect from February 28, according to an order issued by the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Fines were being imposed for not wearing masks in all public places. However, the penalty for not wearing masks in public places will no longer apply to persons travelling together in private four-wheelers.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has also issued an order reduc-



The High Court had earlier questioned the government order that made wearing masks inside cars mandatory. Archive

ing the fine for not wearing masks or maintaining social distancing from Rs 2,000 to Rs 500. The order was issued on Saturday based on the decisions taken at the DDMA meeting held

on Friday. Earlier this month, the Delhi government had said that people travelling alone in four-wheelers need not wear masks. This order was issued after the Delhi High Court had ques-

tioned the government order that makes wearing masks inside cars mandatory. The court had termed the order absurd, and asked DDMA to take a relook at guidelines issued by it in relation to Covid protocols. The order issued Saturday also confirms the DDMA decision to lift all Covid related restrictions in the capital from Monday onwards. The order also states that the blended or hybrid mode of learning in schools is to be followed for students up to class 9 and for class 11 till March 31, following which classes will be completely offline.

The order states the wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing, hand hygiene and ventilation in closed spaces shall con-

tinue to be enforced at all places. It directs all District Magistrates, DCPs and authorities concerned to focus on "strategic areas of intervention", including testing, tracking, surveillance, clinical management, vaccination, and strict compliance of Covid-appropriate behaviour. On Friday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced an end to Covid restrictions in Delhi: "DDMA withdraws all restrictions as situation improves and people facing hardships due to loss of jobs. Schools to function fully offline from 1 April. Fines for not wearing masks reduced to Rs 500. All should continue following Covid appropriate behaviour. Government will keep strict watch."



Rabindra Bhawan in Mandi House, which was built to mark the birth centenary of the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Amit Mehra

How Sahitya Akademi found its name, purpose, and Nehru as first president

ADRIJA ROYCHOWDHURY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

KSATCHIDANANDAN (75) fondly remembers that moment in 1972 when a poem of his, The blind man who discovered the sun, appeared in the Sahitya Akademi's bi-monthly journal, Indian Literature. He was a 26-year-old poet living in Kerala and writing primarily in Malayalam, and to be published by the Sahitya Akademi in New Delhi was a recognition at a national level he had been striving for. "Sahitya Akademi held a place of pride in the world of Indian literature. There was no comparable institution at that time," said Satchidanandan. "Every Indian writer wanted to be connected to it in some way or the other."

Two decades later, Satchidanandan got the opportunity to be the editor of the same journal. By then he was a leading modernist poet in Malayalam. He had also been a professor of English Literature at Christ College in Irinjalkuda for the last 25 years. The choice to move to Delhi, leaving behind the life and fame in Kerala, was a fearful one, he recounted. But then the prestige of being associated with the Sahitya Akademi, and editing a journal with such a wide readership, was alluring enough for Satchidanandan to take up voluntary retirement from his job and move to a life of what he calls 'near anonymity' in Delhi. "You would be surprised to know that the salary offered by the Sahitya Akademi then was less than that I was being paid by the college," he said laughing. "But still this was an opportunity I was not willing to give up."

The Akademi was at that time already close to 40 years old. It was conceived of by the first education minister of the country, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, with the objective of providing a national platform to writers like Satchidanandan, who would otherwise have been known only in the language circles in which they wrote. In order to establish the institution, a Conference of Letters was convened on March 15, 1951, attended by representatives from 19 state governments and numerous literary organisations. In his address to the conference, Azad explained that in India, there was a long tradition of state patronage of men of letters, which had been missing during colonial rule. The time had come to revive this tradition, and for that, he proposed the creation of an Indian Academy of Letters, "which will coordinate literary activities in all Indian languages".

The name of the Academy was not an easy one to decide on, given the many shades of language politics afflicting the newborn Indian nation at the time. Historian Riswan Qaiser in his book, Resisting colonialism and communal politics: Maulana Azad and the making of the Indian nation (2011), noted how the first name proposed by the committee appointed for the establishment of the academy was 'Bharat Bharati'. The Madras government clearly expressed its disapproval of the name and stated their preference for the name 'Indian National Academy



Nehru and Habib Rahman examine the plan for Rabindra Bhawan. Ram Rahman

of Letters'. Two other names, 'Sahitya Bharati' and 'Sahitya Niketan', were also suggested, but finally, a consensus was met upon 'Sahitya Akademi', which would be the closest translation of the 'Academy of Letters'.

Once the name was decided, a resolution was passed detailing the objective of the Akademi to "foster and coordinate literary activities in all the Indian languages and to promote through them all the cultural unity of the country". The name of Jawaharlal Nehru was proposed as its first president, who held the role till his demise in 1964. Qaiser in his book

noted that "before sending a note to the office of the president, for appointing Pandit Nehru as the first chairman of the Akademi, the Ministry of Education had made it clear to the prime minister's secretariat that his nomination was not on account of his being the prime

minister but in his personal capacity as a 'man of letters'."

Thereafter, the Sahitya Akademi was inaugurated on March 12, 1954, in the Central Hall of the Parliament. For the first few years of its existence, the Sahitya Akademi was located in the Theatre Communications Building in Connaught Place, where Palika Bazar exists today. In 1961, it was shifted to Rabindra Bhawan in Mandi House, which was built to mark the birth centenary of the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Apart from the Sahitya Akademi, the Lalit Kala Akademi and the Sangeet Natak Akademi were also shifted into this new building designed by architect Habib Rahman.

Rahman's son and renowned photographer Ram Rahman recollected how involved Nehru was in the making of the building. He remembered how his father was rebuked by the then prime minister for coming up with an initial design for the building which looked like an ordinary office. "My father then reworked the whole idea. He used local Delhi stones and made architectural interventions that were inspired by the Tughlaq buildings in Delhi. He also used jaali a lot, both as a see through and as a surface," explained Rahman. Rabindra Bhawan in that sense was the first institutional building in Delhi, in which the architect combined modernist styles of architecture with Indian sensibilities.

When Satchidanandan made

Rabindra Bhawan his literary home in 1992, he was pleasantly surprised to be introduced to literature in languages that he had hardly encountered in his life. "That is the major mission of the Akademi – to bring together writers from different languages and have a common platform for them to talk to each other and discuss specific issues concerning their languages," he said. He was particularly impressed to discover the rich repository of literature in the Northeastern languages. "It redefined my idea of Indian culture and civilisation," he said.

From 1996, when Satchidanandan became the secretary of the Akademi, he tried to open it up to more young writers. "Until then the Akademi was mostly a club of the old elite," he said.

Despite the many ways in which the Sahitya Akademi has tried to give a uniform platform to languages from across the subcontinent, it is also a 'quintessentially Delhi institution', noted cultural anthropologist Rashmi Sadana. "Delhi as the national capital represented the Nehruvian ideology of unity in diversity. Yet it sometimes struggles to translate this unified idea of India into the everyday life, politics and cultural practices of the city. That struggle is mirrored by the Sahitya Akademi as well," said Sadana. "The Sahitya Akademi negotiates the many languages it represents in Hindi and English, much the same way in which people in Delhi bridge the many different linguistic groups in the city through these two languages."

Sadana also explained that the real contribution of the Sahitya Akademi lies in the recognition and support it has given to smaller languages. However, its impact on the cultural life of Delhi has remained limited. "It did not have the kind of excitement as is often associated with institutions like the India Habitat Centre or the National School of Drama," she said.

Satchidanandan explained the lack of mass popularity of the institution by suggesting that "literature, by its nature, can never be as popular as the performing arts, which have a more direct appeal among the viewers." At present the Sahitya Akademi recognises 24 languages. "But the Akademi is for all the languages," said K Sreenivasarao, the current secretary. "There are close to 700 or 800 languages in India. We make it a point to give recognition to four different languages among them every year."

BRIEFLY

Juvenile apprehended for 'killing woman'

New Delhi: A juvenile was apprehended for allegedly killing a woman after robbing her valuables in Northwest Delhi's Rohini. On February 7, her body was found with stab wounds at Shahbad Dairy. "The accused and his associates took her to a deserted park in Rohini where she was stabbed to death. They robbed Rs 98,000, earrings, nose ring, her mobile phone, and escaped," a senior police officer said.

Train thief held with stolen money

New Delhi: A 37-year-old man was arrested for allegedly stealing a bag from a train at New Delhi railway station. Police were informed that the accused, who commits snatching and theft in New Delhi and Old Delhi railway station areas and in trains coaches, was in Chandni Chowk. "A mobile phone and Rs 40,000 were recovered from his possession," DCP (north) Sagar Singh Kalsi said.

Gang held for duping over 100 people

Gurgaon: Faridabad police Friday said they have busted a gang of four men who allegedly duped more than 100 people by offering rewards in the form of lottery and credit card activation-related scams. ENS

No headway in hit and run that killed doctor and technician

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

NEARLY A week after Dr Rajiv Ranjan, a senior resident doctor at a government hospital, and Manish Kumar, a technician at another hospital, died after being hit by a car near Najafgarh, the former's family said police have not been able to make any headway in tracing the car.

The accident took place at 11.35 am on February 20. Kumar (39) was riding the motorcycle on which Dr Ranjan (41) was riding pillion. The duo was riding towards Najafgarh Metro station.

Before dying, Kumar managed to get an FIR filed, wherein he told police that a speeding car hit the motorcycle, injuring them. They were taken to Kalyani Hospital, from where the doctors took them to a private hospital, where Dr Ranjan was declared dead.

"Dr Ranjan had gone to attend to a case near Najafgarh Sunday morning," said Dr Rashmi Ranjan,



Dr Rajiv Ranjan (left) and Manish Kumar

his wife, an anaesthetist. "He said he would return quickly. But then I got a call informing me that he had met with an accident. When I reached the hospital, an ambulance entered before me. I could see that he was no more. He was intubated," she said.

Dr Ranjan was actively involved in treating patients during the pandemic. "He was so helpful. He worked during Covid and treated so many patients who are asking after him now," said Dr Rashmi. The couple has a three-year-old child.

A senior police officer said that they have registered an FIR

and are scanning CCTV footage to find out about the car. The family has met police multiple times for updates on the investigation, Dr Rashmi said.

"Initially, we had hoped that the police would do something. But they have said they are unable to track the vehicle. It was very quick and the number was not visible. It has been nearly a week, and they have not been able to trace the vehicle. I have lost hope," she said.

Harish Kumar, Manish's brother, said Manish had given his statement, and was fine for around eight hours. "But something happened suddenly and he didn't survive. He didn't seem to have any external injuries. But scans were being done and he was being observed for internal injuries. A complaint against medical negligence on the part of the hospital was submitted to the police the same night at Sector 17 Dwarka, and also to Health Minister Satyender Jain," he said. Manish is survived by his wife and two school-going children.



FINE BALANCE

The German Embassy in New Delhi organised a day-long event featuring Indian and German slackliners at the Red Fort on Saturday. The event was meant to mark 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the Indian government's celebrations on the 75th anniversary of the country's Independence. Praveen Khanna

To check aggressive crowds, Delhi Police to procure pump-action rifle like BSF uses

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

TAKING A cue from the Border Security Force, which has among its arsenal the pump-action rifle (PAR) at the India-Bangladesh frontier, the Delhi Police is also planning to procure the non-lethal weapon to "control aggressive crowds", *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Special CP (Provisioning & Finance Division) Sanjay Beniwal sent a letter to all Special CPs (law and order) and JCPs on February 23: "In the CP's law and order meeting, it was decided that we need to have non-lethal weapons and equipment which are less lethal for

effective crowd control. Pepper spray gun, bolwrap and pump-action gun, etc, including the existing and upcoming products of Taken Pur, may kindly be considered and a list of proposed items with required number may be communicated for early procurement."

The idea was discussed in a meeting called by Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana a few days ago to check the police's preparedness, against the backdrop of protests held in some areas of the capital to protest the hijab curbs in Karnataka. Special CPs, JCPs, Additional CPs and DCPs rank officers were part of the meeting, which lasted around two hours and took place at the Delhi Police headquarters, it is learnt.

"During the discussion, Asthana was informed about strategies prepared by district police and also told that they currently do not have any non-lethal weapons. He responded that the BSF uses PAR to control agitated crowds, and they should look at procuring it too," said a police officer who was part of the meeting.

In the meeting, Asthana was also informed that the Delhi Police armoury currently has pepper sprays, taser guns, shock batons, multi-gas launchers, multi shell guns, tear smoke shells, and dye marker grenades. "Asthana was informed that they are also in the process of procuring the advanced indigenous mob control vehicle (MCV) prototypes, which are already equipped

with GPS and video transmission from the CSIR-CMERI. They are also planning to get armoured personnel carriers," an officer said.

Sources said another meeting was held Friday at the PHQ, where Asthana told officers to procure only non-lethal weapons approved by the Bureau of Police Research and Development for the Delhi Police.

In 2015, the then police chief B S Bassi had decided to procure stun guns, but the idea was later dropped. In 2019, then police commissioner Amulya Patnaik had too decided to procure non-lethal weapons. The provisioning and logistics department of Delhi Police had then floated a tender to procure 1,000 stun guns with lights and electric

batons. "We had decided to procure these devices to control the crowd," former Delhi Police spokesperson Mandeep Singh Randhawa had said at the time.

After Asthana's meeting, a DCP from the New Delhi Range called a meeting with his SHOs wherein he briefed them about getting PAR in the coming days. "He explained to them how the PAR is smoother and faster, and does not require the trigger hand to be removed from the trigger while reloading," an officer said.

When contacted, Delhi Police Spokesperson Chinmoy Biswal said: "We always handled law and order situations professionally. We continue to explore non-lethal weapons for handling law and order, if required."





25 Years of RGCI Marks One Spirit, One Aim in Curbing Cancer



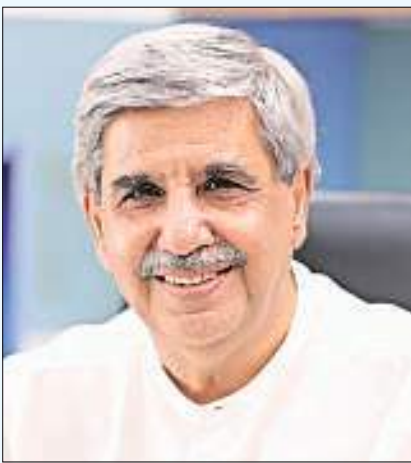
Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre, New Delhi, completes 25 remarkable years as India’s pioneering cancer institution with world-class facilities, driven by oncologists of global repute. The journey was started by a dream, a vision and indomitable courage of few dedicated person with the vision to provide affordable cancer care to the people. **Mr. Rakesh Chopra**, Chairman of the centre, who redefined cancer management in India. On this memorable occasion, **Mr D.S. Negi**, CEO of RGCI, an IAS officer (Retd.), the brilliant strategist behind the trajectory of RGCI’s success and **Dr. (Prof.) Sudhir Kumar Rawal**, Medical Director and Chief of Genito Uro - Oncology Services, go back the memory lane of the institution’s growth as a centre of excellence and it vision forward.

A vision succeeds only when it is followed by action to realise it. What kindled the passion, hope and confidence to set out on this inspirational journey? Pain and empathy for those detected with cancer. At that time, very few cancer facilities existed. If one had the means, one went abroad, if they fell short, Tata Memorial at Mumbai. Our Founders understood that pain and the plight of an ordinary Delhi citizen: so notwithstanding meagre resources they started the journey having full faith that God too would support this good cause.

Why did you choose to focus on cancer treatment and care as the core speciality of your hospital? As mentioned, cancer facilities in Delhi that time, were woefully short. Except for Rotary

Cancer Hospital, there was no other hospital in Delhi that had a medical oncology department. Government hospitals were plagued by problems inherent to them and in any case did not offer oncology specialists. Cancer patients were treated along with other diseases in the functional streams of surgery, radiation and medicine whereas Cancer requires multi modal treatment invariably and specialist care.

To build and create a world-class centre for cancer care and research, it takes more than the wherewithal. In an era of start-ups with brilliant concepts, what would you advise be to young entrepreneurs, particularly those venturing into healthcare sector? Honesty of purpose, commitment to your goal



Mr. Rakesh Chopra, Chairman

and hand of destiny. The Demand - Supply gap in the healthcare sector is very large and likely to continue in the foreseeable future. Therefore, opportunities in this sector are huge. One has a very good chance to succeed if you can offer a quality service with integrity. Money making should not be your goal, although it will invariably be a by-product in this sector.

Personally, what does the milestone of 25 years of RGCI’s founding day mean to you and the message that you would like to share with everyone?

I can see the smiling faces of our founding fathers. They dreamt yes, but could not have imagined that in a short period of 25 years, they had laid the seeds for what was to become India’s Premier and largest cancer hos-

pital in the country. The treatment and care that a patient receives at RGCI is no less than what you would receive anywhere in the world. We have the best-in-class equipment and facilities, and an enviable team of highly trained medical professionals, who collectively hold an unparalleled depth of experience, at par with the best in the world.

We have succeeded because we have ensured that the key tenets of the vision of our founding fathers continues to shine brightly. Values of service and empathy to patients, treatment at reasonable rates and maintenance of the highest uncompromising standard of medical ethics. These values are cast in stone and will never be compromised. That is what makes RGCI unique as it continues to serve society. Personally, this has been the most gratifying period of my life.



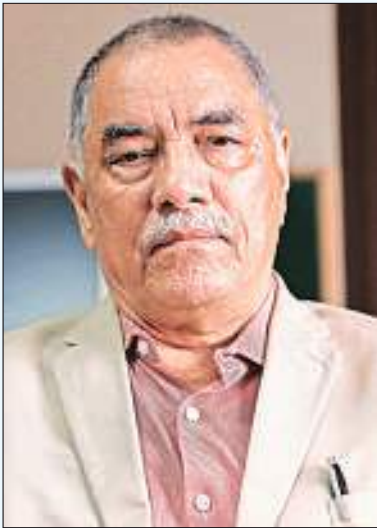
Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre

Mr D. S. Negi, CEO of RGCI, an IAS officer (Retd.), brings with him tremendous knowledge and experience from his various leadership roles in the Govt. sector, including as Principal Secretary (Health & Family Welfare), Govt. of NCT of Delhi. A master strategist and planner, his skills include a natural flair for communication and exceptional interpersonal and man management skills to motivate workforce even in the face of intimidating circumstances, amply displayed during the Covid pandemic. As CEO, his priorities have been for integrated programs in patient care, research, education and cancer prevention and incorporating new modalities in cancer treatment.

What are the milestones of this institutions 25 years of journey and growth into prominence as a Cancer-centric healthcare hub of the country?

The genesis of RGCI reads like an interesting book that cannot be put down until having read the last word of the last page. The success story of this iconic institution was scripted by our visionary Chairman, Mr K. K. Mehta, a man whose heart lies in service to mankind. His tryst with cancer began with Cancer Society in Mumbai, as a philanthropist. Having seen the trauma of cancer patients and their families, he headed the Indian Cancer Society Delhi Chapter. As fate would have it, he met Air Chief Marshal

Mr. H. L. Kapur, who was also the former Lt. Governor of the national capital. Together, they built a synergy of enterprise in creating a world-class cancer care and research institute and ventured into a challenging terrain with only hope, courage and an empty pocket. Their efforts won the confidence of public sector enterprises and the private sector that fetched them funds to purchase 4 acres of land on which today this institution stands. The next challenge was to raise the working capital for which they held several fundraising programmes and A block of RGCI was constructed. The humble beginning started with a diagnostic centre, which was inaugurated by then President of India Shri Shankar Dayal Sharma. Fortunately, the institution attracted good doctors, who are even today an integral part of this centre as they are aligned to the vision of the institution with a spirit of ownership as RGCI is not a family run society, but governed by members with selfless commitment and take no honorarium or perks. The surplus revenue generated by RGCI is reinvested in realising its objective of infrastructure expansion and bring in niche technology in cancer care comprising of medical, surgery and radiation, which are integrated for optimum results. Simultaneously, peripheral services grew which includes the best diagnostic lab with molecular imaging facility, which in the best in the country. The protocol modalities that we follow are in accordance to



the NCCN guidelines.

RGCI was started with a very modest but genuine vision and mission with values and ethics embedded in the very core of the hospital’s policy, by the founders who aimed to build one of the largest credible cancer care centre, which is affordable and succeeded to do so. These values have proved to be most beneficial and productive in group practice with a very well devised system of division of revenue between the clinicians and the management in place that augurs well for the capital-intensive departments, besides meets the as-

pirational growth of our doctors.

Evidence- based medicine are integral in providing quality healthcare. What is RGCI’s contribution in research?

Healthcare in western countries, are research intensive and research driven requiring investments worth billions, which as of now is beyond our means. Clinical research is sponsored by multi-national pharma companies as it also requires huge funding. And for these trials they need to conduct studies of patients from different regions of the world, for the simple reason that they get to know of the ethnicity and regional variations impacted by any disease. Our strength lies in clinical trials and we are one of the pioneers for over two decades and one of the largest in the country.

What is the reason for the increasing cancer spread?

The primary reason for this spike in cancer cases is due to a combination of factors such as environment pollution and lifestyle changes and only a meagre 4-5 percent are linked to family history. The extent of cancer spread and awareness can be brought about by screening and RGCI has a very ambitious preventive programme that ran for 7-8 years, but was put on hold due to covid. Initially, we used to do sporadic examination but after consultations with ex-

perts it was decided that the best approach is by the scientific method that is population based screening which entails adopting a certain area, followed by mapping of the area and then the screening of the population residing in that area. Only few cancers can be detected by screening namely oral, breast, cervix etc. The focus is more on women. Every year we do about 8000-9000 screenings and we found that 5-6 percent pre-cancerous stage and if not treated they could become full blown cancer patients. We bring people from such under-served areas to our centre where they are treated free of cost.

How do you identify the potential population with cancer and RGCI’s philanthropic spending on it?

We have tie-ups with the government groups such as Asha workers, government health workers and in certain cases NGOs are also involved. They do the basic field work and we chip in to raise awareness, both with written material as well as audio-visual. Initially, there is bound to be resistance and it takes a while to convince and win the confidence of the residents before launching any awareness drive. We have built credibility and a name for the institute by word of mouth because of the kind of services and treatment that we offer.

RGCI’s spendings on those who can’t afford the cancer treatment is a whopping Rs

25 crore per annum. We also have some schemes on offer for the patient to lessen their financial burden. The treatment of cancer is very costly, therefore even a reasonably well-off patient, in the course of long treatment, becomes financially stressed, such patients are therefore offered free bed by the institute, as when needed. The doctors’ services, the diagnostic costs, nursing care are not billed. They only have to bear the medicine costs, and consumables for which we have tie-ups with various NGOs including the Indian Cancer Society and philanthropic societies and clubs. It’s our philosophy that whoever comes to RGCI should not go untreated. We do have a corpus for such work and we are looking to further strengthen it and match it with an equal grant from the hospital. Our aim is to build this corpus to over Rs 100 -150 crore and invest it and the interest generated from it can comfortably take care of treating poor people for years to come.

What is your message in this Cancer awareness month?

It is necessary to adopt latest treatment modalities in the world and for that there is a cost, but it has to be reasonable and the cost must be passed on to the patient. And whatever surplus revenue that you generate must be spent on the betterment of the hospital in terms of infrastructure improvement for patient care.

Dr. (Prof.) Sudhir Kumar Rawal, is Medical Director and Chief of Genito Uro - Oncology Services at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute. He has 30 years of unparalleled accomplishments in Genito Urinary Oncosurgery. He is the first Uro Gyne surgical oncologist of North India and is heading the department since the inception of the Institute. His achievements include the first open Retropubic Radical Prostatectomy in private sector in India and having done maximum number of Radical Prostatectomy, Radical Cystoprostatectomy Neobladder, Robotic VEIL, Robotic RPLND (Post Chemo) in the country. Not one to stop learning evolving techniques of surgery, he also has keen interest in robotic surgery.

How have you integrated the three modalities of treatment i.e., medicine, surgery and radiation?

We have the tumour board, which is also called as Disease Management Group in other institutions. The board serves its purpose in arriving at a decisive assesment when the case is complicated and where other specialities have to be taken into consideration. Doctors of the respective specialities involved study the case and then chart out a treatment route that best suits the patients. At RGCI, we follow the NCCN guidelines.

What make RGCI, one-of-its-kind cancer care hospital in India?

RGCI is an exclusive cancer centre with a very strong clinical trial programme, and at a time nearly 100 of them are in different stages of progress for which the medicine is not yet available in the market and so are given free of cost. In research, we have basic research which is unique for a cancer centre like ours. A robust tumour board, state-of-the-art equipment, pathology lab, Next Gen Sequencing facility, Interventional Oncology and the molecular imaging, a test that can now be done in India, otherwise patients used to go to the US to get them done, is RGCI’s strength. We do get funding from ICMR and for basic research projects,



we are also working to get grant from DBT/DSI.

Academically, RGCI is probably the best and most preferred in the country with a strong core speciality training taking place in every sphere of Oncology that is of 3 years duration. At a time about 42 students are at various stages of learning and training. Apart from DNB programmes, RGCI attracts a good number of fellows and researchers.

As head of the department and as a doctor what efforts have you made



to spread awareness?

Doctors of RGCI’s preventive oncology department hold camps for screening and spreading cancer awareness, but it is temporarily on hold due to covid. If a patient is detected with cancer and belongs to the weaker economic strata, we treat them free of cost. Generally, we focus on EWS clusters. Apart from this, we organise conferences, workshops, and have huge training programmes for all the specialities. Conferences and workshops give a lot of teaching to the doctors, and para medical staff. A monthly

newsletter of RGCI, a journal on pathology and the hospital’s brochures are among the publicity drives that we consistently do.

Is there any Oncology speciality that you want to add?

We have every cancer speciality and research in the area that we need to focus on and there is scope to do so. We will soon have a young research doctor from the US joining us and we are hoping to make that programme very strong though the hospital will have to bear heavy costs. But we shall explore sources to raise funds and sponsorship.

RGCI has a bio-repository bank where cancer tissues are stored and the patient’s entire clinical data is documented, which are used for research not only at this hospital, but also academic institutions like IIT, Roorkee bio-tech department, Amity and many others. We also have the commercial use of these tissues which are procured by pharma institutes like Dana-farber, USA. So, RGCI is contribution to clinical research is commendable.

How is technology leveraging optimum coverage of patients?

AI right now has a role in radiology and pathology and is still evolving. Maybe in future a large chunk of these two departments will shift to AI platform. RGCI has

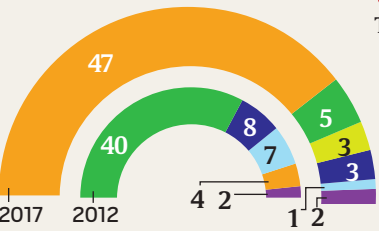
two state-of-the-art Da Vinci robots and the ‘Made in India’ robot will also roll out soon. We have already done 18 cases using the Indian robot in its trial phase. The move to Make in India, is commendable which is aimed to make it cheaper, otherwise robots are expensive and not everybody can afford to purchase it or get surgery done. The new Indian robot are suited for hospitals in 2 and 3 tier cities. Though it sounds like Sci-fiction, with robots we can do telesurgery, tele mentoring, tele learning, and this can be done remotely, and the day is not far off that it will become a reality. We also do tele-consultations and I do a couple of them on a daily basis.

February is observed as cancer month, what is your message to the people?

One should take care of themselves and not neglect their health. If you suspect of having any symptoms of cancer immediately consult your doctor, because if cancer is detected early in most of the cases it is curable. Stay away from junk food, eat a healthy diet preferably home cooked food. Pile up your plate with plenty of greens. And coconut water, is nature’s elixir for health! Make exercise a part of your daily routine because so long as you are active your health will be in perfect order.

UTTAR PRADESH

BJP SP BSP Cong
APNA DAL (S) INDEPENDENTS



RUNNERS-UP (2017):

SP 27, BSP 14, INC 11, BJP 7, APNA DAL (S) 2

61
TOTAL SEATS IN PHASE V

692
TOTAL CANDIDATES

KEY CANDIDATES

■ Keshav Prasad Maurya (BJP)
■ Nand Gopal Gupta (BJP)
■ Siddharth Nath

2.24 cr
TOTAL VOTERS

UP Phase V

■ Singh (BJP)
■ Raghuraj Pratap Singh (Jansatta Dal)
■ Aradhana Mishra (Congress)

KEY CONTESTS

SIRATHU

Keshav Prasad Maurya vs Anupriya Patel

KUNDA

Raghuraj Pratap Singh vs Gulshan Yadav

RAMPUR KHAS

Aradhana Mishra vs Naresh Pratap Singh

ALLAHABAD SOUTH

Nand Gupta vs Alpana Nishad

AMETHI

Sanjay Singh vs Ashish Shukla

BALLOTIN

Remarks on PM, CM: EC slaps 24-hr ban on Cong candidate's campaign



Rai from campaigning for 24 hours for making objectionable remarks against the Prime Minister and the state Chief Minister. Censuring Rai for violating the poll code, the

New Delhi: The EC on Friday barred Congress's Pindara candidate Ajay Rai from campaigning for 24 hours for making objectionable remarks against the Prime Minister and the state Chief Minister. Censuring Rai for violating the poll code, the

Commission said the ban commences at 8 am on Saturday. Rai had made the objectionable remarks in a live Facebook post in January, following which the EC had served him a notice. In his reply to the notice served on him on Wednesday, Rai said the remarks were made metaphorically to describe salt packets distributed by the central and the state governments. PTI

'Manipur outfit breached MCC'

New Delhi: The Congress on Saturday urged the EC to "immediately intervene" after KNO, a banned outfit, issued a call for support to the BJP in Manipur. KNO president PS Haokip recently asked people to vote for BJP saying the party leadership had promised swift settlement of its political aspirations. "Any person acting contrary to this will be deemed acting against Kuki interests," he said. PTI

Candidates' kin booked for clash

Bahraich: About two dozen BJP and SP supporters were booked and nine arrested for allegedly clashing with each other in Khudadat village of Matara assembly constituency, police said on Saturday. A senior police officer said the fight broke out Friday night between supporters of SP candidate Madhuri Verma and BJP candidate Arunveer Singh outside a 'dhaba'. PTI

'Even if earning Rs 50k, people want govt job... and get registered... So (unemployment) numbers go up

WITH THE BJP fighting to retain power in four of the five states going to polls, and putting up a tough contest in Punjab, party president JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA has been on the move, and has addressed more than 60 rallies so far. In a break before the final stretch, Nadda speaks to LIZ MATHEW & P VAIDYANATHAN IYER. Excerpts:

How do you see the BJP's prospects?

Normally you face anti-incumbency in states you are in power in. But since 2014, there is a new phenomenon — pro-incumbency. In Uttar Pradesh, people feel they have been empowered and a lot of development has happened. Law and order had been a major issue. But today the common man has faith as there is no political intervention.

Goa was a 'ferry' world, but now you have bridges and infrastructure development. Villages have become self-reliant with electricity and water. Manipur, which was known for blockades, is known for development, peace and prosperity. As for Uttarakhand, the Prime Minister has said the next decade will belong to Uttarakhand. We will come back in all these four states and also do well in Punjab... I have seen a disconnect in the Opposition's campaign.

While BJP leaders have been talking about the construction of the Ram temple, the party's campaign videos do not feature it.

The Ram temple is a matter of faith for millions of people. So it should be taken in that spirit... We also believed in the procedures of court, but earlier governments delayed the adjudication of the case. So we are exposing them... exposing those who gunned down the Ram bhakts... But our focus is development, empowerment and law and order.

Despite development under BJP rule over the last five years, why is the employment rate in UP lower than the national average?

I have been questioning these statistics. The youth have aspirations, most have migrated to different states, have got jobs. So when you see the UP data, it does not mean that people in the state

are unemployed... When the economy grows, jobs will be created... (Plus) Even if one is earning Rs 50,000, one considers oneself unemployed as people want a government job... They get registered at the employment exchange. So, the number goes up, but the person is earning. We cannot come to a conclusion on the basis of the data. From an economic point of view, youth get a lot of opportunities.

However, in our ground reports, we saw visible anger among youth over the lack of jobs. How do you plan to counter this?

I need not counter it. Because, people have faith in only Yogi and Modiji to help the economy grow and stabilise. During the last five years, the UP government has provided 4.6 lakh jobs.

But if the youth have both jobs and income, why did UP have to provide free foodgrains to 17-18 crore people?

People are talking about jobs only (in terms of) better living. And those getting free ration, they are uneducated and not seeking jobs. They have become independent because of the free ration. These are two different sets of people. When we talk about youth, they do not need rations. They are looking at the next step, aiming for better living. The ration is for people in villages who are facing issues.

You say the BJP talks only about development. But PM Narendra Modi sought to link the SP's poll symbol, cycle, with terror attacks.

For development, we have to expose those trying deception. They are trying to portray one image, but they are anti-development. If chief ministers support and protect terrorists, they weaken the country. It becomes our primary responsibility to expose them, so as to ensure development... Akhilesh has not spoken a word, why? Such a serious charge was made against him. Why is he not speaking?... Agar apne Muzaffarnagar ke main culprit ko apne special plane se bulake, apne ghar pe biryani khilaya, iske baare mein kuch nahin bolun (If you invited the main culprit of the Muzaffarnagar riots by a special flight and fed him biryani, should I not speak up?)



'I would not use the word habitual offenders. But it's true that there are some (BJP leaders) who always play to the gallery, to the media. You may have seen that many of them have gone quiet for some days. My job is to stop them at the initial stage itself... There are still some, but we strictly monitor them'

(Maulana Nazeer Ahmed Qasmi and five others, including his two sons, were brought to Lucknow for a meeting by Akhilesh. They were booked for trying to visit one of the sites of the violence).

In Punjab you linked AAP with terrorism. Is it not vote bank politics too?

We don't believe in vote bank politics. We are in national politics... We do this to show that these parties are not conducive to Indian democracy... The BJP's template is development and Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas. We include minorities in our programmes, we are conscious of that. When the Markaz issue happened (the allegation that a Delhi religious gathering had become a Covid hotspot), I made it clear to partymen that we could not link Corona to any religion... It's Akhilesh who is compromising with terrorists, mafias, goonda elements... Why don't you counter me?... If you can compromise with anyone for the chair, we have to expose you for pushing our own development agenda. That's why

the cycle was linked to terrorism.

We have specific questions for Kejriwal: Have you ever had a meeting with a terrorist outfit? Is your party funded by terrorist groups?... We are a nationalist party, we have a good track record... still had the same charges been levelled at us, you would have hanged us.



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW

WITH
JP NADDA
BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

In the last few elections, the BJP got the support of the larger OBC community. Has that changed?

No. Let's meet after the election and talk... Politics is not mathematics, it's chemistry. When two leaders join hands, voters do not join, they always think about their priorities. You (the SP) experimented with the Congress, it did not work; then with the BSP, but the vote did not get transferred... Now the SP is with the RLD, which has an impact only in Western UP, that too in limited districts.

So, the exit of prominent OBC leaders is not going to affect the BJP?

Voters do not go with the leaders; for them the chemistry

is with Modiji. Tell me, we saw an intense farmer agitation. Did it have any impact on the elections?... Now, voters vote against the pradhans because they know it is Modiji who provided them Ayushman cards, toilet, gas connections and ration... The champion of the poor is Modi, others had a misconception that they were champions. They were only so under the umbrella of Modiji.

Where do you place Adityanath? Is it decided that he would be CM in case the party returns in UP?

Yogiji is a force in himself in UP. The credit of improved law and order goes to him. He has proved himself as an administrator. We are fighting under the dynamic leadership of Narendra Modi, and the implementing person is Yogi in UP. We are fighting under his leadership and when we return to power, he will be our CM. But in our party, there is a methodology. I would like to say the parliamentary board will take the decision, but yes, we are fighting under his leadership.

How do you see AAP's emergence?

It's a democratic country, everyone has the right to grow. AAP getting ahead, good, but where is AAP in UP, Uttarakhand? Which seat is it going to win?

As BJP president, how do you deal with party leaders making controversial statements, some of whom are habitual offenders?

I would not use the word habitual offenders. But it's true that there are some who always play to the gallery, to the media. You may have seen that many of them have gone quiet for some days. My job is to stop them at the initial stage itself. I do this in the mornings, today too. We make them understand. Ninety percent say it was emotional... But I tell them not to (say such things). So the intention of the party is very clear. There are still some, but we strictly monitor them. We are a cadre-based party, but it's also a mass party and there are people from different backgrounds, and they speak when they get applauded. Containing them is my responsibility.

When you became the party

chief, there was this view that with your moderate image, you might bring changes in the BJP. But the discord between the BJP and the Muslim community is almost constant, the latest incident being hijab. How did you feel seeing girls and women being asked to remove their hijab in public?

We believe in the Constitution, the rule of law, and we believe the law should take its course. I have been trying to convince people that we are not against any community or religion. I have complete faith that, in times to come, everyone will come within the BJP fold because our intentions are pious, pure. We believe in justice to all, appeasement to none. But the Opposition is always looking to polarise because it is the easy way to get the 20% vote of the community.

On these incidents, I have told party leaders not to give any statements. The matter is in the court and, as responsible citizens, we will abide by its decision. But one needs to understand how such issues evolve? Who was behind it? Who made them (the girls) wear hijab and come to college?... If divisive forces (have got) activated, the strategy has to be different.

However, why is the BJP seen as acting against a community, like in how the Adityanath government went after anti-CAA protesters in UP? The Supreme Court eventually asked it to withdraw the notices to them.

It's true that in order to maintain law and order, some laws were framed... Some initiatives may not have been accepted (by court). But do not link it with a community. Link it with mafia activity... We are running things within the Constitution... the intention is to control, not harass anyone.

Why is Rahul Gandhi the target of the BJP's attacks?

It's not us, it's the media. You pick up a tweet of his, and seek a reaction from us. It takes hours for us to understand what he wants to say, and it becomes our responsibility to respond to the so-called national leader... I don't know who inspires him, whether it's JNU or someone else.



A mandi at Arjunpur in Bundelkhand. Express

8 years later, defunct mandis of a Rs 7.2k-cr Bundelkhand package

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
CHITRAKOOT, FEBRUARY 26

WHEN AN agricultural marketing yard (mandi) was constructed in Arjunpur, Kalyan Prasad thought his difficulties would end soon. With a mandi in his village, Kalyan, a farmer, would no longer need to make those long journeys to sell his crop at Karwi, 30 kilometres away. However, eight years on, the wait only continues.

Constructed in 2014 under the then UPA (United Progressive Alliance) government's Bundelkhand Package, the mandi in Arjunpur has yet to become operational. And farmers such as Kalyan still have few choices — Karwi, which is far away, or Rajapur, which is nearby but where the produce fetches a lesser price from *arhatiyas* (commission agents).

But with elections underway, hopes are rising again. Kalyan, who grows mustard, gram, maa and wheat on his 45 bigha land, tells *The Indian Express* "whoever is elected" from his constituency must ensure the mandi becomes operational.

The Chitrakoot assembly constituency, under which Kalyan's village falls, is scheduled for polls in the fifth phase of Uttar Pradesh elections on Sunday.

Under the Rs 7,266 crore Bundelkhand Package, seven specialized mandi yards each were envisaged at the district headquarters of seven districts of the state's Bundelkhand region. This was besides the 168 Gramin Awasthapana Kendra (Rural Infrastructure Nuclei) at sub-district levels, with storage godowns with a capacity of 500 metric tonnes along with auc-

tion platforms, shops and farmers facilitation centers.

Vijay Bahadur Singh, a former Member of Parliament from neighbouring Hamirpur who was part of the panel set up by the then Planning Commission to monitor the implementation of the Bundelkhand Package, calls the defunct mandis "an example of unplanned spending of government money".

"There are 5-6 mandis between Banda and Mahoba. These are spread over an area between 0.5 and 1 square kilometre. But transaction worth Rs 100 has not taken place. Big trees have grown. In some time, these would become a forest where animals would roam around," Singh tells *The Indian Express*. "They did not plan properly," he says.

Congress leader and former Union Minister of State Pradeep Jain Aditya blames the state government. "They did not appoint officers and staff at these mandis because it feels that the credit for these mandis will go to the UPA government," says Jain, who is also a former Member of Parliament from Jhansi constituency.

Jain says his party even protested to demand operationalisation of the mandis.

But until that happens, many, like Kalyan, can only wait. A resident of nearby Gosainpur village, Ram Naresh, who was appointed watchman at the mandi, has now become a tailor. He has set-up his sewing machine right in front of the mandi office at Arjunpur.

"I was paid Rs 1,500 per month for the initial few months and was told that once the mandi becomes operational, I will get a regular job. However, neither the mandi became operational, nor I am getting my monthly salary," he says.

I HEREBY DECLARE



SHAHALAM
a.k.a. GUDDU
JAMALI
AIMIM,
Mubarakpur
(Azamgarh)

TOTAL ASSETS:
₹195.84 crore
MOVABLE ASSETS:
Self: ₹157.18 crore
(includes a pistol and a rifle)



RAMAKANT
YADAV
SP, Phoolpur-
Pawai
(Azamgarh)

TOTAL ASSETS:
₹10.2 crore
MOVABLE ASSETS:
Self: ₹2.97 crore (includes a revolver, a gun and a rifle)
Wife: ₹93.68 lakh (includes a revolver, a gun and a rifle)

Wife: ₹30.27 crore
IMMOVABLE ASSETS:
Total: ₹7.62 crore
Wife: ₹77.5 lakh
LOANS FROM BANKS OR OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS: ₹3 crore

CRIMINAL CASE: 1
SOURCES OF EARNING:
Self, Wife: Business
EDUCATION: MBA (1995)

IMMOVABLE ASSETS:
Self: ₹5.1 crore
Wife: ₹1.2 crore

LOANS FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OR INDIVIDUALS: Nil

CRIMINAL CASES: 3
SOURCES OF EARNING:
Self: MP salary & agriculture
Wife: Agriculture

EDUCATION: High School (1974)

VOTING ON MARCH 5

More secular than any party, says BJP sole Muslim face, via Manipur

JIMMY LEIVON
IMPHAL, FEBRUARY 26

THE BJP's nominee in Manipur's Lilong seat, Y Antas Khan, is the only Muslim candidate fielded by the party in the ongoing Assembly elections in five states that include Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh besides Manipur.

"The BJP is more secular than Congress. The anti-Muslim tag on BJP has been put by the Congress," says Khan, 34. He admits that the lack of Muslim leadership in the BJP is the main reason why the party is perceived to be "anti-Muslim or Hindu-centric party". "Initially I had the same idea. But after I joined the BJP and entered into its system, I found that it is more secular than any other party," he claims.

The Lilong Assembly con-

stituency in Thoubal district is inhabited predominantly by the Muslim community. The indigenous Manipuri Muslims, based in the valley, are known as "Pangal" or "Meitei Pangal".

Khan claims that Meitei Pangals do not have grievances against the ruling BJP owing to the "good leadership in the Manipur BJP". He says, "Normally the minority community everywhere feels insecure, and that is when the role of good leadership counts," adding that "Chief Minister N Biren Singh has been working closely with Meitei Pangals despite the fact that the minority community has no representation in the government".

Khan is the sitting MLA from Lilong, which he had won in the 2020 bypoll as an Independent candidate. He joined the BJP last year. His father late Md Alauddin Khan was a minister in the previ-



Y Antas Khan addresses a rally in Lilong constituency. Express

ous Ibobi Singh-led Congress government.

The National People's Party (NPP)'s candidate Sheik Noorul Hassan, however, says successive Manipur governments including the incumbent BJP dispensation have "neglected" Meitei Pangals despite the fact that the community has enough voters to swing elections in a slew of constituencies.

Of the total 60 Assembly seats in Manipur, there are about 18 Assembly seats with a considerable percentage of Meitei Pangal voters, Hassan says. The BJP has, however, fielded only a sitting Muslim MLA as its lone candidate, he says. He adds that 37 per cent of voters in his Kshetrigao seat are Muslims too.

Of the total 16 Muslim candi-

dates in the Manipur fray for the upcoming polls, the Congress has fielded 4 and the NPP and the Janata Dal (United) 3 each, while four are Independents.

The All Manipur Muslim United Coordinating Committee (AMMUCC)'s president SM

Admits the lack of Muslim leadership in the BJP is why the party is perceived to be Hindu-centric

Jalal says the reason why Meitei Muslims have been lagging behind on all development parameters is due to lack of their representation in various

fields. Muslims settled in Manipur in the early 17th century. As per 2011 Census, of Manipur's over 28 lakh population, Muslims number 2.40 lakh. Significantly, after Manipur got statehood in 1972, Md Alimuddin of the Manipur People's Party became its first CM.

BJP candidate gets EC notice for communal remarks

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Saturday issued a notice to a BJP candidate from Uttar Pradesh for allegedly making communal remarks, and asked him to respond within a day.

While issuing the notice to Raghvendra Pratap Singh, who is contesting from Domariyaganj assembly seat, the poll watchdog referred to a video clip in which he broadly said in Bhojpuri that Hindus who “go to the other side” (and vote for the rival candidate) have Muslim blood flowing through their veins. The Election commission also provided the transcript of the purported remarks. The Commission noted that an FIR has already been lodged against Singh under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and election laws.

PTI

PM: Private sector participation needed to produce more doctors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26



Today our children are going to smaller countries to study, said Prime Minister Modi

POINTING OUT that a large number of Indian students pursue medical education from smaller countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged the private sector to expand its participation with the aim to produce maximum doctors within the country.

The Prime Minister's statement comes in the backdrop of hundreds of Indian students, many of them studying medicine, stuck in war-hit Ukraine. However, Modi did not make any direct mention of the crisis in Ukraine. He was speaking at a webinar on the announcements for the health

sector in the Union budget.

“Today our children are going to smaller countries to study, especially for medical education. They go despite the language barrier. Millions of rupees are going out of the country. Can't our private sector enter this field in a big way? Can't our state gov-

ernments make policies so that India can produce a maximum number of doctors,” Modi said.

The PM emphasised that this year's budget has been built upon the efforts to transform the healthcare sector in the last seven years. “We have adopted a holistic approach in our healthcare system. Today, our focus is not only on health but equally on wellness,” Modi said. He highlighted that three key factors will make the health sector 'holistic and inclusive'. “First, the expansion of modern medical science-related infrastructure and human resources. Secondly, promotion of research in the traditional Indian medical systems, such as Ayush. Third, providing affordable modern healthcare to every citizen and every re-

gion of the country,” Modi said.

On modern and futuristic technologies in the healthcare sector, the PM specifically highlighted the launch of Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission aimed at providing an easy interface between the consumer and healthcare provider. “With this, both getting and giving treatment will become easy. Not only this, it will also facilitate global access to India's quality and affordable healthcare system,” Modi said. “It is our endeavour that critical healthcare facilities should be at the block level, at the district level, near the villages. This infrastructure needs to be maintained and upgraded from time to time. For this, the private sector will also have to step in with more energy,” he added.

Rajnath: India never attacked or occupied another country's land



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the 98th DU convocation ceremony on Saturday. Amit Mehra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Saturday said India was the “only country” in the world that had never attacked or occupied any other country's land.

Speaking at the 98th convocation ceremony of Delhi University (DU), he said: “Our dream is to make India 'jagat guru'. We want to make the country powerful, rich, knowledgeable and a nation with values. India is the only country that has never attacked or occupied one inch land of any other country. Our power is meant for the welfare of the world and not to scare anyone.”

Singh was the chief guest at the ceremony where 1,73,443 students were awarded digital degrees.

“Now, even the world believes that India was once a world leader in several areas, including knowledge and science, but there are many so-called progressives who “malign and question” the cultural excellence of the country,” Singh said.

“The concept of zero was given by India, Sridharacharya gave quadratic equation, Bodhayana came up with the Pythagoras theorem 300 years before Pythagoras did so, surgery was performed in this country before Jesus Christ, Aryabhata explained the shape of the Earth and that it rotated

on its axis before Copernicus,” he said.

Emphasising on spiritualism, he said entrepreneurs such as Steve Jobs and Mark Zuckerberg had visited Neem Karoli Baba at Kainchi Dham near Nainital for peace in their times of trouble.

Singh urged students not to go against the nation's interest. Citing names of Afzal Guru and Yakub Memon, Singh said it was a misconception that poverty and lack of education were reasons for terrorism.

During the convocation, a total of 197 medals were conferred on students and a record number of 802 doctoral degrees were awarded. DU will complete 100 years on May 1.

First shipment of Indian wheat reaches Afghanistan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

THE FIRST shipment of 2,500 metric tonnes of wheat sent by India for Afghan people through the land border route as part of a humanitarian aid reached Jalalabad town of Afghanistan on Saturday.

The consignment, which was part of the 50,000 metric tonnes that the Indian government has committed to send to the war-torn country, was dispatched on February 22.

Afghanistan's Ambassador to India Farid Mamundzay said the convoy of 50 trucks carrying the grain arrived in the Afghan city and that the aid would now be distributed among people by the



Wheat assistance from India reaches Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Twitter/ @FMamundzay

World Food Programme (WFP).

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, along with Mamundzay and WFP country director Bishaw Parajuli had on

February 22 flagged off the convoy of trucks at a ceremony at Amritsar's Attari border crossing.

On February 12, India had inked a memorandum of understanding with the WFP for the distribution of wheat in Afghanistan. India had sent a proposal to Pakistan on October 7 last year, seeking the transit facil-

EXPLAINED Aid, but not recognition

INDIA HAS not recognised the new regime (Taliban) in Afghanistan and has been pitching for the formation of a “truly inclusive government” in Kabul, besides insisting that the Afghan soil must not be used for any terror activities against any country.

standing with the WFP for the distribution of wheat in Afghanistan. India had sent a proposal to Pakistan on October 7 last year, seeking the transit facil-

WORLD NGO DAY

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NGOs are true saviours for people in distress

Working with a multi-pronged and practical approach to societal problems, NGOs have helped women and children better their lives

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In any modern society,

NGOs have three primary roles to fulfil. First, they can facilitate communication upward from people to the government and downward from the government to the people. Second, NGOs provide an opportunity for self-organisation of society and encourage devolution of power. NGOs enable citizens to work together voluntarily to promote social values and civic goals, which are important to them. They promote local initiative and problem-solving. Through their work in a broad array of fields — environment, health, poverty alleviation, culture, arts, education and so on — NGOs reflect the diversity of society itself. They also empower citizens and promote change at the “grassroots.”

Third, NGOs become spokespersons for the poor and the dispossessed and attempt to influence government policies and programmes on their behalf. This may be done through a variety of means, ranging from campaigning and pilot projects, to participating in public forums and suggesting policy options to the Government. Thus, NGOs play several roles: from

being advocates of the poor to implementers of government programmes; from being agitators and critics to being partners and advisors; and from being sponsors of pilot projects to mediators.

NGO activities include, but are not

limited to, environmental, social, advocacy and human rights work. They can work to promote social or political change on a broad scale or very locally. NGOs play a critical part in developing society, improving communities and promoting citizen participation.



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"The concept behind NGO day is to Celebrate, Commemorate and Collaborate. We aim to inspire people to volunteer for a cause and encourage a greater symbiosis between public and private sector. We admire our heroes for their great work and effort. Wish you all the best for future endeavors."
- Dr. Arvind Kumar Gupta, Trustee, Bharat Mata Foundation

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8 GOVT & POLITICS

Day after raids on BMC corporator's premises, Sena says will expose BJP's dirty dozens

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 26

A DAY after searches by the Income Tax (I-T) department on the premises of BMC standing committee chairman Yashwant Jadhav, the Shiv Sena on Saturday threatened to expose the "dirty dozens" in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and asked whether the party would speak on the corruption in the BJP-ruled Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Nagpur municipal corporations on the state.

The editorial in party mouth-piece *Saamana* said that investigative agencies would probe Jadhav but the BJP needs to be reminded that its leader Nitin Landage, chairman of the standing committee in Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, was arrested while accepting a bribe of lakhs of rupees in the civic body. The announcement to fight corruption in Maharashtra by the BJP's "dirty dozen leaders" is like the Taliban's call for peace in Russia and Ukraine, said the editorial.

"After spending a week in jail, he (Landage) rejoined the standing committee for further corruption. Why doesn't the BJP raise its voice on it? The stories of Pune Mayor Muralidhar Mohol's corruption are shocking. The scam in the Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation Smart City project is a loot of people's money and the people of BJP are partners in it," the editorial added.

The Sena said that the BJP's Chandrakant Patil and Kirit Somaiya have said that "Dirty Five Dozen" leaders of MVA will go to jail, which means it would be "using" the central agencies further in days to come.

"Then, are your 'Dirty Dozens' going to enjoy the bliss of Shimla's snow at that time?... Now that you have started, your 'dirty dozens' too will face the music," added the editorial.

Odisha phase 1 rural poll result trends put BJD in decisive lead

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR,
FEBRUARY 26

THE RULING Biju Janata Dal (BJD) registered a decisive lead in the trends for 280 of 315 Zila Parishad Zone (ZPZ) seats on Saturday, while BJP and Congress remained in a close fight for the second spot when this report was filed around 10pm. The counting of votes for 315 seats began in different block headquarters at 8am under strict Covid-19 guidelines, State Election Commission (SEC) officials said. Counting for another 307 seats will be held on February 27 and for the remaining 229 on February 28.

The 2017 panchayat elections had marked the entry of the BJP, making inroads particularly in Balangir, Bargarh, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Sambalpur and Subarnapur district in the western part. The trends this time, however, show the BJP ceding ground to the BJD in the region.

In 2017, the BJP had won 58 of the 111 zones, the BJD 37 and the Congress 16. Two years later in 2019, the BJP won from all the four Lok Sabha seats in western Odisha. But it was the BJD that dominated in the Assembly election the same year, winning 17 of

Even electricity had caste, religion before 2017: Yogi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 26

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said before his government came to power in 2017, "electricity was unavailable on Holi and Diwali, while it was available on Eid and Muharram".

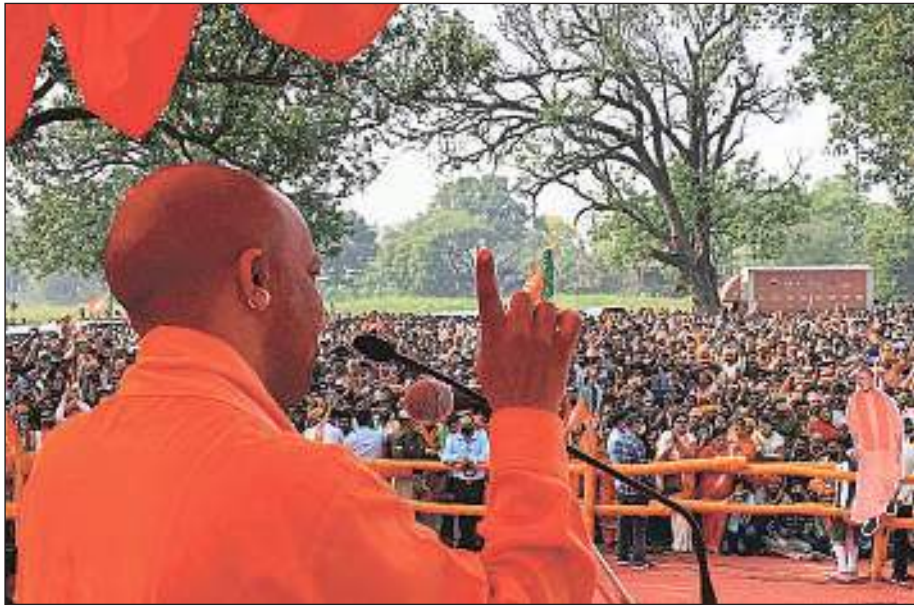
"Before 2017, did you get electricity? Now, it must be available. Now, it is available, and there are no cuts. Earlier, it would not come, and now it doesn't go. One more thing: Before 2017, even electricity had a caste and religion... whether it was the SP or BSP in government. The BSP ones were even more expert at it. On Muharram and Eid, electricity would come, but during Holi and Diwali, it would not. Did this happen? We gave everyone electricity. Are there any complaints?" asked Adityanath speaking at a rally in Kushinagar's Fazl Nagar constituency.

"Five years ago, the situation was such that whenever there was a procession for Durga idol 'visarjan' (immersion), there would be a riot. For small things, 'goonda-gardi' (hooliganism) used to happen and anarchy was spread. Remember that they did not allow a Janmashtami procession to move. Within five years, no one could stop it, right?" asked the CM.

Adityanath said, "After five phases are completed Sunday, the BJP will reach the majority mark, and after the sixth and seventh phases, the BJP will cross 300 seats in the state."

He said that Kushinagar would give all seven seats to the BJP this time.

Meanwhile, hitting out at the SP, Yogi on Saturday said they call themselves socialists but only the Saifai family flourishes in the party. Saifai is the native place of Akhilesh Yadav, who heads the party.



UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressed two election rallies -- at Kushinagar's Fazl Nagar and Ambedkar Nagar -- on Saturday. *Express*

44 of 75 districts certified free of stray cattle: UP govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 26

DAYS AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised a new policy to tackle stray cattle after March 10, the Uttar Pradesh government has said that the problem was confined only to a few areas. The government said 44 of the 75 districts in the state have been certified "free of stray cattle".

Speaking in Unnao last Sunday, the Prime Minister had said: "To resolve the stray cattle problem, new arrangements will be made after March 10. I will bring in a new system so

that people can earn from the cattle dung."

In a communique, the state government said 3% income received as cess by the Mandi Parishad will be spent on the welfare of destitute cattle in registered 'gaushalas' through the Gau Seva Ayog.

Currently, 572 'gaushalas' run by self-help groups are registered in the state under the Uttar Pradesh Gaushala Act, of which, 394 are active. A sum of about Rs. 20 crore was allocated to 45 registered 'gaushalas', it said.

The state government promulgated a policy for setting up temporary 'gaushalas' and their management on January 2, 2019.

Now, there are more than 6,000 temporary 'gaushalas', housing more than 8-lakh cattle. More than 1-lakh cattle were handed over to farmers who get Rs. 900 per month in allowance under the 'Govansh Possession Scheme'.

The release added that an allocation of Rs. 474 crore was made to the respective District Magistrates for feeding the stray cattle.

The government claims that the nodal officers of the Animal Husbandry Department regularly visit all the 75 districts of the state for monitoring the 'gaushalas' and resolve issues on the spot.

'Politics of caste and religion to blame for lack of development'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 26

CONGRESS GENERAL secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said the state has not seen any development as "caste and religion has been the basis of politics" here.

Speaking at an election rally in Paniyara constituency of Maharajganj, she said, "The reality is that UP could have developed a lot, but in the name of development there is nothing today. The only thing that is there is big advertisements, on which the BJP is spending Rs 2,000-3,000 crore. The CM and PM are from the BJP and both governments are of the BJP. How did this situation arise? Ask yourself this question today. The straight answer is that for the past 30 years in UP, politics has been running on caste and religious basis."

She said the people are "guilty" of making political parties complacent and today they know they can get power by talking of religion and caste. "You have made it a habit of these leaders and these parties for the past 30 years. All of you are guilty of this. They don't need to work for development. They will come and talk



AICC national general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at a roadshow in Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. *Express*

about religion and caste. We will vote with our eyes closed because you have spoken about our emotions. The leaders can stay in power, their children can prosper, while your children will remain unemployed. This is the habit you have created for them," she said.

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she said, "The PM came to UP after several years for election campaigning. And, from a stage, he said that it was never brought to his notice that the stray cattle issue was so big for the farmers of UP. He said this from a stage. You are the PM. The whole world knows, and you get all the information. It is your CM who is

in power in Uttar Pradesh... You have given them the courage that they will come here and talk of Hindu and Muslim and will divide you on the basis of caste. They will get votes and retain power and stay in power for five years and do nothing."

She said parties like the BJP, BSP and SP have realised that they don't need to work in order to get votes before elections and can rely on politics of caste and religion for votes. "First, you tried the BSP, then came Samajwadi Party, and then the BJP. You have seen them in the past five years. There were big words, but no development," said Priyanka.

AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY POLLS

Come up with vision for Gujarat, says Rahul

GOPAL KATESHIYA
DWARKA, FEBRUARY 26

GIVING A roadmap to his party for winning the upcoming Assembly elections in Gujarat, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday asked leaders of the party's state unit to come up with a vision for Gujarat and project 25 people who would transform that vision into reality.

Addressing the Chintan Shibir, a three-day conclave of party workers organised by Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) in Dwarka, Rahul said that people of Gujarat were fed up with the 25-year-long rule of BJP as, he, claimed BJP's politics was harming Gujarat.

"People of Gujarat are looking up to you. You are thinking that you are fed up with the BJP but the BJP has harmed people of Gujarat 10 times more as compared to harm it has caused to you. Did anyone slit any Congress worker's throat? No. But three lakh people died here due to Covid. They were people of Gujarat... They say it's Gujarat model but in this model, there were no oxygen cylinders, ventilators. I myself saw people dying in vehicles in front of hospital," the Wayanad MP said while addressing the Shibir.

Rahul also asked GPCC presi-

dent Jagdish Thakor and Raghu Sharma, the AICC incharge for Gujarat, to identify 25 people from ranks and file of the party to lead the party's charge in the Assembly election in Gujarat due to be held in December this year and advised to throw entire weight of the party behind them.

"To change Congress party, to create a storm here, we need 25 to 30 people. We don't need 100, 200, 500 or 1000 people. If 25 of you resolve that you want to uproot BJP, 25, even five people are enough. If those five get five each, the job will be done," Gandhi said, adding, "In Congress party, there is disconnect between those who speak and those who do actual work."

The Wayanad MP also asked the state unit to present an alternate vision for the state.

"If you could show people your vision for Gujarat, communicate to them as to how you want to change the state, what you are going to do for tribals, small and medium businesses, for diamond industry, colleges and university while simultaneously propping up those 25 faces, this is your election," said the senior Congress leader.

Before addressing the conclave, Rahul went to Jagat Mandir, the famous temple dedicated to Lord Krishna.



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel

Chhattisgarh to produce power from cattle dung, may buy cow urine for farm use

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 26

THE BHABHA Atomic Research Centre (BARC) will help the Chhattisgarh government set up electricity generation units using cattle dung and agriculture waste.

Also, the state, which is buying cow dung under the Godhan Nyay Scheme, is likely to start procuring cow urine as Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Friday asked Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain to submit an action plan in two weeks "for scientific and systematic use of cow urine in the agriculture sector".

The CM directed the Chief Secretary to prepare the plan after holding discussions with agricultural scientists, farmers using cow urine instead of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, and experts of Kamdhenu University.

The BARC signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the state on Saturday for setting up power plants using cattle dung and farm waste.

Speaking to the media, Baghel said, "There is a gradual decrease in soil fertility with the continuous use of chemical fertilisers and toxic pesticides. An excessive use of chemicals in agriculture is adversely affecting the health of the general public. The use of vermi compost and super compost manufactured in the gauthans of the state has shown positive results. Chhattisgarh is heading towards organic and regenerative farming."

The other MoU signed on Saturday was between the Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT), Union government's Department of Atomic Energy and Chhattisgarh State Seed Agriculture Development Corporation for the establishment of food irradiation centre in the state.

The centre will help in preventing food items, especially fruits, vegetables and pulses from getting spoiled besides ensuring better prices for farmers for their produce, officials said.

Agriculture Production Commissioner Kamal Preet Singh said irradiation technology is used to increase the shelf-life of food products and improve their quality. People will be trained to use this technology, Singh added.

Farooq: Delimitation further alienated people of J&K

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 26

THE PEOPLE'S Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), J&K's mainstream political alliance, on Saturday rejected the proposed changes to Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in J&K, stating that the move will "further alienate" the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairman of the alliance and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said: "They say they want to bring people together and remove their difficulties. So, they are trying to demarcate constituencies in such a way that it is easy for people to have their cases projected. It doesn't seem that this delimitation has done that. They have further alienated people."

Calling the proposed changes to the constituencies unfortunate, Abdullah said: "Election is the basis of democracy and the very first thing for that is the delimitation report. What they have done is very unfortunate. Look at the parliamentary constituency of Anantnag. How is an MP from Rajouri going to look after the people on this side of the mountain? Or the one elected here (Kashmir Province) going to look after the constituents in Poonch and Rajouri?"

The alliance put together a White Paper, detailing "the impli-



PAGD Chairman and NC president Farooq Abdullah

cations of the Centre's decisions in J&K for people across the country".

PAGD spokesman and senior CPM leader MY Tarigami said: "We are presenting facts in front of the people of the entire country that while our people continue to suffer, such dictatorial actions on part of the government will not benefit anyone. Since the historic tragedy of August 5, they have been attempting to build a new narrative about making a 'naya Kashmir'. The narrative of naya Hindustan, is being built by destroying the old."

Saying that the PAGD was not against delimitation or the electoral and political process, he said: "The country functions within a constitutional framework and if actions are taken within the ambit of this framework, we have no objections. Delimitation will be car-

ried out excluding Ladakh, only for the UT of J&K. We consider that this process has no constitutional validity."

He also questioned the move to increase seven seats in J&K as a Union Territory and sought to understand the reasons for the arithmetic. "By what measure is it seven seats, why not eight or more? What is the basis?" he said, adding that under the Delimitation Act, Census was the basis for any delimitation, population was the criteria and convenience, accessibility and topography were also considered. He said: "The Delimitation Commission constituted for J&K has placed considerations but ignored criterion (of population). So, the basic structure and constitution of delimitation commission itself is not acceptable to the PAGD."

Tarigami said: "Through the White Paper we want to urge the people of the country to reject this notion that the decisions of August 5, 2019, that were forced upon us have been accepted. Don't confuse our silence with acceptance."

The 35-page White Paper highlights the significance of the Constitutional guarantees provided under Article 370 and seeks "deep introspection and course correction" as a way forward. The PAGD has reiterated its demand for revocation of the decisions taken in August 2019 and "restore the autonomous status of J&K".

Need to strengthen HCs to deal with IPR issues: CJI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

CHIEF JUSTICE of India N V Ramana Saturday said that he keeps getting queries whenever he travels abroad about how investor-friendly India's judicial system is and that his answer always has been that it "is absolutely independent and it always treats all the parties equally and equitably".

He was addressing the 'National Seminar on Adjudication of IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) Disputes in India' at the DRDO Auditorium

here.

On the judicial setup to deal with IPR issues, the CJI said it is necessary to strengthen the High Courts to deal with these cases. "Not only do we need to fill the existing vacancies on an urgent basis, but there is also a need to increase the number of judges," he emphasised.

He also underlined the need for improvement in judicial infrastructure and expressed his disillusionment on the matter despite his efforts to get things moving.

"I have been pursuing the government for setting up statutory authorities, both at the cen-

tre and at the states. But unfortunately..." the CJI said.

He said that India's position as the global pharma hub today is largely attributable to the existing IPR regime.

"Several pharmaceutical multinational companies have been contracting research & development (R&D) to national laboratories in India. This has enabled a massive growth of pharmaceutical exports by India, with local firms building capabilities in making affordable generic life-saving products," the CJI said.

"Today, India has rightfully earned the title of 'pharmacy of

the world'," he said.

The CJI also recalled the SC's landmark 2013 ruling (Novartis vs. Union of India) and said the decision "stopped the practice of the pharma industry to extend the patent period by simply tweaking some constituent elements. This helped the common man by ensuring that lifesaving drugs are available at an affordable cost".

Speaking on the impact of IPR on agriculture, he said that "in modern times, private companies have entered this arena in developing new varieties and high-yielding plants". He added that "these companies expect a

certain level of protection for the variants of plants they develop" and that "in order to strike a balance, India enacted the 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act 2001'."

The CJI also underlined the need for the country to do more in the area of Geographical Indications.

"India has approximately 400 registered geographical indications. However, certain states are performing well, others are yet to catch up. There is an immediate need to take corrective steps to achieve the full potential of geographical indications," he said.



Chief Justice of India N V Ramana inaugurates the cricket tournament of the Supreme Court Bar Association in New Delhi on Saturday. *PTI*



EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

TELANGANA

Pvt academy aircraft crashes, trainee pilot dies

Hyderabad/New Delhi: A woman trainee pilot died when the aircraft of a private aviation academy crashed in Telangana's Nalgonda district on Saturday, police said. Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said he was shocked and an investigation team has been rushed to the site. Citing preliminary information, a police official said the aircraft, which came from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh side, crashed before noon. The woman trainee pilot died on the spot and further details are being ascertained, the official said. **PTI**

KERALA

Hardship drives four of family to suicide

Palakkad: Four members of a family died allegedly by suicide on Saturday as they were unable to bear with hardship. They jumped into River Bharathapuzha here, police said. The police said they fished out the bodies of two adults and their two children. "They (the family) had told some of their relatives that they wanted to end their lives due to hardship they faced. When the family went missing yesterday (Friday), their kin went to the house and found a suicide note." The note mentioned the location where the four were planning to commit suicide, said the police. The police confirmed the death to be a case of suicide as footwear and clothes were lying along the banks of the river. **PTI**

JAMMU & KASHMIR Smuggling bid foiled in Poonch, narcotics seized

Jammu: Ahead Thwarting a major drugs smuggling attempt from across the border, security forces Saturday recovered 15 kg narcotics, possibly heroin, from a village along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. The seized narcotics is believed to be worth Rs 75 crore in the international market, the officials said. Poonch SSP Rohit Baskotra said a bag, containing 15 packets of narcotics-like substance weighing almost 15 kgs, was recovered during a joint search operation by the army and police in Balakote sector of Mendhar. An FIR has been lodged. **PTI**

Clubhouse case: Sessions court rejects accused youth's bail plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 26

A SESSIONS court in Mumbai Tuesday rejected the bail application of a 19-year-old arrested last month for passing lewd comments on women on the Clubhouse App. The court said that the offence was not committed against any individual but all women.

The detailed order made available Saturday states Akash Suyal's offence is being investigated and granting bail will create a hurdle in the probe.

"The investigation is in progress. The accused (was) found passing comments against females and (a) particular community. The involvement of other accused is noticed during course of investigation. The offence is not committed against any individual. It is an offence against all women," said additional sessions judge Sanjashree J Gharat.



Indians on board a special Air India evacuation flight in Romania on Saturday. "Our mission is not complete till we have taken the last person to India out of Ukraine. Wishing you a very safe journey back home," Indian Ambassador to Romania, Rahul Shrivastava, told those aboard the first evacuation flight from Bucharest. **PTI**

Holed up in cellars, Indian students await evacuation from Ukraine

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 26

INDIAN STUDENTS stranded in Ukraine capital Kyiv and north eastern city of Kharkiv on Saturday woke up to heavy shelling from Russian forces. Hundreds of Indian students in Kyiv retreated to underground cellars after missiles hit residential apartments in the city even as their counterparts in the worst-hit Kharkiv continued to languish in underground metros for the third consecutive day.

Muhammed Afsal, a medical student at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, said there have been heavy shelling early morning.

"We woke up hearing blasts, which shattered our belief that we are safe. Hostel staff herded all of us to the bunker. During the day, many of us stood near the entrance of the bunker only to rush back to the underground cellar at the sound of siren."

A native of Kannur, Muhammed said in the last two days, they survived on a single meal a day. "We fear the battle



In solidarity, outside the Ukrainian embassy in Delhi. **Amit Mehra**

would prolong. Today, when there was respite from shelling, we were allowed to stock provisions from a nearby shop. It would be enough for another two days, but shops are also getting empty," he said.

Fahad Rahman, an Indian student at Kyiv Medical University, said the reports about missile attacks on apartments had made everyone panic. "Today, we saw gun-toting civilians on roads, indicating that war is at our doorstep. Supermarkets were opened for a few hours after the shelling subsided," he said.

Last night, Fahad said, they rolled out mattresses on the floor and slept. As there were not enough blankets to fight the nipping cold, window curtains, re-

moved from our hostel rooms, were used as cover, he said, adding most of the 400-odd students slept wearing masks to avoid dust in the cellar.

Sherin Fathima Siddique, along with 180-odd others have been staying at Peremoha metro station in Kharkiv since Thursday noon. The situation is not different in other metro stations in the north eastern city of Ukraine. "We are yet to hear any official communication about evacuation. Stock of food and water are dwindling fast. Today, when shops were opened for a few hours, a few of us managed to stock provisions."

Sherin, a native of Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu, said they rush to nearby hostels in small batches to

cook food, get refreshed and charge their mobiles. "In this hour of uncertainty, the only solace is that we are staying in a community. But we are eagerly waiting to hear about evacuation," she said.

At Kyiv on Saturday, Indians saw other foreign nationals, particularly Arabs and Africans, being evacuated by trains to Poland. Now, most in the bunkers at the university hostels are Indians.

Shajas Shahal, a prominent education consultant for Indian students in Ukraine, said it would be difficult to evacuate Indians from Kharkiv via road.

"Kharkiv region has around 4,500 Indian students at present. They have to pass through Kyiv to reach any of the border destinations for the evacuation. Bridges between Kharkiv and Kyiv have been destroyed. The only option is to move to the Russian side from Kharkiv. If Russia conquers Kharkiv, Indians in the north eastern part can be taken to Russia for evacuation."

Shajas said nobody was ready to take a risk at this moment. "Even railway lines are under threat. We don't have a word from the Indian embassy about shifting us out of Kharkiv," he said.

85% of purchases made by Army is Indian, says General Naravane

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, FEBRUARY 26

CHIEF OF Army Staff General M M Naravane on Saturday said 85 per cent of purchases made by the Army is "Indian". The Army Chief further said the Army has embarked on developing an indigenous infantry combat vehicle, an armoured personnel carrier and finding cheaper solutions for providing water and power to forward areas.

Addressing the inaugural function of the 'Ahmedabad Design Week 3.0' held on the theme of 'Design and Innovation in Defence and Aerospace' at Karnavati University in Gandhinagar, General Naravane said, "About 68 per cent of what we buy, Army, Navy and Airforce, the orders will go to indigenous companies. We are far ahead of this target. As far as Indian Army is concerned, 85 per cent of whatever we buy is Indian." "Look at the battle tanks. It has essentially remained the same for the last 60-70 years. It had a hull, it had a caterpillar track and a gun on top. If you see a tank of World War I when it first came out, and if you see a tank today, it looks al-

BAJRANG DAL WORKER'S MURDER

'No immediate motive': Police probe old rivalry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 26

THE MURDER of 27-year-old Bajrang Dal worker Harsha Hindu in Shivamogga city of Karnataka by a gang of armed men on February 20 is being viewed by the police as a localised crime stemming from long-standing communal rivalry even as investigations are looking closely at how 10 people (arrested so far) assembled to carry out the crime.

The timing of the murder of the right-wing activist, who had antagonised Muslims with derogatory remarks against Islam on social media, at a time when protests were on over restrictions on wearing hijab in schools and colleges is also under police scrutiny.

"No immediate motive has emerged from the investigations. It seems to be part of a long rivalry between Hindus and Muslims in the area," a senior police official said.

Harsha was murdered when he was out for dinner with a couple of friends by the accused who reportedly were waiting for him. Shivamogga witnessed a brief spell of violence the next morning when Harsha's funeral procession was taken out.

The investigations in the case

has so far revealed that the main accused Mohammed Kashif, 30, who was reportedly identified by witnesses at the crime scene and was detained a few hours after the murder, brought together the group involved in the crime.

Kashif, and three others accused in the murder – Rihan Shariff, alias Kasi, 22; Asif, alias Asifullah Khan, alias Chiku, 22; and Abdul Afuham, alias Derar, 21 – face as many as 16 cases, including those of robbery, assault and arson.

In 2017 when Kashif was in prison in connection with a minor's rape (a case in which he was later acquitted), Harsha was also in the Shivamogga prison for assaulting a Muslim youth in the Doddapet police limits, police sources said.

Harsha too had at least four criminal cases against him starting with a January 2016 case where he was accused of causing intentional insult to a religion through posts made on social media against Prophet Mohammed. He was also named in three cases of assault, including two against Muslims, and one of rioting.

In the days prior to his death, Harsha had been active on social media with regard to the anti-hijab protests in Shivamogga.

"We do not know what exactly provoked the murder. There were many skirmishes in the area be-

tween Hindu and Muslim groups. Six months ago, there was an altercation between Harsha and one of the accused on a court premises and the murder could be the result of that incident," a senior police officer said.

In her complaint to the Doddapet police, Harsha's mother Padma has stated that her son would talk of threat to his life from Muslim gangs in the region.

Although the local gang rivalry angle is at play in the murder, police have not ruled out the possibility of the involvement of a larger group in the crime.

"It was a planned murder. Some of the arrested men who played supporting roles did not know the organiser of the attack very well. How the group was assembled for the crime is under probe," police sources said.

Senior BJP leaders, including central minister Shobha Karandlaje and state minister K S Eshwarappa, have sought an NIA probe in the case. Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra has sought a report on the number of cases the alleged killers were involved. "Please provide a report on the cases that the accused have against them. Please state whether police officers have acted according to the law in these matters," Jnanendra wrote to the Karnataka state police chief.

Karnataka: Bajrang Dal worker held over Dalit man's death

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 26

A BAJARANG Dal worker was taken into police custody after a Dalit man that he allegedly assaulted in Karnataka's Dharmasthala town died Friday.

The accused, Krishna alias Kittu, allegedly assaulted 41-year-old Dinesh on Wednesday over a dispute, police said. Both Krishna and Dinesh were residents of Dharmasthala.

According to a complaint filed by Dinesh's mother Padmavathi at Dharmasthala police station, "Krishna, who runs a shop near Ram Mandi, got angry when Dinesh told other people that he helped Krishna get the land for the shop. Irked, Krishna dragged Dinesh around and punched him on his stomach."

Later on Wednesday, Dinesh went back home and told his mother and wife that he had severe stomach ache. The next day, he was taken to Government

Wenlock District Hospital in Mangaluru. He, however, did not respond to treatment and was declared dead in the early hours of Friday.

Padmavathi filed a complaint later on Friday, and police registered a murder case and under several sections of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Krishna, who was then taken into custody, will be produced before a court by Saturday evening, a police officer said.

Assam man run over by govt escort vehicle that was following President's convoy

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 26

A 60-YEAR-OLD man died after being run over by a government escort vehicle that was following President Ram Nath Kovind's convoy in Bokakhat in Assam's Golaghat district on Saturday afternoon, police said.

Kovind is in Assam on a three-day visit, and was on his way to visit the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve on Saturday when the incident occurred.

The deceased has been identified as Rameshwar Rabidas, a daily wage worker who lived in the Milanpur area of Bokakhat, district officials told *The Sunday Express*.

"The car was not part of the main convoy. The President's convoy had already passed and was 200-300 metres ahead. One of the government cars — either belonging to the district police or administration — that was following him accidentally ran over the pedestrian as he was trying to cross the road," said a police officer from Bokakhat police station. He added that they were investigating which car it was, and that an accident case had been registered.

Bokakhat MLA and Assam Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, who was travelling in the convoy, wrote on Twitter that he was "anguished" to learn about the incident. He also clarified that his car was not involved in the incident.

Umesh Ravidas, the brother-in-law of the deceased, told *The Sunday Express* that the family cremated Rameshwar on Saturday evening.

"We do not know what happened or how it happened..." Umesh said, adding that the family had not decided if they wanted to register a case. "We do not know whose fault it is, but right now we are in deep anguish and shock," he said.



Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane at Karnavati University in Gandhinagar on Saturday. **PTI**

most the same. We need a design change. Can we think of something radically different which is unique to us," he added.

"We have recently embarked on a programme for a future infantry combat vehicle, that is a tank, and a future armoured personnel carrier, which forms the mainstay of the mechanised forces. Both these are at the conceptualisation stage. We have just asked for ideas," he said.

He urged design students to participate in the challenge to design combat vehicles that could remain relevant for the next 50 years.

Quoting PM Narendra Modi

from a webinar held on Friday, the Army Chief stressed on "uniqueness" and "surprise element" in indigenous designs.

He said the Indian Army was not just looking at high-tech weapons systems, but also at low-tech solutions to some of the problems that the troops face.

"We still do not have a portable system that can use potable water in inaccessible areas. We spend large amounts of money in transporting potable water in tankers to forward areas," said the Army chief adding that such a portable system will work wonders for troops at high altitudes.

CRPF probes if canteen goods in Chhattisgarh sold in open market

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

A SUSPECTED case of diversion of canteen goods meant for Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel engaged in battle against Maoists in Chhattisgarh has come to light following a series of applications filed under the RTI Act leading to the Central Information Commissioner asking the force to "provide the factual position".

It is alleged that goods worth around Rs 3 crore may have been diverted from the CRPF canteens in Chhattisgarh and sold in the

open market.

Sources said the Ministry of Home Affairs has taken cognizance of the matter. "The Internal Audit Wing of the MHA conducted an audit in this matter in November and December last year. The report of the audit is still awaited. Once it is with us, appropriate action will be taken," a CRPF spokesperson told *The Sunday Express*.

The RTI applications were filed by CRPF Deputy Commandant Prabhat Tripathi.

Sources said first signs of alleged corruption in running of canteens emerged in 2014, when

a medical officer posted in 217 Battalion was denied the purchase of an air-conditioner from the battalion's subsidiary canteen, and a suspected transaction was noticed between 217 Battalion canteen and the master canteen of 201 Cobra Battalion. The master canteen operates as wholesaler, supplying items to subsidiary canteens which sell the same to the personnel.

Tripathi, who was then posted in Chhattisgarh, got on to the trail of the matter. However, he was soon transferred to Lucknow. Following this, he filed a series of RTI applications.

The RTI replies revealed that while the master canteen had released home appliances to the 217 Battalion canteen against a Bill of Rs 1.63 lakh, this was not reflected in the stock register of the 217 Battalion canteen. Moreover, the payment received by the master canteen against the Bill was routed through Kshetriya Gramin Bank where the 217 Battalion did not have an account.

It was also found that for the payment, cash was deposited in the Gramin Bank, a practice not followed in canteen-canteen transactions. As many as 43 such transactions amounting to Rs 2.95

crore were tracked. However, when Tripathi demanded details of these in another RTI application, it was denied.

Sources in CRPF said recently a departmental inquiry has been recommended against the concerned official of the 217 Battalion canteen.

When contacted, Tripathi, who is now posted in Delhi, said, "I have already made a complaint internally as well about this. But the outcome of the probe is not known." It was after this that Tripathi went into appeal and finally the matter reached the CIC. In an order on February 9, the CIC

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,Vinit kishor Bajpayee S/o Anil kishor Bajpai R/o S-4-101 Tdi-Kingsbury Kundali, Sonipat-131028, have changed my name to Vinit kishor Bajpai, for all future purposes 0040604509-2

I,Vikash Kumar, S/o Dhanesh Kumar Sinha R/o Flat-No.24, Maheshwari Apartment, Sector-14,Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my minor daughter's name Drashi Kumari to Poorvi Sinha. 0040604520-1

I,Usha Gupta w/o-Uma Shankar Gupta residing-B/7-112B, Saferjung Enclave Extn.,Delhi have changed my name to Usha Rani, for all purposes. 0040604549-7

I,Surinder Nagi,spouse of, Kanwalbir Singh Nagi,R/O-VB-51,(1st-floor), Gali.No.2, Virender Nagar,New,Delhi-110058,have changed my name,from Surinder Nagi to Surinder Kaur Nagi. 0040604520-9

I,Surinder Nagi spouse of Kanwalbir Singh Nagi,R/O VB-51,(1st floor),Gali.No.2 Virender Nagar,New,Delhi-110058,have changed my name,from Surinder Nagi to Surinder Kaur Nagi Vide-Affidavit. dated. 24/02/2022,at Dwarka New.delhi-110075. 0040604549-9

I,SHABANA,W/O SHIEKH HASEENUDDIN 6221 PAKKI GALI BARA HINDU RAO DELHI-110066.HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO SHABANA PARVEEN FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040604549-1

I,Rupinder,w/o rajender pal R/O,VP-56C, pitampura delhi-110088,have changed my name to Rupinder kaur, for all future purposes. 0040604520-2

I,Neeraj,S/o Nardeshwar Chaubay,R/o H/o-13 f floor Harjikan Colony, Sawan Park,Ashok Vihar,Phase-3,Delhi-110052,have changed my name to Neeraj Chaubay. 0040604549-2

I,NUSRAT JAHAN,W/O MOHAMMAD HASHIM QURESHI,R/O-235, AVAS-VIKAS COLONY, BULANDSHAHR-ROAD, HAMPER,U.P.245101, changed my name to NUSHRAT, permanently. 0040604557-2

I,Rajender Singh,S/o Ram Narayan,R/O VPO,Ujwa,South West,Delhi-110073.Affirm and declare that my name is wrongly-mentioned as RAJINDER SINGH in my Service-Record of Ministry of Communication and IT Department. But my actual-name is RAJENDER SINGH. 0040604552-8

I,hitherto known as Saya Garg, D/o Sh. Aneesh Garg,R/O House..No.8052, Near-Sai Mandir, D-8,Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi,Delhi-110070, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Riya Garg,for all purposes in future. 0040604520-6

It is for general information that **I,INDU KUMBHARE,W/o** SURESH KUMBHARE,residing at, 14/842,Lodhi-Colony,Delhi-110003,declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as INDU S KUMBHARE in my Service-Records.The actual-name of mine is INDU KUMBHARE,which may be amended accordingly. 0040604520-7

I,Hasan Abbas, S/o-Mazhar Abbas,R/o-D-31, Gali.No.3, Shastri-Park, Delhi-110053, that my father's-s name mistakenly-written, in my passport,and voter-id card,as Mazar Abbas,and Majahar Abbas instead,of Mazhar Abbas 0040604520-6

I,Ayush s/o-685215L JWO Sunil Kumar Duggal retld, from Indian Air-Force,residing at, HNo.-1013B-2,Gali.No.13, SadhNagar,PalamColony New-Delhi-110045,Have Changed my Name,from Ayush to Ayush Duggal,vide-Affidavit DL96038049038252U dated-25-Feb-22,before NCT of Delhi. 0040604520-5

I,Rupa, Spouse of O.-2801196Y Rank Hav Varpe Janaba Bharamu, Vill-Dukkarwadi, Post-Dukkarwadi, Teh-Chandgad, Distt-Kolhapur, Maharashtra-416507, have changed my name from Rupa to Rupa Janaba Varpe, vide-affidavit dated 26.02.2022 before Notary Public, Delhi. 0070774818-1

I,Mudit Shanker Pandey, S/o Banshidhar Pandey, R/o D-209, Shyam Vihar, Phase-1, Gali No-5, Road No-6, Behind Goid School, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043, declare that name of my minor Son has been wrongly written as Aarit Pandey aged 11 years in his school record. The actual name of my minor Son is Aarit Shanker Pande, which may be amended accordingly. 0070774788-1

I,Ruchi Singh W/o Raman deep Sandhu D/o Dalbir Singh R/o A-75/A, Ram Nagar,Om Vihar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059,have changed my Name Ruchi to Ruchi Singh for all purpose. 0040604482-1

I,Jagjit Singh S/o Karam Singh,R/o 22, U/T,F,Guru Nanak Vihar, Nilothi Extn, Nangloi,Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Jeet Singh. 0040604557-4

I,NITIN AGRAWAL,S/O GOVIND MURARI AGARWAL,R/o N 304, H-BIRD NIHO SCOTTISH GARDEN, AHINSA KHAND 2, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, U.P. 201014, changed my name to NITIN AGARWAL, Permanently 0040604557-1

I,NIDHI GIRI,D/O Late Shri.JAGNANDAN GIRI W/O HEMANT KUMAR GUPTA,H.NO-D-17,GREEN-PARK EXTENSION, SOUTH WEST,DELHI-110016, have changed my name to NANDINI GUPTA, for all, future purpose. 0040604552-9

I,Manish Kumar Dahiya,S/O JS Dahiya,residing at,VPO-Nahra,Distt-Sonipat, Haryana, Pin-131103, have changed my name, from Manish Kumar Dahiya to Manish Dahiya,Vide-Affidavit dated-25-02-2022. 0040604552-7

I,HarIom Panwar,S/O Dhan Raj Panwar, R/O-Block,C-494, Alpha-1,Greater Noida, G.B. Nagar,U.P,have changed my full name to Hari Om Panwar, for all future purposes. 0040604520-8

I,Fatima W/O-Mohammad Shahid R/O-House-No-2729, 2nd-Floor,Gali Masjid,Kale Khan,Kucha Chellian,Darya Ganj,New Delhi-110002,Have Changed My,Name To Fatima Parveen,For All,Future Purposes. 0040604549-8

I,BHARAT S/O HUSAN CHAND BIMRA R/O I-12,NEW GOVINDPURA, DELHI-110051.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARAT BIMRA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040604557-3

I,Atul Kumar Bhardwaj,S/o Lal Chand Bhardwaj,R/O SK-25,Sindhora Kalan,Chowki No-2,Delhi,have changed my name to Atul Bhardwaj,for all future purpose. 0040604552-6

I,Ansar Ahmed,S/o Late.Nazir Ahmed R/O.H.No.-26,Gali.No-14,Zakir-Nagar, Okhla,New Delhi-110025,declare that the correct-spelling of my name is Ansar Ahmed and the spelling of my father's name is Nazir Ahmed & the date-of-birth is- 04.03.1958. 0040604520-10

I,Aakanksha Gupta,D/oJai Kishan Gupta,W/O Rajesh Kumar Jain,R/O 65/81,New Rohtak Road,Karol Bagh Delhi-110005,have changed my name to Gaarvi Jain. 0040604549-3

I,Vidya, Spouse of No.2804855N Rank Hav Kale Raju Bhiwa, Vill-Kolagiri, Post-Sanamdi, Tal-Jath, Distt-Sangli, Maharashtra-416404, have changed my name from Vidya to Vidya Raju Kale, vide-affidavit dated 26.02.2022 before Notary Public, Delhi. 0070774822-1

I,RUBY SINGH, W/o Girish Chandra Singh, R/o-4A, M.I.G Pocket-6, Green View Apartment, Sector-82, Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar U.P., have changed my name after marriage from Ruby Devi to Ruby Singh for all future Purpose. 0070774824-1

I,Kamlesh Kumari Jaioriya, D/o Laxmi Narain Morya, R/o GF-4, 4/127, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010, have changed my name to KAMLESH JAJORIA for all future purposes. 0070774812-1

I,Gaurav Kumar Singh, S/o Late Kal Singh, R/o A-101, Paramount Golf Foreste, UPSIDC, Greater Noida, UP-201306, have changed my name to Gaurav Singh for all future purposes. 0070774823-1

I,KM Anita Chaudhary W/o L/NK Arapan Malik R/o Vill Post-Parsaul, Teh-Sadar, Distt-GautambudhNagar,U.P-203201 My name is wrongly mentioned Anita Malik in my Army records. My correct name to KM Anita Chaudhary for Army record & all future purposes 0040604499-1

I,Manoj Kumar Singh, S/o Raj Karan Singh, R/o House No-M.S.C.-68, Mohalla Yogmaya, Pahar Ganj, Delhi-110055, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Manoj Kumar in my minor son Jaydeep Singh aged 15 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is Manoj Kumar Singh. 0070774825-1

I,Kusum Baid alias Kusum Devi Baid D/o Dr Sh. Hulas Chand Bothra W/o Late Sh. Mohan Lal Baid R/o D-273, First Floor, Ramprastha Colony, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011 have changed my name to Kusum Jain for all purposes. 0040604512-8

I,Anand Kumar Misra, S/o Omprakash Mishra, R/o Vill-Ramapur, PO-Chandipur, Distt-Santapur, UP-228151, have changed my name to Anand Kumar Mishra vide affidavit dt-26/02/2022 for all future purposes. 0070774814-1

I,ANURADHA D/O Sh.Bai Kishan R/o-Pocket-E-285-D,LIG Flats, GTB Enclave, Delhi-110093,have changed my name from Anuradha to Anuradha Kashoriya, for all purposes. 0040604509-4

I,Mili Jain alias Ankita Gupta D/O Late Sh. Ram Niwas Jain W/o Sh. Ashwani Kumar Gupta R/o C/8/2A, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Ankita Gupta for all purposes. 0040604512-7

I,Vikas S/o Baldev Raj R/o-F.No-218,Block-11,Anupam kunj Sector-20,Rohini Delhi,have changed my name to Vikas Sahni 0040604509-1

I,Budha Rana,W/o Prem Singh Rana, R/o H.No-173-174, Pocket-A-4,Sector-4, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name Rosini Rana. 004064557-5

I,MADHU BHADAURIA,W/O VIJAY KUMAR SINGH,R/o N QTR No.606,SEC-4,K PURAM,NEW DELHI-110022.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MADHU FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040604549-4

I,Halder Gupta,S/o Rajiv Gupta (DOB.12.04.2000)R/o C-73, Shivaji Park, West Punjabi Bagh,Delhi-26,have changed my name to Halderh Gupta. 0040604520-3

I,Pankaj Kaushik W/o Samir Kaushik R/O D-43, Sector-40, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar, U.P.-201301 have changed my name to Panku Kaushik. 0040604549-5

I, Lata Dhyani, W/O, Sh. Kailash Dhyani, R/O Flat No.91, Shivailik Apartment, 1, P. Extn. Delhi-110092, I have change my name to Prem Lata for all future purposes. 0040604477-1

I,ANIL KUMAR, S/O RANBIR SINGH, R/O 312/11 Railway Colony, Rani Bagh, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi-110034, have changed my name to ANIL KUMAR VERMA. 0070774765-1

I,MANJU RAY W/O SUSHIL, R/O R/O G-3/16-FLOOR, SECTOR-11, ROHINI, DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANJU RAI. 0040604520-4

I Julee Singh Bains D/o Dalbir Singh R/o Near Raghunath Mandir, Prem Nagar, Dhakki Road, Pathankot, Punjab-145001,have changed my Name Julee to Julee Singh Bains for all purpose. 0040604483-1

WE, Deepak Kumar Yadav & Mrs Madhu, R/O 32-R, Model Town, Rewari, Haryana-123401, have changed our minor son name from Jahaan to Jahaan Rao. 0070774827-1

LOST & FOUND

Lost my original Sale Deed against my Flat No.-A-1/208, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-85. Finder may contact-Mrs.Arpnra Garg at above noted address. 0040604494-1

I,PRABHA ANAND W/O.Shri Amar Kumar Anand R/O,ED-61,Tagore-Garden,New Delhi-110027,would like to inform you that I,have lost my original-property ownership-documents i.e conveyance deed/freehold property of the above mentioned address.If found-please contact-9993369231(sunil anand) 0040604552-10

Lost Original Documents i.e. Possession Letter, Challan, Demand Cum Allotment-Letter Vide-File No.LO(1586)85/R/O NP Dated-12/08/1985 of LIG-Flat VII-D-12/36/I,First-Floor at Rohini Delhi, favouring Parma Nand,S/o Kallu Ram FIR Lodge Vide.LR. No.166691/2022 founder inform at above-address or Mobile.No. 8368554876. 0040604509-3

LOST ORIGINAL ALLOTMENT LETTER

Dated 14/04/1978 issued by DDA to H.K. Mahendiratta and original NOC Dated 02/06/1977 issued by DDA to H.K. Mahendiratta and original GPA dated 15/12/2004 executed by H.K. Mahendiratta in favour of Shashi Aggarwal above said documents misplaced somewhere in respect of property No. 62 B Pocket B 4 Ashok Vihar Phase 2 Delhi If found kindly inform **KAMAL BATRA**
Cell No. 882684311

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Nisha Khurana D/O Nazar Mohammad Khan Address Shop No-7 Plot No-38 Acharya Niketan Mayapuri Vihar Phase I Delhi-110091 that I have lost my General Power of attorney Vide GPA No 8405 transferred Neelam Garg To Shanti Devi dated 06/11/2000. GPA No 9330 transferred to Shanti Devi To Sunia Vasan on dated 30/11/2000, GPA No 6538 transferred Sunita Vasan to Nisha on dated 10/10/2001 Sale deed No 3990 in favour of Nisha on dated 15/04/2008. If any body found please forward to me or contact me 9810539373



OTHERS

Alliance invited for our beautiful daughter, slim, homely, aged 34, height (5'5"), (M.A) graduate, (Balmiki). Looking for a settled boy with same caste only. Contact details-9034893198, 83078404798 0050192483-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of my client Smt. Kiran, Ansari W/o Sh. Abdul Gaffar Ansari Tenant at R/o H.No. RZ2- 153 Gali No.- 5, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, West Delhi- 110041 sever all relations and now debarred his sons, daughter-in-law and Grand Children (Ms. Jamil Ansari his wife Kohkasha and Grand Daughter/Son Insha Ansari & Ibrahim) as well as far from all his inherited and occupied movable and immovable properties due to improper dealings, misbehave and disobedience and out of control. My client will not be responsible for any acts/ deed in future.

Sd/-
SANJAY MANDAWAT (ADVOCATE)
Ch No 415-A, 4th Floor, Lawyers Chamber Building, District Court, Rohini Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Teena Aggarwal is the owner of Second Floor out of Built on Property bearing no. 1/11/208, measuring 186 Sq.Yds i.e. 155.51 Sq.Mtrs. Plot No-E-42 Out of Kharsa No.16, Situated at Village Udhampur, in the Abadi of Subhash Park, Naveen Shahdara, Village Shahdara, Delhi-110032 by illaga of Gift Deed dated 12/02/2022 executed by Mr. Hirdesh Kumar Aggarwal. Initially, the said property belonged to Sh. Ram Gopal Aggarwal by virtue of Sale deed dated 20/08/1995 after his death his legal heirs Sh. Rajesh Aggarwal, Sh. Brijesh Aggarwal, Sh. Hirdesh Aggarwal, Sh. Vikas Aggarwal, Smt. Geeta Rani & Smt. Pooja have taken Relinquishment deed on 27.06.1995 in favour of Smt. Chander Kanta Aggarwal who further executed Deed of Will, dated 17.09.2019 in favour of Sh. Vikas Aggarwal, Sh. Rajesh Aggarwal, Sh. Hirdesh Kumar Aggarwal, Sh. Brijesh Aggarwal. Now, Mrs. Teena Aggarwal intends to mortgage the said property to Shriram City Union Finance Limited

If any person(s) have any objection (s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my clients shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Ms.Md. Khairul Hussain (Advocate)
Ch. No. 214, 2nd Floor, Delhi High Court
New Delhi-110001, Mob.-8013919172

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. Aman Vohra (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagor or Borrowers), is purchasing Entire Second Floor & Entire Third Floor with roof rights, built on Plot No. 169-A, Block B, Gali No. 2, area measuring 100 sq. yds, out of Kharsa no. 22, Village Bharola abadi, Majlis Park Colony, Delhi (hereinafter referred to as 'said property') from Mrs. Shikha & Mr. Santosh Goel who are it's absolute owners vide Sale Deed dated 28.05.2020 regd. as Document No. 3914. Mr. Aman Vohra will create mortgage in favour of the said property in limited of our clients (DFC First Bank Limited, 2nd Floor, Extn. Building, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002.

Any person, body, individual, institution having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary disposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claims, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or my Client.

Ravi Khanna (Advocate)
A-38, Kalish Colony, New Delhi-48
Contact: +91-11-49774545

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Property bearing No. 23 area measuring 400 Sq Yds, Situated at Paschim Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi; hereinafter referred to as the "said property".

NOTICE is hereby given to general public that our client, Mr. Jyoti Kumar S/o Late Shri Y Kumar R/o 23, Paschim Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, is the owner of the said property vide sale deed dated 16/04/2007 executed by Mr. Lachman A Bhalla and Mrs. Mira Bhalla in his favour in respect of the said property. The said Deed is registered as Document No. 4108, Additional Book No. 1, Volume No.3644, pages 139-183 on 16.04.2007 in the office of concerned Sub-Registrar. In this connection, our client has further informed us that an original Agreement to Sell, which called the said document executed between Mr.Lachman A Bhalla, Mrs Mira Bhalla and Mr Subhash Arora in respect of the aforesaid property and forming part of chain documents, has been lost/misplaced and no trace of same. An online Information Report of Article/Document lost in Delhi with Police Vide R/O No:155808/2022 & 23/02/2022 has been lodged.

If the aforesaid original Agreement to Sell (said document) is found or has been found by any person, the same may be returned and delivered to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below. Further, if any person, body, institution is having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property, he/she/they may raise his/her/their objections, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 10 days of publication of this notice. Otherwise, after expiry of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, no objection shall be acceptable. General Public may also take note that any deal or transaction done by anybody on the basis of the said document, to Sell, purchase or otherwise shall be illegal and not binding on our client. The person doing so shall be liable to be prosecuted under the law.

Amit Kumar Khurana, Advocate
Ms Intellectual Law Offices A-7, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Flat bearing No. 1205, on First Floor in Block No. BA, Park Road, Category IIG, West Delhi-110068; hereinafter referred to as "said property".

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. that our clients, Mr. Sudesh Bansal S/o Shri Dhyani Chand and Mrs Sarita Bansal W/o Shri Sudesh Bansal both residents of A-24/41,Pankha Road, Janakpuri, West Delhi-110058 (hereinafter called the "Seller"), in the correspondence with the said property, the said property was owned by his father, late Shri Sat Pal Vahi R/o BA/12/B, Janakpuri B-1, West Delhi, Delhi-110058, (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In the correspondence with the said property, the said property was owned by his father, late Shri Sat Pal Vahi, vide Conveyance Deed executed by the President of India through DDA in his favour in respect of the said property. The said Deed is duly registered with the concerned Sub-Registrar of Assurances- as Document No. 166/10, in Book No.1, Vol.No. 390, and Pages 27-28, registered on 17.11.2009 (SRO-VI), upon the death of his father, the said property was devolved on his surviving legal heirs namely Mr. Nirmal Vahi (wife), Mrs. Kavita Chhabra, Mrs. Sarita Anand (Daughters), and Mr. Sunil Vahi (son). Subsequently, Mrs Nirmal Vahi, Mrs Kavita Chhabra and Mrs Sarita Anand executed a Relinquishment Deed in favour of Shri Sunil Vahi in respect of their respective share in the said property. The said Relinquishment deed is duly registered with the concerned Sub-Registrar of Assurances as Document No. 319 in Book No. 1, Volume No. 7089, pages 197-200, on 28.01.2022. (SRO-IB). And as such, Shri Sunil Vahi became the absolute owner of the said property. The seller has further informed our clients that the said property is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said property.

Any person including Banks, Financial Institutions, relatives or having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the aforesaid property is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to be undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 10 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the seller to the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our said Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever.

Amit Kumar Khurana, Advocate
Ms Intellectual Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that that I, Mukesh Kumar S/o Sh. Tilak Raj R/o Qtr No. 3, Jammu Kashmir House, 5 Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi ND/MC, Central Delhi, Delhi-110011 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Both Raj in my 10th class market sheet, certificate and Department Training & Technical Education Diploma. The actual name of my father is Tilak Raj, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is informed that my client Smt. Baljeet Kaur W/o Shri Jaswant Singh R/O P-4-E, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, (Aadhar No. 3560-3753-6198) has severed all her relations with her son named **Gagan Deep Singh** and his wife **Smt.Garima** due to misconduct and bad behavior and also debarred them from her all properties both movable and immovable and my client Smt. Baljeet Kaur is not liable to be responsible for their acts and deeds in future.

Sd/-
HARPAL SINGH
Advocate
Enrl. No. D-1581/16
QU-259/A, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that my client Shri Datta Ram, R/O 1683, Sector-5, R.K.Puram, New Delhi-110022 have lost all the original Allotment Document / Challan/ Receipt/Original title documents of property bearing L-107-C, Janta Flat, Vishal Garden, New Delhi-110055. The public at large is informed accordingly any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having objection or objection to found possession of original documents, may write/ contract with the undersigned

RAHUL MEHTA-ADVOCATE
Ch. No. 482, Civil Lane, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

That My Clients Shri. Dashmesh Kumar Singh, Shri. Anoop Chand And Smt. Chanchal Baweja W/o Sh. Dashmesh Kumar Baweja Both R/O-A-141, Ground Floor, Derawal Nagar, Delhi-110009 Has Disowned /Debarred Their Son Nameley Gauri Shanker Baweja And Their Daughter In Law Smt. Kashish Gupta Baweja From His All Movable, Immovable Properties Due To Their Bad Conduct, Behavior Towards My Clients And They Are Not In Our Client's Control And They Have Taken Share Of All Part Of Properties As Per Settlement Deed DL21/20202 And At The Same Time They Have Left Above Mentioned Address in their Residing Somewhere Else Separately. If Any One Keep Related With Them It Will Be On Their Own Risk, Cost And Consequences And Our Clients Have No Responsibility For Their Any Kind Of Act, Omission Etc. In This Regard.

R.C.TOMAR ADVOCATE
Ch. No. 1123, Rohini Court
Rohini, Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is informed that my client Sh. MAHAJ SINGH S/O LATE SH. SURESH KUMAR SINGH RB, VILLAGE BANWATHI, NARELA, DELHI-110040 with immediate effect revoked cancels the General Power of Attorney dated 22.10.2020 bearing Registration No. 1525, Book-IV, Volume No. 1630 and pages 38-43 executed by him in favour of ANIL KUMAR S/O LATE SHRI RAM CHAND R/O H.NO. R-3/GALI-10, H.A. SWATANTRA NAGAR, NARELA, DELHI-110040, in respect of the 1/12th share in the land bearing Kharsa No. 8/7 (S-4 Standard) 4-16 Sada & 8/21-12 Standard) & 03 sds of village Sanath, Delhi total measuring 8 Bigha and 9 Bawas. Hence forth none of them are authorized to represent my client or to sign do any act on his behalf, any one dealing with either of them would solely responsible and not our client. would not be held responsible in any manner directly or indirectly.

Sd/-
ADAMAWAI PAL SINGH
CHAMBER NO. 437/28, Third Floor, Sector-13, Rohini Courts, Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

Informed to General Public that my client, Smt. Asha Chopra Chugh, W/o Late Shyam Sunder Chugh, R/o H.No. 147, First Floor, Bhairmanand Colony Near Mukherji Nagar, North West Delhi-09, Have Severed all their relations, social and economic with their Real Son Sh. Nikhil Chugh, S/o Late Shyam Sunder Chugh, R/O H.No. 147, First Floor, Bhairmanand Colony Near Mukherji Nagar, North West Delhi-09 and disown and dis-inherit him from all their Properties, movable and immovable. My Client will not be liable for any act or deed and deeds of the said person and any person dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk and responsibility.

TUSHAR DIXIT (ADVOCATE)
Ch. No. B-8, B.G.S. Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to public at large that my clients (1) Shri Krishan Lal Kansal (having Aadhaar Card No.9591 8071 5302) S/o Shri Banarsi Dass and (2) Smt. Subodhi Devi Kansal (having Aadhaar Card No.8928 8238 0590) W/o Shri Krishan Lal Kansal both R/O A-237/38, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085, disowned and debarred their son Mr. **Rajesh Kumar Kansal** S/o Shri Krishan Lal Kansal R/O A-237/38, Third Floor, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085 having Aadhaar

Be a Responsible Voter CAST YOUR PRECIOUS VOTE



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2022

**UTTAR
PRADESH**
61 ACs

FIFTH
5
PHASE

February 27, 2022

7.00 am to 6.00 pm, Sunday

Districts : Amethi, Ayodhya, Bahraich, Barabanki, Chitrakoot, Gonda Kaushambi, Pratapgarh, Prayagraj, Rae Bareilly (Salon Assembly Constituency), Shravasti, Sultanpur

MANIPUR
38 ACs

FIRST
1
PHASE

February 28, 2022

7.00 am to 4.00 pm, Monday

Districts : Bishnupur, Churachandpur, Imphal East, Imphal West, Kangpokpi

Assured Minimum Facilities at Polling Stations



Mask & Gloves



Token System



Transport Facility



Thermal Scanning



Ramp & Wheel Chair



Special Volunteers



Sanitiser



EVM with Braille



Signage



Social Distancing



Sign Language



Priority Access to PwDs & Senior Citizens



Voter Helpline App

Check your name in the voters' list & know your polling station



Scan to download



Know Your Candidate App

Know Candidate Details



Scan to download



CVIGIL App

Report MCC Violations



Scan to download



ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Helpline **1950** | <https://eci.gov.in/> | www.nvsp.in

FROM PAGE ONE

FDI in LIC

While the government had last year raised the FDI limit in the insurance sector to 74 per cent from 49 per cent, it did not cover LIC that is governed by a specific legislation.

“Since as per the present policy, the FDI ceiling for public sector banks is 20 per cent on government approval route, it has been decided to allow foreign investment up to 20 per cent for LIC and other such bodies. Further, such FDI has been kept on the automatic route, as with the rest of the insurance sector,” a government source said.

On Friday, the National Stock Exchange decided to relax the eligibility criteria of Nifty equity indices and for replacement of stocks in various indices, reducing the minimum listing history of constituents from three months to one calendar month, effective March 31. This relaxation is expected to pave the way for LIC’s inclusion in the benchmark Nifty 50 Index.

Once market regulator SEBI approves the issue, the IPO is likely to open for subscription in the second week of March and trading will commence by the third week, industry sources

said. The government is going ahead with the listing of the latter’s shares, despite increased volatility in the markets amid Russia’s attack on Ukraine.

Sources said the government expects this move, along with other simplifications in FDI policy, to “make India an attractive investment destination”. FDI inflows into India rose to \$81.97 billion in 2020-21, from \$ 74.39 billion in 2019-20.

In an interview with *The Indian Express* earlier this month, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said that 20 per cent FDI should be sufficient considering that existing regulations and the requirements. “...because LIC is not an insurance company, so insurance laws strictly do not apply to it, except for some of the provisions of insurance”.

The market valuation of LIC is expected to be more than Rs 10 lakh crore, putting it at par with top notch companies such as Reliance Industries and TCS.

According to LIC Act, an entity or a person can hold a maximum of 5 per cent stake in LIC and the government holding cannot fall below 51 per cent.

Foreign holding in state-owned insurance companies GIC Re and New India Assurance is less than 1 per cent of the equity. Foreign holding in SBI, India’s largest bank, is 10.37 per cent.

Godhra

platform, stands the burnt S-6 coach, and the adjacent S-5, a barbed wire mesh restricting entry. Twenty years later, the floor of the coach has disintegrated, only the skeletal frames of the berths remain.

A woman washes clothes on the plinth meant for two personnel guarding the coaches. She says she’s been coming here for 20 years, there’s a water shortage in her area and a running tap here. Ask her about that day and she says she was at a wedding when the “incident” happened.

Not just her water supply, little has changed visibly by way of infrastructure. Roads are still barely motorable. Bilal Hayat, a welder who lives in Signal Falia, says the railway underpass “has not been repaired for the last 30 years”. One thing that’s come up is a high wall between the railway station and Signal Falia.

Ask local leaders why *vikas* has eluded the town and they all point to Shri Govind Guru University (SGGU), set up in 2015.

Pankti Soni, 27, a gold medalist in LLB from SGGU, says

she had to go to Ahmedabad for an undergraduate education as “there are no English-medium colleges in Godhra”.

The university has 96 affiliated colleges. Pankti was in Class 1 when the Sabarmati Express was attacked. Her only memory is they were sent home from school. “Today whenever someone hears I am from Godhra, the reaction is ‘*woh riotwala?* (Where the riots happened)... If you want to do a job, Godhra is not the place,” she says.

Mahejbin Sheikh, 22, a class topper, has enrolled for a PhD at SGGU. Living in Vejalpur, on Godhra’s outskirts, she is the only one of her four siblings to have studied this far. “When I was doing B.Com, there was not a single Muslim in my class,” she says.

Mahejbin has a vague memory of being at her aunt’s engagement when riots broke out on February 28, 2002. “*Do haz-aar do* (2002)” is how people refer to the incident, she says, adding that it has had little impact on their lives. “I have Hindu friends”, she says.

As the young look ahead, history weighs on others. At Signal Falia, where only one side of the road is carpeted, several shops, mostly of mechanics, stand cheek by jowl on the uncarpeted side. Shopkeepers avoid references to the train attack.

Says an elderly man who identifies himself as Husain:



अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद्
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

नेल्सन मंडेला मार्ग, वसन्त कुंज, नई दिल्ली-110 070
फोन: 011-29581027, 29581036 वॉ 29581023 वेबसाइट: www.aicte-india.org

“तकनीकी पाठ्यपुस्तक पुस्करकार योजना : 2021”
भारत सरकार की राष्‍ट्रगान्‍धी नीति का अनुयायन करते हुए हिन्‍दी में डिजिटल तकनीकी विषयों की चुनचुन स्‍तर की मूल तथ्‍या अनुदित पाठ्यपुस्‍तकें उपलब्‍ध करवाने के उद्देश्‍य से अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद् द्वारा हिन्‍दी की “तकनीकी पाठ्यपुस्‍तक पुस्‍करकार योजना वर्ष 2021” के लिए प्रविष्टियां आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। इस योजना का पूरा विवरण और आवेदन पत्र अमातरिप की वेबसाइट www.aicte-india.org/Bulletin-advertisement पर उपलब्‍ध है तथा “निदेशक (प्रशासन)/ हिन्‍दी अधिकारी, अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद् ‘नेल्‍सन मंडेला मार्ग, वसन्‍त कुंज, नई दिल्‍ली-110070’ को पत्र भेजकर भी मंगाया जा सकता है। विधिवत्‍ भरे हुए आवेदन पत्र तथ्‍या प्रकाशित कृति की दो प्रतियां, अमातरिप में दिनांक 30.04.2022 तक अवश्य प्राप्‍त हो जानी चाहिए।

विज्ञापन सं. : हिन्‍दी प्रकोष्ठ / 02(02) / 2022

सदस्य सचिव, अमातरिप

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Leasehold Industrial Plot (admeasuring 11784 Sq.mt.) and Built up Industrial Property (approx. covering area 35000 sq. ft.) situated at Plot No. 2, Sector – 31, Greater Noida – 201 305 (District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., (hereinafter “Property”) is owned by and is in actual physical possession of M/s JKD Foams Private Limited, having its Registered Office at 4906, Hauz Qazi, Delhi – 110 006 (hereinafter referred as ‘Owners’), as the sole and absolute right, title and interest holders thereof. The Owners claimed that the Property is free from all encumbrances, charges, claims etc. of whatsoever nature and that they have a clear and marketable title in respect of the above said Property. The owner are intended to execute a transfer cum sell deed in favour of M/s Kent RO Systems Limited, having its Registered office at H – 35, South Extension, Part – 1, New Delhi – 110049.

By virtue of this notice all or any persons including any banks, financial institutions or any other party or person, having any valid and legal claim, right, title, demand or interest by virtue of any sale, gift, lease, tenancy, license, exchange, partition, mortgage, charge, lien, inheritance, succession, trust, maintenance, possession, easement, agreement, lis-pendens, stay order, attachment, decree, specific performance or otherwise or any other right of whatsoever nature are required/ called upon to convey their objection/s in writing at the address mentioned below, within (10) Ten days from issuance of this notice, along with all supporting documents relating to such claim etc., failing which it shall be presumed that there is /are no claim/s and such claim/s if any, shall be considered to be waived and abandoned in respect of the above Property.

Place: Greater Noida

Date: 26.02.2022

Contact details:

Mr. S. N. Pati – Legal Head

For Kent RO Systems Limited

Corp. Office – E – 6, 7 & 8, Sector – 59, Noida – 201 309

Mobile No. 9811239459; e-mail: snpati@kent.co.in



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF FINANCE
INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE TAX RECOVERY OFFICER-3,
Room No.420, 4th Floor, Main Building, 121, M.G. Road,
Aayakar Bhavan - Chennai-34 TEL : 044-28338543 / Mob: 9384636708
Email : chennai.tro3@incometax.gov.in

AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY SITUATED AT AYANAVARAM

Notice is hereby given that the office of the undersigned has proposed to conduct an auction as per the provisions laid down in the 2nd Schedule of the Income tax Act, 1961 and sale of immovable property, which belongs to **M/s.Delta Projects (Partners of Shri. J. Annamalal & Smt.A.Pritya Annappanor)** No.48/19,Rajamangalam Main Road, Villivakkam, Chennai- 600 049 being income tax defaulter for the purpose of recovery of income tax arrears.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES

“An apartment bearing Flat No. C-156 on the Fifteenth Floor in Block ‘C’ together car parking space in the basement of the multistoried building complex known as “SUNNNYVALE”, No.351, K.H. Road, Ayanavaram, Chennai, Flat measuring on extent of 1599 Sq.ft (plinth area of flat inclusive of share in common area) together with 485.99 Sq.ft undivided share of land described in the schedule D above within the registration Sub district of Anna Nagar and Registration District of Central Chennai”.

Reserve price IN Rupees : **Rs.95,99,000/- plus poundage fee & costs**

E.M.D and Rupee : Rs.1,00,000/-

DATE AND TIME OF AUCTION

23.03.2022 @ 11.00 AM

VENUE OF AUCTION

Income Tax Auditorium (Vaigai Hall) in the
121, M.G. Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034.

- CONDITIONS:**
- The intending bidders are requested to deposit **Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only)** as Earnest Money Deposit for the above property by means of Demand Draft in favour of ‘Tax Recovery Officer-3, Income tax Dept., Chennai’ drawn on any schedule bank payable at Chennai before the beginning of actual auction proceedings, which is refundable to the parties except successful. The successful bidder shall pay immediately after such declaration, deposit of 25 % on the amount of his purchase money to the officer conducting sale, and in default of such deposit the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold. The full amount of purchase money payable should be paid by the purchaser to the undersigned on or before 15th day from the date of sale of property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day being a Sunday or other holiday, then on first office day after the fifteenth day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after issue of fresh proclamation of sale.
 - The Property will be auctioned on “**as is where is and what is there is basis**”.
 - The details of the property and the copy of the Encumbrance Certificate can be perused at the office of the undersigned on any working day prior to auction, after fixing an appointment with the undersigned during office hours.
 - Detailed terms and conditions of the auction sale may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
 - The aforesaid property will not be sold below the Reserve Price of **Rs.95,99,000/-** (C.D.Vejayalakshme)

Date: 21.02.2022 Tax Recovery Officer-3
Place : Chennai O/o. Pr.Commissioner of Income Tax-3, Chennai.



STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB)
2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001
Ph. No. (Office): 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax: 0612-2219385, E-mail: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

[See Proviso to rule 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank Of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold (e-auctioned) on “**As is Where is”, “As is What is” and “Whatever there is” basis on 06/04/2022 (date of the sale)**, for recovery of **Rs. 19,43,257.00** (Rupees Nineteen Lacs Forty Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Seven Only) as on 30/04/2019 with further interest from 01.05.2019 plus other Charges, cost etc due to the secured creditor from the **Borrower: M/S Aaditya Metal Trade & Jewellery**, (Prop. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jha) & the **Guarantor:- Mrs. Gayatri Devi W/o Sanjay Kumar Jha**.
Short description of the immovable property:-

Sl. No.	Description of Property	Proposed Reserve Price EMD Amount Bid Increment Amount
1.	Short description of the immovable property: Flat No. 105 , 1st Floor with super build up Area of 1215 Sq.ft in Kamal Kunj Apartment situated in Mohalla--Jai Prakash Nagar, Survey Mouza-- Sheikhpura, Shashtri Nagar, District & Town-- Patna. Land over which the Apartment has been constructed with Total Land Area of 771 Sq. ft, Bearing Thana No. 09, Touzi No. 18064, Khata No. 322, Survey Plot No. 21(P) and Registration Sub--District of Patna Sadar, Patna Bihar. This flat has been registered mortgaged by Smt. Gayatri Devi W/O-- Sanjay Kumar Jha vide Mortgage Deed No. 8303 dated 07/09/2015, The Boundaries of the Flat are:- North : Flat No. 104, South: Open Space, East : Open Space, West: Lobby & Stairs, The Boundaries of the Land are:- North-- Part Survey Plot No.- 21, South-- Boundary of A.G Colony, East- Sri Sadhu Sharan Singh, West- Branch Road (Sahayak Rasta), (Property ID- SBIN61291682575)	₹ 37,17,000.00 ₹ 3,71,700.00 ₹ 10,000.00

- e-Auction Terms And Condition**
- Date of e-auction: 06.04.2022; Time: 120 Minutes, form 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes each.**
 - The auction sale will be “**online through e-auction**”. The intending Bidders/Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-Auction Service Provider’s website/ portal-<https://mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/Index.jsp>.
 - The intending Bidders/ Purchasers have to register on the portal using their mobile number and email-id & upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders/ Purchasers have to transfer the EMD amount in Global EMD Wallet before the e-Auction date and time. The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction.
 - Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount shall be paid online through NEFT/ Transfer after generation of Challan from “Pay Pre bid EMD” link in bidder’s Global EMD Wallet. NEFT can be done from any Scheduled Commercial Bank, however for Transfer through the challan bidder has to visit Indian Bank Branch. Payment of EMD by any other mode such as Cheques, etc will not be accepted. Bidders, not depositing the required EMD online, will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earnest Money deposited shall not bear any interest.
 - MSTC Central Helpdesk Number (for any technical help): 033-40645207, 40609118, 40645316, 40602403, 40067351, 40628253. S81 contact no (for property related enquiry): **9835645107, 9507591883, 8811060438**
 - The General Terms and Conditions of e-auction sale is available on the website: <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>.**
 - To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest act, 2002.

This publication is also a 30 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. NB: 30 days Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors has already been sent by Regd. Post at their last known address. In case they do not receive the said notice then this E-auction sale Notice may be treated as substituted mode of service. The other terms and conditions of the e-Auction are published in the following websites.

Date: 25.02.2022
Place: Patna

Authorized Officer
State Bank of India, SARB, Patna

“Now Godhra is peaceful as the communities stay separately.” As for the “incident,” he says, it made Signal Falia “an allergy.”

The wheels of justice have moved — slowly. The special court designated for speedy trial of the case handed death sentences to 11 of the 31 convicted, and acquitted 61 accused in 2011. The Gujarat High Court commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment in 2017.

Of the convicted, Bilal Ismail Abdul Majid, alias Haji Bilal, 61, who was corporator in the Godhra municipality in 2002, died of illness last year.

Currently, 33 are in jail, after the Supreme Court-appointed SIT arrested three more. The SIT has challenged the acquittals.

Bilal was among the five councillors of the Godhra municipality arrested in the train-burning case. The others, Mohammad Husain Kalota, who was acquitted, died in 2018; Salim Shaikh, who was also acquitted, is with the Nationalist Congress Party; Abdul Rehman Dhantiya and Faroukh Bhana are serving their sentence in jail.

Life for Razzak Dungaria, 70, who was among those acquitted, is almost back to “before the 2002 incident”. He says, “I own a quarry, there is no problem”.

In Ahmedabad, for Janak Panchal, 54, one of the passengers in S-6, the sorrow of losing his 21-year-old cousin Shailesh Panchal, is tempered with “the happiness (of the temple construction having begun)”.


“We know in its bricks will reside souls of those who died.”

Vilasrao Jadhav, 48, who works in a private firm in Ahmedabad, lost his father in the S-6 fire. He got compensation of Rs 5 lakh and says: “We feel sad but also proud that the temple is finally being built”.

Both Panchal and Jadhav, who are members of the VHP, regret that Covid restrictions didn’t let them join the event when Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation of the temple at Ayodhya.

Some scars are visible. The 24-year-old salesperson in a private telecom firm, who does not wish to be named, cannot forget how his father, a prominent citizen of Godhra, was picked up by police when he was in Class 9, and after nine years in jail, was acquitted and is now dead. “As long as we (Muslims) do not enter politics, we are safe”, he says.

What politics doesn’t, the humdrum of daily life does. Sanjay Soni, president of the Godhra municipality, admits he became president of the municipality in 2021 “with the support of 21 Muslim corporators.” They included seven from the AIMIM, a party that won for the first time, and one Congress councillor Naseem Bano, wife of Abid Shaikh who was acquitted in the



DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
5th FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-06
(visit us at : <http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The whole Union Territory of Delhi has been declared as an Air Pollution Control area vide notification dated 20.02.1987.

It is mandatory provision under section 21/22 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 that no person without the previous consent of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) shall establish or operate any industrial plant in air pollution control area.

It is mandatory provisions under section 25/26 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 that no person shall without the previous consent of DPCC shall establish or take any steps to establish any industry, operation or process or any treatment and disposal system, an extension or addition thereto, which is likely to discharge sewage or trade effluent in to a stream or on land.

All the industrial units operating in NCT of Delhi are required to obtain “Consent to Establish” and “Consent to Operate” under the provisions of the Water and Air Acts.

By way of this Public Notice, all the industrial units are hereby directed to comply with the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1974 and submit the application for Consent to Establish and/ or Operate on “Online Consent Management & Monitoring System (OCMMS)” online portal of DPCC (<http://dpccocmms.nic.in>) by **12.03.2022**.

This Notice be treated as an opportunity of being heard. In case of violation penal action including effective closure of the unit, disconnection of Electricity and water supply to the unit, as per the provisions of the above said Acts will be initiated without any further reference.

Please visit the website of Delhi Pollution Control Committee (<http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>) for more details.

Member Secretary, DPCC

**Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran**
Offers e-Auction of
Residential properties in Urban Estates Panchkula,
Hisar, Rohtak, Gurugram & Panipat
On 16th March 2022





Residential properties in Urban Estate Gurugram

Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots
1	5, Gurugram-I	3
2	9-A, Gurugram-I	4
3	10, Gurugram-I	4
4	10-A, Gurugram-I	4
5	15-I, Gurugram-I	1
6	15-II, Gurugram-I	5
7	21, Gurugram-I	3
8	23-23A, Gurugram-I	7
9	Pataudi, Gurugram-I	1
10	38, Gurugram-II	3
11	39, Gurugram-II	24
12	40, Gurugram-II	5
13	42, Gurugram-II	14
14	45, Gurugram-II	5
15	46, Gurugram-II	5
16	47, Gurugram-II	2
17	49, Gurugram-II	5
18	50, Gurugram-II	10
19	52, Gurugram-II	18
20	57, Gurugram-II	7

Residential properties in Urban Estate Panipat

Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots
1	13, Panipat	3
2	18, Panipat	1
3	24, Panipat	12
4	40, Panipat	1

Residential properties in Urban Estate Panchkula

Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots
1	25, Panchkula	17
2	27, Panchkula	28
3	30, Pinjore	19

Residential properties in Urban Estate Hisar

Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots
1	4 (P-II), Hisar	16
2	5, Hisar	6
3	9 & 11, Hisar	28
4	33 (P-I), Hisar	10

Residential properties in Urban Estate Rohtak

Sr. No.	Sector/ Urban Estate	No. of Plots
1	4, Rohtak	4
2	4-EXT, Rohtak	5
3	5, Rohtak	1
4	25, Rohtak	38
5	27-28-26 (P-I), Rohtak	1
6	27-28-26 (P-II), Rohtak	3
7	27-28-26 (P-III), Rohtak	9

e-Auction will start at 10:00 AM

For any queries email us at eauctionquery.hsvp@gmail.com

Helpline Number:
8360516607 1800-180-3030
(9 AM to 5 PM) (8 AM TO 8 PM)



Registration will close one day before the scheduled date of e-Auction, at 5 PM.


e-Auction Portal
<https://hsvp.org.in>
Loan Facility From Leading Banks*
*Terms And Conditions Applicable

**Chief Administrator**
Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran
G-3, HSPV Complex, Sector 8, Panchkula 136 120, Haryana
hsvp.org.in 1800-180-3030 Hisar

The detailed information of the sites and terms & conditions of e-auction will be available on <https://hsvp.org.in>.

**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**
Government of India





POLIO ROUND
27 February Sunday
Ensure every child under 5 years of age gets polio drops every time

Let the victory over Polio continue with two drops of life.

India is polio free. But polio still exists in few countries and it may come back. Ensure your child’s complete protection. Make sure polio vaccine is given every time so that India maintains its victory over polio.

To know more, please contact ASHA/ANM/Anganwadi Worker


Ensure to follow COVID-19 protocols



Don't forget to wear your mask to cover your nose and mouth



Maintain distance of 2 yards



Keep hands clean



Avoid crowding

**Let your child fully immunised**

**NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**

**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**



www.mohfw.gov.in | www.pmindia.gov.in | www.mygov.in | [YouTube mohfwindia](https://www.youtube.com/mohfwindia) | [@MoHFW_INDIA](https://twitter.com/MoHFW_INDIA)

New Delhi

dayp 17/102/13/0039/2122

<div><div><div><div><div><div>केनरा बैंक</div><div>भारत सरकार का उपक्रम</div></div><div><div><div><div></div></div><div><div>Canara Bank</div><div>A Govt. of India Undertaking</div></div></div><div><div><div><div></div></div><div><div>सिंडिकेट Syndicate</div></div></div></div></div><div><div><div><div><div>Recovery & Legal Section, Circle Office,</div><div>3rd Floor, Luv-Kush Tower, Exhibition Road, Patna - 800001</div><div>Ph. : 0612-2320180, Email : npacopat@canarabank.com</div></div></div><div><div><div>PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION</div></div><div>E-AUCTION Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ hypothecated/ Pledged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.03.2022. Details are as under :</div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div>					Sl. No.	Name / Address Contact No. of the Branch	Name and Address of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor (s)	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Property	Reserve Price (Rs.) / EMD/Bid Multiplier Amt./ A/c No./ IFSC Code
14	Gulabbagh Branch First Floor, Hansda Raod, Sanauli Chowk, Gulabbagh, Bihar-854326 Mob. : 8210998598	1.M/s Platinum Overseas Prop.-Kamal Ahmad, Shastri Nagar, Gulabbagh, Purnea, Bihar 2.Kamal Ahmad S/o Mohammad Jalal, Shastri Nagar,Gulabbagh, Purnea, Bihar 3.Ishrat Jahan W/o Md. Jalal, Shastri Nagar, Gulabbagh, Ward No-36, PO Gulabbagh, Purnea, Bihar	Rs. 48,55,472.13/- as on 22.02.2022 + interest & Other Cost thereon	1.Sale Deed No.-13087/13 Dated 13.12.2007 All that part and parcel of Land Measuring 06 Decimal 03 Kari Covered Under R.S. Khata No-448, Survey No-2903 and 2904, Situated at Mohalla/Village-Basantpur, Mauja + Thana- Abdullanagar, Thana No-100/1, Tauji No-8/5, Gulabagh Purnea, District-Purnea in the name of Ishrat Jahan W/o Md Jalal Boundary :North : Santosh Choudhary, South-Nij Baya, East-Nij Baya, West-Road 2.Sale Deed No.-399 Dated 10.01.2013 All that part and parcel of Land Measuring 13 Decimal 6.5 Kari Covered Under R.S. Khata No-448, Survey No-2903 Ansh, Situated at Mohalla/Village- Basantpur, Mauja + Thana-Abdullanagar, Thana No- 100/1, Tauji No-8/5, Gulabagh Purnea, District- Purnea in the name of Ishrat Jahan W/o Md Jalal Boundary :North : Farik Baya, South-Md Rahat & Md Anwar, East-Farik Baya, West -Nij Purchase & Pawan Urawn	Rs. 33,66,500/- Rs. 3,36,650/- 10,000/- A/c - 8362295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008362					
15	Basopatti Branch Babandel Chowk, Block Road, Basopatti, Bihar-847225 Mob. : 8210998580	1. M/s Utkarsh Spare Parts Proprietor-Vandita Pandey, Vill-Pihwara, Post-Ultra, District-Madhubani, Bihar 2.Vandita Pandey W/o Shankaranand Pandey, Vill- Pihwara, Post-Ultra, District- Madhubani, Bihar	Rs. 14,69,649.57/- as on 22.02.2022 + interest & Other Cost thereon	Sale Deed No-928 Dated 20.02.2019 All that part and parcel of land measuring 21.80 Decimal= 5 Katha, Covered under Khata No-166 (Old) 24 (New), Khesra No-1298 (Old) 893 (New), Situated at-Mauja-Pihwara, Thana No-77, Tauji No- 6247,6248 & 6249, PS-Saharghat Anchal Madhwapur, Dist.-Madhubani Jamabandi No-91 In the name of Vandita Pandey W/o Shankaranand Pandey Boundary :North : Pokhra, South - PCC Road, East -Devendra Pandey and Vinay Kumar Pandey,West-PCC Road	Rs. 27,42,000/- Rs. 2,74,200/- 10,000/- A/c - 8362295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008362					
16	Madhepura Branch First Floor, Main Road,Madhep ura, Bihar- 852113 Mob. : 8210998611	1. M/s Anamika & Sons Company Prop.-Savita Sinha, Prabhat Nagar Main Road, at Sadhua, Tulshibari, District- Madhepura, Bihar 2.Savita Sinha W/oPawanKumar Sinha, D/o Raj Kumar Sinha, at Sadhua, Tulshibari, Behaghath, District- Madhepura,Bihar 3.Pawan Kumar Sinha S/o Prabhat Kumar Sinha, Main Road Sadhua, Near Dr. Uditi Kumar Raja, Tulsiwari, PS-Madhepura, District-Madhepura, Bihar	Rs. 22,63,734.75/- as on 22.02.2022 + interest & Other Cost thereon	Sale Deed No.-8761 Dated 04.09.2015 All that part and parcel of Land Measuring Two Katha (8.733 Decimal) Covered Under Khata No- 02 and 328, Old Khesra No-5636 and 4681, New Khesra No-2117, 2444, 2445, 2118, 2442 and 2443, Situated at Mohalla-Sadhua, Mauja- Tulshibari, Thana-Madhepura, Thana No-61, Tauji No-468, Jamabandi No-7959, Anchal + Thana- Madhepura, Dist-Madhepura in the name of Savita Sinha D/o Sri Raj Kumar Sinha Boundary :North : Jhatkan Mandal, South -Khesra Near 2148,East- Debu Mandal and Jhatkan Mandal, West -10 Feet Private Road and Pushpa Devi	Rs. 36,74,000/- Rs. 3,67,400/- 10,000/- A/c - 8362295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008362					
17	Darbhanga Delhi More Branch 1st Flr, Umesh Ngr, Delhi More, NH-57, PTC, Darbhanga, Bihar-846005 Mob. : 8210998591	Sri Amit Ranjan Mishra, S/o Sri Vivek Nand Mishra, Village-Bhuskaul, P.S-Sadar, Darbhanga, Dist-Darbhanga, Pin-846007	Rs. 30,75,710.35 as on 22.02.2022 + interest & Other Cost thereon	Deed No.-501 Dated 10.01.2020 All that part and parcel of a Land Area About 01 Katha or 04.4 Decimal. Situated at Mouza- Bhuskaul, Thana-Sadar Darbhanga Thana No- 437, Khata No-80 (Old)/502 (New), Khesra No- 783 (Old)/1714 (New), Dist-Darbhanga, Bihar. In the name of Sri Amit Ranjan Mishra S/o Sri Viveka Nand Mishra Boundary :North : P.W.D Road, South-Bhagwanjee Mishra, East-Ratan Kumar Mishra, West-Liadhar Mishra	Rs. 31,47,000/- Rs. 3,14,700/- 10,000/- A/c - 8362295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008362					
18	Tirhut Canal Division Branch, Tirhut Canal Division Bihar-842002 Mob. : 8102915958	Property in the Name of Shri. Rajesh Kumar, S/oShri Babaji Ray, R/o.-Mauza- Bhagwanpur, P.S.-Sadar, Anchal-Mushahary, Sub- Registry and District- Muzaffarpur-843001 Guarantors- Sri Rajesh Kumar S/o Baidyanath Ray, Chakar Maidan, PO.-HBO., PS-Kaji Mohammadpur, Dist- Muzaffarpur, Bihar-842001	Rs. 88,87,081.32 as on 31.01.2022 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Shri Rajesh Kumar S/o Shri Babaji Ray Consisting of Khata No. 310, Khesra No.-247, Area-0.03 Decimal Boundary:-North : Mohan Ray S/o Rakesh Kumar, South-Suresh Ray S/o. Ramesh Ray, East-Mokir Aleh, West -Mokir Aleh Location-Mauza-Bhagwanpur, R.T. No. 353, P.S.- Sadar, Anchal-Mushahary, Dist.-Muzaffarpur, Bihar-842002	Rs. 21,61,000/- Rs. 2,16,100/- 10,000/- A/c - 8360295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008360					
19	Barharia Branch, Barharia, Bihar-841428 Mob. : 8210998470	Mr. Jainul Haque S/o Late S K Hanif, Vill-Chhitauli, PO- Parsurampur, Dist.-Gopalganj, Bihar-841427 Guarantors-Md. Gayasuddin Ahmad,Vill-Siswan, P.O. & P.S.- Barharia, Dist.-Siwan, Bihar- 841232	Rs. 42,71,387.13 as on 31.01.2022 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Mr. Jainul Haque S/o Late S K Hanif consisting of Khata No. 126, Tauzi No. 1353, Thana No. 315, SP Plot No. 49, Area-14 Door 16.5 Dhookees Boundary:-North : Road, South -Mohd Kasim & others, East-Hal Baidar Mustri No. Haja Ta Imroja, West-Lachan Ahir Location-Mauza-Nawalpur, Pargana 12, PS & sub Registry office Barharia, Dist-siwan, Bihar	Rs. 35,38,800/- Rs. 3,53,880.00 10,000/- A/c - 8360295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008360					
20	Barharia Branch, Barharia, Bihar-841428 (ob. : 8210998470	Shri Madhup Kumar Mishra, S/o shri Awadh Kishore Mishra, Vill-Bhalua, P.S.- Barharia, Dist.-Siwan, Bihar- 841232 Guarantors-Smt. Chanda Mishra, W/o, SriAwadh Kishore Mishra Vill-Bhalua, P.O.\$ P.S- Barharia, Dist-Siwan, Bihar- 841232	Rs. 21,66,587.98 as on 31.01.2022 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Shri Madhup Kumar Mishra, S/o Shri Awadh Kishore Mishra consisting of Khata No. 167, Khesra No. 562, Tauzi No. 1073, Thana No.317, Area-00-02-00-00 (B-K-D-D) Khata No.- 181, Khesra No. 561, Tauzi No. 1073, Thana No. 317, Area- 00-02-18-00 (B-K-D-D) Khata No.- 181, Khesra No. 561, Tauzi No. 1073, Thana No. 317, Area-00-03-00-00 (B-K-D-D) Boundary:- Property-1. North : Pich Road, South-Babu Nand Mishra & Others, East-Nagendra Singh & others, West-Nij of Vendee Boundary:-Property-2. North : Pich Road, South-Babu Nand Mishra, East-Nij of Vendee, West-Rameshwar Sharma & others. Location-Vill-Bhalua, PS & sub Registry Office Barharia, Dist-Siwan, Bihar	Rs. 26,04,600.00 Rs. 2,60,460.00 10,000/- A/c - 8360295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008360					
21	Gopalganj Branch, Gopalganj, Bihar-841428 Mob. : 8210998484	M/s Gangotri Dhara- Prop. Sri Binay Kumar Sinha, Sadhu Chowk, Ward No. 2, P.O. & P.S.-Gopalganj, Bihar-841428 Guarantors-Sri Dhruv Deo Prasad, S/o Late Rambriksh Prasad, Vill-Katharia, P.O.- Barahima, PS-Mohammadpur, Dist-Gopalganj, At-Present ward no. 13, Sareya Kallsthan Road, Sareya, Dist.- Gopalganj, Bihar-841428	Rs. 9,10,668.48 as on 31.01.2022 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Shri Dhruv Deo Prasad, S/o Late Shri Rambriksh Prasad consisting of Khata No. 81, Plot No. 497, Area 0-0-10 (Ten Dhur) Boundary:-North : Nij, South -Hal Mustari, East-Nij, West- Ramkshun Kurmi Hal Surendra Prasad Location-Mauza-Sareya, Pragna-Sipah, Thana No. 83, Tauzi No. 3947, Dist-Gopalganj, Bihar	Rs. 6,68,250/- Rs. 66,825.00 10,000/- A/c - 8360295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008360					
22	Chandwara Branch, Muzaffarpur, Bihar-842002 Mob. : 8210998500	Shri. Navneet Kumar, S/o Late. Rambilash Choudhary, Sheikhpur, Akaharghat, P.S- Ahiyapur, Dist.-Muzaffarpur, Bihar-842002 Guarantors- Smt. Babita Devi, W/o. Shri Navneet Kumar, Sheikhpur, Akaharghat, P.S-Ahiyapur, Dist.-Muzaffarpur, Bihar- 842002	Rs. 15,92,239.77 as on 31.01.2022 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Shri Navneet Kumar, S/o Late Ram Bilash Choudhary consisting of Khata No.-08, Survey No. 397 'p', Area-2.4 Decimal Boundary:- North : Poonam Devi, South -Ram Lakshman Jha & Brij Kala Devi, East-Ram Ashish Sahni, West-10 ft wide Road Location- Mohalla Sheikhpur, Akharaghat, PO-Sheikhpur, P.S.-Ahiyapur, Dist.- Muzaffarpur, Bihar-842002	Rs. 11,46,00.00 Rs. 1,14,600/- 10,000/- A/c - 8360295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008360					
23	Bhagwanpur-II Branch, Canara Bank, Pawapuri Bihar, NH No. 28, Bihar- 842001 Mob. : 8102915970	Shri Sachidanand Kumar, Shahbaspur, Bhikhnapur, Ahiyapur, Muzaffarpur, Bihar- 843103 Guarantors- i. Smt. Indu Devi, W/o Shri Shambhu Pd. Yadav, Shahbaspur, Bhikhnapura, Ahiyapur, Muzaffarpur, Bihar- 843103 ii.Smt.Geeta Devi, W/o Shri Vidyanand Rai, Shahbaspur, Bhikhnapura, Ahiyapur, Muzaffarpur, Bihar-843103	Rs. 44,35,243.60 as on 31.01.2022 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Smt. Indu Devi, W/o Shri Shambhu Pd. Yadav & Smt. Geeta Devi, W/o shri Vidhyanand Rai consisting of Khata No. 213, khesra No. 899, Thana-663, Area-2.1 Decimal Boundary:-North : Sulayman Miyan, South - Digar Kharidar, East-Gonaur Mahto, West-10' Kacchi Road Location-Mauza-Shahbapzur Thana-Ahiyapur, Dist-Muzaffarpur, Bihar-842001	Rs. 23,57,100/- Rs. 2,35,710.00 10,000/- A/c - 8360295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008360					
24	Bhagwanpur-II Branch, Pawapuri Bihar, NH No. 28, Bihar- 842001 Mob. : 8102915970	Smt. Kiran Singh, W/o Vir Bahadur Kumar, Krishna Toll, Road No. 4, Brahampura, Dist.-Muzaffarpur-842003 Guarantors- i. Mukesh Kumar, S/o. Mr. Vir Bahadur Kumar, Krishna Toll, Road No. 4, Brahampura, Dist- Muzaffarpur-842003 ii. Soni Kumari, W/o. Mukesh Kumar, Krishna Toll, Road No. 4, Brahampura, Dist-Muzaffarpur-842003	Rs. 94,19,923.28 as on 31.01.2022 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Smt. Kiran Singh W/o Vir Bahadur Kumar consisting of Khata No. 378, Khesra No. 749, Area-2 Katha 2 Dhur Boundary:-North :Dev Nath sharma, South-Road 15 Ft Wide,East-Vidya Bhushan Singh, West -Ganesh Contractor Location- Mohalla Krishna Toll, Road No. 4, Braj Bihari lane, Brahampura, RF no. 402, PO & P.S- Brahampura, Anchal-Mushahary, Dist.- Muzaffarpur, Bihar-842001	Rs. 1,19,24,550.00 Rs. 11,92,455/- 10,000/- A/c - 8360295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008360					
25	Juran Chapra Branch, Main Raod, Mahesh Babu Chowk, Muzaffarpur- 842003 Mob. : 8210998501	1.a) Borrower / M/s. Tejas Nandan Trading Pvt Ltd. Prop. Deepak Kumar Shahi, Chakmuhabbat, PS-Ahiyapur, District-Muzaffarpur, Bihar-843117 b) Guarantors-1.Smt. Sudha Devi, D/o. Ram Chandra Thakur, Chakmuhabbat, Bhikhampur, PS-Ahiyapur, Minapur, District-Muzaffarpur, Bihar-843117 2. Smt. Mohini Kumari, W/o. Deepak Kumar Shahi, Gram Nandana, PO-Lautan, PS- Minapur Lautan, Dist.- Muzaffarpur-843117	Rs. 1,16,58,190.10/- as on 31.01.2021 + interest & Other Cost thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Sri. Deepak Kumar shahi, S/o Late Anil Kumar Shahi Khata No. 18, Khesra No. 89, Area= 5 Decimal=2200 sq ft. Boundary:-North : Road, South -Sudha Devi, East-Road, West-Bharat Rai Location- Chakmohabbat, PS-Ahiyapur, Anchal- Mushahari, Thana No. 670, SRO/SDRO. Muzaffarpur, Dist.-Muzaffarpur, Bihar	Rs. 92,20,260/- Rs. 9,22,026/- 10,000/- A/c - 8360295000001 IFSC Code - CNRB0008360					
Last Date of EMD 26.03.2022 For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in www.canarabank.com										
Date : 25.02.2022		Place : Patna			Authorised Officer Canara Bank					

15 ECONOMY

‘INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS PLAY VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN GROWTH’

FM: 28K patents granted last year; will have strong ripple effect on economy

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

THE COUNTRY is at a stage where growth and the focus on development have got to be strengthened from every side, with intellectual property rights (IPRs) playing an important role in it, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Addressing the ‘National Seminar on Adjudication of IPR Disputes in India’ organised by the Delhi High Court — with Chief Justice of India NV Ramana and other judges in attendance — she said 28,000 patents were granted

in 2021 against 4,000 in 2013-2014 and the last year also saw registration of 2.5 lakh trademarks and over 16,000 copyrights, which will have a “very strong ripple effect” on the economy.

“These are not small numbers. This is the strength of the economy, in supporting such innovations and copyrights, all of which when scaled up are going to have a very strong ripple effect into the economy itself and that would generate its own ecosystem and revenues,” Sitharaman added.

The Finance Minister said the Centre encouraged startups while protecting their IPRs as the boost



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the seminar organised by the Delhi High Court. via Twitter@FinMinIndia

would not have been possible with only “giving up restrictions”. She also highlighted the importance of innovation for the economy and said that “if general manufacturing and general production give you a level of 3 (on a scale of 10), innovative activities bring in about 7 to 8.”

“As we were removing restrictive rules and regulations, we were also making sure that we give a framework within which they can work. Not just start-ups, but we were also supporting R&D in this country,” Sitharaman said. “India is at a stage where growth and the focus on develop-

ment have got to be strengthened from every side. IPR plays a very important role in it,” she stated.

The Union minister said that the support of the judiciary has encouraged more innovations and copyrights coming into India and there is now a systematic approach to deal with IPR issues.

“The (IPR) bench has been set up (at the Delhi High Court). You are going to face the challenge of increasing numbers but this kind of support, the knowledge being shared, rules being set, the framework being provided, I think it will be far easier for the courts to take up this challenge,” she said.

CRUDE WATCH

OIL SLIPS AFTER SHARP RISE

New York: Oil prices slipped Friday after sharp rises on worries about global supply disruptions from sanctions on major crude exporter Russia. For the week, Brent rose about 4.7% to \$97.93, while US WTI rose about 0.6% to \$91.59. **REUTERS**

NSE CO-LOCATION AND OTHER CASES

Sebi orders quasi-judicial, can be appealed in the legal process, say experts

SANDEEP SINGH
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 26

LATE ON Thursday night, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested Anand Subramanian, former group COO at NSE, from Chennai in connection with the National Stock Exchange (NSE) co-location case that had come to light over seven years ago in January 2015.

In its February 11 order against former NSE MD & CEO Chitra Ramkrishna, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had noted that an unknown person had influenced Ramkrishna’s decision making. Further, the markets regulator imposed penalties and restraints on Ramkrishna, Subramanian, the NSE, and two others.

In the co-location matter and related issues, this was the latest among other orders that Sebi whole-time members and adjudicating officers have passed since April 2019. Five orders have been passed under Sections 11 and 11B of the SEBI Act — which empower Sebi to issue directions in order to protect investor interest — taking action against 47 entities. Adjudication proceedings have been initiated in respect of 65 entities.

The cases relate to preferential access to tick-by-tick (TBT) data feed to certain trading members, peer-to-peer (P2P) connectivity through dark fibre, and alleged lapses in corporate governance.

According to sources, the orders are quasi-judicial in nature and can be appealed in the legal process. But several of them are pending with the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) since May 2019.

In the matter of NSE co-location:

■ **Sebi order, April 30, 2019:** The order directed NSE to disgorge Rs 624.89 crore along with interest at the rate of 12 per cent from April 2014 onwards. It also directed Ramkrishna and Ravi Narain, her predecessor as NSE CEO, to disgorge 25 per cent of the salary drawn for relevant years to Sebi’s Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF), and prohibited them from associating with a listed company or market infrastructure institution or intermediary for five years.

■ **SAT order, May 22, 2019:** SAT directed NSE to deposit Rs 624.89 crore with Sebi, which NSE did. On May 17, 2021, SAT passed another order where it continued with the 2019 interim order on account of pendency of



Former MD & CEO of NSE Chitra Ramkrishna File

investigation being conducted by the respondents. SAT also allowed NSE to close the escrow account, subject to deposit of Rs 420 crore with Sebi.

■ **Present status:** Reserved for order.

In the matter of dark fibre/leased line connectivity allowed to certain stock brokers by NSE:

■ **Sebi order, April 30, 2019:** NSE was directed to deposit Rs 62.58 crore. Ramkrishna and Subramanian were barred from holding any position in management or board, or to be associated with any stock exchange or any intermediary registered with Sebi for three years. Some key NSE officials, including Ravi Varanasi, were barred from holding any position in any Sebi registered intermediary for two years. Way2Wealth brokers and GKN Securities were ordered to disgorge Rs 15.34 crore and Rs 4.9 crore, respectively.

■ **SAT order, May 22, 2019:** NSE was directed to transfer Rs 62.58 crore from escrow account to Sebi. Stay was granted vide SAT orders dated May 6, 2019 and June 6, 2019 in orders relating to Way2Wealth and GKN securities.

■ **Next date of hearing:** April 18, 2022.

In the case of NSE-corporate governance in respect of Ajay Shah and others:

■ **Sebi order, April 30, 2019:** Sebi directed Ajay Shah, who was named in the co-location scam, to not hold any position in the management or board of any stock exchange, depository, or Sebi registered intermediary for two years. Similar curbs were put on Infotech Financial Services, Sunita Thomas, and Suprabhat Lala, among others.

■ **SAT order, May 7, 2019:** The order stayed operation of the Sebi order.

■ **Next date of hearing:** April 18, 2022.

In the matter of NSE corporate governance:

■ **Sebi order, April 30, 2019:** NSE was directed to take necessary legal action against Ajay Shah, Infotech Financial Services, and Sunita Thomas among others for violating the ‘Professional Service Agreement’, and for mis-using data available to them. NSE was also directed to review all third party agreements having a data sharing component from 2009 onwards, and take legal action where warranted. Sebi also barred Narain and Ramkrishna from board or management positions for three years.

■ **SAT orders, June 6, June 14, and July 9, 2019:** Operation of Sebi order stayed.

■ **Next date of hearing:** April 18, 2022.

In the matter of OPG Securities:

■ **Sebi order, April 30, 2019:** Sebi prohibited OPG Securities from accessing the securities market and from buying, selling or dealing in securities in its proprietary accounts for five years, and directed it to not take new clients for a year, and to disgorge Rs 15.57 crore. The order also prohibited Sanjay Gupta and other individuals from accessing the securities market and dealing in it for five years.

■ **SAT order, May 6, 2019:** Stayed operation of Sebi order.

■ **Present Status:** Reserved for order.

Adjudication orders:

■ On February 10, 2021, matter of NSE co-location: Sebi imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on NSE and Rs 20 lakh each on Narain and Ramkrishna. On April 21, 2021, SAT stayed the operation of Sebi’s order. The next date of hearing is April 18, 2022.

■ On February 11, 2021, matter of NSE co-location: Sebi imposed penalty of Rs 5 crore jointly on OPG Securities, Sanjay Gupta, O P Gupta, and Sangeeta Gupta. On May 19, 2021, SAT stayed operation of the order if the appellants deposited Rs 2.5 crore. The next hearing is on April 18, 2022.

Legal options

Legal experts say, orders that have been passed by Sebi can be appealed and challenged at SAT and then in the Supreme Court. “Other enforcement agencies are also investigating the matter and they too can take action in the matter as per their mandate. CBI has been investigating the case since 2018 too and it remains to be seen as to what comes out of their investigation,” said a legal expert closely following the case.

World Bank India head to be MIGA’s VP, Operations

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 26

THE WORLD Bank’s India head, Junaid Kamal Ahmad, has been appointed as one of the vice presidents of the global lending institution. Ahmad — who as Vice President, Operations would head the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) — is the second Bangladeshi national to be appointed to such a high position in the history of the bank.

Ahmad, 61, will assume his new role from April 16, an official release said here on Friday. He has been the country director for the World Bank in India since September 2016.

Fayez Choudhury was the first Bangladeshi national who became the vice president on the administration side.

In his new role, Ahmad will work to advance and enhance MIGA’s brand partnering across the World Bank Group and with financial institutions, private investors and development actors; originate and pursue meaningful, impact-driven projects and lead the Operations team to deliver on MIGA’s mandate of mobilising private finance for development projects in Emerging Market Developing Economies, the bank said in a statement. **PTI**

AVIATION WATCH EVACUATION FLIGHTS

How states, airports are preparing for arriving evacuees

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

IN LIGHT of the tensions in Kyiv, which led to the closure of Ukraine’s airspace, the Indian government has started evacuating Indian citizens from Romania and Hungary, with which Ukraine shares its western border. In addition to these special Air India flights being chartered by the government to fly Indian nationals back home, states and airports here are preparing for the arrival of these evacuees.

What are the flights being operated to evacuate Indian nationals?

Given that Ukraine’s airspace was shut, stranded Indians were taken across the Ukrainian border into Romania and Hungary. Government-chartered Air India flights are being operated to Bucharest in Romania and Budapest in Hungary to evacuate these citizens. Around 3.30 am IST, Saturday, Air India’s flight from Mumbai departed for Bucharest and landed in Mumbai at 7.50 pm IST. Similarly, its flight from Delhi departed for Bucharest around 11.30 am IST, and is expected to arrive in the Capital around 3 am, Sunday.

What other preparations are being made for the arrival of evacuated students from Ukraine?

Delhi Airport, in an updated travel advisory, noted that Indian nationals, who are not vaccinated or do not possess Covid-19 negative test report, will be exempted from uploa-

ding documents on Air Suvidha portal before departure on humanitarian grounds and will be able enter the airport.

Meanwhile, Mumbai Airport said that those without a vaccine certificate or a negative RT-PCR report will be tested at the airport and the cost will be borne by the airport. “The airport has blocked a special corridor for the arriving passengers... These passengers would be able to leave the airport, post-testing negative. If any passenger is tested positive, they shall be clinically managed as per the protocols laid down by the Government,” it added.

Are states taking any additional steps?

The Kerala state government is reported to be working on a plan to provide air tickets to students returning to Kerala via Delhi, Mumbai on evacuation flights from Ukraine. The state government has directed its district collectors to make necessary arrangements for those reaching airports in Kerala.

In a letter written Thursday to Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had noted that among the Indian students in Ukraine, 2,320 students belong to Kerala. Similarly, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said Friday that the state government will bear all travel expenses to be incurred for return of around 5,000 Tamil Nadu students and diaspora stranded in Ukraine.

‘Russia-Ukraine crisis: No direct impact on India’

There is no direct impact of the Russia-Ukraine crisis on India in terms of bilateral trade, but a surge in oil prices may have considerable risk, a BoB Economics Research report said



Economic impact on rest of the world is likely to come from higher commodity prices, boosting inflation but hurting growth — stagflation-lite

Source: BoB Economics Research/PTI

Cabinet okays offering of coal via common e-auction window

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

THE GOVERNMENT on Saturday approved offering of dry-fuel by coal companies, including state-owned CIL, through a common e-auction window instead of sector specific auctions. The approval was given during a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a statement, the coal ministry said CCEA has approved “offering of all the non-linkage coal by coal companies through one e-auction window of CIL (CIL)/Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL).”

Due to the move, market distortions would be removed and

The Coal Ministry said CCEA has approved “offering of all the non-linkage coal by coal companies through one e-auction window of CIL (CIL)/Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL)”

single rate for all the consumers will evolve in the e-auction market. It will increase operational efficiencies and lead to an increase in domestic coal demand.

Besides, the discretion presently vested in coal companies for allocating coal to different end use sectors will be eliminated. Further, the coal companies will be able to establish coal gasification plants by availing coal from their own mines.

It shall help in developing clean coal technology in the coun-

try, it added.

This e-auction will cater to all the sectors, namely power sector and non regulated sector (NRS), including traders. Coal would be offered through this auction in place of the present system of sector specific auctions.

“The above will be subject to CIL/SCCL meeting the coal linkage requirements against existing linkages and do not impact the current linkages to power and non-power consumers at contracted prices,” it said. **WITHPTI**

‘RIL takes over 200 Future Retail stores’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

MUKESH AMBANI’S Reliance Industries Ltd has taken over the operations of at least 200 stores of Future Retail (FRL) and has offered jobs to its employees after the Kishore Biyani-led group failed to make lease payments to landlords, sources said on Saturday.

Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) — the retail arm of the oil-to-telecom conglomerate — had in August 2020 agreed to take over the retail and logistics business of the Future Group for Rs 24,713

crore but the deal couldnt be closed as Future’s warring partner Amazon went to courts citing violation of some contracts. Future denies any wrongdoing.

Sources said several landlords had approached Reliance as FRL, which is neck deep in losses, was unable to pay rent. Future has more than 1,700 outlets, including the popular Big Bazaar stores, and has not made lease payments for some of its outlets. Facing closure, Reliance transferred the leases of some stores to its step-down subsidiary, RRVL and sub-let them to Future to operate the stores, the sources said.

Buffett’s Berkshire posts record annual profit

JONATHAN STEMPEL
NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 26

WARREN BUFFETT’S Berkshire Hathaway Inc on Saturday said fourth-quarter profit swelled, boosted by gains in many of its businesses and common stock investments such as Apple Inc, and said annual earnings reached a record high.

It also signaled renewed confidence in its own stock, repurchasing \$6.9 billion in the fourth quarter, and boosting total buybacks in 2021 to a record \$27 billion.

But the pace of buybacks has

STOCK REPURCHASE WORTH \$6.9 BN IN Q4

■ **Berkshire Hathaway’s quarterly operating income rose 45% to \$7.29 billion, from \$5.02 billion a year earlier. It also signaled renewed confidence in its own stock, repurchasing \$6.9 billion in the fourth quarter, and boosting total buybacks in 2021 to a record \$27 billion**

slowed, with Berkshire, whose share price is just 2 per cent below its record high, repurchasing just

\$1.2 billion of stock in 2022.

In his annual letter to Berkshire shareholders, Buffett

said buybacks make “good sense” when alternatives such as buying whole companies or more stocks appear “unattractive.”

The Berkshire chairman also expressed confidence in the company’s dozens of operating businesses such as the BNSF railroad and Geico auto insurer, after having gone six years since a major acquisition and letting Berkshire’s cash stake swell to \$146.7 billion.

“Today, internal opportunities deliver far better returns than acquisitions,” Buffett wrote.

Quarterly operating income rose 45 per cent to \$7.29 billion, or approximately \$4.931 per Class A

share, from \$5.02 billion a year earlier. Analysts on average expected operating profit of \$4,251 per Class A share, according to Refinitiv I/B/E/S.

“Overall results looked good,” said Cathy Seifert, an analyst at CFRA Research with a “hold” rating for Berkshire.

“Many industrial and consumer businesses benefited from the tailwind of an economic recovery. She said 2022 could be tougher for top-line and margin growth because of inflationary pressure, including higher fuel and other input costs, and geopolitical pressure.” **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

Goyal on spices

New Delhi: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal appealed to the spices industry to focus on the quality of products and aspire to double exports to \$10 billion in the next five years. **PTI**

Intel chip unit

Berlin: Intel has chosen the east German city of Magdeburg as the site for a new multibillion-euro European chip factory and will make the decision public on March 4, a source said.

ECB bond buys

Frankfurt: European Central Bank policymakers remain open to accelerating their exit from bond buys even as the war in Ukraine raises uncertainty, and the debate may be whether to put a firm end-date on the stimulus, sources said. **REUTERS**



MEANWHILE
FRANCE SEIZES SHIP IN CHANNEL

France seized a car cargo ship in the English Channel that Washington says was linked to the son of a former Russian spy chief. The 'Baltic Leader' was headed to St. Petersburg but was diverted to the port of Boulogne-sur-Mer in northern France between 3 am and 4 am, Captain Veronique Magnin of the French Maritime Prefecture said. The vessel was 'strongly suspected of being linked to Russian interests targeted by the sanctions,' she added.

Russia uses veto in UNSC, warns West

Says may respond to sanctions by opting out of last nuclear arms deal with the US

THE NEW YORK TIMES & AP
FEBRUARY 26

RUSSIA ON Friday vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution of which it was the target, effectively blocking action by the panel, which is responsible for protecting and maintaining international peace.

The resolution, written and presented by the US and dozens of its allies, strongly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine and called on Moscow to withdraw its troops immediately and provide safe access for humanitarian relief work.

Eleven member countries voted in favour of the resolution. China, India and the United Arab Emirates abstained. Russia, which has veto power as one of five permanent members of the council, voted against it.

"Russia, you can veto this resolution, but you cannot veto our voices," said the US ambassador, Linda Thomas-Greenfield. "You cannot veto the truth. You cannot veto our principles. You cannot veto the Ukrainian people. You cannot veto the UN Charter. And you will not veto accountability." The US had known all along that Russia would veto the resolution. But US officials hoped that by doing so, Russia would demonstrate its isolation and its disregard for the UN charter.

Russia appeared unfazed. Its ambassador thanked the three countries that had abstained from the vote. He dismissed as a Western conspiracy the diplomatic efforts to hold it accountable. He denied that Russia had targeted civilian infrastructure in Ukraine. "It is difficult for us to compete with the US in terms of invasions," said the Russian ambassador, Vasily Nebenzya. "You are in no position to moralise."

Meanwhile, Moscow said it may



Ukrainian soldier walks past debris of a burning military truck on a street in Kyiv on Saturday. AP

respond to Western sanctions by opting out of the last nuclear arms deal with the US, cutting diplomatic ties with Western nations and freezing their assets, a senior Russian official warned on Saturday.

Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, also warned that Moscow could restore the death penalty after Russia was removed from Europe's top rights group — a chilling statement that shocked human rights activists in a country that hasn't had capital punishment for a quarter-century. "We are being driven out of everywhere, punished and threatened, but we don't feel scared," he said, mocking the sanctions as a show of Western "political impotence" that will only consolidate the Russian leadership and foment anti-Western feelings.

China is Moscow's best hope to blunt sanctions, but it's wary

JOE MCDONALD
BEIJING, FEBRUARY 26

CHINA IS the only friend that might help Russia blunt the impact of economic sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine, but President Xi Jinping's government is giving no sign it might be willing to risk its own access to US and European markets by doing too much.

Even if Beijing wanted to, its ability to support President Vladimir Putin by importing more Russian gas and other goods is limited.

Relations with Moscow have warmed since Xi took power in 2012, motivated by shared resent-

ment of Washington, but their interests can conflict. While their militaries hold joint exercises, Putin is uneasy about the growing Chinese economic presence in Central Asia and Russia's Far East.

In response to the invasion, Washington, Britain, the 27-nation European Union and other Western allies have announced or promised sanctions against Russian banks, officials, business leaders and companies, as well as export controls aimed at starving Russia's industries and military of high-tech products.

Xi's government might support Putin within those limits — and Chinese companies might

use the situation to pursue better deals — but will balk at openly violating sanctions and being targeted for penalties, experts said.

"China doesn't want to get so involved that it ends up suffering as a result of its support for Russia," said Mark Williams, chief Asia economist for Capital Economics. Chinese trade with Russia rose to \$146.9 billion last year, but that is less than one-tenth of China's total \$1.6 trillion in trade with the United States and EU.

"It all hinges on whether they're willing to risk their access to Western markets to help Russia, and I don't think they are," said Williams. "It's just not that big a market." AP

Outmanned and outgunned, Ukraine's forces slow Russia's advance in capital

Zelenskyy rejects US evacuation offer, says fight is here

AGENCIES
KYIV, FEBRUARY 26

UKRAINE'S DEFENCE forces, outmanned and outgunned, waged a ferocious resistance to the Russian invasion on Saturday, battling to keep control of the capital, Kyiv, and other cities. So far, it seems their efforts have been effective. There was intense street fighting, and bursts of gunfire and explosions could be heard across Kyiv on Saturday, while the latest Western intelligence information said the Russian advance had been stalled.

The country's President refused an American offer to evacuate, insisting that he would stay. "The fight is here," he said.

As dawn broke in Kyiv, it was not immediately clear how far the soldiers had advanced.



People take cover as air-raid siren sounds in Kyiv on Saturday. Reuters

Ukrainian officials reported some success in fending off assaults, but fighting persisted near the capital. Skirmishes reported on the edge of the city suggested that small Russian units were probing Ukrainian defenses to clear a path for the main forces.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy offered renewed assurance on Saturday that the country's military would stand up to the Russian invasion. In a

video recorded on a downtown street, he said he had not left the city and that claims that the Ukrainian military would put down arms were false. "The real fighting for Kyiv is ongoing," Zelenskyy said in a video message in which he accused Russia of hitting infrastructure and civilian targets. "We will win," he said.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko extended an overnight curfew to run from 5 pm Saturday until 8

We aren't going to lay down weapons. We will protect the country. Our weapon is our truth, and our truth is that it's our land, our country, our children. And we will defend all of that.



VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY
UKRAINE PRESIDENT

am on Monday.

The Kremlin said Russian forces were resuming their advance on Ukraine on Saturday, claiming that President Putin had ordered a pause on Friday while possible talks with Ukraine were being considered. The Kremlin said Ukraine had rejected talks. Ukraine has not confirmed rejecting talks, nor is it clear that Russian forces did halt their advance on Friday.



Protesters in Athens demand an end to the invasion of Ukraine. AP

Protesters rally around world against invasion

PROTESTERS DEMANDING an end to the Russian invasion of Ukraine have rallied in cities around the world, including India, Athens and Moscow.

Several hundred people marched in heavy rain in Sydney on Saturday chanting "Ukraine will prevail" and demanding more action against Moscow, while protesters in Tokyo called for Russia to be expelled from the UNSC.

MISSILE STRIKE
'A loud boom shook whole house': Woman recounts horror

THE NEW YORK TIMES
LVIV, FEBRUARY 26

YAROSLAWA, 78, was asleep in her apartment in Kyiv when a Russian missile struck nearby, her daughter Tetiana said from Lviv.

"She said there was like a loud boom that shook the whole house," said Tetiana, 52, who was in Lviv on Saturday while trying to escape to Poland with her daughter Anna, 26.

Tetiana said they had tried for hours overnight to reach her mother but had not been able to because she had taken refuge in a bomb shelter. It was not until later in the morning, when her mother went to see what had become of her apartment, that the two were able to speak.

The grandmother described a terrifying night: After the explosion, she was rushed to a nearby school gym. An older woman died there of a heart attack, Tatiana said. Yaroslawa doesn't plan to leave, though. "The old people — they do not want to leave their homes," Tetiana said.

Anna, her daughter, lived in Warsaw for six years and has spoken to friends in Poland who said that volunteers there could help them if they were able to make it across. But that will be a challenge.

People are reporting lines of cars that stretch for miles. Men of fighting age are not allowed to leave the country, so few drivers are willing to take the risk of approaching the area. It is largely women and children who, at the moment, have a chance to make it to Poland.

Ukraine's health minister said on Saturday that 198 civilians had been killed in the Russian invasion, including three children. Another 1,115 civilians have been wounded, the minister said, including 33 children.

IN Brief



A building damaged by shelling in Kyiv on Saturday. Reuters

Finland, Sweden brush off warning on joining NATO

Finland and Sweden have brushed off warnings from neighboring Russia that their possible joining of NATO would trigger "serious military-political consequences" from Moscow for the two countries. A statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry Friday voiced concern about what it described as efforts by the US and some of its allies to "drag" Finland and Sweden into NATO and warned that Moscow would be forced to take retaliatory measures if they join the alliance. Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto said Saturday that "we've heard this before." In Sweden, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson said "I want to be extremely clear. It is Sweden that itself and independently decides on our security policy line," Andersson said. AP

Internet disrupted in areas where fighting heaviest

Internet connectivity in Ukraine has been affected by the Russian invasion, particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the country where fighting has been heaviest, internet monitors said on Saturday. Connectivity to GigaTrans, Ukraine's main internet provider, dropped to below 20% of normal levels before returning to higher levels in the early hours of Friday morning, according to internet blockage observatory NetBlocks. "We currently observe national connectivity at 87% of ordinary levels, a figure that reflects service disruptions as well as population flight and the shuttering of homes and businesses since the morning of the 24th," said Alp Toker, director of NetBlocks. Reuters

Russia may keep US out of joint space project due to sanctions

The US may not be a part of the joint space project Vanera-D with Russia to explore planet Venus following American sanctions on the country and Moscow will carry out the mission alone or with China's participation, the head of the Russian space agency said on Saturday. Venera-D is a planned joint space exploration project between Russia's Roscosmos and US space agency NASA to explore Venus. PTI



A woman looks at her damaged apartment following a rocket attack, in Kyiv on Saturday. AP

Ketanji B Jackson, Biden's historic SC pick

JESSICA GRESKO & MARK SHERMAN
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 26

THE JUDGE President Joe Biden has chosen to fulfill his historic pledge to name the first Black woman to the Supreme Court would also bring rare experience of defending poor people charged with crimes.

While Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson shares the elite educational background of current justices, she would be the first justice since Thurgood Marshall, the legendary civil rights lawyer who was the first Black person on the court, with significant criminal defense work on her resume. She also spent time advocating on behalf of people held without charge at Guantanamo Bay.

"I can only hope that my life



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. AP

and career, my love of this country and the Constitution, and my commitment to upholding the rule of law and the sacred principles upon which this great nation was founded, will inspire fu-

ture generations of Americans," she said at the White House unveiling of her nomination Friday. Jackson, 51, is a graduate of Harvard University and Harvard Law School and currently a fed-

eral appeals court judge in Washington. She spent a year as a young lawyer working for the justice she would replace, Justice Stephen Breyer, who is retiring.

Biden said in introducing Jackson on Friday that she learned from Breyer's "willingness to work with colleagues with different viewpoints." And he said her experience serving as a trial court judge before her nomination to an appeals court was also "a critical qualification" in his view. Of the current court, only Justice Sonia Sotomayor — the court's first Latina — ever served as a trial judge.

Jackson could face some criticism because she doesn't have a very long record as a federal appeals court judge. Biden nominated her to her current position on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit last year. AP

70% Americans can stop wearing masks: CDC

APOORVA MANDAVILLI
FEBRUARY 26

THE CENTERS for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday offered a new strategy to help communities across the country live with the coronavirus and get back to some version of normal life.

The new guidelines suggest that 70 per cent of Americans can now stop wearing masks, and no longer need to social distance or avoid crowded indoor spaces.

The recommendations no longer rely only on the number of cases in a community to determine the need for restrictions such as mask wearing. Instead, they direct counties to consider three measures to assess risk of the virus: new Covid-related hospital admissions over the previous week and the percent-



Unvaccinated people should wear masks even in low-risk areas, the agency said. AP File

age of hospital beds occupied by Covid patients, as well as new coronavirus cases per 100,000 people over the previous week.

Based on these three factors, counties can calculate whether the risk to their residents is low,

medium or high, according to the agency, and only areas of high risk should require everyone to wear a mask. But unvaccinated people should wear masks even in low-risk areas, the agency said.

The agency had endorsed uni-

versal masking in schools since July, regardless of virus levels in the community, but the new guidelines recommend masking in schools only in counties at high risk.

The new guidelines are being released as the coronavirus is in retreat across the country. Case numbers have dropped to levels not seen before the surge of the Omicron variant, and hospitalisations have been plummeting. About 58,000 people are hospitalised with Covid nationwide, but those numbers have fallen by about 44 percent in the past two weeks.

Several experts said the new guidelines were appropriate for the country's current situation. Although the number of cases nationwide is still high, "we're well past the surge," said Linsey Marr, an aerosol scientist at Virginia Tech. "We don't need to be operating in emergency mode anymore." NYT



3 PM | At a gaushala at Pakariyapuraina village in Sitapur. Local BKU leader says many more cow shelters are needed, with more grants, aid



9 PM | The vigil is just beginning for Ram Kumar at his fields in Chitrehta village in Sitapur. Temperature has started dropping, with dew fall



5 AM | As dawn comes, and farmers head home for a couple of hours, stray cattle have managed to go unnoticed in this area in Chitrehta village

A LETTER FROM SITAPUR

UTTAR PRADESH



IT IS 6.30 pm on a Thursday, and as the sun starts to set in Mangopur village of Sitapur district in Uttar Pradesh, Ram Kishore, 32, is getting restless. “You should have got the dinner ready earlier,” he admonishes his wife. Every minute the fields are left untended, he fears, the animals could have a free run.

Suman, 29, is now used to this “roz ka naatak (daily drama)”, and is unfazed. However, she also understands Kishore’s worry. The two of them share a two-room thatched house with three children — 10, 7 and 5 — a makeshift *chulha*, a few utensils, some clothes, and no electricity. All their earnings come from the land — and Kishore has on his mind his 2.5 bighas of wheat, 2 bighas of mustard and a bigha of pulses.

In the absence of power, darkness engulfs the village of 300, mostly Pasis (Dalit), swiftly, and in house after house, men are hurriedly finishing meals and getting ready to leave. They have with them a torchlight; a *lathi*; a cap, muffler, shawl and matches for fire to keep away the cold; and *beedis* to survive the hours.

The problem of stray cattle has been rising in UP since the Yogi Adityanath government tightened curbs on slaughterhouses after coming to power in 2017. Those accused of illegal slaughter face charges including under the National Security Act, and remain vulnerable to violence by self-styled cow vigilantes. While in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, similar anger against “*chutta janwar*” had not made much difference to the BJP’s eventual sweep, this time the party is worried enough for both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Adityanath to promise relief.

Kishore is still golfing down his *roti-sabzi*, when neighbour Ram Milan, 55, calls him up. Ram Milan’s farm lies next to Kishore’s, and he tells Kishore he is ready to leave.

Walking over to meet the others, Kishore says he misses spending time at home. “Because of this *shraap* (curse of stray cattle), I spend most of my time in the fields. Suman is not happy left with the kids on her own.”

By the time he reaches, Ram Milan is there with seven others — Sukhran (18), Vishal (20), Siyaram (50) Kanshiram (32), Sandeep (19), Virendra (22) and Shobhit Kumar (26). They decide the groups for the night: Kanshiram and Ram Milan will position themselves next to the *pucca* road skirting the fields, some will climb onto the *machaan* (a high lookout point), while the rest will make rounds of the fields, which are located 1 km from the village.

“We can’t stay put. Else, we will lose our hard work of months,” says Ram Milan, who as the eldest is heeded to.

Most of them have planted mustard, sown in October and ready to be harvested in March. Wheat that was planted in November will be ready by April-May. Ram Milan says they are reconciled to losing some of it. “Look at Siyaram’s wheat field,” he says. “Some of the crop is half the height because seven cattle entered two days ago and destroyed it.” Siyaram says last year too, cattle had destroyed his crop. “The losses are accumulating.”

In January, farmers in Sitapur district had locked stray cattle inside dozens of primary schools and anganwadi centres, and blocked the National Highway demanding a solution.

Around 7.30 pm, next to the *machaan*, which has space barely for two, the group lights a fire, using hay, leaves and sticks collected from the jungle that surrounds Mangopur village.

The *machaan*’s temporary structure, tied with ropes, stands on two thick wooden logs dug into a 3-ft deep pit. It is firm, but shakes as anyone gets up or down, and at 10-feet height, it can be scary.

Sukhran is reassured by the others as he climbs up. “*Girega nahin, daro mat* (It won’t fall, don’t be scared),” says Kishore.

The *machaan* is used both to keep a watch and rest, and Sukhran says he will take his turn atop to sleep for an hour. The rest of the group settles down next to the fire, adding

The Night Of...

... chasing cattle, sleep, worries — a scene that is playing out in village after village in UP as *chutta janwar* destroy crops, enough to become a poll issue and get PM Modi’s attention. ASAD REHMAN on a Sitapur village’s fightback, with torches, lathis, woollens, fire and anger. Photographs by VISHAL SRIVASTAV



3 AM | It’s Ram Kishore’s turn atop the *machaan*, 10-ft high and shaky when climbing up and down. He assures others of its safety, and claims he built the structure, used both to rest and to keep a watch, himself

wood and hay from time to time to stop it dying out. The flames dance on their faces as, from a village 2 km away, the chant of *Ramayan katha* drifts over.

By 9 pm, the temperature is down to 18 degrees C, with the open space and dew making it colder. Kishore resists covering his ears with a muffler or shawl, telling the others to follow suit as they might not “hear the cattle”.

Kanshiram talks about how he graduated from a college in Sidhauri, but couldn’t pay the bribe for a government job. “I had to be content with farming,” says the father of four girls. He has married off three, but raising dowry for the fourth is proving difficult due to depleting incomes, he says. “Even if the boy doesn’t have anything to eat at home, they want Rs 5 lakh.”

As the hour inches towards midnight, the younger ones in the group are hungry. Vishal suggests they grab a bite at home, and return in 30 minutes. The elders know they won’t return, but no one has the heart to stop them.

Minutes later, the cattle come. It’s Kishore who first hears a rustling. “This is why I don’t cover my ears,” he tells the others, as they throw their *beedis*, grab their *lathis* and rush towards the noise.

In Kishore’s wheat field, a herd of 10-12 bulls has entered. Siyaram warns: “Be careful, they may be *markauni* (aggressive). Let’s stay together.” He spots the opening in the wooden fence from where they have entered. “We need to herd them out from there,” he shouts out, while rushing towards the cattle, making shrill calls of “*Hoye, hoye*”.

As the bulls don’t display any aggression, the confidence of the four grows. However, Siyaram reminds them of a recent bull attack on Sandeep. “They were all *shaant* (quiet) be-

fore they attacked,” says Ram Milan.

Kishore, who was with Sandeep that day, says they have to guard against both the bulls attacking, as well as escaping their attempts to gather them. The men beat the ground



NUMBERS

1,90,19,641
Total cattle

11,84,494
Stray cattle

Sitapur district:
17,057 stray cattle

Village Mangopur:
12 stray cattle

Source: 20th Livestock Census, 2019

570
Total registered
gaushalas in the state
Allotment:
₹900 per animal
per month in a gaushala

with *lathis* to force the animals together, or swing the same to scare them. They are careful not to hit. “If one gets angry, all of them can attack us,” says Kishore.

The bulls finally leave, moving over to another farm. Kishore says they can’t protect all. “The animals are also living beings, and I can only look after the farms of those who are with me,” he says, shining the torchlight to assess the damage. “*Zyada nahin chare hain* (They have not grazed much),” Ram Milan says.

By the time they return to the *machaan*, the fire has gone out and they light another.

Soon the group is having a conversation about the attack on Sandeep. “*Pehle Sandeep saand ko daudawat rahe, phir saand usko daudaya, aur woh gir gaya* (First, Sandeep was chasing the bull, then the bull chased Sandeep, and he fell),” says Kishore.

Amidst a round of laughter, he adds: “We all climbed up the *machaan* to save ourselves. They caused damage to Sandeep’s field but thankfully he suffered minor injuries. The good thing is bulls do not attack you once you fall. The buffaloes are ruthless that way.”

Around 12.15 am, they decide to make a round of their fields, which all fall within a radius of a kilometre. When Ram Milan and Kishore return and report they haven’t seen any cattle, there is a unanimous sigh: “*Bach gaye* (we are saved)!”

But the night is not done, and by 1 am, talk has moved on to elections. Mangopur village falls under the Sidhauri Vidhan Sabha seat, which voted on February 23. Ram Milan, who calls himself a fan of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, says: “It seems Hargovind Bhargava will win Sidhauri for the SP.” A two-time BSP MLA, Bhargava is now with the SP. However, even he admits: “But for *chutta jan-*

war, the BJP would have won.”

As Kishore intercepts to say, “the BJP can still win”, Siyaram asserts it will be a “*kaante ki takkar* (close contest)”.

They agree on when the stray cattle became an issue. “It was after they shut down slaughterhouses and closed cattle markets. Otherwise, cattle were sold and what the buyer did was not our issue,” says Kishore.

The UP government has brought multiple schemes to control the population of the cattle, who are abandoned now by farmers after their utility is over, but the group says none has had an effect. As part of election promises, Adityanath has guaranteed a stipend of Rs 900 per month per cow to farmers; the SP a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for deaths caused in bull attacks; and the Congress relief for those whose farms are destroyed, at Rs 3,000 per acre.

BKU leader Shyam Shukla, contesting as an Independent from Maholi seat in Sitapur, says the only solution is that the government form a policy after discussing it with farmers, “not intellectuals”. “Small farmers can help resolve the issue,” says Shukla, adding that more *gaushalas* should be built, with additional subsidies and grants to them.

Ali Khan Mahmudabad, the SP national spokesperson who belongs to Sitapur, says the BJP government did not think through the issue. “Cows were not slaughtered anywhere in the state ever. It may have been done illegally in stray areas earlier... They (the BJP) may think they are targeting just Muslims, but it impacts everyone — the Dalits, others, the tanning business, the leather industry... People realise this,” Mahmudabad told *The Sunday Express*, adding that the effect may vary, but the issue will have an impact on the polls.

BJP Minister of State (Animal Husbandry) Jai Prakash Nishad quotes PM Modi’s speech, promising a sustainable solution after the March 10 results. Contesting again from Rudrapur in Deoria, he tells *The Sunday Express*: “Shelters have already been made in all the districts. Block officials ensure that stray animals are taken to these shelters.”

At Mangopur, Siyaram, Ram Milan and Kishore are discussing Modi’s promise, centred around income from cattle dung. Ram Milan declares the idea impractical. “Who will buy *gobar*?”

Accusing Ram Milan of being a hardcore SP supporter, Kishore says: “If he (Modi) is saying, maybe it can happen.” However, seconds later, he adds: “But you are right, how will it happen?”

Like the others, Kishore gets most of his news on his mobile phone. “We watch speeches. On the basis of what politicians are talking about, we decide whom to vote for,” he says. Kishore likes listening to songs too, but that is becoming less due to lack of time. He doesn’t get his phone to the fields at night; “*dhyaan bant jaata hai* (I get distracted)”.

Siyaram says fencing, the other option, is costly and not long-term. “I borrowed Rs 3,000 from relatives in 2017, and got two rounds of double razor wire and one round of rope installed. Someone stole the wire because it can be sold as iron,” he says, adding he is still to pay back the money.

“If one wants to fence 1 bigha with double wire and one rope, it costs Rs 2,500,” adds Ram Milan.

The cattle die a slow, painful death if caught in the wire, he points out. Was slaughter better, he wonders, before stopping himself. “I am a Hindu, and I know the importance of the cow.”

It’s 2.45 am, and time is crawling. Kishore says this is the most difficult hour — 3 am to 4 am. “*Aunghai lagti hai* (I fight sleep),” he says, as the others nod.


In the quieter hours, the worries of the day also return. Kishore talks about the loan he took in 2017 to plant sugarcane on 4 bighas. “The whole crop was ruined by cattle, and I have been in debt since... Small farmers like us can barely save enough from the cattle to eat at home, we have not sold anything for the last four or five years.”

At 3.13 am, one can hear jackals in the nearby forest, while a layer of fog hangs thick over the fields, making spotting difficult. Soon the jackals are howling in a synchronised manner. “It must be past 3,” quips Kishore.

By 3.45 am, with the fire almost out and no more wood, the group decide to head home. Ten minutes later, having put water on the fire to ensure it is fully out, they are on their way. As Kishore wonders if his wife would be sleeping, Ram Milan jokes: “*Nahin toh kya? Chaar baje tak intezaar karegi tumhara* (What else? She will wait up till 4 am for you)?”

Entering his house, Kishore says: “I will catch a wink, return to the fields at 7. *Agar gaiya ne nahin chara hoga, toh theek. Nahin toh haath par haath dekar rounga* (If the cows haven’t eaten the crops, fine. Otherwise, I will hold my head and cry).”

Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website:pchidambaram.in
Twitter:@Pchidambaram,IN

It seems the UP election is a bi-polar fight between BJP and SP. The kind words exchanged between Mr Amit Shah and Ms Mayawati reveal the hidden plan. The Congress has pitched its flag and symbol in all 403 constituencies. Those who vote for a change, even if they succeed, may find that there is no change after the election

inside
TRACK

COOMIKAPOOR



A DAVID VS GOLIATH BATTLE IN U.P.

THE CONTEST between Yogi Adityanath and Akhilesh Yadav is a David vs Goliath battle. Adityanath has the advantage of several top BJP leaders including central ministers and the PM campaigning on his behalf. The Yogi himself has been in campaign mode for the last three years. An early riser, Adityanath begins his day at 4 am with pujas, interacts with officials from 6.30 am and attends rallies from 9.30 am. He winds up only at 9 pm and this is followed by a series of work-related meetings. The easy-going Akhilesh has other interests besides politics and pujas. He is a family man, a sportsman fond of badminton, football and even tennis. But in the last two months he has devoted himself entirely to the campaign. The crowds are enthusiastic, but he still has a lot of catching up to do. He is campaigning practically single-handedly. The strain of his grueling schedule is beginning to tell. The normally good natured Akhilesh is increasingly belligerent towards the media. Neither of the two politicians has Priyanka Gandhi's easy ability, inherited from Indira Gandhi, to interact with individuals on a one-on-one basis, winning hearts, if not votes. Incidentally, RLD's Jayant Chaudhary is turning out to be a more effective campaigner than his late father, Ajit Singh, and has made a very favourable impression among Jats.

FINDING JOBS FOR THE BOYS

Kerala governor Anif Mohammed Khan has demanded that the Pinarayi Vijayan government scrap its policy of granting a monthly pension to all ministerial staff who have completed two years in office. Khan points out that the pension is a devious way of granting a permanent salary to CPI(M) cadres at state expense. CPI(M) ministers normally employ around 20 staff members and they are changed every two years. Almost all are CPI(M) workers, the Governor alleges. Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi is similarly contemplating questioning a scheme of the DMK government to appoint publicity officers in each of the state's 38 districts.

TAKING ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE

Former NSE chief Chitra Ramkrishna's

she
SAID

MEHRGILL



A FRIEND recently shared a clip from the animated series *Sonic Boom*, which features a football game with a character Amy Rose, who, as she is about to kick the ball, says, "It all comes down to this one penalty kick. Can the young woman break the glass ceiling and prove once and for all that a female can be just as good as an athlete as a male?" To this, another character, Knuckles, responds, "You know Amy, anytime someone calls attention to the breaking of gender roles, it ultimately undermines the concept of gender equality by implying that this is an exception and not the status quo." Knuckles, a super-powered hedgehog,

THE STATE of Uttar Pradesh has all the attributes that could make it a political and economic success story. It has vast land (243,286 sq.km), a large population (204 million) and growing, perennial rivers (the Ganga and the Yamuna), and a hard-working people. Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Charan Singh, Rajiv Gandhi, V P Singh, Chandra Shekhar and A B Vajpayee — all Prime Ministers — were elected from UP. Yet, for many years, UP has been considered a failed state.

I must define 'failed' state. Let's start with the universally accepted human development indicators. Add the numbers on GDP growth rate, per capita income and the debt burden of the state; add the official survey data on health and education; and add the statistics on crime, unemployment and migration. If the sum total leaves a bitter taste, it is a failed state.

LIMPING ECONOMY

The Congress was last in power in UP during 1980-1989. In the last 32 years, the state has been ruled by three parties — the BJP, SP and BSP. For the good and the bad, they must take responsibility. Mr Adityanath (BJP) has been the chief minister since March 2017.

My three-point test of performance is **work, welfare and wealth**. Let's apply the test to UP with the focus on macro-

economic data. Under Mr Adityanath, mirroring the All-India trend, the GSDP growth rate has steadily declined:

(2016-17	11.4 per cent)
2017-18	4.6
2018-19	6.3
2019-20	3.8
2020-21	-6.4

The per capita income of UP is less than half of India's average income. Between 2017-18 and 2020-21, the per capita income actually shrank by 1.9 per cent. During the four years, the state added 40 per cent to its debt. By March 2021, the total debt stood at a colossal Rs 6,62,891 crore which was 34.2 per cent of the GSDP. According to NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index report 2021, 37.9 per cent of the people of the state are poor. In 12 districts the ratio is over 50 per cent and in three districts it is 70 per cent. The conclusions stare in one's face: UP is a poor state, its people are poor, and have become poorer under Mr Adityanath's government.

ABSENT GOVERNANCE

Youth are the worst affected. The unemployment rate in UP is one of the highest in the country. Since April 2018, the unemployment rate for those aged between 15 and 29 years has been in

life &
WORK

HARSHIT SHARMA



IT WAS cold when I first stepped out of Kiev's Boryspil International Airport in Ukraine on August 12, 2019, but the adrenaline rush that came with landing in a new country kept me warm. I was one of the 75 Indian students who had landed that day. We were soon taken in a bus arranged by our college and we set out to cover a 300-km journey across Kiev to reach Vinnitsa National Medical University in Vinnitsa city, where I was to study for the next five years to achieve my dream of becoming a cardiologist.

After two attempts at NEET, I had got into a BDS course in India, but as the year progressed, it became more apparent to me that it was MBBS that I wanted to study. I decided to apply to medical colleges in Ukraine, which offered affordable education for someone like me, who comes from a middle-class family (my father is a government servant). During the first year, I stayed at a hostel with the first floor occupied by Indian students, the second floor by Moroccan nationals and the third and fourth by Nigerians and Ukrainians respectively. Our common kitchen and bathroom felt like a carnival with people speaking various dialects.

With my college about three kilometres away from my hostel, we had the option of either walking up to the college or taking a bus or tram. While on the days I woke up early, I preferred walking to college soaking in the beautiful weather, the tram rides offered a perfect opportunity to strike up conversations about Raj Kapoor and the Taj Mahal with complete strangers.

During one such tram ride, I met a 60-year-old Ukrainian gentleman who was travelling with his granddaughter. He enquired if I was Indian and when I replied in the affirmative, his next statement was if I knew the song Jimmy Jimmy aaja aaja. I said yes and his face lit up with a smile.

It was then that it dawned on me that the popularity of the song, which was known to be a hit among Russians, also extended to most aged 40 and above in Ukraine. We went on to talk about Amitabh Bachchan, whom he admired greatly, and finally the Taj Mahal that he wished to visit. The gentleman then told me that now that I was in Ukraine, I should marry a Ukrainian and settle down here. I blushed as my friends giggled.

It was this urge to make more friends

double digits and above the All-India rate for that age group. Among women aged 15 to 29 years, the unemployment rate in July-September 2020 was 40.8 per cent. One out of four youth in urban areas was unemployed as per PLFS data for April 2018-March 2021.

The result is migration out of UP: according to the Journal of Migration Affairs, March 2020, UP had the largest number of inter-state outmigrants — 12.32 million, that is one out of 16 of the population. After the nationwide lockdown on March 25, 2020, we saw horrifying images of millions walking back to their homes, mainly in UP and Bihar.

Being a poor state that is poorly governed, the state of welfare is dismal. UP spends one of the lowest amount per capita on education. The pupil-teacher ratio is one of the highest among the states. UP needs 2,77,000 teachers to meet the shortfall. According to ASER 2021, a staggering 38.7 per cent of enrolled students were taking tuitions reflecting the failure of the school system to address their learning needs. One out of eight students drops out at Class 8. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at higher secondary level is 46.88 per cent and at the College/University level is 25.3 per cent.

The state of healthcare is no better. UP's NMR (35.7), IMR (50.4) and under-five mortality rate (59.8) are well above

Jimmy Jimmy... during a tram ride in Ukraine



Shot by the author, this is the route he took to his hostel

that pushed me to join a local club called 'The English Club', where I volunteered to teach English. I went there twice a week and often visited various restaurants and cafes for lunch. It was during one such visit that my friends and I went to Biblioteka Café, which literally means a library. While my friends relished pork and brosch, a dish made with chicken broth, I, as a vegetarian, settled for a pastry. I remember the bread melting away in my mouth — it was nothing like what I had tasted back in my hometown Bhopal.

We were just beginning to get to know the city, its people and their culture when the pandemic acted as a spoiler. While we had the option to return to India, I was among a few Indian students who decided to stay back. We moved into an apartment outside the hostel. It was one of the best decisions I had made. Unlike India, Ukraine did not go into a complete lockdown — the shops and public spaces stayed open.

It was summer then and the daylight lasted until 10 pm. We would go to the Central Park near our apartment to jog and use the open gym at the park. It was during one of those visits, when I was running with my friend, that we were approached by a gentleman called Sergii who challenged us arm-wrestling. We lost miserably, but learnt that Ukrainians are regarded as one the best in the world in arm-wrestling.

the national average. The ratios of doctors (0.64), nurses (0.43) and para medics (1.38) are well below the national average. There are only 13 beds in district hospitals per 1,00,000 population. In the NITI Aayog Health Index, in four rounds ending 2019-20, U.P. ranked at the bottom.

AFTER ELECTIONS, WHAT?

Mr Adityanath's model of governance is deeply flawed. He speaks loudly and carries a big stick. The model is based on a dangerous mix of authoritarianism, caste hegemony, religious hatred, police excesses and gender violence. The political vocabulary is filled with words like 'encounter', 'bulldozer' and '80 versus 20'. The BJP has the dubious distinction of trying to prove the hypothesis that 'religion is the opium of the masses'.

It seems the UP election is a bi-polar fight between BJP and SP. The kind words exchanged between Mr Amit Shah and Ms Mayawati reveal the hidden plan. In a brave outreach, the Congress has pitched its flag and symbol in all 403 constituencies. Those who vote for a change, even if they succeed, may find that there is no change after the election. Alas, we may not find an answer in 2022 to the question in the title of this column.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter:@tavleen_singh



Truth, lies & propaganda

WHEN YOU write a topical column, it is impossible to ignore the most important event of the week, even if you lack expertise on the subject. Russia's problem with Ukraine is not a subject I know well, but feel obliged to say something, so here goes. Vladimir Putin is in my view a monster. What he has done is so wrong that I am ashamed that India has not taken a stronger stand against him, as we should against other autocrats like Xi Jinping and the awful Generals who control Myanmar. There must be geopolitical reasons why we cannot always stand firmly on the side of democracies, but as I have no understanding of them, I shall now write about what I intended to this week before Russia invaded Ukraine.

Ever since I heard the Prime Minister declare in Parliament two weeks ago that Opposition leaders were responsible for migrant workers fleeing the cities during that first absolute and brutal lockdown, I have been seriously troubled. He blamed the Congress for giving 'free train tickets' to migrant workers in Mumbai so they could get home, and blamed the Aam Aadmi Party for wandering about the slums of Delhi urging migrant workers to go home. He added that it was because of this that Covid had spread to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand.

Does the Prime Minister not know what happened? Does he not know that millions of our poorest citizens were forced to walk hundreds of kilometres to their villages because they were made homeless and jobless overnight by his first lockdown? Does he not know that nobody could have been buying train tickets because the trains had stopped along with all other means of public transport? Has he become a victim of his government's propaganda? Whatever the reason, he would do well to read Barkha Dutt's new book called *To Hell and Back*, which recounts in painful detail the stories of the broken people who were forced to walk home carrying with them only their broken dreams.

In Barkha's words, 'Cement workers, potato farmers, construction labourers, hotel helps, diamond cutters, blanket weavers, factory supervisors — they walked under the blazing sun and through desolate, dark, moonless nights, sometimes barefoot and sometimes wearing flip-flop slippers made from rubber, their entire universe tied into small sacks carried aloft on their shoulders, holding on to the last packet of glucose biscuits and water before those too ran out'. Barkha should know, she walked with many of them to tell their stories and travelled to remote villages to meet the families of those who died on the way home. It is the fundamental job of journalists to remember what officials choose to forget, and Barkha has done just this.

It is a book that should be compulsory reading for those officials who made policies that dehumanized human beings, instead of protecting them. Indian policemen even in peace time treat our poorest citizens with brutality. During the pandemic it became open season. They seemed to believe they had licence to use maximum force to punish those who violated curfews. The Prime Minister has only once acknowledged that mistakes were made, and this was when he appeared teary-eyed on television after Delta's ravages to admit that 'we have lost so many of our own'.

The remorse did not last long. Days later, he went to Varanasi and praised Yogi Adityanath for the efficiency with which he had dealt with the pandemic. The truth is that it was in Uttar Pradesh that we saw bodies floating in the Ganga and saw swathes of shallow graves on its banks because people could not afford to buy wood to cremate their loved ones. When the Chief Minister was asked about this, he lied that it was customary for Hindus to bury their dead along the banks of the Ganga and that all talk of bodies floating in the Ganga was just propaganda.

What troubles me deeply is that it is high officials and spokesmen of the Government of India who have convinced themselves that government propaganda is the truth. Officials who should be charged with criminal negligence for not ordering vaccinations on time now pop up regularly on our TV screens to declare that India has done better than any other country when it comes to vaccinations. There is no question that the Omicron wave was handled better than the earlier two waves, but this does not mean that terrible, avoidable mistakes were not made. These were mistakes that caused untold suffering in our poorest communities, and unless this is acknowledged, we are doomed to repeat these mistakes in the future.

What chance is there of such acknowledgement if the Prime Minister himself chooses to believe that it was Opposition parties who were responsible for the largest mass migration since Partition? Our Opposition leaders are so pathetically enfeebled that they have not managed yet to counter what the Prime Minister said about them in Parliament. How can anyone take seriously the charge that it was these diminished politicians who managed to organise the exodus of millions of migrant workers? Since Modi became PM, the BJP has spent a fortune on creating a massive and highly effective propaganda machine that churns out material for television and the print media at an impressive pace. But when the Prime Minister himself becomes a victim of this propaganda, alarm bells should ring.

No glass ceilings were broken to write this

has given us something to think about the current discourse on a woman's experience of the world. About the possibility of living as a woman without proving a point and secondly, about the interpretation of gender today as a competition between men and women.

Amy Rose thinks she will accomplish something in relation to men once she scores the penalty kick, but will her achievement mean any less if there was n't any declaration of breaking the glass ceiling? Isn't a penalty kick also just a penalty kick?

Women tend to view themselves as existing on the spectrum of the two Ps — as victims of patriarchy or as 'privileged'. The two Ps become the fundamental facts of her life, seeping through her existence. Of course, life is ridden with complexities and one can't always fit into these modes,

but we can start from here and question them, if they truly exist.

It is difficult to live with integrity if what you think are the fundamental truths of life make you believe that either the world is designed to set you up for failure, or, as in the latter scenario, where the so-called 'privilege' becomes a source of guilt.

Even so, there is a third mode of existence, albeit elusive.

This mode cannot be found on the internet, in opinion pieces or books. It is definitely not a prescription and needs to be built by the individual with deliberation.

In the current conversation, you are either a feminist or an anti-feminist. There is little space for someone in the middle. If non-allegiance to the movement is admitted, it will likely be at the risk of offending the custodians of women's rights.

Acknowledging that contemporary wisdom has become stale and platitudinal is the first step in changing this. To take an example, one often reads about the under-representation of women in top positions in white-collar spaces. But why is so much importance given to getting promoted? Has ambition become so banal and generic, another hand-me-down idea? Is there no other meaning in working?

Proponents of representation politics want the world to be neatly split into a half occupied by either genders, leaving no room for the possibility that women could want different things from life. Perhaps not all want to be CEO.

Those who agree that the discourse needs renewal can start by re-examining their goals and ambitions. There are some questions that may be asked. For instance,

should one presume their birth into a patriarchal setup? Is it possible that certain settings are genuinely non-patriarchal? Has life been fair and is that enough? What is an ideal scenario for women and is it ideal for you now?

If a girl watches Amy Rose kick the ball, there is little need to assert that a barrier was broken. Sometimes, seeing is enough to inspire action. In this sense, Amy Rose is not special and neither are the countless women who climb the ladders of their lives everyday. The idea is for women to find out what they are good at and not to aspire for something they think they should be good at. If it is indeed a man's world, women can work towards creating their own, rather than trying to one up those who, in the first place, created the version that currently exists.

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE



POINT OF VIEW

Healing in Kinship

New-age ideas of self-love and self-care ring hollow if we don't invest in relationships

eye



ARTS etc

The Weight of Stardust

Actor Madhuri Dixit on portraying the many shades of her character in a new web show and the professional challenges she faced in the Nineties



ILLUSTRATION BY SHARMA

Let's talk about this

In the last two years, over the course of the pandemic, our social skills have taken a hit. As the world prepares to open up, how ready are we to return to our older social connections and the conversations they generated?

Dipanita Nath

TANVEER INAMDAR, CEO of Pune-based VertexX Inc, a social venture start-up, can sum up a business pitch in 30-40 seconds, his emails comprise one or two lines, chats have become one of two emojis and important instructions are short voice-messages. "When my team comes up with a good design or plan, I send them a star emoji. It means 'good', 'go ahead', 'this is my green signal' and everything positive," he says. It's a skill he has picked up over two years of online meetings — whose golden rule is to "keep it short and simple" — to overcome challenges, such as poor network connection and lack of bandwidth. What Inamdar had not considered was that the strategy would seep into his personal behaviour and affect relationships with his family and friends. "My communication skills are broken and I am in a zone where I don't like talking," he says. Now, Inamdar, who won the Rex-Karma Veer Fellowship, instituted by International Confederation of NGO in partnership with the United Nations, in 2019, is "putting all effort" in talking like he used to before the pandemic. He is practising initiating conversations, writing longer messages and getting back in touch with people. In Delhi, theatre practitioner Amitesh Grover is having another kind of experience. Over 15 years of his career, he had become used to working with large groups of people, delivering lectures to 40-50 students or directing plays for packed halls. Now, he cannot muster

the energy to face a lot of people at once, humour is often difficult and he doesn't crack jokes any more. Instead, there is a greater appreciation for one-to-one conversations. "I think I am just too sad from inside. I would like to speak to people individually and really know how the last two years have been for them. I have noticed that everyone, including my reflection, has aged since March 2020. It is only in intimate conversations that we can talk about the exceptional situations that we have been through," he says. Two years of death, devastation and adapting to new normalcies have left their mark on one of the fundamental activities of society — conversations. India was one of the epicentres of the disease in the world and, as it opens up after the third wave, with educational institutes, workplaces, markets and entertainment centres ready to make up for lost time, most people are aware that they are survivors of a tragedy that took many victims. If the first opening up in 2020 was marked by relief and the second by sadness, this time around, there is resignation. How do you greet a person you have not seen for two years, during which the world changed? "There was a day when three of my friends lost their parents. I felt drained of emotion. I was able to message one but the other two, who were my classmates, I just could not. I did not know how to talk to them. At such times, you want to be there with your friend, not talk on the phone and say things like 'stay strong',"

says Pakhi Jain, a second-year student of Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi. Soon, her friends circle will meet for the first time. "The brain understands body language. Over video conferencing, we have had only a shallow level of talk," she adds. Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, the Belgian dancer who has called dance a means to sociability, had commented at the beginning of the pandemic that the future might lie with an increasingly solitary dancer because who can imagine a performance with 30 dancers observing social distancing? As the months passed, almost every person turned into a soloist and conversations that belonged to other spaces and people became monologues or disappeared in silence. A definitive artwork for the time is, possibly, *The Life*, by the radical performance artist Marina Abramovic. Auction house Christie's held a sale of one of the three editions of *The Life* in October 2020, the year the rules of engagement went digital. *The Life* is the world's first Mixed Reality performance art, born from a complex marriage of digital technology and art. It is a recorded piece that appears to unfold in real time. The concept is — can presence be conveyed even when a person is elsewhere? In comparison, in an earlier time of physical closeness, the Serbian Abramovic had presented *The Artist is Present* at Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, during which she had sat for eight hours daily for a month while, one by one, visitors took the seat opposite her and they held each other's gaze. That 1,000 people turned up, some repeatedly, to engage with her silently had, reportedly, surprised even the artist about the "enormous need of humans to have contact". According to Delhi-based sociologist

Dipankar Gupta, social interactions are the foundation of institutions such as workplace, ministries, educational centres, playgrounds or events such as Holi, Diwali, family get-togethers, marriages or last rites. "What keeps society growing are the repetitive acts of people over periods of time, which makes for institution-building. If one were going to a government office or a railways station or for a marriage ceremony, for instance, one knows what to expect because there are certain repetitive acts involved. Those institutions are under threat because we are not carrying out those actions any more or not as regularly as we used to," says Gupta. When these institutional settings are weakened, atrophied or absent, as has happened with the pandemic, conversations become difficult. "One might find conversations with friends becoming stilted because little experiences were never discussed over time and, hence, there is a distance now between people who once knew each other well. Hence, when we meet them after a long gap, we tend to repeat inane things — 'how are you', 'take care' and 'stay safe'. It probably carries little conviction because the process of conversation built around institutions is missing," says Gupta. For many people who have not had access to campuses and peer conversations, a common complaint is of overthinking. Within the closed walls of their homes, where their families can listen to their chat with friends, many young people are un-

able to talk freely. Parents, after all, expect children to follow certain norms of speech and behaviour. The result is that a lot of students in their late teens or early twenties have become silent. "This is the time when we build our identities, political ideas and social responsibilities. Instead, a lot of our anxiety is associated with Instagram and other social media platforms. When we upload a picture or text, we wonder if we wrote too much and hope that nobody misinterprets us," says Jain. When ThatMate, an organisation that provides safe conversation spaces for young adults, started an initiative called Ask Me Anything every weekend, it found teenagers approaching counsellors about bullying, friends being judgemental and parents not having enough time. One student said that since she began wearing spectacles, her friends started teasing her and so she does not want to talk to them. "There are changes in the body that they are not able to understand. There is a lot of anxiety among young people and they need a safe space to talk," says Madhavi Jadhav, founder-CEO, ThatMate. In a paper titled *Has The Pandemic Changed The Way We Communicate*, (*Nature*, August 9, 2021), David Westgarth writes that Michigan State University Sociolinguistics Lab in the US has been collecting recorded speech from Michigan residents since the beginning of April 2020 to study how their language has changed during the pandemic. "According to them, the most recent time a major event had such an impact on language was World War II, because it brought people together who ordinarily wouldn't have contact with one another... With the pandemic, it's just the opposite. We've been pried apart, and 'you're on mute', 'you broke up a bit there' and 'I can't quite hear you' have become norms for meetings," writes Westgarth. In India, every major event led to a series of conversations across age, gender and community because people were assured of the institutional foundations of their lives, such as get-togethers at clubs, local cafés or chai stalls. "When India won the World Cup in 1983, the conversation went on for a month. We read newspapers, went to clubs and saw sporting events, around which conversations were built. When elections happen, people talk about it for a long time, especially if there is something new coming up, such as in 2014. Now, however, conversations do not have that kind of stability and mooring, which is why any new topic lasts for a short duration. There is no feeder channel, so it dies on the vine," says Gupta. The present pandemic has evoked historic references of the influenza epidemic, which had swept through India in 1918, killing 17-18 million people. Despite the scale of devastation, the national movement had proceeded with full fervour, with few mentions of the flu in mainstream conversations. Today, however, we have compared our COVID-19 protocol with that of other countries and judged the actions and attitudes of different world leaders in real time. "What communication has enabled today is unique so, though we have had epidemics in the past, it has never been like this when we have been able to share information globally," says Gupta. The easing of restrictions will test the strength of institutions. Will offline get-togethers and community events replace online meetings, classes and tele-consultations? For a number of people, the bottled-up urge to socialise — already evident in trends such as revenge travel — will be released. People going to schools, colleges and offices will respond differently from people in their sixties, for whom the loss of two years weighs heavy. Samrat Mukherji, a Calcutta High Court lawyer, says that conversation, especially professional, is unlikely to return to pre-pandemic levels, and the elderly might continue to feel excluded. In Kolkata, for instance, a lot of senior advocates in their late-70s are not appearing through online portals because it is difficult for them to operate links. Instead, they get their juniors to make the submissions. "Today, the system has been digitised. There is a positive and negative side to this. If you are travelling, you can still attend work as long as you have a web link. The problem is that direct interaction isn't taking place, which impacts discussion. When a client comes to meet us in person, obviously, they express themselves more," he says. In court, lawyers used to study body language and frame their arguments but, in online hearings, "all of us have to show all our cards without knowing if we are showing the card relevant to the judge at that particular moment". Not everybody is raring to go back to how things were. The pandemic has changed them irreversibly. "The focus for me is to take it slower. I don't think everybody is appreciating the invisible psychological and emotional ways in which the pandemic has changed us and which require a far more considerate, careful and sensitive approach," says Grover.

As the months passed, people turned into soloists and conversations became monologues or just disappeared in silence

For many people who have not had access to peer conversations, a common complaint has been overthinking

SO, TO SPEAK

Amitesh Grover's *All That We Saw* (above and right) is a conceptual art project on the nature of photographs and how they ceaselessly bear upon our collective and individual memories, especially during the pandemic, when locked inside our homes, our understanding of the world has been shaped by the images filtering in through television and social media



New Delhi





BALANCING ACT
Madhuri Dixit in *The Fame Game*

Weight of the Stars

Actor Madhuri Dixit on portraying the many shades of her new character in her latest web show, the challenges of the Nineties, and being soccer mom to her children

Alaka Sahani

HERE IS a moment in the recently-released web show *The Fame Game*, when veteran superstar Anamika Anand feels awkward as the upcoming star Jaslyn calls her “an inspiration” and seeks her blessing. Taking a jibe at the paraphernalia that surrounds a celebrity today, Anamika tells Jaslyn that with an army of PRs, trainers and stylists at work, an actor today “doesn’t need talent”, let alone her blessing, to succeed. They, however, create a perfect photo-op for the paparazzi with Anamika’s hand placed on Jaslyn’s head.

As Anamika, Madhuri Dixit — one of India’s most successful and charismatic actors — lends her expertise, experience and charm to add a fascinating layer to the suspense drama that’s set in the world of Hindi cinema. *The Fame Game*, now streaming on Netflix, gives a glimpse of the showy and, at times, shadowy world of showbiz. Integral to its narrative is the casting of Dixit.

Writer and showrunner of *The Fame Game*, New York-based Sri Rao says, “Even before I zeroed in on the story, I wanted to create an international series that would do justice to Madhuri’s talent. I wanted it to be similar to the international series that feature other great actresses of our generation such as Nicole Kidman, Julia Roberts and Meryl Streep. It had to be a character with multiple shades and a captivating arc.” Dixit loved the story about the disappearance of a prominent star and following that, how secrets tumble out. This unveils another aspect of stardom, far from the glittering success and well-publicised happy family portraits.

The 54-year-old star, who dominated showbiz in the ’90s with her stellar performances and a string of successful movies such as *Saajan* (1991), *Hum Aapke Hain Koun...* (1994) and *Dil To Pagal Hai* (1997), brings her

astute understanding of the Hindi-film world to the show. “I have lived in this space for so long. Over the years, I have become aware of different experiences people have had. That has helped me understand my character and her journey,” says the actor, who even made a few key suggestions about how Anamika would conduct herself. She appreciates the fact that several relevant social comments and nuances have been woven into the script. “The viewers are privy to different issues that the show touches upon, including gender and equality,” says the actor, who debuted in *Abodh* (1984) and shot to fame with *Tezaab* (1988).

One the key suggestions made by Dixit was that her character should have a warm and intimate connection with her screen children. Rao admits to be inspired by the strong bond Dixit shares with her sons, Arin and Ryan, which reflects in the protagonist’s life, as well. “Madhuri came across as a mother first and foremost. She is, what in America is called, a soccer mom. Her children come first, before anything else,” says Rao, who wrote the script for *Baar Baar Dekho* (2016). The actor plans her schedule in such a way that she gets maximum time with her children. “Now that one of my sons (Arin) has gone to college (in the US) and the other will leave soon, I divide my time between home and work. I love spending time with my sons, but I love my work, too,” says Dixit, who received the Padma Shri in 2008. She married US-based surgeon Shriram Nene in 1999 and had shifted to Denver for some years.

The show takes a dig at the casual use of the term “comeback”. At different stages of her career, a new project by Dixit has been

hailed as her comeback vehicle. “Even when I did a movie after a gap of a year or two, it was reported that I was making a comeback. How many times am I going to ‘come back’? In fact, I never left the industry. After I got married, I acted in *Devdas* (2002). I completed *Pukar* (2000) and *Hum Tumhare Hain Sanam* (2001) after my marriage. However, when I had my sons, I took a few years off. But a hero does that anyway. There are times Aamir Khan’s film doesn’t release for two-three years. But no one says he made a comeback,” says the actor, famous for her smile and adds, “I was overjoyed when I saw that line about comeback in the script.”

The actor relocated to Mumbai in 2011. Since then Dixit has appeared in several talent shows on television as a celebrity judge, acted in movies such as *Dedh Ishqiya* (2014) and *Kalank* (2019), and has turned a producer.

In an industry known for its skewed gender practices, the show tries to do some wishful course correction. In one scene, Dixit’s character, after being made to wait on the sets by her co-star Manish Khanna (played by Manav Kaul), tells him that they are both equals. When asked about this, Dixit says, “Times are changing and actors are more professional today. However, so many times in the past, I was kept waiting as actors walked in late. I really relished saying those lines (to a male character).”

She is happy that the work environment has improved remarkably today. “We have worked at a time where film studios didn’t have basic clean rooms. There were no vanity vans. Since there were no bathrooms (on outdoor locations), we had to go to nearby

forests. If it rained, then we had to sit in our cars,” she recalls.

Previously, one of the major issues the actors faced during a film’s production was maintaining the continuity of their characters. “At times, there used to be a gap of six months between the shooting schedules of a film. When we resumed shooting, we did not know where the earrings or costumes were. That apart, we used to do two-three shifts in a day. I was playing one character in the morning and a different one in the evening. Next day, I was somebody else. Those were crazy times,” says the actor. She is relieved that an actor today works on one project at a time and everything is well organised. “There were only a few production companies, such as Yash Raj Films, who had bound scripts. We didn’t know the dialogues beforehand as the writer used to write them on the sets. Today, everything is planned — from stylist and make-up to publicity.”

Rao calls the suspenseful family drama *The Fame Game* his version of life of a popular Hindi film star. “It’s my love letter to Madhuri and India. Like any NRI kid, I have grown up watching Hindi movies,” he says. Keeping Dixit in mind as the lead actor, he created Anamika, who is both empowered and vulnerable. “Anamika is a working mother, a successful artiste, who is balancing many different responsibilities; I made the world revolve around her. I show how she responds to misogyny as well as other personal and professional issues,” says the writer, who is a second-generation American.

For Dixit, stardom is a by-product of what she is passionate about — acting and dancing. It is her passion coupled with perseverance that made her one of the most sought-after stars. However, Dixit is acutely aware of the perils of stardom. She says: “If you take yourself too seriously, it’s dangerous.” It’s, perhaps, her rootedness that has sustained her in the cut-throat world of showbiz for over three decades.

EYESPY

EVERY FORTNIGHT, WE PICK, YOU WATCH



Shubhra Gupta

Shubhra Gupta is film critic with The Indian Express

Hold On, Let Go

When a parent spirals into addiction, where do the children go?

MOST FILMS which deal with bare-knuckle addiction of any sort — alcohol, drugs, porn — view the world from the addict’s point of view. While of course their story is primary, what usually goes missing is the story of their loved ones. Very often, addicts are oblivious to the needs and wants of others. Caregivers bear the brunt, constantly having to shift and adjust, so much so that they feel out of control and overwhelmed.

Stay Awake, which won a Special Jury Mention at the just concluded 72nd Berlinale, where it premiered in the Generation 14plus section, is one of those rare films which trains the lens on the familial support system of the person with the addiction. Brothers Derek, 19, and Ethan, 17, live in a small town in the US. They are, in many ways, like many others their age: doing the dating thing, going bowling, filling college application forms, and so on. But they are also different, in that they are primary caregivers to their prescription-drug-addict mum, whom they have to keep hauling out of near-lethal zones.

One of the things they have learnt is to try keeping their mother awake, as they rush towards the hospital. The deeper the drift into sleep, the harder it is to bring



ALEJANDRO MEJIA

ALL IN A DAY’S WORK

A still from *Stay Awake*

her back. We see Ethan and Derek trying desperately to keep their mother, and themselves, afloat. How free can you be when you are so tied to someone who has no impulse control, especially when the person is your mum? What kind of future can you dream of?

Writer-director Jamie Sisley is clearly someone who has lived this life, which leads to the startling authenticity in his film, with moving performances from Fin Argus and Wyatt Oleff, who play the brothers, and Chrissy Metz as the mother. In the press notes, Sisley talks of his own mother’s addiction, and how he and his brother dealt with it. He knows what it is to hate and love at the same time, how hard it can be to be “normal” with other people when the one person responsible for you has abdicated all responsibility. When it is a parent who is an addict, all conventional notions of parenting are thrown out of the window: growing up not knowing what it is like to be “looked after” can leave you bereft. Codependency is a swamp, and it can cause a crushing inability to create and cherish other relationships.

Producer Shrihari Sathe told me how intrigued he was with Sisley’s layered, deeply felt characters. *Stay Awake* walks the tough tightrope between facile sympathy and over-romanticisation. With well-judged empathy, it tells us that no one willingly wants to be an addict, and absolutely no one signs up to be a caregiver. The film provides no glib answers, but does something important — it focusses on the ecosystem around an addict, which gets more and more fractious and fragile with each bout, and the emotional cost of letting go, while staying connected.

a six-metre-high stick figure that nods to cave art and memes, to the past and the present. It has that same unsettling mix of the Ayyanar grin and the grimace emoji.

When *Double-faced avatar with blue figure* opened at HOTA Gallery, Nithiyendran recalls that not everyone got it. He says, “A lot of the responses was that it was demonic, evil... But the sculpture was a welcome gesture.” In the recorded history of the world, grotesque guardian figures are meant to ward off evil and mark a safe space, be it a Medusa head, a *dvarapala* (gate guardian) of Buddhist temples, demonic faces painted on ash gourds in south India, or even the mascarons of Art Nouveau architecture.

Nithiyendran’s sculptures come at a time when there is a global movement to rethink memorials to exploitative leaders and events. He says, “In the context of 2021, Australia looked towards Asia and the Pacific for references to public sculpture as opposed to colonial monuments.” While the sculptor has not set out to be political, his sculptures offer more inclusive aesthetics with which to view public art. They also question the idea of boundaries — do they welcome or threaten? With the right commissions, it will be interesting to see how Nithiyendran’s sculptures interact with public spaces in South Asia, given that tutelary figures are often outdoors, surrounded by ritual and ceremony, right among the people they protect.

Guardians of the Galaxy

Civilisations and colours collide in Australian sculptor Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran’s first solo show in India

Benita Fernando

RAMESH MARIO Nithiyendran’s sculptures are as colourful as the world’s deadliest mushrooms. They smile like Cheshire Cats. Embellished with a profusion of spikes, limbs, penises, lips, breasts and heads. Everything about them spells danger. But, instead of walking away from these feral mutants, we are drawn to them. It doesn’t even matter whether we like them or not. They tug at something primal and instinctive, earning our curiosity and teasing our desperation to understand.

The Australian sculptor is having his first solo show in India, which opened earlier this month at Mumbai’s Jhaveri Contemporary

and is slated to run till March 26. “The language of my work sometimes can have a lot of darkness but I wanted this show to be hopeful and energetic and bright and fresh,” says Nithiyendran, 33, over a phone call.

Titled “The Mud and The Rainbow”, the exhibition comprises 14 ceramic pieces that primarily explore sculptural archetypes, such as fertility figures and tutelary spirits. It’s a mash-up of civilisations and iconographies — figures sit like a Buddha, resemble Mesoamerican masks, rise like totems and have multiple heads like Hindu gods. Within this tableau, Nithiyendran manages to convey ideas of queerness and digital culture.

Fertility figure (2021) is a crowned being carrying two smaller zoomorphic figures, as if they were infants. One ape-like and the



PHOTO COURTESY JESSICA MAURER

A HEAD FOR FIGURES

Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran with his gender-fluid polychrome sculptures

other a porcine, the progenies’ heads double-up as the nurturer’s breasts. Nithiyendran says, “I want to allow audiences an opportunity to bring their knowledge of historical sculptural tropes.” The sculpture recalls the mother goddess archetype, made through millennia and also hints at Christian representations of the Madonna and Child.

There is also *Double horned spiky blue head* (2021), a cartoonish animal face (Nithiyendran did grow up loving Disney movies) that could well be a cat, a rabbit, an upturned tooth or a jackfruit.

Nithiyendran is among the significant artists to emerge from Australia in recent years. With more than a dozen solo shows

and commissions to his name, and several more group shows, his works have been featured at the National Gallery of Art in Canberra, the Dhaka Art Summit, and the Indian Ceramics Triennale in Jaipur. There is global interest in his pantheon of gender-fluid polychrome sculptures but also in his origin story.

He was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka, to a Tamil Hindu father and a Dutch Burgher mother. Before he could turn one, the family fled the war-torn country to safer shores in Sydney, where Nithiyendran is based.

“The Mud and the Rainbow”, for instance, has differently-sized works, some toylike. “They are like effigies, which I remember seeing in a temple as a child,” he says. A totemic *Warrior figure with headpiece* (2021) evokes the Ayyanar who guards village and temple boundaries in South India and Sri Lanka. The Ayyanar typically smiles, but as a tiger might, with exposed fangs. Nithiyendran says, “The massive teeth and wide eyes, that sense of hyperbole plays into my work. These expressions are like emojis, which are heightened symbols. I try to work with expressions that are almost hard to place. That for me is what makes them interesting, that inability to grasp what they were feeling if they were sentient.”

Among Nithiyendran’s notable guardians is *Double-faced avatar with blue figure* (2021), in the HOTA Gallery collection in Gold Coast, Australia. It was his first outdoor sculpture —



New Delhi



AKKALKOT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, AKKALKOT
e-Tender Notice No. 27 for 2021-2022
(Valshisatapurna Yojana)

No. 2022/ANP/Works-11/Desk-1/RR/Kavi/232, Dated 25/02/2022

Sealed online e-Tenders for the Different Development works are invited by the Chief Officer Municipal Council Akkalkot from contractors Registered with Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department in appropriate class.

Details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-Tendering portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from Dated 26/02/2022 to 14/03/2022 at 4.00 PM. The last date of tender submission is 14/03/2022 at 4.00 PM. The prebid meeting will be conducted on Dated 04/03/2022 at 3.00 PM, in the Office of Municipal Council Akkalkot. Contractor must present to the Prebid meeting. No representative allowed to the Prebid meeting. The Prebid meeting present (Attendance) certificate signed by Hon'ble Chief Officer, Municipal Council, Akkalkot is necessary to attach in the Technical documents of this tender. Without this certificate the tender will not accept. Received tenders will be opened on Dated 15/03/2022 at 4.00 PM, if possible in the presence of available contractor or their representative.

Sd/-
- SACHIN PATIL, Chief Officer,
Municipal Council, Akkalkot

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH,
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
SHIVNATH CIRCLE DURG (CHHATTISGARH)
e-Procurement Tender Notice
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(1st Call)

SYSTEM TENDER No.93589/NIT No:41/SAC/2021-22, Durg, Dated:24.02.2022
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 17.03.2022 at 17.30 Hour

Name of Work:- CONSTRUCTION BANK PROTECTION WORK NEAR VILLAGE JAMRAO ON KHARUN RIVER IN BLOCK PATAN OF DISTRICT DURG.
Probable amount of Contract- Rs. 186.27 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 03/03/2022, at 17.31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

Note:- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Tandula Water Resources Division Durg (C.G.)
68165
For, Superintending Engineer Shivanth Circle, Durg C.G.)

Department for the Empowerment
Of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens
Podium Block, V.V. Tower, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, 080-2286 0907, 2286 6066

No: DWD/PLN4/C9/41/2021-22 Date : 25.02.2022

SHORT TERM NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement only)

Tender is invited by the Director, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, under e-Procurement platform/e-portal in two parts (i.e., Technical bid and Financial bid) from the original manufacturers or their authorized dealers for supply of Talking Laptops and Braille Kit for the Visually Impaired. to the Department for Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens. The interested bidders may see further details and may login in website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

The tender can be submitted on or before 07.03.2022 till 5.00 p.m. The technical bid will be opened on 09.03.2022 at 11.00 am and the financial bid will be opened on 11.03.2022 at 11.00 a.m. Department reserves all rights to accept, reject, incorporate changes and retender without giving any reasons. The details can be obtained from the Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Podium Block, V.V. Tower, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, Phone No:080-22866066, 22866097. For more info please see department website www.dwdsc.kar.nic.in

Sd/- Director,
Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Bengaluru.

DIPR/DOU/AAPL/3558/2021-22
HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APATHMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask
Follow Physical Distancing
Maintain Hand Hygiene

MADHYA PRADESH ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking), CIN : U45203MP2004SGC016758
45-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal – 462 011, Madhya Pradesh
Ph. : 0755-2527290, 2765205, Fax (EPBX) : 0755-2572643, Website : www.mprdc.gov.in
NIT No. 17308/550/MPRDC/Procu/2022 Bhopal, Date : 24.02.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS					
Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation Limited (MPRDC) Bhopal invites proposal for following works in the State of Madhya Pradesh.					
S. No.	Name of Work	Annual Potential Collection (APC)/ Probable Amount of Contract (PAC) (in Crore)	Bid Security (EMD) (in Lakhs)	Cost of RFP Document (in Rs.)	Period of Service/ Completion (in Months)
1.	User Fee Collection on Badnawar Thandla Road in the State of Madhya Pradesh	5.60	5.60	20,000/-	24
2.	User Fee Collection on Ashta-Kannod Road in the State of Madhya Pradesh	4.06	4.06	15,000/-	24
3.	User Fee Collection on Shajapur-Dopada-Kannod-Pachlana Pelwa Nalkhedra Road in the State of Madhya Pradesh	3.66	3.66	15,000/-	24
4.	User Fee Collection on Katni-Vijayraghavgarh-Barhi Road in the State of Madhya Pradesh	3.33	3.33	15,000/-	24
5.	User Fee Collection on Seoni-Katangi Road in the State of Madhya Pradesh	2.95	2.95	15,000/-	24
6.	User Fee Collection on Tilwari-Chargaon-Gotegaon Road in the State of Madhya Pradesh	2.93	2.93	15,000/-	24
7.	User Fee Collection on Ujjain Makshi Road in the State of Madhya Pradesh	2.88	2.88	15,000/-	24
8.	User Fee Collection on Mahua-Chuwahi Road in the State of Madhya Pradesh	2.67	2.67	15,000/-	24
9.	User Fee Collection on Hardua-Chakghat Road in the State of Madhya Pradesh	2.25	2.25	15,000/-	24
10.	User Fee Collection on Sanawad-Khargone Road in the State of Madhya Pradesh	1.94	1.94	12,500/-	24
11.	User Fee Collection on Rewa-Bankhuiya-Semariya Road in the State of Madhya Pradesh	1.42	1.42	12,500/-	24
12.	User Fee Collection on khatkiya-Binaganj Road in the State of Madhya Pradesh	1.39	1.39	12,500/-	24
13.	Maintenance Work under Bhopal Division (Bhopal Group-1) for approximate length of 234.64 Km through Zonal Contract for following roads. (2nd Call) a) Gairatganj-Silwani (Length 31.44 km.) b) Batera-Bameri-Silwani (Length 34.8 km.) c) Khamariya-Sultanpur-Naktara (Length 28.00 km.) d) Barrelli-Pipariya (Length 39.00 km.) e) Raisen-Rahatgarh (Length 101.40 km.)	6.00	6.00	20,000/-	12
14.	BT Renewal work of Badnawar Thandla Road (SH-64) in Km. 1, 2, 3, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, & 54 Total length 10.00 Km. (3rd Call)	1.75	1.75	12,500/-	03
15.	Construction of Cement Concrete road in Mahidpur Bus Depo at Gogapur-Ghosla Road (SH-16) (2nd Call)	0.2153	0.43	5,000/-	02

The dates for purchase, submission, etc. are mentioned in the key dates. Tender forms can be purchased online only up to 15:30 hrs. on 04.04.2022 from website www.mptenders.gov.in. The bidders have to submit the Technical bid as well as Financial Bid online only. The Addendum/Corrigendum (if any) shall only be published on the website of www.mptenders.gov.in only. If holiday is declared by Govt. of M.P. on the date of opening, the same will automatically be shifted to subsequent working days.
MPRDC reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
M.P. Madhyam/103798/2022

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Maharashtra Information Technology Corporation Limited
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)
3rd Floor, Apeejay House, Near KC College, Churchgate, Mumbai 400020

NOTICE

Maharashtra Information Technology Corporation Limited (MahaIT) is inviting "Request for proposal for "Empanelment of Agencies for providing Technical Manpower". For details related to the selection criteria and process to apply.

Step 1: Visit website <https://www.mahatenders.gov.in>
Step 2: Click on "Advertisement for "Request for proposal for Empanelment of Agencies for providing Technical Manpower".

Sd/-
Managing Director
Maharashtra Information Technology Corporation Ltd.

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office, Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project, Satyam Complex, Marble Market, Greater Kailash, P.O. Sainik Colony, Jammu -180011, Jammu & Kashmir, Tel: +91 - 191 - 2484778

OPEN e-TENDER
Tender Notice No.: KR-PD-JK-EL-T-1-2022 dtd. 21/02/2022

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. invites "Open e-Tender" in Two Packet System from experienced contractors for "Railway Electrification Works including ROCS & SCADA System between Km 24.806 to Km 101.652 on Katra-Dharam Section of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project (J&K)." Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 285.67 Cr. Completion Period of Contract: 18 Months. Submission of Tender: 30/03/2022 upto 15.00 hrs. Opening of Tender: 30/03/2022 @ 15.30 hrs. Cost of Tender Form: Nil. Earnest Money: ₹ 1 Cr. to be submitted through online payment modes available on IREPS Portal only. For further details and updates please visit <https://www.ireps.gov.in> Amendments / Corrigendum, if any would be hosted on the above website only.

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 355/2021-22 Date: 25.02.2022

No. NIT/2021-22/22607-26 निविदा लिखित पत्रिका पर राजस्थान राज्य सड़क विकास एवं निगम लि. (RSRDC Ltd.) में पंजीकृत टोल कलेक्टर केन्द्रों को पक्कर सड़की हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया से अनिवार्य निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

काम का विवरण	अंदाज़ित राशि (रु.)
Collection of Toll Tax for a Period of 02 Years on following Road:-	
On Alwar-Behror-Narnaul Road. UBN: (1)RRC2122SL0B00699	3732.73 Lakh
On Merta-Ras Road. UBN: (2)RRC2122SL0B00693	2985.45 Lakh
On Suket-Julmi-Pipliya-Bhawanimandi-Dug Road. UBN: (3)RRC2122SL0B00695	2276.00 Lakh
On Udaipur-Salumber Road. UBN: (4)RRC2122SL0B00698	2136.78 Lakh
On Banswara-Rattam Road. UBN: (5)RRC2122SL0B00696	1031.17 Lakh
On Pratappgarh-Mandsaur Road. UBN: (6)RRC2122SL0B00697	836.74 Lakh
On Ball-Pindwara Road. UBN: (7)RRC2122SL0B00694	336.00 Lakh

अनिवार्य निविदा पत्र डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 24.02.2022 प्रातः 09.00 बजे से 15.03.2022 रात 6.00 बजे तक

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रश्न में निविदा सूचना, प्रोक्कर सूची, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की सख्त सख्त सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाइट <http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in> या <http://sppp.raajasthan.nic.in> तथा <http://roads.raajasthan.gov.in/rsdc> पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने निविदा हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाइट <http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in> पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।

TIRUPPUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited in Two Cover System for Design and Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants of capacity 4MLD (2 Nos of each 2MLD) including 5 years of operation and maintenance on DBOT basis under Smart City Mission at an estimate cost of Rs.6.70 Crores under the Smart City Mission by The Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation, upto 3.00 P.M on 15.03.2022 and the same will be opened by The Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation or his authorized person on the same day at 3.30 P.M in the presence of the contractors or their representatives present at that time. The tender documents can be downloaded from the website <https://tenders.gov.in> upto 2.00 P.M on 14.03.2022. Any further details will be heard from Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation office in any of the working day if required. Pre-bid meeting for the above work will be held on 07.03.2022 at 11.00AM respectively. The Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation reserves the rights to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The bidders shall not have the option of submitting their proposals electronically.

Roc. No. : E1/6630 (II-g)/2017
Place : Tiruppur, Commissioner,
Date : 25.02.2022 Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation
DIPR/808 /TENDER/2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	S.N.	07-2021-22-NRCH
1	Name of work with its location	Comprehensiv housekeeping for NRCH including upkeep & sanitation work, and supply linen its washing and distribution, receptionist etc. for one year in the section of ADEN/NRCH under DIRECTOR/ADMIN/NRCH.
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 58492298.75
3	Earnest Money	Rs. 450391.00
4	Completion period of Work	11 Months 11 Days
5	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs. on 22.03.2022 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 22.03.2022
6	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. 128-W/280/OET/2021-22/NRCH/NIT-07 Dated: 25.02.2022 422/2022
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice

Tender No : SE/PHC/KD/36/2021-22. JAL JEEVAN MISSION - 2021 - 22 (PHASE- II) Providing functional house hold tap connections by retrofitting/ augmentation/ extending of ongoing water supply scheme in Nanippatta Grama Panchayath. EMD : Rs. 2,00,000/-. Tender fee : Rs. 10,000/- + 18% GST. Last Date for submitting Tender: 21-03-2022 05:00pm. Phone : 0495 – 2371046. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
KWA-JB-GL-6-1118-2021-22 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kozhikode

DELHI JAL BOARD: OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER (T) M-11 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (TENDER) M-11
ROOM NO. 110, JAL SADAN SHIV MANDIR MARG, LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI- 110024
EMAIL ettdjbmn1@gmail.com PH-011-29810956

Press N.I.T. No. 70 (2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/ time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Provision of DJB facilitate centre (Sahayata Kendra) under each ACs, in Delhi.	18,87,04,580/-	2022_DJB_217596_1 26.02.2022	11.03.2022 upto 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 1177(2021-22)
STOP CORONA- WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

Sd/-
(Arit Hussain)
AEE(TJM-11)

Govt. of Jharkhand
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
Road Division, Seraikella-Kharsawan
Short-Term Re-e-Procurement Notice
(02nd CALL)

Tender Reference No. RCD/SERAIKELLA/32 Date :- 26.02.2022

1. Name of the work	Improvement of Riding Quality Work of Koplong-Gopidih Chowk - Barabamboo Road (Total Length 23.04 Km.) Road for the year 2021-22
2. Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 13,79,79,870.00 (Rupees Thirteen Crore Seventy Nine lakh Seventy Nine thousand Eight hundred Seventy only)
3. Time of Completion	06 (Six) months
4. Last Date /Time for receipt of bids	09.03.2022 (12.00 Noon)
5. Date of Publication of Tender on website	28.02.2022 (10.30AM)
6. Name & Address of office Inviting tender	O/o Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, Road Division, Seraikella-Kharsawan
7. Contact no. of Procurement Officer	8809347906
8. Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer
RCD, Road Division, Seraikella-kharsawan

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Expression of Interest Proposal (ReOI)

Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No./Credit No. 9066-IN
Grant No: February 28, 2022
Date: February 28, 2022

The Director (Projects)-cum-CE, H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh India invites Expression of Interest from National Consultants for the consultancy services as detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No.	Description of the consultancy Services	Date of availability of Expression of Interest (Eoi) on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/Time for submission of Proposals
1	Procurement of a web-based application for establishment of e-PMS software	February 28, 2022	March 21, 2022

ReOI&TOR will be available on the official web site of HPRIDCL under link <http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html>.
NOTE:- Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Expression of Interest Proposals Documents shall be available to all interested firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by March 21, 2022 at 15:00 hours (IST)

Director (Projects)-cum-CE,
H.P. State Roads Project,
HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004
No.: JDA/EE&TA to Dir.Engg.-II/2021-22/D-36 Date : 25.02.2022

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No.: EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-II/39/2021-22

Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given below :-

S. No.	Zone	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	A&F	Nature of Work	Last Date
1.	EE-2	JDA2122WSOB00588	393.67	104/ 2021-22	Development of Craft Tourism Village	16.03.2022
2.	EE-HQ	JDA2122WLOB00590	2401.00	168/ 2021-22	Detailed Design, Content Development, Exhibit Construction, Testing and Commissioning of Gandhi Darshan Museum on EPC basis	21.03.2022

Details are available at Procurement Portal website www.sppp.raajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.raajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.raajasthan.gov.in
Raj. Samwadi/C/2021-22/12203

Executive Engineer & TA to Dir. Engg.-II

Government of Jharkhand
Rural Works Department(Rural works Affairs)
JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRRDA)
3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004
VERY SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement) (eTender)

eTender No. - 11 /2022- Dated:

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State/Central Government Organization for construction and maintenance for five years of the following works of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna, Phase –XV(Batch-I) (2017-18) and XVI(Batch-II) (2018-19) of PMGSY-I.

The bid should be submitted online in the website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in. The bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate for online submission of bid.
Phase- XV (Batch-I) (2017-18)

Sl. No.	District Name	Division /Block	Package No.	Road Name	Road Length (M)	Cost of Const. and Maint. With GST (in Lakh)	Earnest Money (in Lakh)	Time Period
1.	West Singhbhum	Chakradharpur (Sonua)	JH-XV-I-WSM-07	L038-Kotia to Darco (JH22TKE040)	3.25	138.33	1.38	6 Months
2.	West Singhbhum	Chakradharpur (Bendaganj)	JH-XVI-II-WSM-03	ML03-L041 to Gundi (JH22TKE014)	7.50	254.23	2.54	6 Months

Date of opening of tenders are as given below:-

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender on-line for bidding From	Hard Copy Submission To	Date & time of opening of tender	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi	Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi	28.02.2022 upto 10.30 AM	10.03.2022 upto 5.00 PM	11.03.2022 upto 3.00 PM	11.03.2022 at 5.00 PM

All other details can be seen in the bidding documents which are available at website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in.
* Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.

NOTICE:-

- Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.
- Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2(d).
- In case, it is found, even after the award of work that the bidder has submitted/ uploaded any false/erroneous/fraudulent statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.
- Bidders must submit GST registration certificate without which bid is liable to be rejected.
- Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD, any department of GoJ/GoI (including JSRRDA) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.
- Bids submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s) / made inordinate delay in execution of earlier allotted construction/ maintenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected summarily.
- In case of any discrepancy/dispute about units in BOQ, units as mentioned in Current SOR on which BOQ has been prepared shall prevail.
- Participating bidders are free to submit grievances, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five working days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at jh-ec@pmgsy.nic.in. Grievance submitted after stipulated period shall not be considered.
- Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fund organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 failing which the bid shall be rejected.
- Bidders must not quote rate for routine maintenance. The amount for routine maintenance as indicated in the Bill of Quantities must be acceptable to bidders.

All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in as per schedule mentioned above.

Chief Engineer
JSRRDA, Ranchi

PR 264938 (Rural Work Department) 21-22 (D)

TELANGANA FOODS
IDA : NACHARAM : HYDERABAD - 500076, Phone No. 27152207, 08 & 09

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tender Notification No. TF/GG/tender/365/Raw Materials/2021, Dt. 25-02-2022
Telangana Foods invites Tenders for procurement of 5500 MTs of S-30 Gr. Sugar, 3500 MTs of Bengalgram Dall (AGMARK) and 2400 MTs of RBD-RPO (Refined Palm Oil). For details please visit website: <https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in> and website: <https://foods.telangana.gov.in> from 26-02-2022 at 03:00 PM onwards.
DIPR No.: 2762-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22, Dt:26-02-2022
Sd/- Managing Director

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

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
Civil Engineering (Construction)
Tender Notice No. Dy.CE/C/KOTA /JNT/03/2022 Date-24.02.2022

Dy. Chief Engineer (Const.-II), West Central Railway, Kota for on behalf of President of Union of India invites following open E- tender. Tender No. Dy.CE/C/KOTA/05/2022/R. Description of work-Balance track work and other miscellaneous works from Km 45.50 to Km 75.00 between Junakheda-Ghatki Section in connection with Ramnagar - Bhopal New BG Rail Line Project in the State of Rajasthan of Kota Division of West Central Railway. Date of tender opening - 29.03.2022. Approx. Cost - Rs. 1.32,04,117.94 (Single Packet system). Complete details are available in the E-tender notice uploaded on the Railway web site www.ireps.gov.in and also placed on the notice board of the Chief Project Manager, West Central Railway Kota's office. Offers are acceptable through IREPS only. Off line Manual offer will not be accepted in any condition.

Dy. Chief Engineer (Const.-II), West Central Railway, Kota
कर्मचारी कार्यालय, गीत के मय को मुनिव कर्मचारी

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
Allotment of catering stalls at A & B category stations.

Tender Notice No. 22 to 31/2022/Com/I/ BKN dated: 25.02.2022, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, N.W.Ry., Bikaner on behalf of the President of India invites Tender for the purpose of allotment of Catering units at 'A & B' category stations (A category = Lalgarh, Suratgarh, Hisar, Bhiwani, Hanumangarh Jn., Sri Ganganagar & B category = Sirsa), under single packet system in Special Minor Unit (SMU) over Bikaner Division for the period as mentioned in the enclosed documents. The date of submission and opening of Tender and detail of the earnest money and Cost of tender form are as under:- 1. Name of the work: Allotment of Catering stalls at 'A & B' category stations (A category = Lalgarh, Suratgarh, Hisar, Bhiwani, Hanumangarh Jn., Sri Ganganagar & B category = Sirsa), under single packet system in Special Minor Unit (SMU) over Bikaner Division. 2. Approximate cost of the work: Earning Contract 3. Period of contract: Five (05) years 4. Earnest money to be deposited: Kindly see in tender documents 5. Cost of Tender form: For 'A' category Rs. 6000/- (Rs. Six thousand only) non-refundable. For 'B' category Rs. 3,000/- (Three thousand only) non-refundable. cost of tender form shall be accepted only online net banking or payment gateway only. 6. Reserve Price: Stallwise reserve price have been mentioned in the tender documents. 7. Date and time of submission of e-tender: 28.03

Punjab pacers shine, Delhi stare at group-stage exit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
FEBRUARY 26

PUNJAB PACE trio Baltej Singh (4/57), Siddharth Kaul (3/63) and Arshdeep Singh (3/54) shared 10 wickets as the team dominated Haryana on a windy morning at Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla on Saturday.

Resuming at 204 for 3, Haryana could only manage another 78 runs in their first innings to be all out for 282. Punjab enforced the follow-on, and Haryana were 149 for 4 at stumps. Youngsters Yashu Sharma (32 batting) and Nishant Sindhu (34 batting) are involved in an unbeaten 64-run stand for the fifth wicket. For Punjab, Baltej, Arshdeep, Kaul and Sanvir snared a wicket apiece. Haryana still trail by 13 runs.

Dagar spins HP to innings win

Left-arm spinner Mayank Dagar (5/55 & 4/30) bagged nine wickets in the match as Himachal Pradesh trounced Tripura by an innings and 30 runs at Airforce Complex Ground in Palam, Delhi. Himachal Pradesh scored 365 runs in their first innings. In reply, Tripura could only manage 202 and 133.

Ton-up Vishnu propels Kerala

Kerala can sense a win against Gujarat in Rajkot at the end of Day 3. Gujarat are 128/5 in their second innings with an overall lead of 77 runs. Earlier, vice-captain Vishnu Vinod's second first-class century, a brisk 113 off 143 balls (15x4, 1x6) helped Kerala reach 439 and secure a first-innings lead of 51 runs. For Gujarat, left-arm spinner Siddharth Desai took 5/132.

Kotian, Mulani bail Mumbai out

An unbeaten 114-run partnership for the eighth wicket between Tanush Kotian (57 batting) and Shams Mulani (49 batting) bailed Mumbai out of trouble against Goa. Mumbai are 322 for 7 with a lead of 157 runs at stumps on Day 3. Former India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane (56) scored a valuable half-century, while in form Sarfaraz Khan chipped in with a crucial 48. For Goa, Darshan Misal (3/96) was the pick of the bowlers.

MP thump Meghalaya

Medium pacer Anubhav Agarwal (5/38) claimed a five-wicket haul to help Madhya Pradesh trounce Meghalaya by an innings and 301 runs. Madhya Pradesh bowled out Meghalaya for a meagre 61 in their first innings and then piled up an imposing 499/6 declared. Meghalaya in their second essay, could only muster 137. The Chandrakant Pandit-coached side had trounced Gujarat in their opening match.

Delhi struggle vs Jharkhand

Riding on centuries from Nazim Siddiqui (110) and Kumar Suraj (129 batting), Jharkhand were 288 for 5 in their second innings after



Ishant Sharma got a wicket in his first spell against Jharkhand but never looked incisive in his nine overs. *PTI*

Shahbaz Nadeem's (5/58) five-wicket haul helped them secure a crucial first innings lead of 27 runs. Ishant Sharma got a wicket in his first spell but never looked incisive in his nine overs.

Tamil Nadu in control

Chhattisgarh still need 64 runs to avoid the follow-on with only two wickets in hand. Skipper Harpreet Bhatia is playing a lone hand with an unbeaten 145 but hardly got any support from the other end. Left-arm spinner Ravi Srinivasan Sai Kishore (4/48) was the most successful bowler for Tamil Nadu.

UP beat Assam by 6 wickets

Opener Samarth Singh scored fifties in both innings as Uttar Pradesh defeated Assam by six wickets at Lohri. Samarth, who scored 70 in the first innings, remained unbeaten on 51 in the second and steered his side home. Earlier, UP pace duo Yash Dayal (4/37) and Ankit Rajpoot (4/56) shared eight wickets between them as Assam could only manage 120 in their second essay.

Karnataka eye outright victory

Jammu and Kashmir skipper Ian Dev Singh Chauhan (65 batting) and Abdul Samad (21 batting) showed resistance after Karnataka set a massive target of 508 on the third day. Jammu and Kashmir are 190 for 4 in their second innings. Earlier, resuming at 128 for 2, Karnataka went on the offensive and added 170 runs in 29 overs, with Karun Nair adding 71 (not out) to his brilliant knock of 175 in the first innings.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
FEBRUARY 26

SRI LANKA won moments, India won the match. The hosts clinched it by seven wickets with 17 balls remaining to annex the T20I series. The victory in the end came in a canter, Ravindra Jadeja blazing to 45 not out off 18 balls and Shreyas Iyer anchoring the chase with an unbeaten 74 in 44 deliveries. Against a daunting 183/5 posted by Sri Lanka, India's quality and depth eventually shone through.

The tourists will rue poor captaincy from Dasun Shanaka, his 19-ball 47 not out notwithstanding, that allowed Iyer to grow into the game. A more proactive approach and the Indian batsman probably wouldn't have lasted that long to inflict hurt on the Islanders. Sri Lanka had racked up 80 runs in their last five overs to give themselves a very good chance in cold Dharamsala, in conditions that assisted fast bowlers upfront.

Then, Dushmantha Chameera and Lahiru Kumara cranked up speed to soften up the Indian top order. Chameera castled Rohit Sharma, via an inside edge, the fifth time he had dismissed the opener in this format. Kumara hit Ishan Kishan on the helmet with a thunderbolt, making the left-hander edgy. This was when Shanaka should have gone on all-out attack. He had runs on the board to do that. With the ball moving in the air, two slips were the need of the hour. Just one slip was posted instead. So when Iyer outside-edged a Kumara delivery, it went through the vacant second slip region for a four. Iyer, as also Kishan, was looking uncomfortable against searing pace and bounce to start with. "They are going to get bouncier pitches in Australia (at the T20 World Cup)," Sunil Gavaskar quipped on air.

Credit to Iyer that he remained unflustered, embracing the *khadoos* mentality of umbai maidans. He had to weather the storm and wait for the slower bowlers to come into the attack. Shanaka yet again missed a trick by not giving Chameera an extra over with the new ball, bringing back Binura Fernando instead. Iyer welcomed the medium pacer with three consecutive fours.

Kumara dismissed a visibly-shaken Kishan in his next over and Sanju Samson at No. 4 made a nervy beginning. A catch went down at deep backward square off Shanaka's bowling when the Kerala batsman was on six. By then, however, Iyer had got into the groove.

Sri Lanka didn't have adequate bowling back-up to support their two tearaway quicks. Praveen Jayawickrama's left-arm



Shreyas Iyer's 44-ball 74 — the batsman's second straight unbeaten fifty — included 6 fours and 4 sixes. *PTI*

spin was bread and butter to Iyer. Consecutive sixes off his bowling gave his innings the required momentum.

And yet, after 10 overs, India were playing catch-up, scoring at eight runs per over and staring at an asking rate of 10-plus. Iyer got to his second half-century on the spin and celebrated it with a contemptuous upper-cut to a short ball from Shanaka.

Turning point

The game, though, changed in the 13th over, when Kumara returned for his second spell and was flattened by Samson. The first ball went for a four followed by three sixes, punctuated by a wide and a dot. A 23-run over tilted the balance in the hosts' favour. Still, the tourists had an outside chance, after claiming Samson's wicket off the final ball of the over. But Jadeja slammed the

door shut on them.

A six and three successive fours in the 16th over bowled by Chameera brought victory to India's doorstep. The way Jadeja used the crease to upset the bowlers' length was the standout feature of his batting. After that, only formalities remained. The third-wicket partnership between Iyer and Samson added 84 runs off 47 balls, while another 58 runs were put on through an unbroken fourth-wicket stand between Iyer and Jadeja, off 26 deliveries. Partnership batting did the job for India.

This was India's fourth consecutive limited-overs series win under Sharma's full-time charge. Also, he has now led India to 16 wins in 17 home T20Is.

The skipper, though, focused on the bigger picture. "I think it was pleasing to see for us. The middle order coming out and

The third-wicket partnership between Iyer and Samson added 84 runs off 47 balls, while another 58 runs were put on through an unbroken fourth-wicket stand between Iyer and Jadeja, off 26 deliveries. Partnership batting did the job for India.

performing is good; to see those guys taking the responsibility and finishing off games," he said at the post-match presentation.

Earlier, Sri Lanka showed intent by bringing on Danushka Gunathilaka and promoting Charith Asalanka up the order, although the latter fell cheaply this time. After a cagey start, Gunathilaka hit his first boundary in the third over and gradually started to up the ante.

Sri Lanka still had a pretty poor Powerplay – 32 for no loss – and Jadeja's second over was when they finally shifted gears. Gunathilaka taking a couple of sixes and a four off the left-arm spinner was what the doctor ordered at that stage, but the batsman couldn't continue with the onslaught, getting out to a fine catch from Venkatesh Iyer, attempting another slog-sweep.

Pretty average cricketing intelligence hindered their progress in the middle overs. Both Kamil Mishara and Dinesh Chandimal perished to Harshal Patel and Jasprit Bumrah respectively, playing with hard hands, when the field was set for slower deliveries.

After 16 overs, Sri Lanka were 111/4 and another below-par total looked on the cards. But Shanaka turned the innings on its head, laying into Patel and going on a six-hitting spree – five in total. One of his sixes against Patel was so big that it almost played peek-a-boo with Dhauladhar, the Himalayan range which the picturesque stadium here overlooks.

Pathum Nissanka became bold enough to reverse-paddle a Bumrah delivery past short third man for a four. A similar attempt against Bhuvneshwar Kumar didn't come off and he was out leg-before for a 53-ball 75.

The fifth-wicket partnership between Nissanka and Shanaka yielded 58 runs off 26 balls. But it didn't matter in the end.

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 183 for 5 (Nissanka 75, Shanaka 47*, Bumrah 1-24) lost to India 186 for 3 (Shreyas 74*, Jadeja 45*, Kumara 2-31) by seven wickets

BRIDGE

Dealer: South Vulnerable: None

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ A Q 2		♠ 9 4 3	
♥ 8		♥ A K 2	
♦ K J 10 8 5 4 3		♦ Q 2	
♣ 8 4		♣ A J 9 7 2	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1C ♣
pass	1D ♦	pass	1NT
pass	3D ♦	pass	3H ♥
pass	3NT	pass	pass
pass			

South gets to 3NT, which is a fine enough contract even if it is being played from the wrong side. It would be better, though, if North was declaring this hand. West gets off to the lead of the five of spades. What should South do to make 3NT, assuming it can be made?

The West Hand: S-10765H-6543D-A7 C-Q106
The East Hand: S-KJ8 H-QJ1097 D-96 C-K53

South should NOT play the queen of spades. If the king is offside, East will win and knock out the ace of spades, the only entry South has after setting up the diamonds. South plays low for two reasons. One is that West may have the jack and ten of spades, in which case East will have to win with the king.

The second, more important reason is that this play has a chance of leaving the ace of spades as an entry. If pushed into it, South may have to finesse the queen on the next round but he certainly does not want to finesse now. East wins with the jack and returns the queen of hearts. South wins and gets after the diamond suit. By the time the hand is over, South has ten tricks. What would have happened if South finessed the queen of spades at trick one?

East would win and would play a spade back. Now South can get only one diamond trick. Without the diamond suit there just are not enough tricks for South to make 3NT. Going down on this hand would not be a sterling result.

Dealer: West Vulnerable: North/South

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ A Q 2		♠ 7 6 5	
♥ Q 5 4		♥ K J 10 8 6	
♦ A 7 6		♦ K J 10	
♣ 9 6 5 4		♣ J 2	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1C ♣	pass	pass	1H ♥
pass	2C ♣	pass	2H ♥
pass	pass	pass	pass

West opened 1C and that was passed to South. South bid 1H, fully aware that he was making a balancing bid as opposed to an overall. North should not take 1H seriously. North does seem to like his hand. He bid 2C, a cue bid, showing a nice hand for hearts. South was not interested and he rebid 2H, which says he has a minimum hand. North got the message and South played in a part score. A good thing because if South's unlucky, making just seven tricks might be the limit. West played the king and ace of clubs and led a club to East's queen, which South ruffed. What next?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2362

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- For a short time (6)
- Sprinkled over (8)
- Underestimate (9)
- Post-op therapy (5)
- Listened (5)
- Wayfaring (9)
- At some future time (2,3,2)
- Drag (4)
- German name (4)
- Conspire together (7)
- By that very fact (Latin phrase) (4,5)
- Excited (3,2)
- India's first P.M. (5)
- Typify (9)
- Rank or status (8)
- Black eye (6)

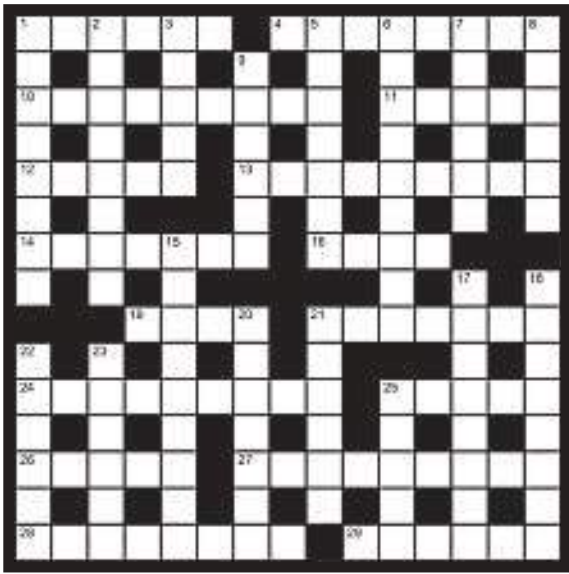
DOWN

- Capital of United Arab Emirates? (3,5)
- Refuge (8)
- Glaringly bright (5)
- Ocular fringe? (7)
- Everlasting (9)
- Racial (6)
- Trinidad and ____ (6)
- In some degree (6)
- Astonish (9)
- That man from Vienna? (8)
- It has 366 days (4,4)
- Speaker's spot (7)
- Polish composer (6)
- Articles of food, victuals (6)
- Respiration disorder (6)
- Illicit whiskey? (5)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- Get ready for the spring (6)
- Got better, for a start (8)
- Willie's lawless lobby of the Government (9)
- Single representative felt heart in drive (5)
- Tricks of devious employers 1 (5)
- Justice caught up to a sex criminal, set beside... (9)
- Vicar gets better rise from editor (7)
- Just a little drink and down you go! (4)
- Don't go on if lame (4)
- Former leader's relative with bit of tension in stomach (4,3)
- Strike oil and try new play to get market control few enjoy (9)
- Mould, for example, can be amusing to a good top investigator (5)
- Conducted a rising on being given a

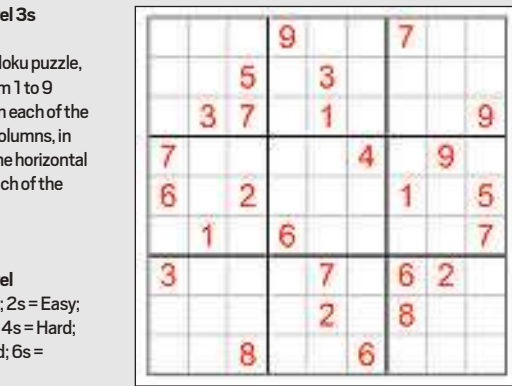


greeting in India (5)
22. Doctor one with amput surgery during a theatre-lover's show-going tour (5,4)
28. Stopping many a recording (8)
29. Musician at the piano, early maybe (6)

protection for striker (6)
22. Describing some Europeans in German or dictatorial terms (6)
23. Spanish eighth said to get to Venetian quarter (6)
25. Morally weak, perhaps, giving Father trouble (5)

Solutions to 2361

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Slumps, 4 Sculptor, 9 Dudes, 10 Eumenides, 11 Lore, 12 Acol, 13 Uredo, 15 Uniform, 16 Mass, 19 Urdu, 20 Noisome, 23 Abamp, 24 Imm, 25 Mail, 27 Obstreacy, 28 Guide, 29 Incess, 30 Crates, Down: 1 Scelus, 2 Undelfie, 3 Post, 5 Complimentary, 6 Linguistic, 7 Tidier, 8 Rostov, 10 Excommunicate, 14 Corruption, 17 Vocalist, 18 Decibels, 21 Satori, 22 Parsec, 26 Agar. **CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 1 Poising, 4 A good few, 9 Usual, 10 Convicted, 11 Ebbs, 12 Joan, 13 Irene, 15 Carpark, 16 Ida's, 19 Vera, 20 Alerted, 23 Ohll, 24 Chip, 25 Calm, 27 Retention, 28 Tahoe, 29 Bird cage, 30 Mantle, Down: 1 Prudence, 2 Stubborn, 3 Nell, 5 Gin and Italian, 6 Originated, 7 Fitter, 8 Wedges, 10 Clock-watching, 14 Magellanic, 17 Straw-hat, 18 Adam Bede, 21 Scarab, 22 Printer, 26 Etana.



Difficulty Level 3s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4757



JUMBLE WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

In everyone's heart sits a great ____ - Rabbi Seymour Siegel (12)

KVEEO	AAYCMN
AOISS	AENSHK

SOLUTION: EVOKE, OASIS, CAMANNA, SHAKEN

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Your stars are moving in quite a confusing manner. One planetary picture indicates that this is a fine time for socialising, another that you will be keeping your feelings close to your chest. The result could be a colourful impression that bemuses rivals and attracts friends and partners.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Whatever your ambitions, this is an auspicious moment. Your professional stars are strong, which could mean that you'll be doing superbly well at work. In the broader sense, however, the most important part of your life will consist of those leisure activities and hobbies which attract extra attention and boost your reputation.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

It's a great time for variety and, while some of you will be sorting out legal questions, others could be pressing ahead with educational matters and still others who may be embarking on a new adventure or gloating over travel plans. Even family proposals could take you to the corners of the globe.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You're good at understanding long-term patterns, but sometimes even you get confused. However, while the details seem to defy description, you must have faith that your inner understanding of life is as strong as ever. You may embark on a spiritual quest, searching for the meaning to age-old questions.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Money matters seem to be climbing to the top of your agenda. You're entering a phase which might well go on right through the coming month. Intimate relationships are also set to become more passionate, so watch out. Take care if a partner makes grand financial promises, and call in the experts.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

All endings are followed by a new beginning. You're entering a new cycle in relationships, one when you would be advised to turn the other cheek as often as is necessary. You should only think of be of long-term happiness, not of short-term gratification.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Energetic stars are moving through vital areas of your horoscope. The personal cycle you're entering now is bound to be progressively more busy, and, even at leisure, you will remain active. In love, it now looks certain that you will have to dance to a partner's tune.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Your stars are urging you to slow down. It's a fine time for stay-at-home activities and family arrangements, thanks to a small group of harmonious planetary aspects. Whatever the questions or difficulties which come up at home, you'll face them all with your usual skill.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Domestic affairs become more important with suggestions that you must become more assertive and decisive. You should make every attempt to consult close partners and relations, drawing them into a much-needed dialogue. A cash crisis will work out in your favour, hopefully.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Your planets are urging you to take care. There is much to be gained from judicious purchases. It's naturally a good time for picking up bargains, but there could be long-term implications arising from current developments. The main trend at home has you contemplating an overdue move.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

The Moon, the bringer of change, is exerting its deeply emotional influence over your sign, and it is bound to give you the advantage. The only question is whether you can genuinely make all the necessary financial arrangements. In love, pursue unusual contacts, and when you are going out, choose colourful entertainments.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Important planets are entering intensely private places in your horoscope. Your secretive, independent, unusual celestial alignments could have a classic Piscean twist, enabling you to get the best out of life by having your cake and eating it.

On football field, Russia on backfoot

Poland and Sweden refuse to play World Cup qualifiers against Russia amid Ukraine invasion

REUTERS
WARSAW, FEBRUARY 26

POLAND AND Sweden said they would not play their football World Cup qualifiers against Russia in March, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the governing bodies of both national teams said on Saturday.

The playoff matches are set to be held in March to fill a slot for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, and several Poland players including captain Robert Lewandowski backed the decision with statements on social media.

"In light of the escalation of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, the Polish national team is not going to play a match against Russian Republic," Poland's Football Association chief Cezary Kulesza wrote on Twitter.

"This is the only right decision. We're in talks with Swedish and Czech association to present a common position to FIFA."

Russia is scheduled to host Poland in the semi-finals of its strand of the World Cup playoffs on March 24 and, if its team advances, is scheduled to host either Sweden or the Czech Republic on March 29 in the Path B final. The Swedish FA later said that its team would not face the Russians regardless of where the match is played.

"The illegal and deeply unjust invasion of Ukraine currently makes all football exchanges with Russia impossible," Swedish Football Association chairman Karl-Erik Nilsson said.

"We therefore urge FIFA to decide that the playoff matches in March in which Russia participates will be cancelled. But regardless of what FIFA chooses to do, we will not play against Russia in March," earlier, Polish national team players took to social media to express their support for the move.

"It is not an easy decision, but there are more important things in life than football," Kamil Glik, Mateusz Klich, Matty Cash and others wrote on Twitter on Saturday. "Our thoughts are with the Ukrainian nation and our friend from the national team, Tomasz Kedziora, who is still in Kiev with his family."

National team captain Lewandowski tweeted: "I can't



I can't imagine playing a match with the Russian National Team in a situation when armed aggression in Ukraine continues. Russian footballers and fans are not responsible for this, but we can't pretend that nothing is happening."

ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI
POLAND CAPTAIN

imagine playing a match with the Russian National Team in a situation when armed aggression in Ukraine continues."

"Russian footballers and fans are not responsible for this, but we can't pretend that nothing is happening."

Poland and Serie A side Juventus' goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny, whose wife was born in Ukraine, didn't mince his words on Instagram.

"I refuse to play against players who choose to represent the values and principles of Russia," he said. "I refuse to take part in a sporting event that legitimates the actions of the Russian government."

Poland, Sweden and the Czech Republic on Thursday released a joint statement saying Russia should not be allowed to host the qualifiers next

month. Poland was the first to refuse to play Russia at all, risking itself being forced to miss the World Cup, which may be the last for Lewandowski and many other Polish players.

FIFA did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Russian athletes 'not welcome'

The executive board of the Norwegian Ski Federation said on Saturday it does not want Russian athletes competing at upcoming World Cup races and world championships in Norway after Russia launched an invasion of Ukraine this week.

Russian forces pounded Ukrainian cities including the capital Kyiv with artillery and cruise missiles on Saturday for a

third day running. The invasion has drawn widespread international condemnation, including in the sports world.

"Russia's violations of international law and attacks on the Ukrainian people demand international condemnation and sanctions," Norway's federation said in a statement.

"Sport is not detached from this and cannot remain passive to what is happening now."

"The Norwegian Ski Federation's message to Russia and Russian athletes is crystal clear - we do not want your participation." Norway is set to host events in Alpine skiing, cross country skiing, ski jumping and Nordic combined over the next few weeks. The federation added that it would follow up with the International Ski Federation (FIS). On Friday FIS cancelled all

Reject list

Kazan Judo event called off

The International Judo Federation (IJF) said it had canceled its May 20-22 Grand Slam event in Kazan, Russia, but in a brief statement IJF President Marius Vizer did not make any reference to Russia or Ukraine. "The International Judo Federation announces with regret the cancellation of the 2022 Grand Slam in Kazan, Russia," said Vizer, who has long-standing ties with Putin, a judoka himself.

Curling European C'ships shifted

The World Curling Federation Board convened an emergency meeting and stripped the Russian city of Perm of the European Curling Championships scheduled for May. "The World Curling Federation works tirelessly to promote its values of friendship and respect through the Spirit of Curling worldwide and we hope for a swift and peaceful resolution to the current situation," the apex body in curling said in a statement.

NITIN SHARMA
FEBRUARY 26

RUSSIA'S INVASION of Ukraine has prompted sanctions from across the globe. There has also been a discussion in the UK Parliament over possible sanctions on Russian billionaire **Roman Abramovich**, the owner of two-time UEFA Champions League winners Chelsea.

What led to the talk of sanctions against Abramovich and the future of Chelsea?

In 2014, during the Crimea annexation by Russia, Britain had imposed sanctions on 48 companies including 193 people and earlier this week post Russia invading Ukraine, the UK government added five Russian banks to the list apart from three Russian billionaires - Gennady Timchenko, Igor Rotenberg and Boris Rotenberg. In the UK Parliament session earlier this week, after the sanctions were announced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Labour MP Margaret Hodge said they had serious flaws questioning why Abramovich had not been targeted. To which Johnson replied, "I believe she is in error. Abramovich is already facing sanctions." On this, Labour MP Chris Bryant replied about possessing a leaked 2019 document from the UK Home Office which said 'in relation to Mr Abramovich that 'as part of HMG's Russia strategy aimed at targeting illicit finance and malign activity, he remains of interest to HMG due to his links with Russian state and his public association with corrupt activity and practices.' "That was three years ago and yet remarkably nothing has been done," Bryant said. Later, the MP wrote in his column in The Guardian: "The three individuals the PM named have already been sanctioned in the US since 2018. So, we are not picking off the minnows but allowing the basking sharks to swim freely. Johnson did not even know whom we had already sanctioned, claiming that Roman Abramovich was on the list and refusing to correct the record. We need much tougher, wider sanctions."



How did Abramovich's association with Chelsea begin and has there been controversies about the Russian owner before?

According to media reports, Chelsea FC had a debt of \$23 million prior to Abramovich buying a 50 percent stake in the club for 30 million pounds in June 2003. He later managed a complete takeover of the club for reportedly 140 million pounds. Since then, the club has won 18 major trophies including two Champions League titles. The Russian, who owns a house in England, saw multiple delays in the renewal of his UK Tier-1 visa amid tensions between UK and Russia, had withdrawn his application for a new UK investor visa, and currently has an Israeli passport. Abramovich's net worth is estimated to be around 10.7 billion pounds and is the 142nd richest person in the world - according to Forbes.

How can Chelsea be impacted by sanctions, if imposed?

Under the terms of the sanctions as per UK law, it is illegal for any individual, company or bank in the UK to 'provide funds or economic resources' for the benefit of the individual or firm that has been sanctioned. The Times reported that if Abramovich is sanctioned, it will be illegal for fans to buy tickets or for the broadcaster to pay to broadcast Chelsea matches. Chelsea's debt to Abramovich is over 1.5 billion pounds and finance experts are of the view that the club may go out of business if the government imposes sanctions against Abramovich. The Times also reported that the club is technically owned by private company Fordstam, set up by Abramovich, and it has underwritten the losses of the club.

Amid all this talk, Bloomberg reported that some investors and private equity firms from the US have shown interest in buying Chelsea, a club valued at around 1.5 billion pounds.

How has Abramovich been linked with Russian President Vladimir Putin?

While the Russian billionaire made his fortune in the oil trade after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. There have been talks in political and sporting circles that he has ties with Putin. Last December, Abramovich won an apology with the settlement of a defamation case over British journalist Catherine Belton's claims over his ties with the Russian president in her book Putin's People. It claimed that the Russian billionaire had bought Chelsea under Putin's instructions. Belton, who is a former Moscow correspondent for The Financial Times, had claimed in the book that Abramovich indulged in a corrupt relationship with Putin and effectively acted as his 'cashier'.

What has been the reaction from Chelsea players and manager Thomas Tuchel?

While the players have been busy training, Tuchel did speak about the issue of sanctions or about the club's Russian owner being on their minds as a distraction ahead of Sunday's Carabao Cup final against Liverpool. "I am aware of all these scenarios and I am aware of all these discussions at the moment. I would love to take my right not to comment on this until there is a decision made. But we are aware of it and it has been distracting us and worrying us. To a certain degree, I can understand the opinions and the critical opinions towards the club. I understand and we can't free ourselves from it," Tuchel said at a press conference. The 48-year-old also said that war in Europe was unthinkable for him. "The situation is too big. It's not an isolated situation somewhere, it concerns Europe, it's in Europe, and we are part of Europe. We feel that it is horrible and there can be no doubt about it. War in Europe was unthinkable for a long period. The impact is clear and the discussions have an impact," the German added.

As per *The Independent*, Sofia Abramovich, Roman's daughter, shared a post on social media saying the Russian president's actions were not supported by the majority of Russians. Sofia, who is a professional show-jumper in London, wrote, "The biggest and most successful lie of Kremlin's propaganda is that most Russians stand with Putin."

India land 1-2 blow on Spain with comeback wins

MIHIR VASAVDA
FEBRUARY 26

WITHIN The team, Navneet Kaur is hailed as the best player in one-on-one situations. On Saturday, the India forward showed why her teammates rate her skill so highly.

India were having trouble creating anything against Spain in their home debut in the Pro League. To complicate the situation for them, Spain capitalised on their dominant start and took the lead in the 18th minute through Marta Segu. India were looking for inspiration, and it came from Navneet, who efficiently goes about her business on the pitch, almost unnoticed.

Within a minute of restart after conceding the goal, Navneet found herself with the ball along the byline inside the Spanish 'D', on the left. Squeezed to the side, surrounded by red shirts and seemingly nowhere to go, Navneet, one would have thought, would go for the easier option and find a Spanish foot to earn a penalty corner. Instead, she went for the audacious, trusting her skills to slightly raise the ball, dribble it in the air, beat a couple of defenders on the way and play a square pass towards Jyoti Gulia.

It was a near-perfect execution of the '3D' dribble and all Jyoti had to do was tap the ball into an empty goal, which she did.

The move and the goal gave India much-needed belief against an opponent ranked three places above them. And even though the visitors enjoyed more possession and created better chances, India lived up to their reputation of being the ultimate fighters and kept denying the Spanish attackers, before Neha Goyal scored the winning goal in the 52nd minute on the back of some really smart work by Vandana Katariya to create space in a



Neha Goyal celebrates after scoring the winning goal against Spain in Bhubaneswar on Saturday.

Hockey India

crowded 'D' for the assist.

It was a remarkable turn-around by a team that struggled to keep the ball in the first half and was second-best in most situations. India had fewer shots, circle penetrations, possession and penalty corners than Spain at halftime. One of the main reasons they were still in the game was the ever-reliable goalkeeper Savita Punia.

From the time when women's hockey was largely on the fringes before it took the centre stage at the Tokyo Olympics, Savita has been the custodian of the side, literally and figuratively speaking. She was instrumental in helping India qualify for the Olympics after more than three decades in 2016. She, once again, was instrumental in ensuring the team reached Tokyo and in the Japanese capital, her performances under the bar earned universal acclaim as India narrowly missed out on a medal.

Even as the team goes through a transitional phase, Savita remains one of the pillars. The captain, standing in for an in-

jured Rani Rampal, thwarted wave after wave of Spanish attacks in the first half, most from the right flank, to keep India alive in the match. Her saves were crucial as Spain wore down as the minutes ticked by and were barely able to create any clear-cut chances in the second half, whereas India scored from the only opportunity they got.

The win meant India, making their debut in the competition meant for world hockey's elite, are still unbeaten. But coach Janneke Schopman would be concerned with the team constantly losing the ball inside their own half, and also being unable to win a single penalty corner. Despite these shortcomings, India showed enough grit to walk away with three points. But Schopman knows Spain will be unforgiving when the two teams meet again on Sunday.

Men come back from 1-4 down, win 5-4

The men's team, which was under pressure to perform after

a shock defeat to France earlier this month, looked on course to another embarrassing loss when Spain raced to a 4-1 lead midway into the third quarter thanks to Marc Miralles's hat-trick.

That, however, seemed to wake them from their slumber as Graham Reid's side staged a remarkable comeback to win 5-4, with Harmanpreet Singh scoring the decisive goal from a penalty stroke with just five seconds left in the game.

The win, however, will paper over a lot of cracks, especially in the defence, which has leaked goals against three different opponents in the last few matches. Before conceding four against Spain, India had allowed France and Japan to score five goals each in their matches in the Pro League and the Asian Champions Trophy respectively. With the midfield giving away the ball too cheaply and the backline repeatedly sliced open, the goalkeepers have often been left in a vulnerable position.

India have been made to pay for their defensive mistakes in the past. On Saturday, they were bailed out by the attackers, who entered the Spanish 'D' almost every two minutes and although they were not able to find the right pass that would lead to a goal, India earned six penalty corners, three of which were converted into goals by Harmanpreet, Shamsher Singh and Varun Kumar.

The courage to mount a fight-back from a losing position would please Reid. However, when the two teams meet again on Sunday, the coach will hope his defence wouldn't leak as many goals.

SCORES:

Women: India 2 (Jyoti 20', Neha 42') bt Spain 1 (Segu 18')
Men: India 5 (Harmanpreet 15', 60', Shilana 41', Shamsher 43', Varun 55') bt Spain 4 (Cunill 14', Miralles 20', 23', 40')

IPL: Dedicated traffic lanes for teams

DEVENDRA PANDEY
FEBRUARY 26

THE INDIAN Premier League (IPL) teams will be spared from Mumbai's infamous traffic snarls while they travel to the stadiums and training venues after the Maharashtra government assured the cricket board that a dedicated traffic lane for the tournament.

Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders will kick off the 10-team tournament at the Wankhede Stadium on March 26, with nearby Brabourne Stadium, Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium and Pune's Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium also scheduled to host games this season. Mumbai Cricket Association's ground in Bandra-Kurla Complex and Dadoji Kondadev Stadium in Thane have been identified as training facilities for the teams.

Given the travel distance between the competition and training venues, and the team hotel, the Maharashtra government has promised a separate road corridor for the teams.

The chairman of MCA's governing council, Milind Narvekar, said they held a meeting with the BCCI on Saturday, where Maharashtra's tourism and environment minister, Aaditya Thackeray was also present.

It is learnt that the Maharashtra government will allow crowds of up to 25 percent of the stadium capacity for the games, however a final decision is still to be taken.

MI and KKR will kick off the 10-team tournament at the Wankhede Stadium on March 26.

ADVERTORIAL

Enviro Control-Toshiba Water Solutions JV bags order for sewage treatment plants in Pune

India's first highest value single contract in water-sewage treatment sector

Pune Municipal Corporation invited tender for 11 STPs in February 2021 to improve the condition of Mula-Mutha river funded by JICA through International Competitive Bidding. A total of six bidders, all quoted in joint venture namely JMC Projects - Metito USA, JWIL-SPML, VA Tech- Patil Const., Enviro Control- Toshiba Water Solutions, L&T Khilari, and Tata-P&C submitted their bids for the project. After evaluation, the bid of Enviro Control-Toshiba Water Solutions joint venture was accepted by JICA/PMC for award at Rs 1474 crores along with 15 years of operation and maintenance of the plants. M/s. Enviro Control Pvt Ltd., is the lead partner in the joint venture. M/s. SFC, Mumbai will be the technology provider for the SBR projects.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to lay the foundation stone for this project on March 6, 2022. This project is planned to be completed in 36 months and shall be India's first highest value single contract in Water-Wastewater Sector of the country. Out of 11 STPs, two large capacity STPs of 127 MLD and 75 MLD at Naidu and Bhairoba, respectively, will have primary treatment followed by state-of-the-art SBR system with BNR along with Advanced Disk Filtration and Biogas Based Power Generation facilities. Other STPs will be provided with SBR with BNR followed by disk filtration. These 11 STPs will be designed to treat wastewater up to BOD/TSS levels of 10/10 mg/L and Total Phosphate/ Nitrogen levels of 1/10 ppm with the raw and treated sewage parameters monitored online through centralised advanced automation system.

This is a significant breakthrough for Enviro Control-Toshiba Water Solutions joint venture as they have secured this contract amid stiff competition. This project will be another landmark reference for Enviro Control Private Limited in Pune city, who, in the past, have already designed, constructed, and operated three major challenging plants including 130 MLD STP at Bhairoba in 2003, 115 MLD STP at Dr Naidu Hospital in 2010, and 40 MLD STP at Kharadi in 2013 for Pune.

Enviro is one of the few companies in the world to have more than 400 references in water, sewage, industrial effluent, and wastewater reuse plants across India in last 42 years on varied advanced and sustainable technologies. Enviro was established in 1979 under innovative, ambitious, and visionary leadership of Dr Nimesh Vashi, the chairman and managing director of the company; and the legacy is maintained by Dr Anand Vashi, executive director who has taken the company to the next level introducing efficient and cost-effective technologies to meet the client's needs.

Enviro has introduced many advanced technologies in India such as MBBR, IFAS, SBR with BNR, A2O, Advanced Oxidation Ditch, Ultra Filtration, Reverse Osmosis etc. Enviro has designed and executed maximum numbers for more than 50 MLD capacity of water, sewage, and effluent treatment plants in India. Some of the first largest plants executed in India includes 245 MLD Capacity STP based on SBR with BNR at Indore, 180 MLD STP based on ASP with diffused aeration at Ahmedabad, total 115 MLD net output tertiary sewage treatment plants with UF & RO system to supply product water to Industries at Surat, 100 MLD STP with primary treatment followed by SBR with BNR, and advanced disk filtration and 1.0 MWe capacity Biogas based power generation plant at Bengaluru.

Toshiba Water Solutions established in USA in 1973 and expanded its business in India in 1984 has executed over 450 EPC and O&M projects in 35 countries worldwide. The company offers services from plant planning, design, and construction to operation management and maintenance in both municipal and industrial fields.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to lay foundation stone on March 6, 2022