

The Indian EXPRESS

HER Stories of Strength

Together with

 **Meta**

POWERED BY



TECHNICAL PARTNER



Global Health Strategies

The women who fought, the women we must know.

Follow their stories on

www.indianexpress.com



APPLICATIONS FOR COMMON UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE TEST START APRIL

Common entrance test in July for Central universities, Class 12 marks won't count

UGC chief: Compulsory, only route for admission to undergraduate courses

SAKSHI SAROHA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE FIRST ever mandatory common entrance test for admission to undergraduate programmes in all the 45 Central universities will be held in the first week of July, UGC chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar announced on Monday.

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) is a computerised exam and will be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), which will announce the test pattern on

Tuesday, he said. The application window for the examination will open in the first week of April.

Admission to undergraduate courses in these universities will henceforth be solely based on the CUET score, and Class 12 Board marks will not carry any weightage, Kumar said. The universities can, at best, use the Board exam marks as an eligibility criterion for the test, he said.

This effectively means that performance in the Class 12 Board examination will no longer be a factor in admissions

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE TEST FORMAT

SECTION I: Languages

SECTION II: Domain-specific questions

SECTION III: Current affairs, general knowledge, numerical ability, logical reasoning and quantitative reasoning

* Upto 6 domain-specific subjects under Section II

SIMPLY PUT

HOW & WHY

PAGE 11

Level playing field or shrinking role of schools?

ARANYA SHANKAR & SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE POSSIBLE implementation of the Common University Entrance Test from the coming academic session evoked mixed responses from Delhi University college principals and the capital's educationists. The university's Academic Council will Tuesday discuss holding undergraduate admissions solely on the basis of the CUET scores, ef-

fectively doing away with cut-offs.

Hansraj College principal Rama said, "The cut-off system may have been an age-old practice but those times were different. Cut-offs never touched 100% so easily. We never understood what was the difference between the student scoring 99% and the student scoring 100%. With CUET, at least there will be a level playing field."

"It's also good that this is happening for all universities. It

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

'UKRAINE CRISIS CAN'T DIVERT ATTENTION FROM INDO-PACIFIC'

Australia slams Russia, says understand India's position

As with Japan PM, Modi discusses Ladakh with Morrison

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

IN A virtual summit Monday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison slammed "Russia's unlawful invasion of Ukraine" and said Moscow must be held accountable for the loss of lives.

While Modi, in his public remarks, did not say anything on the situation in Ukraine, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla later said Morrison expressed his understanding of India's position on the crisis in Ukraine, and that he and Modi were of the opinion that the conflict could not be a reason for diverting attention from issues of the Indo-Pacific region.

The two leaders also dis-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi looks at antiques returned to India from Australia, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

ussed the situation along the India-China Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and Modi told Morrison that peace and tranquillity in the region was essential for normali-

sation of Delhi's ties with Beijing, officials said.

These two topics of discussion — Ukraine and China — were similar to the discussion themes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

China airliner with 132 on board crashes, no word on survivors

K J M VARMA
BEIJING, MARCH 21

A CHINESE passenger plane with 132 people on board crashed in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Monday, the regional emergency management department said, in the worst air disaster in over a decade in the country. There was no official word on the number of casualties or survivors.

The Boeing 737 aircraft of China Eastern Airlines, which flew from Kunming to Guangzhou, crashed in Tengxian County in the city of Wuzhou, causing a mountain fire, the department was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency.

Hopes of finding survivors in the thick forests in the mountainous region receded as the night fell, making rescue efforts difficult. State television showed teams of rescuers armed with searchlights scurrying through



The plane plunged 20,000 feet in a minute. PTI

the forests in the remote mountainous area.

Boeing China said it was aware of the media reports of the plane crash and was working to gather more information.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BOEING 737 ON DGCA'S 'ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE' PAGE 19

BJP picks Dhami as CM again: 'He knows how to run a govt'

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, MARCH 21

ENDING SPECULATION, the BJP on Monday announced that Pushkar Singh Dhami will return as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. He is likely to take oath on Wednesday.

While the BJP bucked anti-incumbency to win 47 of the 70 Assembly seats in the state, Dhami lost to the Congress candidate in Khatima, a seat he had retained since 2012. Following

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami in Dehradun on Monday. PTI

EXPRESS NETWORK

BJP RETAINS PRAMOD SAWANT AS GOA CM

N BIREN SINGH TAKES OATH IN MANIPUR P 7

AZAD, 125-YR-OLD YOGA GURU AMONG 54 GIVEN PADMA AWARDS P 10

Harbhajan, Raghav Chadha, Lovely varsity chancellor, IIT prof among AAP's RS picks



(From left) Ashok Mittal, Harbhajan Singh, Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, Sanjeev Arora. PTI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE AAM Aadmi Party (AAP) has nominated former cricketer Harbhajan Singh, IIT-Delhi associate professor Sandeep Pathak, senior party leader and Delhi MLA Raghav Chadha, Lovely Professional University Chancellor Ashok Mittal, and Ludhiana-based industrialist Sanjeev Arora for the Rajya Sabha polls on March 31.

All the five party nominees filed their nomination papers in Chandigarh on Monday. With AAP winning 92 of 117 seats in the Assembly polls, all five are set to be elected to the Rajya Sabha.

The terms of five Rajya Sabha members from Punjab — Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (SAD), Partap Singh Bajwa (Congress), Shwair Malik (BJP), Naresh Gujral (SAD) and Shamsheer Singh Dullu (Congress) — will end on April 9. Chadha, who is the AAP's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

FINANCE FOR CHEEMA AS MANN ALLOCATES PORTFOLIOS PAGE 7

VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS



Strategy to Achieve Success :
Interactive session for Interview CSE-2021
with
Prof. D.P. Agarwal
Former Chairman, UPSC
Book your slot : www.vajiraoinstitute.com

MOCK INTERVIEW CSE-2021
Under the guidance of Eminent interview experts, Retd. IAS/IPS/IFS/IES Officers

Offline & Online
Modes available

Shri M.C. Gupta (Retd. IAS)

* Former Chief Secretary Govt. of Haryana
* Former Director of IIPA

Ranjiv Singh Dalal (Retd. IPS)

* Former Director General of Police, Haryana

Shri Anil K. Sinha (Retd. IAS)

* Executive Director National Institute of Disaster Management Govt. of India

Shri Arun Jha, IAS (Retd.)

Former Secretary, Government of India

Shri Skand Ranjan Tayal (Retd. IFS)

* Former Ambassador to South Korea, Uzbekistan

Shri Anil Kumar Upadhyay IFS (Retd)

Former Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, M.P

Mrs Sangeeta Gupta, IRS (Retd)

Chief Commissioner Of Income Tax.

Dr. Bala Prasad (Retd. IFS)

(Ex Special Secretary to Govt. of India)

Prof. R. Sharma

(Retd. Prof. of Political Science D.U.)

Shri M. Ramachandran (Retd. IAS)

* Former Secretary Govt. of India
* Former Chief Secretary Govt. of U.P.

Shri R. Srinivasan IES (Retd.)

(Retd. Advisor to the Govt. of India)

Dr. G.C. Srivastava (Retd. IAS)

* Ex-member Secretary 12th Finance Commission
* Vice Chairman Central Administrative Tribunal

Shri B.B. Srivastava (Retd. IAS)

* Former Secretary to the Govt. of India Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development)

Shri A.K. Mangotra (Retd. IAS)

(Former Secretary to Govt. of India)

Shri Anil Kumar, IAS (Retd)

Former Secretary, Govt of India.

Dr. Satendra, IFS (Retd)

International Disaster Risk Reduction Expert, Food and Agriculture. UNO

Prof. V. Gautam

(Retd. Prof. of Environmental Science & Biotech D.U.)

Prof. Satish Kumar

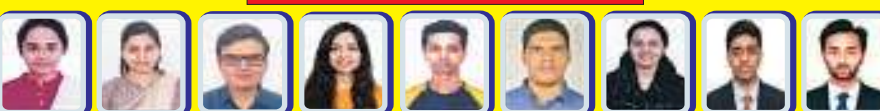
Expert of IR & Internal Security

Date : March- 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, April- 1, 2, 3, 4 **Registration :** www.vajiraoinstitute.com
Venue : Hotel Jay Pee Siddharth, 3 Rajendra Place, Delhi. **Call :** 81266-44-440
Whatsapp DAF to : 8126644440, **E-mail :** vajiraoredy19@gmail.com

Salient Features

* Personality analysis by Eminent Mock Interview Experts & Retd. IAS, IPS, IFS, IES Officers.
* One to One Discussion on DAF. * Performance evaluation & Feedback.
* Two mock interviews and one personal sitting with our mock interview experts. * The five members interview panel which consist of Retd. Civil Servants, Mock-Interview Experts, Psychologists and subject experts. * Each mock interview will be video recorded available to candidate for self analysis.

Our Super Achievers CSE 2020



2 RANK JAGRATI AWASTHI **3 RANK ANKITA JAIN** **8 RANK JIVANI KARTIK NAGJIBHAI** **9 RANK APALA MISHRA** **10 RANK SATYAM GANDHI** **13 RANK GAURAV BUDANIA** **15 RANK RIA DAB** **16 RANK ARTH JAIN** **17 RANK BARTHAH AGRWAL**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Near Nagia Park Delhi. Call : 011-42547314, 9999458938

Kesh Kanti

Herbal Hair Expert Oil

Scientific and effective solution for hair problems

- Repairs damaged hair within a week and grows new hair in 1-2 months
- Stops hair fall and prevents premature greying of hair
- Makes scalp dandruff free
- 30 precious herbs improve the growth and health of the hair

KK Natural Shampoo

- Improves the hair volume by preventing hair fall
- Brings shine to weak hair
- Moisturises dry scalp
- Reduces split ends and makes the hair stronger

KK Aloe Vera Shampoo

- Increases hair volume
- Moisturises dry hair
- Deep conditions the weak hair and nourishes them
- Hydrates the hair and protects them from breakage

KK Milk Protein Shampoo

- Gives nutrition to weak hair and stops premature greying of hair
- Repairs the hair and provides a healthy growth
- Makes hair strong from the roots and stops hair fall

KK Anti-Dandruff Shampoo

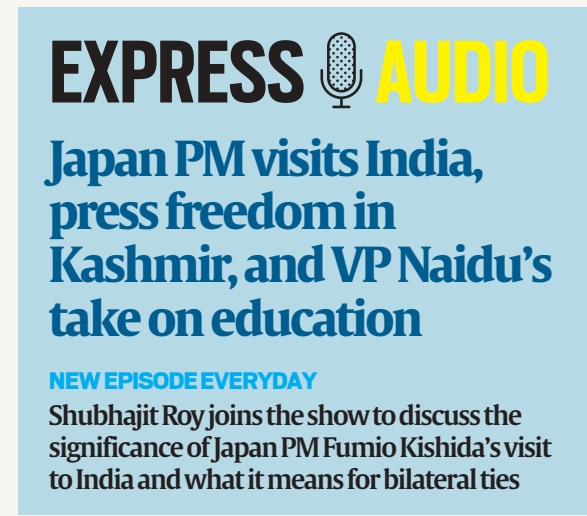
- Removes dandruff and prevents hair fall
- Nourishes the scalp and makes hair healthy
- Reduces dryness and gives shine to the hair

Kashmira Vaidya
(Jenex Apartment, Kalina, Mumbai)
mumbaikashmira@gmail.com

She is an actual user of Kesh Kanti oil and shampoo. Her hair grew two times longer and she also found solution for all hair problems. If you are a Kesh Kanti user who has benefitted from it, share your experience with us along with your photo.

keshkantiuser@gmail.com

Shop Online- www.patanjaliayurved.net | Customer Care Number - 18001804108 | Email ID - feedback@patanjaliayurved.org | Website - www.patanjaliayurved.org



Entrance test

sided the move towards doing away with any weightage at all of school leaving grades, anticipating an erosion in the importance of schools as institutions, "Unfortunately, many parents think of schools just as a medium to write board exams and get results. If universities stop giving any weightage to board exams, the culture of pushing children to tuitions and coaching centres at the cost of school will bloom rapidly. Schools aren't places of just academics. Children learn their core skills, values and reasoning here, but I am afraid that the importance attached to it will fall further. I will be requesting the UGC chairman to retain some weightage for board examinations and will also be requesting the CBSE chairman to appeal for this," she said.

DU had earlier said it would be doing away with its system whereby admissions were done on the basis of Class XII board exam results. However, it was not clarified at the time if DU would go with the CUET or hold its own entrance exam.

As per the minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held on March 17, candidates need to not only have passed the Class XII board examinations to sit for CUET. The decisions taken in the AC will get final approval in the Executive Council meeting to be held March 25.

According to the minutes, members said it will not be feasible to include any other criterion based on marks obtained in board examinations and that the eligibility criterion must be inclusive. "Minimum criteria should be re-phrased as the candidates must have passed the Class XII examination or equivalent thereto from a single recognised board," the minutes stated.

Members suggested that candidates must appear for CUET in only those subjects that they have cleared in Class XII. In case the

‘India’s stand on Ukraine understandable’

last Saturday between Modi and visiting Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. But unlike Canberra which said it understands Delhi's position on Ukraine, Tokyo has been silent.

After the virtual summit, it was decided that India and Australia will hold summits every year. At present, India has the tradition of annual summits between leaders with only two countries -- Russia and Japan. Australia becomes the third country -- this means that Prime Ministers of the two countries will visit each other every year, in an alternate manner.

Speaking at the summit, Morrison said, "Our region is facing increasing change and much pressure, and I think our Quad leaders' call recently, which gave us the opportunity to discuss Russia's unlawful invasion of Ukraine, also gave us the opportunity to discuss implications and consequences of that terrible event for our own region in the Indo-Pacific and the coercion and the issues that we face here."

“The tragic loss of life underlies the importance, of course, of holding Russia to account. But cooperation between like-minded liberal democracies is key to an open and inclusive and resilient and prosperous Indo-Pacific, and I welcome your leadership within the Quad to keep us focused on those important issues,” he said, linking the Russian aggression in Europe to Chinese belligerence in the Indo-Pacific.

Modi too spoke of the Indo-Pacific in the context of Quad.

THE AGREEMENTS

- Establishment of Gen Rawat India-Australia Young Defence Officers' Exchange Programme
- Similar tax benefits for investment by Australia's sovereign, pension funds in India as in Australia
- MoU on Australian critical minerals projects between Khanij Bidesh India Ltd and CMFO, Australia
- Letter of intent regarding migration and mobility partnership agreement
- Letter of arrangement between India and Australia for educational qualifications recognition
- MoU for cooperation and collaboration on broadcasting between Prasar Bharati and SBS, Australia

There is also good cooperation between us in the Quad framework. Our cooperation under the Quad demonstrates our commitment towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. The success of Quad is essential for regional and global stability," he said.

Last month, when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar travelled to Australia, he and counterpart Marise Payne had agreed on the Chinese behaviour along the LAC, but there were divergences in their pub-

Unlike its Quad partners -- US, Japan and Australia -- India has not condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and has been maintaining that the crisis should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

On Ukraine, Morrison expressed understanding of India's position which he felt "definitely reflected our own situation (and) our own considerations," Shringla said during the briefing on the summit.

"There was a clear sense that both sides understood where they came from and there was a great deal of comfort in the fact that both of us saw the fact that conflict in Europe should not be a reason for us to divert our attention from the Indo-Pacific region and that our position as far as the Quad is concerned also was on similar lines," he said.

Shringla said there was equal emphasis by both that the international order stands on the UN Charter, rule of law and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states.

The two leaders also discussed economic ties, and Modi said the conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) will be important for economic revival and economic security for both sides.

Morrison said, "We will redouble our efforts on our interim Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement to unlock new opportunities and benefits for both our economies. It will bring us closer to a full agree-

ment as soon as I hope we can achieve that.”

Shringla said India and Australia were keen to finalise the CECA as it will unlock new opportunities to expand bilateral trade and investment ties. He also said that the two sides are concerned about the situation in Myanmar and want protection of civilians and release of detained leaders and activists.

Modi said ties between India and Australia have witnessed remarkable progress in the last few years and there has been close cooperation in trade and investment, defence and security, education and innovation, and science and technology.

He welcomed the announcement of the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Critical and Emerging Technologies in Bengaluru.

Modi said he was happy over the establishment of a mechanism of the annual summit between the two countries as it ensures a structural system for regular review of the ties.

Stressing that they have made "great progress in defence, maritime cooperation, science, technology, clean energy" as well, Morrison said: "Our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, though, reflects the ambition that we share

and we hold for our relationship, and the pace and scale of that cooperation, since we lifted ties back in 2020, has been remarkable. But I am ambitious, as I know you are, to make it even closer, particularly when it comes to our economic cooperation, which I hope we are able to advance further today."

in real estate, housing, industrial and commercial sectors and has developed the Hampton Business Park and Hampton Homes on Luthiana's Chandigarh Road. Arora is also the chairperson of the Krishna Pran Breast Cancer Charitable Trust, which he founded in 2005 after his mother died of breast cancer. The trust provides free treatment to needy cancer patients.

Mittal, along with his brothers Naresh Mittal and Ramesh Mittal, has expanded the family business set up by his late father, Baldev Ra Mittal, who started with a small shop in Jalandhar Cantonment in 1964. The Mittal family set up the Lovely Professional University (LPU)—the first private university in the state—in 2005.

Ukraine teen

over 2 million so far.

Tall, lean and mild-mannered, the 17-year-old is wary of having his photo taken or even sharing his last name. "My parents are still in Kyiv," he says. He is also apprehensive about his future in Poland, even though the country has opened its arms to the refugees, offering shelter, jobs and education for children.

Gregory doesn't know Polish and is struggling to fit in. Then there's school. "Ukrainians who come here and do not know Polish are sent two grades down. I am in the final year of school but if I continue in a Polish school, I will be sent to Grade 9. I will not do that," he says.

On March 18, Poland's Education Minister Przemysław Czarnek posted on Twitter that 75,000 children of Ukrainian refugees "are already in Polish schools". Of them, 10 per cent are in preparatory departments and 90 per cent in Polish classes. "We estimate that there will be 700,000 children who can apply to Polish schools," he wrote. Czarnek had earlier spoken about ensuring that the Polish education system is not disrupted.

Gregory had hoped to study Computer Science in Lviv after graduating from school. Now, he does not want to spend two years in Poland studying what he has already learned. He is hoping that Ukraine will issue documents endorsing the grades of students like him, and that other countries would accept them.

Looking back on his journey, Gregory recalls that when they woke up on February 24, “we knew that the war had started” and his mother “said to me that you are going to leave”.

The family found out that some of his mother's friends were going to Poland in a car. She requested them to take him along. They drove to Uzzhorod, a city close to Slovakia. "The normal route used to take about nine hours or so. But it took us two-and-a-half days," he said.

Soon, they decided to move to Budapest in Hungary from where Gregory flew to Warsaw, to stay with his sister who is based there. In Kyiv, he says, his father is helping Ukraine's armed forces but "hasn't yet used the weapons" issued to him. The family had an online sports equipment business before the war, and used to create training machinery for alpine skiers. But all that is gone — at least for now.


Gregory's parents and grandparents wanted him to leave "because they wanted me to have a future". For themselves, "they decided that they will stay back and help the country in any way".

With Russian forces stalled by the Ukrainians just 50 km outside the city, Gregory is "scared for my family". "I speak to them every day," he says.

Asked about the future of his country, Gregory is clear. "We shouldn't agree to Russian terms. I think we should fight the war. If we continue fighting, it will lead to more destruction, but if we surrender, there will be a lot of destruction in the distant future."

Express Classifieds
FROM BUSINESS TO EVERYTHING

EXPRESS EDUCATION



LAW **AMBITION** Since 2001
LAW INSTITUTE

"Law is nothing but common Sense and logic"
Alok Kr. Ranjan
Headmaster

JUDICIARY FOUNDATION	
OFFLINE	ONLINE
25 April, 22	29 March, 22
Contact Us : +91- 8800660301/2140	

JUDICIARY WEEKEND	
OFFLINE	ONLINE
3 April, 22	3 April, 22
Contact Us : +91- 8800660301/2140	






IAS LAW (Online)	
Foundation	Test Series
21 March, 22	10 April, 22
Contact Us : +91- 8800662140	

CLAT/LL.B. (OFFLINE/ONLINE)	
FOUNDATION - 1 Year	FOUNDATION - 2 Years
26 March, 22	26 March, 22
Contact Us : +91- 8800660300	

Mock Interview
For
BIHAR JUDICIARY

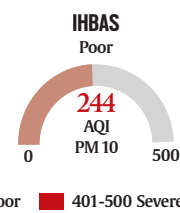
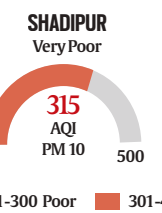
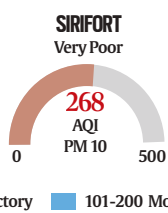
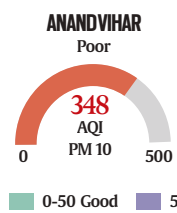
book Your Slot call 8800662140/0301

Toll Free : 1800 12000 2001

     **Ambition Law Institute**

B-10, 1st Floor, In Front of Meerut Sweets, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009

Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service
(M): 9212665841, 9212008155



0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe

S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: Mar 22
Clearsky. Strong surface winds (speed 20-30 kmph) during the day

MAX: 36 | **MIN: 20**
5.4 °C above normal | 3.5 °C above normal

Cardiologist sacked after death of 3 patients at Rajiv Gandhi hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

AN ASSOCIATE professor of cardiology, working on contractual basis at Delhi government's Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital, was terminated from service after the death of three patients with heart blockage earlier this month on orders from the Delhi Secretariat.

"... on recommendations of appropriate authority hereby orders the immediate termination

of services of Dr Praveen Singh, associate professor (cardiology) currently working on contract basis in Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty hospital," read the order from the government's health and family department.

Action against the doctor was initiated on March 10 before a committee was set up to review the matter. On why the doctor was terminated, hospital medical director Dr Sanjay Aggarwal said, "The order came from the Delhi Secretariat and not the hospital. The secretariat can

speak of the reasons."

Dr Singh did not respond to requests seeking a comment. Officials in the health department could not be reached for a comment.

The four-member committee was meeting for the second time on Monday and is yet to submit a report to the government. The committee is still investigating allegations of "medical negligence". "There has been no conclusion as yet, doctors are investigating the matter," said one of the members, on condition of anonymity.

The committee comprises Dr MA Geelani, professor of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery at GB Pant hospital; Dr Ranjit Kumar Nath, head of the department of cardiology at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia hospital; Dr Girish MP, professor of cardiology at GB Pant hospital; and Dr Ankit Bansal, assistant professor of cardiology at GB Pant hospital.

Doctors from the hospital earlier told *The Indian Express* that the three patients were very ill and were taken to the cath lab for stenting. They had said two

of the three patients died before the stent was placed.

Stenting is a procedure where a cylindrical hollow mesh is put inside the blocked vessel to open it up. When done in an emergency situation — like when a patient is having a heart attack — doctors try to reduce the door to needle time because the longer the blockage remains, the more the heart muscle gets damaged.

Two of the three patients who died were men between the ages of 30 and 40 years, while the third was a woman above 60 years.

DRDO scientist held in Rohini blast case was 'inspired' by shootout: Chargesheet

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Special Cell has filed a chargesheet against a 47-year-old DRDO scientist, arrested last December for allegedly planting an IED and bombing a section of the Rohini court complex.

The chargesheet alleges he was "inspired" by the Rohini courtroom firing last September in which three gangsters were

killed. The accused, Bharat Bhushan Kataria, allegedly wanted to take revenge on his neighbour Amit Vashisht and decided to bomb the place to "eliminate him", said police.

Police Monday claimed they have enough technical evidence against the scientist and will file a supplementary chargesheet based on the FSL report. The

chargesheet has been filed at the Patiala House Court. It mentions that the accused "deliberately" placed and triggered the IED using a remote trigger to kill his rival.

DCP (Special Cell) Rajiv Ranjan Singh said, "Sufficient evidence has come on record to establish culpability of the accused." The chargesheet also details how he made the bomb. **ENS**

New hospitals, health cards, emergency Covid fund likely to get lion's share of this year's health budget

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE BULK of Delhi's healthcare budget this year is likely to be allocated mainly to three projects — expansion of infrastructure, emergency funds for Covid management, and providing cloud-based health cards to residents, according to officials in the know of the matter. The budget will also carry forward the 100 mahila mohalla clinics project announced last year for which work was held up amidst the pandemic.

Last year, the healthcare sector received an allocation of Rs 9,934 crore, accounting for 14% of the total outlay.

When it comes to the expansion of infrastructure, the government will focus on ongoing construction of four hospitals — a 2,716-bed hospital at Siraspur and three 671-bed hospitals at Madipur, Hastsal, and Jwalapuri.

Nine existing hospitals will also be remodelled to increase the number of beds, as per the budget proposals in the works.

What is new is the construction of semi-permanent structures at Sarita Vihar, Shalimar Bagh, Sultanpuri, Kirari, Raghuraj Nagar, GTB Hospital Campus and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya. These can be quickly built and will last for about 30 years. Construction of the 7 structures was cleared by the cabinet in the second half of 2021 and was never part of the budget outlay. These will add 6,800 beds and is expected to take six months to finish.

"There was a lot of money being spent in maintaining temporary structures in places such as the Ramlila ground for treatment of Covid patients. The semi-permanent structures will increase the number of beds and last for years," said a government official.

The government will set aside



Last year, the healthcare sector received an allocation of Rs 9,934 crore. *Archive*

an emergency Covid fund, which can be used to buy consumables or pay additional healthcare workers in case of a surge again.

It is likely to reduce funding for the Covid vaccination drive, with all eligible people over the age of 15 already having received their first dose and nearly 88% their second dose. The government had set aside Rs 50 crore to ensure free vaccines can be provided to all Delhi residents; the Centre announced last June after the Delhi budget that free vaccines will be

made available for all and not just those above the age of 45 years.

The QR code-based health cards to store medical records of residents have also been in the pipeline and will again receive allocation, as per officials.

The official added: "Work on the mahila mohalla clinics could unfortunately not be started last year because of Covid. It will be taken up this year." These will work on the lines of existing mohalla clinics but will focus on gynaecological issues.

भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, पुणे
Indian Institute of Information Technology, Pune.
(An Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament)

भर्ती की सूचना

अनु क्र.	विज्ञापन संख्या	विवरण
1.	IIITP/NF_Advt/2022/3155 Dated: 17/Mar/2022	कनिष्ठ अभियंता के पद के लिए शुद्धिपत्र Corrigendum for the Post of Junior Engineer

विस्तृत विज्ञापन संस्थान की वेबसाइट "www.iiitp.ac.in" पर उपलब्ध हैं। कोई भी अपडेट या संशोधन केवल संस्थान की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।

सहायक रजिस्ट्रार आईआईआईटी पुणे

EXPRESS Careers

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
4/1, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg,
Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016, Ph: 011-26566107
Warehousing for Everyone

CWC CO-PD0RECT/5/2020-PERSONNEL-Part(I) Date: 17.03.2022
Applications are invited from retired Officials of Central/State Govt. and PSUs who have superannuated as Group A and B Officer to work as Consultant at CWC, Corporate Office. The applicants shall have to apply online for the post of Consultant through the Online Link: <https://cwceportal.com/Careers> by 01.04.2022. Further, details may be seen at our website: www.cewacor.nic.in

Assistant General Manager (Personnel)
CWC, C.O., New Delhi

Mumbai Port Authority
Invites applications for the posts of

(i) Legal Advisor - 1 post on contract basis.
(ii) Accounts Officer - 4 Posts on Contract basis.

Detailed conditions regarding educational qualifications, age, experience etc. and application form are available on Port's website www.mumbaiport.gov.in under "media/vacancy" menu. Last date for receipt of application is **06/04/2022.**

Secretary

MbPT-30-2022

HLL Lifecare Limited (HLL) a Schedule B, Mini Ratna, Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is India's leading manufacturers and marketers of Contraceptives, Health Care and Pharma products. HLL is now looking for value driven professionals with right attitude for the following positions:

Deputy Manager (Finance) | Fixed Term Contract

For more details and to apply, please visit www.lifecarehll.com/careers on or before **05.04.2022.** SC/ST/OBC/PwD candidates will be eligible for relaxation as per Govt. of India directives.

एचएलएल लाइफ़केयर लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का उद्यम)

HLL Lifecare Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
CIN: U25193 KL 1966 GOI 002621

Corporate & Regd. Office: Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram-695 012, Kerala

स्वस्थ पीढ़ियों के लिए ब्रावचरण | Innovating for Healthy Generations

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक सर्विसेज़ बोर्ड, मुंबई
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA SERVICES BOARD, MUMBAI
www.rbi.org.in

75th Anniversary
Advt. No. 2/2021-22
Advt. No. 3/2021-22

1. Applications are invited for recruitment to following posts in the Reserve Bank of India.

S.No.	Advt. No.	Posts	Vacancies
1	2/2021-22	Officers in Grade 'B' (DR)- General-PY 2022	238
2	2/2021-22	Officers in Grade 'B' (DR)- Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR)-PY 2022	31
3	2/2021-22	Officers in Grade 'B' (DR)- Department of Statistics and Information Management (DSIM)-PY-2022	25
4	3/2021-22	Assistant Manager-Rajbhasha-PY 2021	06
5	3/2021-22	Assistant Manager-Protocol & Security-PY-2021	03

2. For all other details such as eligibility criteria, reservation of vacancies, scheme of selection, submission of on-line application and other instructions, please refer to the detailed advertisement to be published on the Bank's website (www.rbi.org.in) on March 28, 2022 and in the Employment News/ Rozgar Samachar issue dated March 26, 2022/ Subsequent issue. Candidates can apply for these posts only by online mode through the Bank's website.

3. **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Website Link Open-For online Registration of Applications & Payment of Fees/Intimation Charges	March 28, 2022 to April 18, 2022 (till 06.00 PM)
Phase I online examination of Grade B (DR)-General	May 28, 2022
Phase II online / written examination for Grade B DR-General	June 25, 2022
Phase I - Paper I Online Examination of Grade B DR-DEPR / DSIM	July 02, 2022
Phase II/Paper II and III online / written examination for Grade B DR-DEPR/DSIM	August 06, 2022
Online/Written Examination for Assistant Manager-Rajbhasha & Security	May 21, 2022

NOTE: Corrigendum, if any, issued on the above advertisement, will be published only on the Bank's website. (Hindi version of this advertisement will be available in Dainik Jagran, Dainik Bhaskar, Rajasthan Patrika and Navbharat Times)

IDBI BANK
Advertisement No. 09 / 2021-22

Advertisement for Appointment of Chief Risk Officer and Chief Information Officer on Contract Basis

IDBI Bank Ltd
Regd. Office: IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai 400 005. Tel. (022) 6655 3355

Invites applications for the following posts on Contract Basis.

Sr No	Post Name	No. of Posts
1	Chief Risk Officer	1
2	Chief Information Officer	1

For details with regard to eligibility criteria i.e. age, qualifications, work experience etc. and to apply, please visit the Careers Page on Bank's website www.idbibank.in.

Applications received on or before 31.03.2022 will be considered.

NOTE: IDBI Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any/ all application(s) without assigning any reason(s) thereof.

Banks Board Bureau
An Autonomous Body of Government of India
Extends the last date of submission of application for the positions of

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

With reference to Bureau's earlier advertisement dated February 14, 2022 inviting applications for the aforementioned three positions of DMD in NaBFID, it is informed that there has been extension of the last date of submission of the applications, relaxation in the eligibility criteria and updation of compensation package, which are as follows:

Eligibility criteria and given Relaxation:

(A) The candidate should be of age not more than 50 years as on January 31, 2022 with education qualification of Graduate or equivalent or professional qualification of CA/MBA or equivalent; and

(B) Should have a minimum experience of 20 years in mainstream banking or financial lending business such as SCBs, AIFs, NBFCs or multilateral institutions of which at least one year of experience should be at a Board level position as on January 31, 2022, including part or whole of this experience in an institution with a balance sheet of more than ₹ 3 lakh crore as of 31.03.2021

(C) There has been some relaxation in the experience criteria in all the three positions of DMD. For further details, please refer to the detailed advertisement on <https://banksboardbureau.org.in> under the "Vacancies and Recommendations" tab.

Salary & Allowances: Total compensation (total of fixed pay and performance bonus) not exceeding ₹ 2.62 crore per annum.

Last date of application: 5.00 pm on 08-Apr-2022

For details of the other eligibility terms and conditions for each of DMD position, please see the advertisement on <https://banksboardbureau.org.in> under the "Vacancies and Recommendations" tab or on <https://www.sibdi.in/en>.

How to apply: Interested candidates can apply online through the link available on <https://banksboardbureau.org.in> under the "Vacancies and Recommendations" tab or directly at <https://www.research.net/r/DMDLPFNABFID> for (DMD - LPF), <https://www.research.net/r/DMDCFONABFID> for (DMD - CFO) and <https://www.research.net/r/DMDCRONABFID> for (DMD - CRO).

The candidates who had applied for the positions vide our advertisement issued earlier in February 2022, need not apply again, as their application is already with the Bureau and the Bureau will process their applications based on new relaxed criteria.

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

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान कोझिकोड
ഇന്ത്യയിലെ പ്രമുഖ കോളേജ് - പി.ജി. കോളേജ്
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT KOZHIKODE
IIM Kozhikode Campus P.O., Kozhikode-673 570, Kerala

FACULTY RECRUITMENT
ADVERTISEMENT NO. A-01/2022

IIM Kozhikode invites online applications from Indian nationals including Overseas Citizens of India for the following posts in Finance, Accounting and Control area:

- Professor (UR-01)
- Associate Professor (UR-01)

Minimum Qualification: Ph.D. or equivalent degree in appropriate subjects with first class or equivalent at the preceding degree and with excellent academic record throughout.

Experience:

Professor: Minimum 10 years of teaching / research / industrial experience of which 4 years should be at the level of Associate Professor in IITs, IIMs, IISc, IITIE, IISERs or at an equivalent level in other comparable Indian or foreign institutions.

Associate Professor: Minimum 6 years of teaching / research / industrial experience of which 3 years should be at the level of Assistant Professor or equivalent.

Experience gained while pursuing Ph.D. will not be considered. For more details, please visit the link: <https://iimk.ac.in/recruitment>

Last date of submitting application is 31.03.2022

Sd/-
Dean (FA&D)

Date: 03.03.2022



VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS	80
PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:	12
OXYGEN SUPPORT	
VENTILATOR SUPPORT	2

DELHI: TOTAL CASES	Total		Vacant	
	18,63,899		10,165	
	HOSPITAL BEDS		2,324	
	ICU BEDS		2,298	
Mar 20	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
	97	83	1	23,766
Mar 21	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
	108	98	0	22,079
Total	505*	18,37,247	26,147	3,71,15,457

*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA	Mar 20		Mar 21	
	Cases	1	N/A	
Gurgaon	Deaths	0	N/A	
	Cases	46	47	
	Deaths	0	0	

BRIEFLY

CM calls for plan to tackle waterlogging, drainage woes

New Delhi: To resolve waterlogging and drainage issues across the city, the Delhi government has decided to rope in consultants to prepare a detailed blueprint and implement the 'Drainage Master Plan'. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is personally monitoring the project, also held a review meeting to discuss the master plan on Monday at the Delhi Secretariat. The meeting was also attended by Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, who holds the PWD portfolio. "We have been working very hard to resolve Delhi's drainage and waterlogging problems. This is our dream project. We should initiate discussions with all caretaker agencies and ask them to let us have charge of transforming the drainage system. A plan must be chalked out for this purpose so that requisite approvals can be sought for," said Kejriwal.

Man 'cheats' investors of Rs 13 cr, held

New Delhi: The Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi Police arrested a businessman for allegedly cheating 55 investors of Rs 13 crore on the pretext of providing them flats in Rewari, Haryana. Police said the accused, Dinesh Sharma, was declared a proclaimed offender by a Delhi court in connection with two EOW cases. He was arrested from the IGI Airport two days ago. JCP (EOW) Chhaya Sharma said Dinesh ran a company called Asian Developers Pvt Ltd. He offered public flats and commercial units in Sector 2, Bawal, Rewari.

Tunnelling work begins on rapid rail corridor

New Delhi: The National Capital Regional Transport Corporation has begun tunnelling work at Anand Vihar for India's first regional rapid transit system corridor between Delhi, Ghaziabad and Meerut, said officials. Under this process, a 90-metre long tunnel boring machine has started constructing a tunnel from Anand Vihar to New Ashok Nagar side.

5 'Sarvodaya' schools to be set up in city

New Delhi: Five more government schools will start functioning as 'Sarvodaya Vidyalayas' — with primary and pre-primary classes — from the 2022-2023 academic year. Of the 1,067 schools run by Delhi government, 442 are classified as 'Sarvodaya' which start from either class I or nursery. **ENS**



Traffic movement will be allowed on the underpass between 6 am and 10 pm, said PWD officials. Praveen Khanna

WORK TO BE DONE BEFORE MARCH 31

Ashram underpass opens today on trial basis, finishing touches remain

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE ASHRAM underpass will be opened for traffic movement from Tuesday on a trial basis. The actual opening, however, might take a while longer as finishing work is yet to be completed by the Public Works Department (PWD). This could take another 10 days. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who took charge as PWD minister last month, had said the underpass will be opened to the public by March 22. A senior PWD official working on the project said: "The underpass is almost ready, and traf-

fic movement will be allowed on the stretch partially between 6 am and 10 pm. In the night hours, we will complete work that remains. Construction is completely done, only roof, ramps and other work such as constructing footpaths, repairing roads damaged due to construction, and a safety audit is left." As per officials, the department is targeting to finish the work, including the safety audit, before March 31. "The project is already delayed and commuters are facing a lot of problems. So, we want to finish work on time. Once it is done, a final date for inauguration will be announced by the government," said an official. The underpass will connect

Bhogal to Badarpur. "There might be some hiccups on the first day (tomorrow), but several commuters traveling from Faridabad, Badarpur, Ashram Chowk to New Delhi and East Delhi areas such as India Gate, ITO and Laxmi Nagar will soon have a smooth commute," added the official. Due to the construction, Ashram Chowk, Ring Road, CV Raman Marg, Mathura Road and inner roads of residential colonies like Sunlight Colony, CV Raman Marg, CRRI colony, Sukhdev Vihar, Lajpat Nagar IV, Amar Colony and others are heavily choked, even during non-peak hours. Nearly, 3 lakh vehicles use this road daily. Work on the 750-

metre-long underpass began in 2019 but was delayed by road closures due to the Shaheen Bagh protest, Covid lockdown and the construction ban due to pollution. Experts, however, said that the underpass may not provide major relief as work on the Ashram Flyover extension remains. Moreover, the PWD has also started repairs on the Modi Mill flyover and Mathura Road, which are alternate routes for commuters to escape the Ashram traffic. "There will not be major relief at Ashram Chowk due to ongoing construction work. A safety audit is always conducted before two-three months, but

the department appears to be rushing to meet their deadline. Besides, there is no proper crossing facility for pedestrians. The PWD should at least provide safe walking facilities as it is a busy route. Besides, signboards and crash barriers are essential and important for safety of commuters as well as pedestrians," said S Velmurugan, chief scientist at CRRI. Work on the extension of the six-lane Ashram flyover till DND will take at least eight more months to be completed. It is meant to ease traffic snarls on the Sarai Kale Khan stretch and provide a smooth commute between DND and Lajpat Nagar and Lajpat Nagar to Sarai Kale Khan.

Infant found dead inside microwave, mother questioned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

A TWO-MONTH-OLD girl child was found dead inside a microwave oven at her home in South Delhi on Monday afternoon. According to police, the child's mother has been brought in for questioning after the family alleged that she may have killed her. Police said they received a call around 4.30 pm about the incident. The infant, wrapped in a cloth, was recovered from the oven and rushed to a hospital by family members. DCP (South) Benita Mary Jaiker said, "We received a call that an infant was missing. Staff from Malviya Nagar police station rushed to the spot. Neighbours then informed us that they found the girl in an old oven. The cause of death is yet to be ascertained. We are questioning the mother and other family members to ascertain the facts and sequence of events." At the time of the incident, the child's father and other family members were at a departmental store that they run near the house. They alleged that

DCP (South) said the cause of death is yet to be ascertained

around 3 pm, the woman was heard allegedly beating up her elder child, a four-year-old boy. When they rushed upstairs to stop her, she locked herself and the boy in the room. "We later broke open the door and found her lying unconscious and took her to the hospital. Meanwhile, we realised that the infant girl was missing. The woman refused to speak about the child, and we got scared," said a family member. Speaking to the media, the baby's grandfather alleged, "I was sleeping downstairs when I heard noises. I was told that the baby was missing. We all searched nearby houses and lanes, checked tanks and rooms... After some time, a few boys went to the terrace and opened a room there. They found the baby's body stashed in an old oven... she was dead. We think her mother killed her as she was the only one at home. She was unhappy with the baby..."

Happiness classes, learning assessment: Plan to ease govt school students back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

WITH CLASSES moving completely offline from April 1, Delhi government schools will devote two hours every day for the first quarter of the academic year to foundational reading, writing, numeracy and wellness for students up to class IX. While schools opened on February 7 for class IX-XII and on February 14 for younger students, they have been operating in the hybrid mode — it has been optional for students to attend offline classes. However, from April 1, the option of attending classes remotely will be done away with and schools will go back to operating completely offline for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Once schools open completely, the focus till June 15 for students up to class IX will be on Mission Buniyaad — the government's foundational reading, writing and numeracy programme aimed at addressing students' needs at their respective learning levels — and the Happiness Curriculum.



The focus till June 15 for students up to class 9 will be on Happiness Curriculum and Mission Buniyaad. Archive

So far, both Mission Buniyaad and Happiness Curriculum have been covering students up to class VIII. However, as schools try to make their way back to recovery, the Directorate of Education (DoE) has decided to extend both to class IX students as well "as all their previous classes in the past two years were conducted online and they might need assistance to recover from the learn-

ing loss in the past two years". According to a 'two-phase action plan' designed by the DoE "to rebuild competencies of students after Covid", till April 1, teachers will go through refresher training on Mission Buniyaad, and baseline assessment of learning levels will be conducted for new students and those who have not attended school yet. Parent-teacher meetings will also be held to inform parents about the programme and encourage them to ensure regular attendance by their children. In the first phase, during the first 10 days, the entire school time will be dedicated to Mission Buniyaad, Happiness classes, revision of worksheets they had completed during school closures and library and reading periods. In the second phase, which will be from April 11 to June 25, two hours of each school day will be divided between 30 minutes of happiness classes, 45 minutes for Hindi reading and writing, and 45 minutes for basic maths. In addition to this, an assessment will be conducted every Saturday to track the progress of the students.

Coaching giants started prep for common entrance test much earlier

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

WHILE THE University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman announced details of the Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CUCET) Monday, major players in the coaching industry had long begun preparatory sessions — with several offering coaching for this particular examination for the first time. The scope for the CUCET has expanded several-fold for the 2022-2023 academic session. While it was the gateway examination for 12 central universities in 2021, undergraduate admissions in all central universities will be held only on the basis of their CUCET score from this year — making it the only filter for admissions for some of the most sought after undergraduate varsities such as Delhi University, Banaras Hindu University, Jamia Millia Islamia, University of Hyderabad and Aligarh Muslim University. Coaching giants such as Aakash, BYJU's and Career Launcher are among those who had begun offering preparatory classes and test series for this examination.

Aakash, which specialises in preparation for the JEE and NEET, is offering coaching and test series courses for the CUCET for the first time — but only for science aspirants. They launched their first batch on March 11, and a second batch is proposed to be launched in early June. So far, the institutes have been developing all the content and test paperwork along the lines of previous years' format. "We have designed and developed entirely new study material keeping the syllabus and pattern of questions of CUCET at the core of its development process... However, we shall be immediately making changes as per the requirements," said Anurag Tiwari, National Academic

Director (Medical) at Aakash. In 2021, the exam consisted of two sections — Part A which tested English language, general awareness, mathematical aptitude, and analytical skills; and Part B which tested domain knowledge. In 2022, there will be three sections — Section I will cover languages, Section II will have subject-specific questions and Section III will be a general test. Career Launcher had started its sessions as early as January, and this is the first time it is offering CUCET coaching as well. "We had been helping students prepare for some of the different entrance exams by central universities such as BHU and DU for some courses. Till 2021, CUCET had lesser-known universities under it. So this is the first time we're offering CUCET coaching and there is a lot of interest — a 50%-60% jump in registrations compared to what we had seen for the programmes for different central universities in the past. There are students preparing for other exams such as CAT and IPM who are also preparing for it to keep their options open," said Amitendra Kumar, product head for CUCET at Career Launcher. On starting classes far before the official UGC notification on it, he said, "... As an institution, we understand format as exact nitty-gritty of how much time, how many questions. What had emerged through statements by officials and vice-chancellors so far is that this entrance will test aptitude and subject knowledge, that is what we are covering. We started early because students are not going to have much time after their board exams to prepare." Other major institutes include Vidyamandir Classes, BYJU's Exam Prep, Unacademy, Pratham Online — offering up to 300 hours of preparation through online and offline classes and testing, so far based on the past formats.



Several centres are offering coaching for CUCET for the first time. Archive

More STPs, plan for 24x7 water supply on DJB agenda

New Delhi: Sewage treatment plants with a combined capacity of 239 million gallons per day (MGD) will be added to the treatment network by June 2023, as per a communication from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). Of these new plants, one at Okhla will be completed by December. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal directed officials to ensure that the process of taking sewer connections is made more convenient. "The sewer lines

have been laid across Delhi, but taking sewer connections must be made time-bound for residents. There should be no laxity in the process," he said. To ensure a clean Yamuna, all water that will flow into the river will be treated at STPs, as per the communication. Kejriwal held a review meeting with officials on the Jal Board's projects. An action plan to provide round-the-clock water supply to all households was also discussed. **ENS**

OVER 23,000 BIRDS COUNTED

In a first, bird census across 7 biodiversity parks in city finds 159 species

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

A BIRD census conducted at the seven biodiversity parks in Delhi last month counted 159 species of birds. This is the first such census conducted systematically together across all biodiversity parks in the city. A total of 23,907 birds were counted. The highest number of species, 99, was recorded at Delhi's oldest biodiversity park — the Yamuna Biodiversity

Park, near Wazirabad, which was set up in 2002, and has both forest and wetland ecosystems. This was followed by the Aravalli Biodiversity Park, near Vasant Kunj, where 92 species of birds were recorded. The Kalindi biodiversity park recorded 73 species, while 69 species were counted at the Tughlaqabad biodiversity park. Smaller numbers of species were counted at Kamala Nehru biodiversity park (66 species), Tilpath Valley biodiversity park

(59 species) and Neela Hauz biodiversity park (36 species). The census, conducted from February 23 to 26, recorded species like the Brown Shrike, Eastern Orphean Warbler, and Steppe Eagle, said Aisha Sultana, wildlife ecologist at the Biodiversity Parks Programme of the Centre for Environment Management of Degraded Ecosystems, Delhi University. The highest numbers were of the Jungle Babbler, parakeets, bulbuls and cormorants. The census helped to com-



It recorded species like Brown Shrike (left) and Grey Bush Chat

pare different habitat types — forests, wetlands, grasslands and shrublands, that have been recreated at these biodiversity parks, she said. How the birds occupy these habitats, and whether they are found in the upper, middle or lower canopy, was also observed. A total of 94 resident species, 57 migratory species, and five summer migratory species were recorded. The Purple Sunbird was found to be the only bird that feeds on flower nectar. The species counted is a very

good number, said M Shah Hussain, scientist-in-charge at the Aravalli Biodiversity Park, where efforts have been made to restore the natural ecosystem of the Aravallis at erstwhile mining pits. The parks are "re-established" habitats for birds, and the census indicates that they have provided the birds with the space for nesting and breeding, he said. Faiyaz Khudas, the scientist in charge of the Biodiversity Parks Programme, said data is being collected on mammals

and butterflies at these parks as well, and it can help changes in a few years. Ground nesting birds may decrease due to unseasonal rainfall and flooding of the Yamuna which can impact ground vegetation, he pointed out. "When we have data for a few years, we can see what sort of species are getting affected by climate change," he added. The biodiversity parks are spread out over the natural landscapes of the Yamuna river and the Aravalli hill ranges.

Sawant stakes claim to form government in Goa

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, MARCH 21

THE BJP on Monday picked Pramod Sawant, 48, as its chief minister designate in Goa, putting to rest all the speculations.

After the two-hour-long meeting of the BJP legislature party, central observer Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar said, "Former health minister Vishwajit Rane proposed Sawant's name for the CM post. The proposal was endorsed by all the MLAs. I heartily congratulate Dr Sawant."

Soon after Sawant was declared the Chief Minister designate, he approached Governor P Sreedharan Pillai to stake claim to form the next government with the support of the Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP) and three Independent MLAs. The move comes 11 days after legislative assembly election results were declared.

Sawant led the BJP in Goa in the recently held legislative assembly elections in which the



Pramod Sawant

party won 20 of 40 seats. He served as the CM since March 2019 after Manohar Parrikar passed away.

"I would first like to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, our party president J P Nadda ji and Union Home Minister Amit (bhai) Shah for giving me one more opportunity to be the CM and the leader of the legislature party. I am grateful to our party leaders for reposing faith in me again. We have the support of the MGP and we will together stake claim to form the government," Sawant said after he was declared the chief minister designate.

Though the saffron party's top leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, had endorsed Sawant during the

election campaign, BJP insiders admitted that the poll results led to former Health Minister Vishwajit Rane's emergence as another power centre in the state. Both Sawant and Rane were in Delhi on Sunday and met senior BJP leaders including Shah and Nadda.

Rooted in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Sawant is considered to be close to BJP general secretary (Organisation) B L Santosh and state general secretary (Organisation) Satish Dhond, who is known in Goa as the power behind the CM chair.

Along with Tomar, the meeting was also attended by co-observer Union Minister of State for Fisheries L Murugan. While the meeting was underway, senior MGP legislator Ramkrishna alias Sudin Dhavalikar and two independent MLAs waited at a hotel in Dona Paula near the Raj Bhavan.

While the battle for the top job was narrowed down to two contenders from North Goa, sources said in the 12-member cabinet, the party may pick four each from North and South Goa — the two parliamentary constituencies in the state.

THE LEADER of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, **ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY**, speaks to **MANOJ CG** on the calls for change by the G-23 group of leaders, rise of regional forces and the challenges before the party:

The G-23 leaders have demanded the Congress party put in place a collective and inclusive leadership and decision-making model.

The Congress since day one has followed a universal and inclusive model... Had the Congress been exclusive, there would not have been a national movement under its leadership to fight for Independence. We have our own constitution and we hold regular internal elections. In internal elections, anyone can contest. Moreover, anyone can bring amendments at the AICC (All India Congress Committee) session. So, the people who are talking like this now, did they ever move any amendments... When Mrs Sonia Gandhi is accessible to all, why are these people who have access to her talking through the media?

But they argue 23 senior leaders wrote to her in August 2020, made suggestions, but nothing happened.

All the suggestions appear to be very positive. But the way it was done... it was aimed at generating some controversy... They should have met her, placed their views... Mrs Gandhi allows divergent views, she never imposes her wishes.

As a senior leader yourself, who has a mass base, don't you think after a series of electoral losses, the party should explore course correction?

The fact is that this is the first time that the Congress is confronting a formidable political force led by Modi ji and Amit Shah ji. The Congress does not have any kind of regimentation of workers. It is a liberal democratic party. On the other hand, the Modi and Shah juggernaut along with saffron affiliates has unleashed a force that is ravaging rules and procedures and institutions without a care for ethics and democratic niceties. So, certainly our party has been facing political debacles, but the onus is



not only on the leadership. It (debacles) has to be analysed.

What has the Congress done in the last eight years to face the challenge you are describing?
Earlier, the regional satraps

of the Congress... were competent to guard their own citadel. But regional satraps of the Congress are being replaced by regional parties. There lies the crux of the problem. On the one hand the Congress's electoral misfortune, the Modi-Shah-led electoral juggernaut and, on the other, emergence of regional parties.

Shouldn't the leadership come out with a concrete plan or a roadmap?

Merely criticising the leadership is not a solution. That adds more fuel to the fire against us being stoked by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and other regional parties... The tone and tenor of the BJP is similar to the tone and tenor of certain political stalwarts of the Congress.

My question still is what should the Congress do now.

First of all, Congress leaders across the nation should sit together and have a threadbare discussion. Now regional parties are trying to carve out their own niche. So, we need to assert and exert ourselves in a manner that at least we can have strong bar-

gaining power. Without acquiring bargaining power, we cannot even discuss with the regional parties.. Assertion should be the mantra of the Congress now.

Do you think the Congress should reach out to regional parties for a national-level alliance?

Yes, we need to have an electoral alliance with regional parties. But the fact is, if we do not have bargaining power, who will accept our share, our demands?

You need to win elections to get that bargaining power.

Each and every party has its own rise and fall in its destiny. Vicissitude is the norm of any party. Wasn't the Congress party able to win elections in 2018 under Rahul Gandhi?... Bargaining power has to be achieved by strengthening the organisation... If we think that regional parties will grace us to capture power, I think we live in a fool's paradise. Not by grace but by strength.

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

MANIPUR



Manipur CM Biren Singh with BJP president J P Nadda at his swearing-in ceremony in Imphal on Monday. P71

Biren takes oath as CM for second term

JIMMY LEIVON
IMPHAL, MARCH 21

N BIREN Singh was sworn in as the chief minister of Manipur for the second consecutive term on Monday. The oath of office was administered by Manipur Governor La. Ganesan at the Raj Bhawan in Imphal.

Further, four BJP MLAs – Th Biswajit Singh, Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Govindas Konthoujam and Nemcha Kipgen – and Naga People's Front (NPF) leader Awangbou Newmai were appointed as cabinet ministers.

Addressing the media after the oath-taking ceremony, Biren Singh said: "I will work day and night to uproot corruption from the state. Secondly, I will wipe out drug-related issues and also bring all the

insurgent groups operating in the state to the negotiating table."

Asked when the ministry would be expanded, Biren Singh said: "It will take place very soon."

The chief minister also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and fellow MLAs for their decision to make him the leader of the BJP legislature party.

The ceremony was attended by BJP president J P Nadda, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sharma, Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb, MLAs from different parties, BJP leaders and senior bureaucrats.

In the recently held Assembly polls, the BJP won an absolute majority by winning 32 seats in the 60-member House. The JD(U), the NPF, the Kuki People's Alliance (KPA) and two Independent MLAs have extended their unconditional support to the saffron party.

PUNJAB CM ALLOTS PORTFOLIOS

Mann keeps Home, Cheema gets Finance

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 21



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Bhagwant Mann Monday allocated portfolios to his Cabinet colleagues, keeping 27 departments, including the Home, with himself while giving Finance to two-time MLA and former Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema.

Traditionally in Punjab, Home, Vigilance and Personnel departments used to remain with the CM. However, in a deviation from the past, Mann's predecessor Charanjit Singh Channi had allocated Home to Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, who was also one of the two deputy chief ministers.

Two-time MLA from Dirba Harpal Singh Cheema has been given the Finance, Planning, Programme Implementation, Excise and Taxation, and Cooperation. The departments assume significance as the AAP has come to power by promising, among others, to fill the near-empty coffers.

Dr Baljit Kaur, the lone woman minister in the Cabinet, has been allocated Social Security, Women and Child Development and Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities.

Harbhajan Singh is the new PWD and Power minister. He has the unenviable task of fulfilling the party's pre-poll promise of

300 units of free power to every household.

Dr Vijay Singla, a dentist-turned-politician, has been given Health and Family Welfare, Medical Education and Research departments. Lal Chand Kataruchak has been given the departments of Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Forests and Wildlife.

Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer has been handed the departments of Education, Sports and Youth Services and Higher Education.

Kuldip Singh Dhaliwal is the Rural Development & Panchayats minister. He will also hold the charge of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, and Dairy Development and NRI Affairs departments.

The key Transport department has been given to Laljit Singh Bhullar.

Brahm Shankar Jimpa is the Water Resources minister. Harjot Bains, a Punjab and Haryana High Court lawyer, has been given Legal and Legislative Affairs, Mines and Geology, Tourism and Cultural Affairs and Jails.



Save Water, Save Tomorrow




“‘Catch the Rain’ is a phenomenal campaign and visionary concept which will strengthen the rainwater conservation for the generations to come.”
- Narendra Modi



WORLD WATER DAY

22nd March, 2022



Har Ghar Jal Jal Jeevan Mission


Let's make water conservation a mass movement to save every drop of water

Haryana Water Resources Authority



Public Health Engineering Department, Haryana

Irrigation & Water Resources Department, Haryana

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

www.prharyana.gov.in |

8 IN PARLIAMENT

BUDGET SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I have renamed Nitin Gadkari as Spiderman. Like Spiderman, he too has spun a web of roads across the country.”

TAPIR GAO, BJP MP from Arunachal

5 QUESTIONS

KARTI PCHIDAMBARAM, CONGRESS MP



FROM TAMIL NADU, HAS RAISED THE ISSUE OF LACK OF SOCIAL SECURITY

PROTECTION FOR GIG WORKERS. HE SPOKE TO LIZ MATHEW

What is your concern about the gig workers?

In the gig economy, there is an informal relation between the employer and the worker, and the latter is not considered a formal employee. We have around 13 million people in this sector and they do not have any security like formal employees do. The app-based delivery companies put a lot of pressure on them to deliver in a stipulated time. This leads to rash driving etc.

You mentioned the absence of insurance for these workers.

It's a serious issue. During Covid, one such employee, Salil Tripathy, died in an accident... there would be many such instances. The companies do not provide them insurance, and insurance companies cite a number of rules such as 'the vehicle was not meant for commercial or delivery purpose' to deny insurance coverage to them.

You also talked about the poor working conditions.

They do not have stipulated working hours and, due to their personal economic situation, they work long shifts. They have this pressure to have a quicker Turnaround Time (TAT) in order to boost the valuation of the companies that technically do not employ them, resulting in tragedies.

The lockdown period brought a lot of attention to this sector.

I do not think it made any difference. I have not seen any evidence to say these large companies have any intention to address these issues. The government made attempts to include the term gig worker in the Code on Social Security. But there is a need to evaluate the actual status of the implementation of the measures announced for them.

What is your demand now?

I want the government to bring in regulations for them. I have written to the labour minister about the protection and now I want to write to the transport minister that these workers are losing their licences for using their vehicles for commercial purposes. Insurance companies use this as an excuse too. I am also writing to the companies urging them to improve working conditions.

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA ADMISSIONS

Lok Sabha Speaker suggests all-party meet to take decision on MPs' quota

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

WITH THE MPs coming under pressure for admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas, Speaker Om Birla on Monday suggested that there could be an all-party meeting to decide whether the privilege for the people's representatives for recommending the admissions should be done away with or increased.

"I will seek the views of all party leaders on this. We will inform the Education Minister about the decision," Birla said in the Lok Sabha.

The issue was raised by Congress MP Manish Tewari who stated that the 10-seat quota for each MP is inadequate as every MP receives hundreds of requests from their constituents for admissions to central schools. "Each of us represents 15-20 lakh people and each constituency has at least 35-40 lakh people. Education ministry has provided us the privilege of recommending 10 seats in the central education institutions. I want to humbly submit that it creates a lot of inconvenience for us. Because those who are denied get angry with us. I have a request: either you enhance



Speaker Om Birla

the quota from 10 to 50 or do away with it," Tewari said.

MPs from both sides thumped the desk in support of the Congress MP's submission.

Responding to this, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the number of seats in the quota was even smaller earlier and there has also been some allotment from the central minister's office. "But the court also made some comments on it and it's a weird situation. Education is a state subject but these schools are open also to facilitate the education for the children of government employees whose jobs are transferable... But if the House has a view on

it, we will look into it. This House can take a view and the Speaker can give us directions," Pradhan said.

However, TMC MP Mahua Moitra said dropping the quota altogether would not be a good idea. "I represent an area which is on the border and has a lot of BSF personnel and a lot of people with transferable jobs. There is only one Kendriya Vidyalaya there. I am sure many of my colleagues face this trouble every year that the quota of 10 admissions should be increased."

"The quota of 10 admissions is very small. But to do away with the quota completely would be very difficult. There are some people in other areas where there are other schools, they can take advantage in areas like ours where there is only one CBSE school. People with transferable jobs need that. So, perhaps the ministry, for this Parliament Secretariat, can have a separate cell where those people who need more quota for admissions, can provide that. It would be very difficult if the quota is removed," Moitra, MP from Krishnanagar, West Bengal, said.

The Speaker said he would hold a meeting on the issue.

Panel studying marriage Bill gets 3-month extension

ESHA ROY

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

RAJYA SABHA Chairman Venkaiah Naidu on Monday granted a three-month extension to the Standing Committee examining the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment), Bill, 2021.

The Bill, tabled by Women and Child Development minister Smriti Irani last December, aims to raise the legal age of marriage of women in the country to 21 years from the present 18 years.

Referred to the Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports Affairs by Naidu, the Bill, which has received objections from women and child rights experts, was to present its report in the current session of the House, by March 24.

The extension was on the request of Committee Chairman Vinay Sahasrabudhe. The panel will now submit its findings to Parliament by June 24.

The law prescribes a minimum age of marriage to essentially outlaw child marriages and prevent the abuse of minors. Personal laws of various religions that deal with marriage have their own standards, often reflecting custom. The amendment in the Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006, is proposed to extend to all communities, irrespective of religion.

While minority organisations have not objected to raising the legal age of marriage for women, they have expressed concern over the infringement of the rights of the minorities in deciding their own code for marriages within their communities.

Child and Women's rights activists, as well as population and family planning experts, have not been in favour of the Bill either, saying it would push a large portion of the population into illegal marriages.

They contend that even with the current legal age of marriage being 18 years, child marriages have continued to take place in India.



Ministers Hardeep Singh Puri and Mansukh Mandaviya outside the Parliament House on Monday. Amit Mehra

Two foreign institutes want campuses in India: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

TWO FOREIGN higher education institutes, based out of Italy and France, are interested in setting up campuses in India, the government told Lok Sabha on Monday.

According to a written response furnished by Union Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar, Milan-based institute of fashion and design Istituto Marangoni, which opened in a branch in Mumbai in 2017, has expressed interest to establish a "foreign, fully independent Higher Education Institute of Fashion and Design in India".

Without naming the French institute, the response added, "Ministry of External Affairs has informed that the French side has expressed interest in setting up a university campus for higher education courses in

India."

"International campuses will give students from India and neighbouring countries exposure to quality education of global standards," it added.

The National Education Policy, 2020 states that top universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India.

"A legislative framework facilitating such entry will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India," states the NEP 2020.

During the Budget speech 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also announced that world class foreign universities and institutions will be allowed in the Gujarat International Finance-Tec (GIFT) city — an under-construction business district in Gujarat's Gandhinagar — among others.

UP MLC polls: BJP nominates historysheeter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, MARCH 21

THE BJP has fielded historysheeter and former BSP MLC Vineet Singh alias Shyam Narayan Singh and a close associate of strongman Dhananjay Singh in the Legislative Council polls.

The BJP, which had so far released the names of the 30 candidates, released the names of the remaining six candidates for the April 9 polls to the Upper House of the Assembly.

The party has fielded Vineet Singh from Mirzapur-Sonbhadra local authorities constituency. Vineet Singh has several criminal cases pending against him and is a historysheeter in the records of Chopalpur police station in Varanasi district.

Sources in the BJP said that Vineet Singh had joined the BJP during 2019 Lok Sabha elections. He had contested the 2017 Assembly elections from Saiyadraja seat in Chandauli as a BSP nominee when he was lodged in a Ranchi jail in connection with a kidnapping case. He had finished second in that election.

From Jaunpur Local Authorities constituency, the BJP has fielded sitting BSP MLC Brijesh Singh 'Prinshu', a close associate of strongman Dhananjay Singh.

Dhananjay Singh contested the just concluded Assembly polls from Malhani seat in Jaunpur district as a Janata Dal (United) candidate. He finished second against the SP candidate, while BJP came fourth.

Shringla discusses Ukraine with visiting top US official

SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

IN THE first high-level political visit since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Monday met his counterpart, the visiting US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, and discussed the "situation in Ukraine", a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Called the Foreign Office consultations, the MEA said this provided a "valuable opportunity" to discuss contemporary regional issues pertaining to South Asia, the Indo-Pacific region, West Asia, and the situation in Ukraine, among others.

"Foreign Secretary Shringla and Under Secretary of State Nuland agreed to maintain regular dialogue and consultations on regional issues," the MEA said.

Nuland is a highly experienced diplomat and was Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs (2013-2017), US State Department spokesperson (2011-2013) and US ambassador to NATO (2005-2008).

Nuland was the lead US point person for establishing loan guarantees to Ukraine, including a \$1 billion loan guarantee in 2014, and the provisions of non-lethal assistance to the Ukrainian military and border guard. While serving as the Department of State's lead diplomat on the Ukraine crisis, Nuland pushed European allies to take a harder line on Russian expansionism.

This is the first high-level political visit from Washington since Russia invaded



Foreign Secretary Harsh V Shringla with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Victoria Nuland. Twitter@MEAIndia

Ukraine on February 24. Her visit comes at a time when Washington has been asking India to take a tougher line with Russia.

As she and Shringla co-chaired the India-US Foreign Office Consultations on Monday, they reviewed progress in various domains under the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership following up on PM Modi's discussions with US President Joe Biden in Washington DC in September 2021.

"Both sides welcomed regular high-level dialogue and engagement, including productive meetings of bilateral mechanisms which led to intensifying of cooperation across all pillars of the bilateral agenda," the MEA statement said, adding that both sides reaffirmed their commitment to a free, open, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

In Bihar, BJP whips ally VIP with decision to fight bypoll

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, MARCH 21

THE ALREADY strained relation between the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) constituents Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) has taken a bitter turn with the saffron party deciding to field its candidate for the Bochaha (Muzaffarpur) bypoll, necessitated following the death of VIP legislator Musafir Paswan.

VIP chief and Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Mukesh Sahani got yet another jolt on Monday when Musafir's son Amar Paswan, whom the party had promised ticket from Bochaha, crossed over to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). It would now be a contest between BJP's Baby Kumari and likely RJD candidate Amar Paswan.

Sahani had first antagonised the BJP by contesting over 50 seats in Uttar Pradesh and then deciding to contest seven MLC seats in April, where the BJP has fielded candidates. Sahani was considering his party to be the natural claimant of the Bochaha seat in the bypoll, but the BJP decided to take on the Mallah leader.

After the death of Musafir, the VIP now has three MLAs, two of whom are said to be close to the BJP. Given the circumstances, the VIP cannot walk out of the NDA. By deciding to contest the Bochaha bypoll, the BJP intends to weaken the OBC leader further.

Sahani, who is in Delhi, has been reportedly trying to buy peace with the BJP. Earlier, he had also met Bihar Chief Minister Nitish

For 10 years, zero defence purchases: Sitharaman in RS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

DEFENCE PROCUREMENT under the UPALed government was nil for 10 years, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday during a debate in the Rajya Sabha on supplementary spending for the current fiscal.

"For people, who are worried about the basic essentials for Defence, for soldiers, for their guns, for their bulletproof jackets, for the bullets, for the carbines and even for fighter aircraft, I want to tell that 10 years of Indian Defence history recorded nil purchases. Sir, 10 years were lost. After 2014, rapidly, we had to buy from pin to aircraft, everything," Sitharaman said.

Defending the government's proposal to cut interest rate on employees' provident fund deposits to over four-decade low of 8.1 per cent, Sitharaman said the rate is dictated by today's realities where interest rate on other small saving instruments was even lower.

She said the decision to lower the interest rate was taken by the central board of the provident fund managing body, EPFO, which has representatives of all stakeholders, including employee unions.

"The EPFO has a Central Board that takes the call on the rate. It has cut the rate down from 8.4 per cent to 8.1 per cent. I just want to lay these facts before the House that the EPFO Central Board, which has representatives from various stakeholders for the Pension Fund, the Employees Pension Fund, has taken a call. Forty years, it has not been brought down. Yes, forty years! There are today's realities which do keep us in the con-



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrives in Parliament on Monday. Amit Mehra

text of decisions which are being taken by the Central Board of the EPFO. It has yet to come to the Finance Ministry for approval. But the fact remains, these are the rates which are prevailing today and it is still higher than the rest of them," she added.

Later, the House returned a money Bill moved by Finance Minister, authorising the government for payment and appropriation of certain sums from the Consolidated Fund for the financial year 2021-22.

The Upper House of Parliament also returned another Appropriation Bill for the expenditure done in the 2018-19 financial year. Both the Appropriation Bills were passed by the Lok Sabha earlier.

Opp targets govt over road quality, toll transparency

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE OPPOSITION took on the government over accidents on highways, transparency in toll collection and quality of the construction in Lok Sabha on Monday.

Taking part in the discussion on the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said every hour there are 35 accidents on highways and that the government should construct trauma centres along the highways. "If you would not construct trauma centres, you would not be able to save lives of accident victims," he said, adding that inadequate maintenance affects the country's GDP also.

Amid increasing aggression of China in Arunachal Pradesh, there is a need for improving road infrastructure in the north-eastern states, he said, adding that to meet the construction target of 25,000 km of NHs in the next fiscal year, construction pace has to be increased to 68 km per day, otherwise "you would not" be able to meet this humongous target.

He said along with increasing pace of construction of new highways, the ministry should

focus on the quality of roads also. "After the NDA government came to power in 2014, the ministry approved approximately 72,000 km of state roads to be declared as national highways...doodh me toh paani zarur milaya hua hai (there is definitely water mixed in milk)."

Several Opposition leaders, however, also praised the work of Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari while also highlighting concerns such as quality of roads, their maintenance and alleged lack of transparency in toll collection.

Participating in the discussion, most MPs, both from Opposition and treasury benches, began their address by hailing the work done by Gadkari in the road transport sector and lauded his hands-on approach. BJP MP from Arunachal Pradesh Tapir Gao hailed road construction under the Modi government and said top car companies, including Ferrari, Porsche, Mercedes and Lamborghini, now participate in car rallies because of good roads in the state.

CPI(M) MP from Kerala A M Ariff thanked Gadkari for the development of national highways in Kerala in a time-bound manner but added: "I challenge the government to come up with a white paper on the toll collected so far as part of various projects in the country to bring the facts before the people."

Tharoor declines CPM invite for Kerala seminar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

CONGRESS LEADER and Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor will not participate in a seminar organised by the CPI(M) in connection with its 23rd national conclave — the Party Congress — to be held in Kerala next month. Tharoor declined the invitation of the CPI(M) after a discussion with Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Sources said the CPI(M) was not enthused. The party's general secretary Sitaram Yechury is learnt to have spoken to Sonia, pointing out that such decisions undermine cooperation. But the high command had little option since the state unit of Congress had taken a position against its leaders attending the seminars.

The CPI(M) had invited Tharoor and former Union minister K V Thomas for different sessions of seminars during the Party Congress to be held in Kannur but on Sunday, state Congress chief K Sudhakaran said the party has given a direction to all its leaders, including MPs, against participating in the seminars.

Tharoor, in a statement on Monday, said he has discussed his participation with Sonia.

He said he had welcomed the invitation because the event was a "national one and the highest forum of the CPM, organised by its Central Committee and formulates its national policy".

"I respect her (Sonia's) views on this matter and have conveyed to the organisers my inability to participate," he said.



‘SPIDERMAN’
PRAISES FROM fellow MPs for his approach to issues and the progress in the highway construction is not new for Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari. But on Monday, Gadkari got a new name. BJP MP from Arunachal Pradesh Tapir Gao said in Lok Sabha that he has “renamed” the minister as “Spiderman” because he has built roads “like the spider weaving his web in every corner of this country”. Gadkari was not present in the House when his party colleague gave him the compliment.

RARE UNITY
QUESTION HOUR in Lok Sabha on Monday was unusual – for the unity among the treasury benches and the opposition MPs over issues highlighted, unlike the mud-slinging that happens usually. Be it on the issue of Kendriya Vidyalayas or education facilities for differently abled students or the district administration’s hesitation in involving the MPs in the development activities, MPs from both ruling side and the opposition spoke in the same voice. While the MPs from both sides urged Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to include disabled students as a major stakeholder while making education policies, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi even complimented BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi for raising a question on online class facilities for differently abled students.

STF: Wanted UP gangster killed in encounter
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, MARCH 21

THE SPECIAL Task Force (STF) of UP Police on Monday said that they have gunned down gangster Manish Singh, who was wanted in several cases of loot and murder, in Varanasi. Police had earlier announced a reward of Rs 2 lakh for Singh’s arrest. As per the police record, Manish Singh alias Sonu was facing around 33 cases lodged at different police stations of Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Jaunpur and Mirzapur districts. He was also booked for attacking policemen. According to the STF, they were tipped about Singh’s presence near Harhua village in Varanasi district. “After police gheraoed the area, they spotted two persons coming on a motorcycle. When the police asked the motorcyclist to stop, they opened fire. Police also fired in return, in which one person got injured. He was taken to a hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. The deceased was later identified as Manish Singh,” said an STF officer. His associates, however, managed to escape from the spot.

In Rajasthan village where Dalit woman alleged rape, claims of a ‘Thakur feud’

HAMZA KHAN
DHOLPUR, MARCH 21

In the village in Rajasthan’s Dholpur district where a Dalit woman was allegedly gang-raped last week in front of her children, trust does not come by easily. When *The Indian Express* visited the village on Sunday, it found the woman’s house locked. Neither the villagers nor the police knew of the family’s whereabouts. Locals claimed the woman was a victim of a festering power struggle between two Thakur families in the village. The complainant and her kin are close to one of those families who have, according to some villagers, sequestered them at a “safe location”. According to an FIR registered at the local police station based on the woman’s complaint, on March 15 she and her family were returning from the fields in the evening when they were waylaid by the accused from one of the Thakur families. The complainant’s husband was allegedly hit on the head with the butt of a gun, and he fled to escape the accused. The woman told the police that two of the accused then raped her “while my children kept looking and crying”. Some of the villagers, however, said they were not entirely convinced by her version of events and alleged that she was “merely a

pawn” between the two warring families. The local police station confirmed that last year the complainant had got two FIRs registered against members of the accused men’s family. In those cases, the police invoked various charges under IPC, including for wrongful restraint and assault with intent to outrage modesty, and provisions of the SC-ST Act. But Dholpur Rural Circle Officer Vijay Kumar Singh, investigating officer in the case, said the FIR would be probed based on its merits. A 32-year-old who belongs to the family of the accused said the discord with the other Thakur family began on May 1, 2020, when the government started easing some of the restrictions imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. “We had a bakery and we had to shut it briefly due to Covid,” he said. “After the government eased restrictions for such units, we resumed operations. However, they (the other Thakur family) complained to the police and the police raided the bakery, and hit the workers with sticks. We then approached the gram panchayat sachiv (secretary) to raise the issue with him. In no time, the other side attacked us with weapons, barely an hour after the police action. They were apparently close to him since he was the secretary when their family had a sarpanch, and so

Looking at request of students back from Ukraine: Govt to SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE CENTRE informed the Supreme Court Monday that it is looking into representations on continuation of studies of students evacuated from Ukraine following the Russian invasion. “They have represented the matter. Government is looking into it and will be taking a decision on the matter,” Attorney General K K Venugopal told a bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana. The bench, also comprising Justice Krishna Murari, was hearing a plea which, among other things, sought evacuation of Indian students who were stuck in Ukraine and recognition of their MBBS degrees in India. The AG told the bench that the government had completed the “mammoth” task of evacuating students from the war-torn country. “22,500 students have been evacuated and nationals from other countries have also been brought. A mammoth task has been completed,” he said. Taking note, the bench disposed of the plea. “Prayer has been made so that studies are not affected. The Attorney General has assured that the government is looking into it. Thus, nothing survives in the plea and plea is accordingly disposed of,” the top court said in its order.

Naveen’s body reaches his village; Karnataka CM, others pay respect

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, MARCH 21

THE BODY of Naveen SG, the medical student who was killed in Ukraine earlier this month, Monday reached his village in the Haveri district of Karnataka after being brought to the state capital of Bengaluru. Many leaders, including lawmaker Shivakumar Udasi, paid their last respects to Naveen at the Chalageri village. Naveen, a fourth-year student at Kharkiv National Medical University, was killed on March 1 when he stepped out to buy groceries for his juniors. He was the first Indian to die in Ukraine after Russia invaded the country on February 24. Naveen’s mortal remains were received at the Bengaluru International Airport early in the morning by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. “Received and honoured body of our student Naveen Gyanagoudar killed in indiscriminate bomb shelling in Russia-Ukraine war. Thanks to PM @narendramodi ji & @DrSJaishankar ji for getting his mortal remains,” Bommai tweeted. Speaking to reporters,



A truck carries the mortal remains of Naveen Shekharappa Gyanagoudar, the medical student who was killed in Ukraine, at Chalageri village in Karnataka on Monday; (below) his family members at their home. PTI



Bommai said, “Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made an impossible task possible by bringing back Karnataka student Naveen’s mortal remains from war-torn Ukraine through his Bhagirath-like sustained effort. It is a historic job.”

The mortal remains of Naveen were secured by contacting funeral agents in Ukraine and it was embalmed. The body was taken to Dubai via Warsaw where it was given a zinc coating before being brought to Bengaluru. Naveen’s family has decided to donate his body to a medical college in Davangere. Naveen’s father Shekarappa Goudar, who confirmed the family’s decision to *The Indian Express*, said that his son wanted to achieve in the medical field but he could not. At least his body will help other students, he said.

Colour-coded uniforms in Bengal schools

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, MARCH 21

THE MAMATA Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal has introduced blue-and-white colour code for students’ uniform in all state-run schools, inviting criticism from the opposition parties, with a lawyer even filing a public interest litigation (PIL) against the move in the Calcutta High Court. The uniform, which will be provided by the government, will also feature the ‘Biswa Bangla’ logo, says the notification issued by the Paschim Banga Samagra Siksha Mission dated March 16. All district magistrates have been asked to focus on the “sup-

ply of school uniform to students” for which the Department of MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) and Textiles has been roped in. The uniforms will be made by self-help groups under the supervision of the department. “The Department of MSME and Textiles with the approval of the competent authority issued a specification for manufacturing and supply of school uniform, shoes and bags. The guidelines and specifications are attached for your reference,” the notification read. Earlier, the Mamata Banerjee government had undertaken a new colour scheme as part of which all government office buildings, including police stations, and public infrastructure

were painted blue and white. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation had also announced a property tax rebate for people painting their houses in blue and white. The ‘Biswa Bangla’ campaign was launched to promote the sale of traditional Bengali handicrafts and textiles and the Biswa Bangla logo was adopted as the state logo in January 2018. Soumen Haldar, the lawyer who filed a PIL in the High Court, said, “We have no objection to a uniform dress code for students. But why should it feature the ‘Biswa Bangla’ logo? We have appealed that school uniform should not contain this logo. The notification should be stayed.” The court is likely to hear the matter later this week.

AHEAD OF MORRISON-MODI MEET

Australia returns 29 antiquities to India

DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

AHEAD OF the Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s virtual summit with his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison on Monday afternoon, Australia announced the return of 29 antiquities to India. The artefacts come from different eras, the earliest ones dating back to the 9-10 centuries. The repatriated antiquities correspond to six broad themes – Shiva and his disciples (4), worshipping Shakti (11), Lord Vishnu and his forms (13), Jain tradition (19), portraits (22) and 28 decorative objects. The artefacts are primarily sculptures and paintings made of a variety of materials, such as sandstone, marble, bronze, brass and paper, said a government source. He said they represent a large geographical region in India – Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal. On Monday morning, PM Modi inspected the antiquities and thanked his Australian counterpart for the initiative. PM Modi tweeted: “I would like to especially thank you (Australian



PM Modi inspects the artefacts on Monday.

PM Morrison) for taking the initiative to return ancient Indian artefacts. Among them are hundreds of years old idols and pictures illegally removed from Rajasthan, West Bengal, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh along with many other Indian states.” Australia’s High Commissioner to India, Barry O’Farrell, also tweeted about the development: “During the year of India’s 75th anniversary of Independence, Australia worked with the @NatGalleryAus (National Gallery of Australia) to return 29 culturally significant

artefacts to the Indian Gov & people of India on 6 March.” The repatriated works include 13 works of art connected to art dealer Subhash Kapoor, 12 paintings and photographs given by the American Friends of the National Gallery of Australia, three sculptures acquired by the National Gallery of Australia in 1969, and another one acquired from art dealer William Wolff in 1989. Sources in the Ministry of Culture told *The Indian Express* that the ministry officials work in close coordination with the ASI and officials from the MEA dur-

COAL PILFERAGE CASE

Questioned by ED for 8 hrs, Abhishek hits back at BJP

PTI & ENS
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP and party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee at its New Delhi office for nearly eight hours in a money laundering case linked to an alleged coal scam in West Bengal. Abhishek (34), nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, entered the new office of the central agency in central Delhi around 11 am and left shortly before 8 pm. He was accompanied by his security personnel and legal team. Officials said Banerjee’s statement was recorded under the

Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and he was confronted with some “evidences” gathered by investigators. His role and links with other accused in the case are being investigated, they said. Abhishek, told reporters while exiting the ED office that he was a “law-abiding citizen and hence he has cooperated in the investigation”. “If they (BJP) think they will put agencies to scare me, to put me on the back foot, they are living in a fool’s paradise,” he said. He said his wife Rujira, summoned for questioning in this case on Tuesday, will “not be coming” as she has to take care of their two-and-half-year-old kid. She will send her reply to the investigating officer through email, he said.



केनरा बैंक Canara Bank GOVT. OF INDIA Undertaking		
RAXAUL BRANCH (2316)		
[Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)		
Whereas : The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice below mentioned date calling upon the following borrower to repay the below mentioned amount in the notice to repay within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers/ guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on following date. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Canara Bank , Raxaul Branch for below mentioned amount.		
Name & Address of Borrower	Date of Demand Notice/Amount Dues & Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Property
M/s Anjali Enterprises, Proprietor Sri Sonu Kumar, S/o Late Sri Vinod Kumar, Legal heirs of Mortgagee, Late Smt. Meera Devi W/o Sri Raju Kumar, viz., Sri Raju Kumar (Husband), Ms. Anjali Kumari (Daughter), Ms. Kanchan Kumari (Daughter) and Sri Raja Kumar (Son) all residents of Mahabir Nagar, Raxaul - 845305, East Champaran District, Khata No. - 09, Khesra No. - 913, Area - B-K-Dhkl: 00-00-04 Boundary : North : Mahfuj Alam, South: Shivrji Singh, East: Road 9 feet, West : Ramachandra Gupta	20.05.2021 Rs. 46,13,146.02 and Interest there on 31.03.2021 15.03.2022	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Legal heirs of Mortgagee, Late Smt. Meera Devi W/o Sri Raju Kumar, Viz., Sri Raju Kumar (Husband), Ms. Anjali Kumari (Daughter), Ms. Kanchan Kumari (Daughter) and Sri Raja Kumar (Son) all residents of Mahabir Nagar, Raxaul - 845305, East Champaran District, Khata No. - 09, Khesra No. - 913, Area - B-K-Dhkl: 00-00-04 Boundary : North : Mahfuj Alam, South: Shivrji Singh, East: Road 9 feet, West : Ramachandra Gupta Location : Mauja Dhangarhwa, Tola Pareua, PS - Raxaul, PS. No. - 10, Anchal Raxaul - 845305, Champaran District.
Sri Anup Kumar Srivastava S/o Sri Ganga Prasad and Smt. Sweta Devi W/o Anup Kumar Srivastava	25.05.2021 Rs. 16,72,468/- and Interest there on 28.02.2022 15.03.2022	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Smt. Sweta Devi W/o Sri Anup Kumar Srivastava, Ward No. - 2, Tumariya Tola, Rajendra Nagar, Raxaul - 845305, Khata No. - 142, Tazui No. - 951, Khesra No. - 149, Area - 4.0 Dhur. Boundary : North : Bharat Prasad, South: Nand Kishore Prasad, East: Shila Devi Baidar, West: Road. Property Location : Mauza - Dhandraerhwa, Raxaul, Tola. Pareau, Rajendra Nagar, Tumariya Tola, PS - Raxaul, Dist. - East Champaran, Bihar - 845305
M/s Mani Traders, Proprietor Sri Vikas Kumar Gupta S/o Late Sri Kailash Prasad And Smt. Lalita Devi W/o late Sri Kailash Prasad	28.12.2021 Rs. 13,81,474/- and Interest there on 28.02.2022 15.03.2022	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Smt. Lalita Devi W/o Late Sri Kailash Prasad, Village Kaurihar Bada Tola, Ward No. - 1, Raxaul - 845305 Property Location : at Village Kaurihar, Bada Tola, Ward No. - 1, Thana No. - 9, Tazui No. - 951, having Khata No. - 232, Plot / Khata No. - 118, Situated at Mauza Kaurihar, Bada Tola, Ward No. - 1, PS - Raxaul, Anchal - Raxaul, Dist. - East Champaran. Boundary : North : Ganga Bishuni Sah, South: Inaar, East : Road, West : Green Kishor Prasad.
M/s Dharam Shila Drug House, Prop. Pradhuman Kumar Tiwari S/o Late Prabunath Tiwari and Smt. Dharm Shila Devi W/o Late Prabunath Tiwari	06.01.2022 Rs. 52,16,828/- and Interest there on 28.02.2022 15.03.2022	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Smt. Dharm Shila Devi W/o Late Prabunath Tiwari and Shri Pradhuman Kumar Tiwari, S/o Late Sri Prabunath Tiwari, Near Sabzi Mandi, Raxaul - 845305, East - Champaran District. Property -1 : Khata No. - 167, Khesra No. - 211, Tazui No. - 951, Area - 00-00-04 Boundary : North : Mosomat Sikil Kunwar South: Hal Baidar Rampakur Yadav, East : Chandrika Pandey, West: Road 3ft.
Property - 2 : Khata No. - 167, Khesra No. - 211, Tazui No. - 951, Area - 00-00-04 Boundary : North : Khesra No. - 211, South: Mustariyan Yadav, East : Chandrika Pandey, West : Road Location: Mohalla Tumariya Tola, PS- Raxaul, PS No. - 07, Anchal Raxaul, Tazui No. - 951, Distt. - East Champaran	26.05.2021 Rs. 12,29,148/- and Interest there on 31.03.2021 15.03.2022	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in the name of Smt. Dharm Shila Devi W/o Late Prabunath Tiwari and Shri Pradhuman Kumar Tiwari, S/o Late Sri Prabunath Tiwari, Near Sabzi Mandi, Raxaul - 845305, East - Champaran District. Khata No. - 167, Khesra No. - 211, Tazui No. - 951, Area - 00-00-04 Boundary : North : Khesra No. 211, South: Mustariyan Yadav, East : Chandrika Pandey, West : Road. Location : Mohalla Tumariya Tola, PS - Raxaul, PS No. - 07, Anchal Raxaul, Tazui No. - 951, East - Champaran District.
Place : Raxaul Date : 15.03.2022		Authorised Officer Canara Bank

10 EXPRESS NETWORK

Most farmer unions backed farm laws: SC panel report

HARIKRISHAN SHARMA & PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
NEW DELHI, PUNE, MARCH 21



Anil Ghanwat

MONTHS BEFORE the Centre repealed the three controversial farm laws, a Supreme Court-appointed committee had recommended against their withdrawal, underlining that a "majority" farm unions support them and "a repeal or a long suspension" would be "unfair to this silent majority". The committee's report was made public on Monday for the first time since it was submitted to the apex court a year ago.

The 92-page report was released by Anil Ghanwat, one of the three members of the committee, at a press conference in New Delhi on Monday. Two other members of the committee, agricultural economists Ashok Gulati and Dr Parmod Kumar Joshi, were not present on the occasion.

Citing the feedback received by the committee, the report states, "The bilateral interactions of the committee with the stakeholders demonstrated that only 13.3 per cent of the stakeholders were not in favour of the three farm laws. Around 85.7 per cent of the farmer organisations representing around 3.3-crore farmers supported the laws."

"The feedback received by the committee through its online portal established that one-third of the respondents did not support the farm laws and around two-thirds were in their favour. The feedback received through e-mails also shows that a majority supported the farm laws. In view of this feedback, the committee recommends that a repeal or a long suspension would, therefore, be unfair to this 'silent' supporters," said the report.

According to the report, the committee extended an invita-

tion to 266 farmer organisations, including the protesting farm unions. However, the protesting farm organisations did not meet the committee. The report shows that out of 266 farm bodies invited, the committee "interacted directly" with 73 farmer bodies representing 3.83-crore farmers, of which 61 farmer organisations representing 3.3 crore farmers (85.7 per cent) "fully supported" the Acts. According to various official estimates, the number of farmers in India is in the range of 9 crore to 15 crore.

Besides, the committee invited comments on a detailed questionnaire on three farm laws on its portal, and it received 19,027 responses. The committee had also recommended "re-visiting" of the MSP policy and discontinuation of open-ended procurement, citing bulging central pool stocks.

The committee had recommended to make the MSP the prerogative of the states, providing for a legal backing for such procurements at their own costs as the recent Punjab Amendment Act does, the report said. The committee felt that instead of a blanket procurement of wheat and paddy, the FCI should instead put a cap on procurement.

The committee also deliberated upon to allocate the Centre's expenditure on procurement, storage and PDS of wheat and rice across states, the report said. The committee also recommended gradual diversification from paddy to more sustainable high-value crops, especially in the Punjab-Haryana belt.



(Clockwise from top) President Ram Nath Kovind presents Padma Bhushan to Ghulam Nabi Azad for public affairs; Padma Vibhushan to General Bipin Rawat (posthumous) for civil service; Padma Bhushan to Rajiv Mehrishi for civil service; Padma Bhushan to N Chandrasekaran for trade and industry and Padma Bhushan to Dr Cyrus Soli Poonawalla for trade and industry, in New Delhi on Monday. PTI



Maoists attack CRPF camp in Sukma, 3 injured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, MARCH 21

THREE CRPF personnel sustained injuries as Maoists opened fire at a CRPF camp in Chhattisgarh's Elmagunda area in Sukma district, the Inspector General of Police at Bastar said.

The Maoists used country-made weapons to attack the security camp. According to the police, the firing started on Monday morning, which was immediately retaliated by the 2nd battalion of CRPF.

"In the firing, head constable Hemant Chaudhary and constables Basappa and Lalit Bagh have sustained injuries. They are stable and have been airlifted to Raipur for better treatment," Bastar IG P Sundarraj said.

The Maoists, besides firing, also hurled locally made grenades, the officers present there said. "We are searching the entire area around the camp and the forest. FIRs have been registered and a thorough investigation will be carried out," Sundarraj added.

MEKEDATU PROJECT ROW

TN passes resolution against Karnataka's move to build dam

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, MARCH 21

THE STATE Assembly on Monday passed a resolution condemning the Karnataka Government's unilateral decision of going ahead with the construction of the Mekedatu dam across the Cauvery river, which flows from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu's delta region.

The resolution was passed unanimously by all parties, including DMK allies, Congress, MDMK, VCK and Left parties, and the Opposition AIADMK and allies, PMK and BJP.

The Mekedatu dam controversy was revived early this month after Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai allocated Rs 1,000 crore for the Mekedatu project in the state Budget. The project near Mekedatu, in Ramanagaram district, is proposed across the interstate river Cauvery to store about 48 TMC water.

Condemning the Karnataka Government's decision to allocate funds to execute the Mekedatu reservoir project as they neither obtained permission from the Centre nor consulted the states sharing the Cauvery water, the state Assembly urged the Union Government to deny "technical, environmental and any other clearance required for constructing the Mekedatu project by the government of Karnataka."

The resolution said: "The Cauvery water dispute is a long drawn dispute. What is being implemented so far is a Supreme Court order from February 2018 as a solution."

The resolution said: "This dispute is sensitive. So, the Union Government is requested to advise the Karnataka Government not to take up the proposal of constructing a reservoir at Mekedatu or at any other place in the Cauvery basin without getting the concurrence of the co-basin states and obtaining clearance from the union government."

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) was constituted in 2018. The resolution asked the CWMA not to consider Karnataka's detailed project report (DPR) of the Mekedatu scheme, which was not part of the Supreme Court, and not to grant permission for the same.

"Bigger" than the Krishnaraja Sagar project, the Mekedatu dam was conceived as a solution to ensure adequate drinking water supply to Bengaluru and to recharge the groundwater tables in the region. An expression of interest for the project was issued in November 2014 and Rs 25 crore was allocated for a DPR preparation in March 2015. The approval to prepare the DPR for the Rs 6,000 crore project was given by the Central Water Commission (CWC) in 2018, sparking controversy and escalated statement wars between politicians of the two states. The CWC consent for DPR was perceived as a move in favour of Karnataka.

Finance Minister B Rajendranath told the House it was "quite possible" the Naidu government may have bought and used the spyware.

"A senior leader and CM like Mamata Banerjee will not say it just like that," he told the Assembly on Monday afternoon.

"Naidu used all kinds of tactics against his political opponents. It is possible the spyware was used



President Ram Nath Kovind presents Padma Shri to Swami Sivananda.

125-yr-old yoga guru receives Padma Shri

New Delhi: Walking bare feet in the palatial Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan, 125-year-old Swami Sivananda received a standing ovation when he received the Padma Shri from President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday.

Before receiving the award, the yoga practitioner prostrated first before PM Narendra Modi and then before the President, drawing another round of applause from the guest at the civil investiture ceremony. Returning the greeting, PM Modi promptly bowed and touched the ground.

The yoga guru, dressed in white kurta and dhoti, knelt one more time while moving towards the dais and the President stepped out and helped Sivananda rise to his feet, after which he handed over the award and the citation.

The President was seen talking to the Swami as the two posed for pictures. Dedicating his life for human welfare, Swami Sivananda has been serving leprosy-affected people at Puri for the past 50 years. PTI

Andhra panel to probe if Naidu govt used Pegasus

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, MARCH 21

THE ANDHRA Pradesh Assembly on Monday passed a resolution to set up a committee to find out if the previous Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government had bought and used the controversial Israeli spyware, Pegasus.

The resolution came as the ruling YSRCP told the House it had taken note of West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee's comments last week that while her government had rejected an offer to buy Pegasus 4-5 years ago, the software had been acquired by Andhra Pradesh when TDP chief N Chandrababu was the CM.

Finance Minister B Rajendranath told the House it was "quite possible" the Naidu government may have bought and used the spyware.

"A senior leader and CM like Mamata Banerjee will not say it just like that," he told the Assembly on Monday afternoon.

"Naidu used all kinds of tactics against his political opponents. It is possible the spyware was used

Bihar deaths: Toll rises to 34; police rule out hooch as cause

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, MARCH 21

ELEVEN MORE deaths Monday raised the toll in the suspected hooch tragedy in Bihar to 34, even as the police ruled out illicit liquor as the cause in most cases.

The fresh deaths were reported in Banka and Bhagalpur districts, where the toll rose to 14 and 16 respectively, officials said. "In none of the cases, we got any lead that the deaths were caused because of consuming spurious liquor," Banka district magistrate Suharsa Bhagat said in a statement.

"The sub-divisional police officer conducted a thorough probe and, as relatives of those who died did not want a postmortem to be conducted, the cremation was done," the officer said.

In Bhagalpur only two bodies were sent for postmortem and the report is awaited, officials said. Bhagalpur sub-divisional police officer Dinesh Chandra Srivastava said: "There had been complaints of stomach ache and vomiting in all cases".

Bihar celebrated Holi on March 18 and 19. The remaining four deaths were reported in Madhepura district.

The families of most of the victims have blamed the deaths on the consumption of spurious liquor. Sukhdev Sah, whose father-in-law Dablu Kumar was admitted in a Banka hospital on Sunday, said: "My father-in-law drank liquor with some people on March 18 and later complained of nausea, stomach pain and giddiness."

JD(U) minister Jayant Manjhi, who represents Amarpur, under which Banka falls, has not issued any statement on the deaths so far. Neither has prohibition and excise minister Sunil Kumar.

One killed, another injured in separate J&K attacks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 21

A CIVILIAN was killed and while another, a non-local labourer, was injured in two separate suspected militant attacks in the Valley Monday evening, police said.

A police statement said militants barged into the house of Tajamul Mohi-ud-din Dar in Gotpora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district and fired at him. Critically wounded, Dar was rushed to hospital where he succumbed, the police added.

In the second such attack by

suspected militants on non-locals in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, a non-local labourer was shot and injured on Monday evening, police said.

"At about 1945 hours, terrorists fired upon a street vendor, Bisujeet Kumar, a resident of Bihar," the police said. "In this terrorist incident he had received gunshot injuries and was immediately shifted to SMHS Hospital Srinagar in a Critical Care ambulance where he is being treated." On Saturday evening, suspected militants fired at a carpenter from UP, Mohammad Akram, at Arihal village. He was critically injured.

Ladakh's plan to save its wolves: Stupas & insurance

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

OVER THE past couple of years, village communities in Ladakh have been building Stupas next to traditional wolf traps, committing to stop killing wolves. They have also begun creating their own local insurance schemes to compensate for livestock that are preyed on by wolves.

Now, a paper, "A community based conservation initiative for wolves in the Ladakh Trans-Himalaya", has been published in Frontiers, an international ecology journal, describing the success of the initiative. The Tibetan wolf is one of the world's most ancient species and is critically endangered in the country, protected as a Schedule I animal under the Wildlife Protection Act.

"We built long-term relationships with multiple visits before the conservation interventions were initiated. This helped us understand that the intention behind killing wolves was purely to protect livestock. We did not pursue any wish to penalise community members involved in hunting wolves, nor did we seek to



A stupa built next to a wolf trap (Shangdong)

destroy the Shangdong (wolf traps), which represent an important part of the cultural heritage," said Karma Sonam, lead author of the paper and field manager with Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), an advocacy group that is steering the initiative.

Shangdong are traditional trapping pits with inverted funnel-shaped stone walls, usually built near villages or herder camps. Typically, a live domestic animal is placed in the pit to attract the wolves. Once the wolves jump into the pit, the walls prevent them

from escaping. The trapped wolves are usually stoned to death.

In a survey covering over 25,000 sq km, the NCF enumerated 94 Shangdong in 58 of the 64 surveyed villages in Leh district between June 2019 and March 2020. Thirty of these had been used to kill wolves in the past 10 years.

The village councils have now begun creating insurance schemes, as part of a pilot project launched by NCF, to compensate for livestock lost to wolves. "Wolves hunt in packs and target even bigger animals like Yak,

cattle or horses, thus causing higher financial losses. Killing one horse would cost a villager between Rs 60,000-80,000," said NCF's Dorjay Rigzin, who is a part of the project.

The Wildlife department provides compensation for loss of livestock due to wolves, but not more than Rs 7,000-8,000. "Besides the process is complicated. For instance, one has to provide proof that a wolf has killed livestock. Then, to apply for compensation, villagers need to travel to Leh town, which is hundreds of kilometres away — they would often have to trek for two-three days even before reaching a road to Leh. It is far more economical to simply kill the wolf," said Rigzin.

Under the insurance programme, the amount contributed by each villager can range from Rs 1,200-2,400 annually for each animal, which can take the village corpus to Rs 30,000-1 lakh collectively in a year — this amount is matched by the NCF, according to Bijoor.

The insurance amount is collected annually and the payout is also annual, based on an assessment of how many animals are killed during the year. "The

village committee decides if the case is authentic. One of the biggest problems in government-run schemes is that of false claims," said Bijoor.

Out of 32 sub-species of wolves that are recognised, two are believed to inhabit the Indian subcontinent: the Tibetan Wolf, whose range extends from trans-Himalaya into Tibet and China, and the Indian wolf that ranges over peninsular India.

Dean of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and wolf expert, Dr Y V Jhala, says lineages of wolves in India are some of the most ancient in the world.

"Unlike the Indian wolf, which we know numbers around 3,000, there is not enough data on the Tibetan wolf. Although one scientific paper has estimated that there are 500 of them. This is because the nature of the topography in Ladakh, which is remote and formidable, makes a survey difficult to conduct. Both sub-species are critically endangered and yet, there are no conservation projects launched by the Government for wolves," he said.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

ODISHA

Retired bureaucrat held in cameraman's murder case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 21

THE BHADRAK police on Monday arrested a retired bureaucrat and former Public Relations Officer (PRO) to the Governor and Chief Minister's Office (CMO), in connection with the kidnapping and murder of a cameraman.

The former Odisha Information Services officer, Niranjana Sethi, had retired in February as the Director (Technical) of the State Information and Public Relations Department. "Prima facie evidence suggests that he (Sethi) was involved in the planning and execution of the murder. He was not present at the time of the abduction, but we have evidence that he was present at the time of the murder. Based on this evidence, he was arrested on Monday," Bhadrak Superintendent of Police Charan Meena said.

The cameraman, Manas Swain (28), was allegedly kidnapped on February 7 from outside a wed-

ding venue in Bhadrak and later murdered in Bhubaneswar. The police are on the lookout for Sarmistha Rout, owner/editor of a Bhubaneswar-based web portal and fortnightly newspaper, Sampurna Odia. Swain worked with Rout's web portal until three months ago when he began working as a freelance cameraman.

He was allegedly kept captive at an old age home in Bhubaneswar, which is also run by Rout. His body was found in a paddy field in Ranpur area of Nayagarh. As per preliminary investigation, Swain was a former employee of Rout and was in possession of a CPU chip that contained some controversial videos and photos related to her that she wanted back, the police said. The police, however, are unaware of the content of the chip. Based on a complaint by Swain's family, three persons were arrested on March 12, who confessed to killing him at Rout's behest. Those arrested were Bhagyadhar Nayak, 26, Bebek Nayak, 19, and Krushna Chandra Nayak, 50.

Six arrested for Jagannath temple servitor's murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 21

THE POLICE on Monday arrested six persons for allegedly murdering a servitor of the Puri Jagannath temple.

The victim, Krushna Chandra Pratihari (45), was shot in the head and chest from a close range by two assailants outside a gym in Harchandi Sahi on March 16. Pratihari was a former member of the Shree Jagannatha Temple Managing Committee and secretary of the Suara-Mahasura Nijog, an association of cooks responsible for preparing the mahaprasad.

Following Pratihari's death, his brother had lodged a complaint against six persons. The police have so far arrested three of those named in the FIR and three persons whose names cropped up during the investigation. Three others named in the FIR are still on the run, the police said. The arrestees have been identified as Kalia Singhari, Dalgovind Singhari, Kalu Panigrahi, Baba Mahapatra, Sandeep Jena and Munna Patra.



@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.comSIMPLY PUT **QUESTION & ANSWER**

Entrance test for central univs: how, why

The government has announced a common entrance test across central universities. Why was the need felt, and what will be the format of the exam?

SAKSHI SAROHA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

ON MONDAY, the University Grants Commission (UGC) announced the introduction of the Central University Entrance Test (CUET), which is now mandatory for undergraduate admission at any of the 45 central universities in the country.

Why a common entrance test?

Several governments, over the years, have made attempts to replace multiple entrance tests with a single one to reduce the burden on higher education aspirants. In fact, even CUET is not new. It had been launched as the Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CUCET) in 2010 under the UPA-II government, but had failed to gather steam since only 14 central universities had adopted it until last year.

CUET is a revamped version of CUCET and it's now compulsory for all 45 central universities to adopt it. This has come after the announcement of the new National Education Policy (NEP), which advocates the need for an entrance test for university admissions.

What does this mean for undergraduate admissions at a reputable central university such as, say, Delhi University?

As far as Delhi University is concerned, sky-high cut-off marks will now be history. A student's Board marks will have no role in determining her admission to a college or a programme. It will be based only on her CUET score. At best, colleges affiliated to Delhi University — or any central university for that matter — can use Board marks as the minimum eligibility criteria for admission.

For skill-based courses that have major practical components, such as music, painting, sculpture and theatre, universities will be allowed to conduct practical exams or interviews along with CUET. For professional programmes such as engineering and MBBS, central universities will admit through the entrance exams JEE (Main) and NEET respectively.

Why did the government decide against giving weightage to students' performance in Class 12 Board exams?

The government did not favour using Board marks for admission because of the "diversity" in evaluation methods adopted by different Boards. "Some Boards are more generous than

others in marking and this gives their students an unfair advantage over others," said a government official who spoke on anonymity.

So, who will conduct CUET and when?

The National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts entrance tests such as JEE (Main) and UGC-NET, will also conduct CUET for all central universities in the first week of July. It is a computer-based test that will be held in two shifts and can be taken in 13 languages — Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Urdu, Assamese, Bengali, Punjabi, Odia and English. However, it's not clear whether CUET will be conducted on a single day or multiple days.

The application window for the examination will open in the first week of April. But unlike JEE (Main), there will be no common counselling for admission to central universities based on the CUET score. Each university is free to define its admission process based on the merit list prepared by the NTA. However, UGC chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar did not rule out joint counselling in future.

What will CUET test a candidate on?

The UGC chairman said that the three-

and-a-half-hour computer-based entrance test will only have multiple choice questions based on the content of NCERT textbooks. CUET will essentially have three parts.

The first part will test a candidate on a language of her choice. This will consist reading comprehension, questions on vocabulary, synonyms and antonyms, besides other things. There will be a choice of 13 languages. Apart from compulsorily appearing for one language test (out of 13 languages), a candidate will also have the option of taking another test in an additional language from a basket of 19 — French, Spanish, German, Nepali, Persian, Italian, Arabic, Sindhi, Kashmiri, Konkani, Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Manipuri, Santhali, Tibetan, Japanese, Russian and Chinese.

The second part of CUET is focused on testing a candidate's domain-specific knowledge. This section offers a total of 27 domains, and a candidate can choose to have her knowledge tested in at least one and a maximum of six domains. Each central university will specify which domain-specific test a candidate has to take for which programme.

The 27 domains on offer in the second part of CUET are Accountancy/Book Keeping,

Biology/ Biological Studies/ Biotechnology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computer Science/ Informatics Practices, Economics/ Business Economics, Engineering Graphics, Entrepreneurship, Geography, History, Home Science, Knowledge Tradition-Practices India, Legal Studies, Commercial Arts, Mathematics, Physical Education/ NCC, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Teaching Aptitude, Agriculture, Mass Media/ Mass Communication, Anthropology, Fine Arts/ Visual Arts (Sculpture/ Painting), Performing Arts and Sanskrit.

The third part of the entrance test will be a general test with questions on general knowledge, current affairs, general mental ability, numerical ability, quantitative reasoning (simple, application of basic mathematical concepts arithmetic/algebra geometry/mensuration/stat taught till class 8), logical and analytical reasoning. A candidate will appear for the general test only if it's desired by the programme and university of choice.

Apart from the compulsory language test, a candidate's participation in the domain-specific part of CUET and the general test will depend on whether a central university

wants it for the programme she is applying for. For instance, a university may ask a student to only appear for the language and general tests for admission to a programme. For another programme, it may ask for the candidate's score in the compulsory language test and a domain-specific test. The aspirant will have to first check a programme's requirements and appear for a combination of domain-specific tests, language test and general test (if required), accordingly.

Why is CUET only limited to central universities?

At this moment, CUET is compulsory for central universities but the government is open to other institutions, including private universities, adopting this examination instead of conducting their own.

What about postgraduate admissions in central universities?

Unlike undergraduate studies, conducting admissions to postgraduate programmes through CUET is not compulsory for central universities. Therefore, they are free to adopt CUET for PG admissions or stick to their own admission process for now.

SHUBHRA RANJAN
 Always Ahead

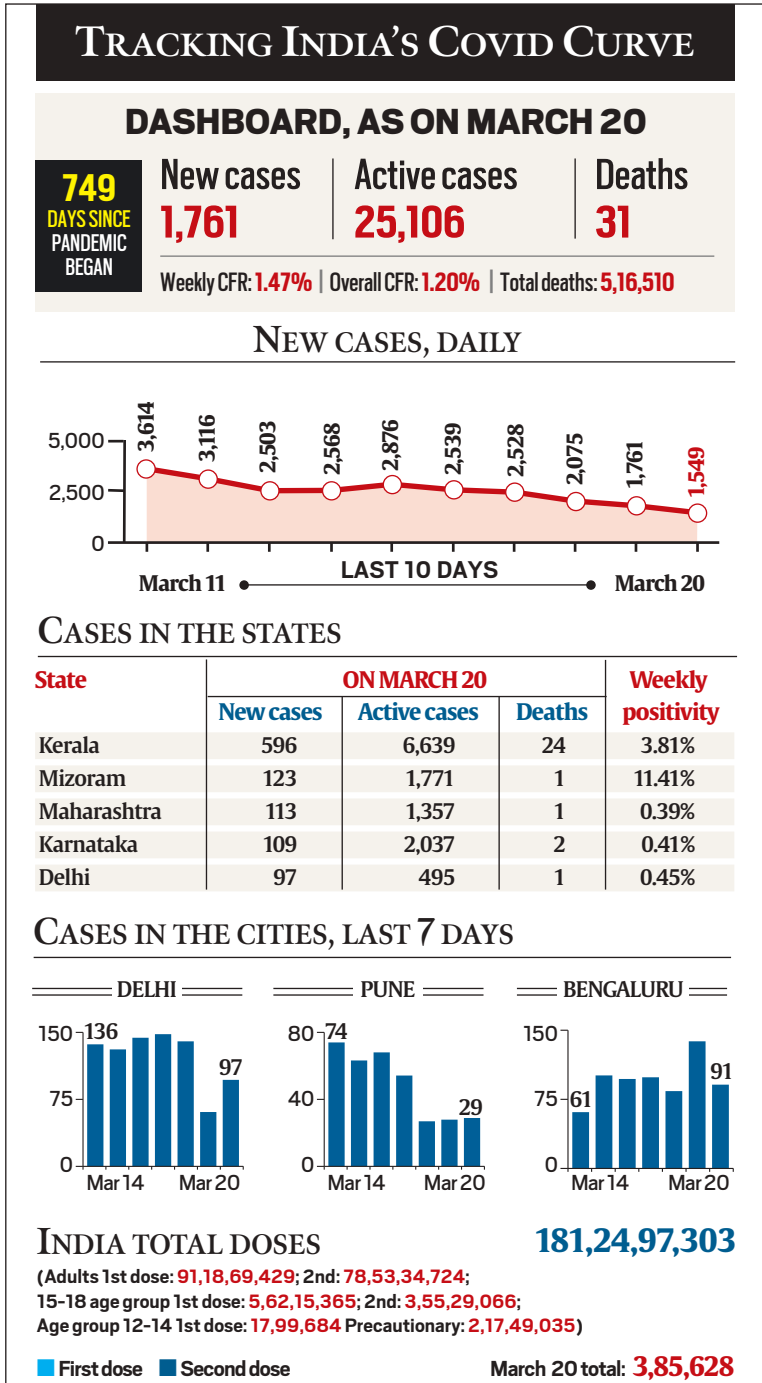
Admissions open at all our regional centres

GS Foundation Prelims Cum Mains Classroom/Tablet Course 2023

Starting From: **4th April 2022**

Scholarship Test - On 13th March 2022

For more details: +91-9910812719 | www.shubhrranjan.com



Out of favour with Army & allies, why Imran's future as PM looks uncertain

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan's continuance in office appears uncertain. An alliance of opposition parties — Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (N); Asif Ali Zardari's Pakistan People's Party (PPP); and Maulana Fazlur Rehman's Jamat Ulema-Islam (F) — have jointly submitted a no-confidence motion against the Prime Minister to the Speaker of the National Assembly. Many in Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) too have turned against him, and his coalition partners appear in two minds about backing him.

Falling out with Army

Khan's situation is all the more dire because he and the Pakistan Army have fallen out. For about two years after his 2018 election, Khan's boast was that his government, unlike previous civilian governments, was on the "same page" as the Army and was therefore stable and could focus on governance. The Army and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) had worked overtime for Khan's election — or "selection" as it came to be called — by engineering defections from PPP and PLM(N) so that the PTI had "electable" candidates who could win elections on their own steam, irrespective of party affiliation.

The PTI won 155 seats in the 342-seat National Assembly, and made up 176 with coalition partners MQM, the Musharraf-era PML(Q), a new Balochistan group called Balochistan Awam Party, and other small parties. Two other parties with three seats between them gave outside support.

The arrangement was held together by the Army. Unlike other civilian governments headed by PPP and PML(N) in the post-Musharraf era, the PTI had no particular desire to assert its independence from the military. From surrendering the handling of the Covid-19 crisis to the US-Taliban talks, the Prime Minister appeared comfortable with the role the Army was playing in national governance and foreign policy.

Within two years, the "hybrid" arrangement started fraying as the government's popularity waned. With little expertise in administration, and preoccupied with keeping the PTI's promise of weeding out corruption, Imran Khan floundered on the eco-

Imran Khan faces a no-confidence motion moved by the opposition. *Reuters*

nomic front. Last month, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released \$1 billion from a bailout the country had secured in 2019. Out of a total package of \$6 billion, Pakistan has now received half of that amount. But food and energy prices have remained high.

Unlike other 'hybrid' arrangements, such as in Myanmar, the Pakistan Army craves popularity. Within the Army, differences cropped up over backing Khan.

Extension and after

The first signs of civil-military tensions came with Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's 2019 extension, which caused embarrassment for the government and the Army when the Supreme Court questioned the basis for such extensions and ordered that it be approved by Parliament.

In late 2020, the three major opposition parties — PML(N), PPP and Jul(F) — came together and held big rallies targeting Imran Khan's governance failures, and his and the Army's "sellout" to India on Kashmir. PML(N) leaders Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz singled out Bajwa for condemnation. But neither the government nor the Army blinked and Imran looked set to complete his term.

What finally got Imran was the tail trying to wag the dog. Last year, as Bajwa ordered a series of transfers of his top generals, Imran Khan tried to hang on to Lt. General Faiz Hameed, then the ISI chief, who had been

transferred to head the XI Corps in Peshawar.

At one time, he was tipped to be the next Army chief, and a Corps command post a year ahead of Gen Bajwa's retirement in 2022 would have been seen as the fulfilling of an eligibility requirement for the top job. But Hameed had become an institutional liability for the Army. Although he was Gen Bajwa's blue-eyed boy only months earlier, his exposure to several controversies, including his triumphant public appearance in Kabul after the Taliban takeover, went against him.

Imran Khan's three-week-long refusal to sign off on the appointment of Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum as the new ISI chief raised apprehensions in the Army that the PM and Hameed were likely viewing each other as guarantors of their respective ambitions — Hameed to become Army chief with the Prime Minister's help, and the latter to win another term in 2023 with Hameed's help.

As an institution, the Pakistan Army is suspicious of generals who break ranks to build individual relations with politicians. Although the Prime Minister finally signed the notification for Anjum's appointment, relations between the Army and the government had suffered a rupture.

Opposition parties saw in this the opportunity for yet another attempt to unseat Imran Khan. Sure that this time the Army would not back him, they submitted a no-confidence motion to the Speaker on March 14, with a request to him to convene Parliament.

How costlier bulk diesel will hit consumers

KARUNJIT SINGH

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

OIL MARKETING companies (OMCs) on Sunday hiked the price of bulk diesel by about Rs 25 per litre, making the fuel significantly more expensive for bulk consumers such as malls, factories and the railways compared to retail consumers, as oil refiners face elevated prices of crude oil. The price of Brent crude has risen about 43% since the beginning of the year to \$111.4 per barrel, up from \$78.11 per barrel. India imports about 85% of its crude oil requirements.

What is the difference in the prices for bulk and retail buyers?

The price of bulk diesel is now about Rs 25 per litre higher than that of diesel at retail points of OMCs. In Mumbai, the bulk price of diesel has been hiked to Rs 122 per

litre compared to Rs 94.14 per litre at retail points, according to sources at OMCs.

State-owned OMCs Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd have held the retail prices of petrol and diesel constant since November 4 last year despite a sharp increase in global crude oil prices. Ordinarily, the price of petrol and diesel are revised daily in line with international prices of petroleum products.

According to experts, OMCs are currently facing significant losses on the sale of both petrol and diesel. Analysts have noted that petrol and diesel prices are likely to see significant hikes once OMCs resume daily revisions of fuel prices.

What will be the impact of the hike in the price of bulk diesel?

Key bulk buyers of diesel including the

Railways, factories, malls and transport companies will face significantly higher prices than retail consumers. Diesel is primarily used by industry to power gensets for power back-up and also for operations of mobile towers.

Power back-up will therefore become more expensive for housing societies that use diesel gensets as a backup for power supply. An expert who did not wish to be quoted said higher prices for bulk buyers may disproportionately affect users of gensets in tier 2 and tier 3 cities as power supply is more reliable in tier 1 cities such as Delhi and Mumbai.

The industry has noted that the move to hike bulk diesel prices will incentivise bulk consumers to source fuel at retail points.

"There is a massive surge of demand at fuel stations (retail outlets) due to increased delta of ~ Rs 25/ltr between Retail and Industrial price of diesel, leading to heavy

diversion of Bulk HSD (Direct Customers) to retail outlets. There is also a very heavy lifting of fuel by dealers and both B2B & B2C customers, who have advanced their purchases, to top up their tanks and capacities in anticipation of price increase which is overdue," said a spokesperson of Reliance BPMobility Ltd (RBML) which operates over 1,380 retail fuel outlets across the country.

Sources at RBML said it had reduced the supply of both petrol and diesel at retail points as it was facing losses on the sales of both products. When the price of crude oil had hit record highs in 2008, Reliance had been forced to shut fuel retail operations, unable to match the subsidised prices offered by state-owned OMCs.

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri confirmed last week that the consumption of petroleum products had increased sharply in anticipation of fuel price hikes.

A MATTER OF QUAD

Amid Ukraine crisis, India does well to deepen ties with Australia and Japan, draw red lines vis a vis Beijing

THE UNEXCEPTIONABLE POINT made by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng in his barely-veiled attack on the Quad — the grouping consisting of India, Australia, Japan and the US — was this: “No country should pursue its so-called absolute security at the expense of other countries’ security.” He drew a parallel between the situation in Ukraine — according to him, a result of “the NATO strategy of eastward expansion” — and the several provocations perceived by Beijing in the Indo-Pacific. The analogy does not hold. After all, it is China that has become an assertive power in the region and beyond, often at the “expense of other countries’ security”. US forces and allies have been a presence in the region since the end of the Second World War, and unlike NATO, the Quad is not a military alliance. As a former ambassador to India and rising star in China’s foreign policy establishment, Le may understandably be taken seriously in Delhi. But it is important to note that amid recent geopolitical developments, India’s foreign policy priorities and the ties fostered with members of the Quad are holding fast.

The Quad is a response to China’s rising ambitions, which have manifested in the form of occupying islands and trying to control sea lanes in the Indo-Pacific, as well as its activities along the Line of Actual Control with India. On the other hand, as recently as February 4, China and Russia declared a “no-limits” partnership, effectively creating an alliance where they would back each other’s plans in Ukraine and Taiwan. In other words, China may be doing precisely what it is accusing the West and countries in the Indo-Pacific of doing. Le’s offensive against the Quad also comes on the heels of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s summit-level meetings with the prime ministers of Japan and Australia this week. With both countries, the level of bilateral economic cooperation and strategic convergence has only deepened: Japan has committed to investments of about \$4.2 billion over five years and Australia too is likely to unveil new projects and investments in India. Both visits took place following reports of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s offer to visit India.

New Delhi must engage in talks with Beijing, while, as it has done so far, looking out for its best interests. It is also clear that China continues to be seen as the primary challenge by the Quad. Both the Japanese and Australian prime ministers have reportedly discussed the situation in Ukraine with PM Modi, and have not insisted that India echo their position. New Delhi has also reiterated that China’s belligerence — whether on its borders or in the Indo-Pacific — stands in the way of a thaw in ties with Beijing. No amount of grandstanding by China changes that reality.

ILL-TEMPERED PARTY

Kerala Congress directive to party leaders on addressing a CPM meet shows it in unflattering light

THE DIRECTIVE OF the Congress leadership in Kerala to its leaders against speaking at seminars organised as part of the CPM party conference in the state next month is a churlish step that shows the party in poor light. In its best version, the Congress prides itself on being a centrist outfit that upholds the ideals of free speech and the spirit of dialogue. Its diktat to former Union minister K V Thomas and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor gives a lie to that claim, or boast.

Congress state chief K Sudhakaran, who issued the directive, has said that party leaders must not be seen on CPM platforms at a time when the latter, which heads the government in Kerala, is pursuing “anti-people policies”, particularly the controversial semi-high-speed railway project. He has threatened disciplinary action against those who refuse to heed the leadership’s order. Tharoor has been invited by the CPM to speak on challenges facing secularism whereas Thomas was asked to address a session on Centre-state relations. Both leaders are eminently qualified for the tasks assigned to them — Tharoor has written extensively on the idea and practice of secularism and its legacy in India while Thomas headed important parliamentary panels such as the Public Accounts Committee in the course of multiple terms in the Lok Sabha. The Congress and the CPM — bitter rivals in Kerala, but electoral allies in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal — profess and project similar views on both secularism and Centre-state relations, which their leaders spell out on national platforms regularly. Relations between the two parties in the state have deteriorated in recent times, with top leaders stooping to name-calling and amusing their respective cadres by recalling violent encounters from college days. But it is a first for the state when a PCC chief bans even intellectual engagement with the CPM. In fact, the presence of Tharoor and Thomas at the CPM party conference would not only deepen the deliberations but also foster a much-needed dialogue in a polarising time.

Ever since his appointment as PCC chief, Sudhakaran has been focused on transforming the Congress from a mass party to a cadre-centric outfit, a sort of mirror image of the CPM. His insistence on breaking all contact with rivals too stems from a notion that the Congress needs to be more aggressive in its pursuit of office, and that it must not leave any opportunity to frame the rival as an enemy. This is an impoverished notion which only makes the Congress look more insecure and ill-tempered while further shrinking spaces of public discourse.

STRIVING FOR GOLD

The way he plays, Lakshya Sen is a wonderful mascot of what sport ought to be — an irresistible watch

LAKSHYA SEN’S DEFEAT in the All England finals, combined with the enduring memory of what Prakash Padukone (1980) and Pulela Gopichand (2001) achieved by nailing the title, points to the evolved standards that a sport seeks to achieve. A huge gulf exists between contending in a final and crossing the threshold of winning. Respecting this gap and being aware of just how significantly superior a gold is to a silver, can help Indian badminton move forward while pursuing excellence.

Lee Chong Wei carried the whole of Malaysia along with him through his pursuit of the elusive gold at the Olympics and World Championships. Chen Long’s China and Anthony Ginting’s Indonesia believed that the silver and bronze won at the Tokyo Olympics were sub-par for these talents. Sen would be the first to know the difference between winning the title and winning just the 25 points against Axelsen’s 42. History demands great fervour in its pursuit, and India is learning that through PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth’s silvers at world events — before Sindhu grabbed gold in 2019, and now Sen’s runner-up position. Every silver can also potentially trigger the start of a new exciting journey of upgrading the game, and Indians will be giddy partisans as the 22-year-old goes back to the drawing board, and views the inadequacies of his game.

For a country that has settled into watching badminton with anticipation, these Finals Sundays also offer a great non-cricket option to watch sport. There’s a plethora of story-lines to follow — Sen’s pursuit of titles of course, but also the emergence of doubles — Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty in men’s and now Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand in women’s doubles. Sindhu’s resurgence and Srikanth’s continued search for the big title will keep sports TV viewing exciting. The real joy in sport is in watching the rollercoaster of playing action. The way he plays, Sen is a wonderful mascot of what sport ought to be — an irresistible watch.



ANUP MALANI, ARPIT GUPTA AND BARTEK WODA

INDIA’S POPULATION HAS been ravaged by the Covid-19 pandemic. As per official statistics, millions have been infected, while around half a million have died. But the indirect evidence suggests a far larger impact, with over 65 per cent of the population having been infected, with perhaps five million excess deaths.

While the country’s health has suffered greatly, economic data paints a more complex story. India’s economic experience has two parts — during the national lockdown and after it. At a macro level, it is well known that GDP fell sharply during the lockdown. After the lockdown, there has been a largely V-shaped recovery, even though the main waves of the pandemic occurred well after India’s lockdown.

But what happened at the micro-level? How did the very poor fare? Did inequality rise? We used monthly data of roughly 2,00,000 households with one million members from the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS) to examine these questions. The answers are somewhat surprising.

During the lockdown, poverty and inequality spiked as economic activity grounded (almost) to a halt. The fraction of the population in extreme poverty, defined by the World Bank as those with income below \$1.90, rose from 7.6 per cent in November 2019 to 50.5 per cent in April 2020. While both the rich and the poor suffered, the poor were hit harder. In 2019, the average monthly household income of the top and bottom quartiles of the income distribution were approximately Rs 45,000 and Rs 8,000 in urban areas respectively and Rs 22,500 and Rs 7,500 in rural areas. During the lockdown, in urban areas, incomes of the top quartile fell by roughly 35 per cent and the bottom quartile by 55 per cent. The rural numbers were 35 per cent and 40 per cent respectively. Overall, income inequality, measured by the ratio of the average income in the top quartile and in the bottom quartile, spiked by almost 25 per cent and 15 per cent in urban and rural areas respectively.

After the lockdown, poverty began to decline but did not return to the pre-pandemic levels. As of July 2021, 11.7 per cent of house-

Income inequality declined after lockdown. This decline was driven largely by increase in social mobility

The surprising finding, however, is that income inequality declined after the lockdown to below pre-pandemic levels. Pre-pandemic, the top quartile earned on average four times that of the bottom quartile in urban areas, and three times in rural areas. Now, it earns three times more in urban areas, and twice in rural areas. Even more remarkably, the higher the income was at nearly every point in the income distribution, the economic harm from the pandemic has been worse: The 95th percentile households were hurt more than the 90th percentile, and the 10th percentile more than the 5th percentile.

holds remained in extreme poverty, about 4 percentage points higher than before Covid-19.

The surprising finding, however, is that income inequality declined after the lockdown to below pre-pandemic levels. Pre-pandemic, the top quartile earned on average four times that of the bottom quartile in urban areas, and three times in rural areas. Now, it earns three times more in urban areas, and twice in rural areas. Even more remarkably, the higher the income was at nearly every point in the income distribution, the economic harm from the pandemic has been worse: The 95th percentile households were hurt more than the 90th percentile, and the 10th percentile more than the 5th percentile.

This decline in inequality was driven largely by an increase in social mobility. The change in a person’s income has two parts: The change in her income percentile and the change in income for that percentile. The first change is called social mobility, while the second change is related to the Gini coefficient which measures the fraction of income attributable to different percentiles of the income distribution. India had a relatively high Gini coefficient of 0.4 before the pandemic. Unfortunately, it returned to that level after the lockdown. However, the probability that a household fell from the top or rose from the bottom quartile jumped by roughly 10 percentage points.

No data is perfect, and the CPHS — the data we employ — is no exception. For example, the response rates in CPHS fell sharply during the lockdown. Our analysis suggests, however, that the non-response was almost random, so CPHS remained representative. More importantly, CPHS is still the “best game in town” for understanding the pandemic. Government microdata will not be available for some years.

Some economists have questioned whether the CPHS adequately represents poor communities. In our opinion, the jury is still out. But, even if CPHS is not fully representative of the very poor in rural areas, that would not alter our conclusions. Our evidence shows that the negative effects of the pandemic fell with each lower percentile, even

below the 10th percentile. If CPHS sampled those percentiles more, we would find that inequality fell even more than what we suggest above.

One might object that our analysis does not pass the eyeball test. Urban residents, especially in the top 1 per cent, might argue that the ultra-rich saw their stock portfolios grow even as they worked safely from home. We do not disagree. Almost no data, including the CPHS, captures the top 0.1 or even the top 1 per cent of income in cities. These individuals do not respond to such surveys. Yet the top 0.1 per cent are not the only measure of inequality. The top 0.1 per cent may be quite visible to the top 1 per cent, but they are still only 0.1 per cent of the population. The 75th percentile is far more visible to the 25th percentile than is the top 0.1 per cent.

It is important to clarify what our analysis does not show. First, it does not dispute that there is substantial inequality in India. As of July 2021, the top quartile average household income was still Rs 15,000-20,000/month greater than the bottom quartile. Second, we do not show what will happen when the pandemic ends. While there were some signs that inequality was falling before the pandemic, we cannot be sure that the pattern will return after the pandemic.

Most importantly, while one might view the reduction in inequality as a positive, we would not call it a silver lining. The pandemic was overwhelmingly a disaster for the country. But our findings suggest that it could have been worse — inequality could also have spiked. Fortunately, after the lockdown was lifted, it did not.

If there is a deeper lesson, it is that there is no clear pattern between growth or poverty on the one hand, and inequality on the other. Personally, we believe that policies should focus on growth and poverty. While inequality is problematic, it is a more elusive target.

Malani is the Lee and Brena Freeman Professor at the University of Chicago. Gupta is Assistant Professor at NYU Stern School of Business. Woda is a research specialist at University of Chicago



SAYYEDA MARYAM ZIYA

AS A YOUNG woman, I was relieved to read the triple talaq judgment of the Supreme Court in August 2017. The judges, led by the Chief Justice JS Khehar, set aside instant triple talaq in the case otherwise known as the *Shayara Bano versus the Union of India* and others. Coming after several lynching incidents, beginning with Mohammad Akhlaq in Dadri in September 2015, the verdict went a long way towards assuaging the fears of the minority. The Indian government wanted to get rid of patriarchal practices happening in the name of religion but there was no attempt to tamper with the religious rights of the minorities. It was heart-warming to see the five judges from five different religions – Chief Justice Khehar, Justice Kurian Joseph, Justice R F Nariman, Justice U U Lalit and Justice S Abdul Nazeer – quoting from the Quran’s Surah Baqarah and Surah Talaq to rebuff any allegations that they had gone against either the letter or spirit of the Quran in their verdict. Besides giving the strength to fight fundamentalists within the community, the verdict also reinforced my confidence as a Muslim woman in India.

Unfortunately, those feelings are endangered following the Karnataka High Court judgment in the hijab case. “We are of the considered opinion that wearing of hijab by Muslim women does not form a part of essential religious practice in Islam,” the bench of three judges said, thereby refusing to strike down the state government’s order restricting Muslim women from wearing the hijab

A QUESTION FOR THE COURT

Is uniformity of dress more important than the dissemination of education?

This verdict seems to be putting Muslim women in a lose-lose position when it could have simply upheld the idea of education for more. The hijab issue is important as the stakeholders here are young, female students, who wish to cover their head in an educated, democratic state. These students come with the desire to learn and become independent, without it taking away from their personal religious identity.

in educational institutions. When sundry maulanais insist on Muslim women wearing a hijab or, in many cases a full burqa, they do not ask a woman’s views on the subject. Likewise, the three judges have taken into account neither a woman’s view on the hijab nor the condition of one habituated to the hijab having to step out without it. Would such a woman still step out or just retreat to the privacy of her home? The Prime Minister, soon after coming to power, started a “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” campaign to protect and educate the girl child.

Today, the Karnataka HC verdict is a setback to Muslim girls in their pursuit of education. Is uniformity of dress more important than dissemination of education? Can India afford to send back these students, many of whom would have struggled to convince their parents to send them out for education in the first place, back home, or into the clutches of conservative clerics? Take the case of Tamil writer Salma, whose parents withdrew her from school at the onset of puberty. Salma managed to pursue her dreams of becoming a writer from the confines of her marital home. Do we want more girls to face similar challenges in Karnataka and elsewhere?

In today’s India, the attempt to invisibilise Muslims is an ongoing project. It began with their alleged dietary habits, when the supposed *gaurakshaks* started attacking unarmed Muslim men over unsubstantiated allegations of cow slaughter. More recently, we

had the sorry spectacle in Gurugram where right-wing mobs disrupted Friday prayers for weeks on end. The administration, instead of protecting the worshippers, asked them to reduce the number of prayer sites in the city. From over 130, the prayer sites came down to 20. Muslims were effectively invisibilised in Gurugram. The Karnataka verdict will similarly invisibilise Muslim women.

This verdict seems to be putting Muslim women in a lose-lose position when it could have simply upheld the idea of education. The hijab issue is important as the stakeholders here are young, female students who wish to cover their head in an educated, democratic state. These students come with the desire to learn and become independent, without it taking away from their personal religious identity. Women’s oppression is multifaceted and when the state takes away the choices of a Muslim female student at the level of the classroom, can we expect a brighter future for the girl child? Far from enabling them to enter the mythical mainstream, it will send Muslim girls back into their little islands of domestic life with no opportunity for professional attainment. The hijab ban in the classroom is not only a ban on identity but also on female expression, choice, development and the ability to break away from the shackles of chauvinists, whether judges or religious fundamentalists.

The writer is a freelance journalist and student of political science at Delhi University



MARCH 22, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

FORGING UNITY

THE JANATA PARTY is taking all possible steps to ensure unity of opposition parties, Chandra Shekhar said on Sunday. However, since certain complexities were involved, it would take some time to achieve the ultimate goal. Chandra Shekhar, in an apparent appeal to all concerned, said pre-conditions should not outweigh the existing circumstances demanding the unity. An executive member talked about setting a deadline for forging unity.

TENSE BUT PEACEFUL

ALIGARH WAS TENSE but peaceful on Sunday,

the second day of the curfew. No report of any untoward incident was received. The district authorities arrested 12 people in connection with the disturbances in town. The district magistrate R R Shah said that there was no question of relaxing the curfew.

CLOSER TIES

THE DRAFT POLITICAL resolution of the Communist Part of India which will be considered by the 12th party congress to be held on Monday, underscores the need for a left and democratic national alternative to the bourgeois rule represented by the Congress-I government, both at the Centre and in many states.

In this task, the draft resolution calls for closer understanding and a new and higher level of unity in action between the CPI and the CPIM while ruling out the immediate possibility of unification of the communist movement in the country.

USUAL PATTERN

THE CONGRESS-I LIST of nominees for the Rajya Sabha poll from 13 states follows the usual pattern. Indira Gandhi has made no effort to induct new talent who can be depended on to refurbish the sagging image of her council of ministers. Barring a sprinkling of lawyers, most other candidates are politicians

UTTAR PRADESH SHASAN
PARIVAHAN ANUBHAG-4

In pursuance of the provisions of clause (3) of Article 348 of the Constitution of India, the Governor is pleased to order the publication of the following English translation of notification no.10/2022/407/XXX-4-2022-9(1)/2008 TC, dated March 14, 2022.

Notification
No.10/2022/407/XXX-4-2022-9(1)/2008 TC
Lucknow: Dated March 14, 2022

WHEREAS, in exercise of the powers under sub-section (5) of section 88 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (Act no. 59 of 1988), the proposed draft of the Combined Reciprocal Common Transport Agreement to be entered among the Governments of Haryana, NCT of Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh was notified vide Government Notification no.7/2021/1529/xxx-4-2021-9(1)/2008TC, dated 06-12-2021 in the Gazette of Uttar Pradesh, website of Shasanadesh www.shasanadesh.gov.in and in different news papers in regional language with a view to invite representations;

AND WHEREAS, the representations received thereto have been dully considered and parties heard;

AND WHEREAS, the Governments of Haryana, NCT of Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have entered into an agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers under sub section (6) of section 88 of the said Act the Governor is pleased to publish the said agreement as hereunder:

By order,
Rajesh Kumar Singh
Pramukh Sachiv



Government of India



Combined Stage & Contract Carriage Agreement
RECIPROCAL COMMON TRANSPORT AGREEMENT AMONG
THE GOVERNMENTS OF DELHI, HARYANA, RAJASTHAN
AND UTTAR PRADESH

WHEREAS in the interest of facilitating development of an effective transport system in the National Capital Region (NCR) comprising parts of adjoining States to National Capital Territory Delhi i.e. Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh & Haryana as defined in the Para 2.3 of Regional Plan-2021 and is at **Annexure-I** as amended from time to time, there is dire need for unrestricted¹ and seamless² movement of interstate traffic, reduction of pollution and aim for removal of bottlenecks/congestion on roads in the National Capital Region i.e. among these States under a reciprocal common Stage Carriage & Contract Carriage Agreement. A map showing constituent area of National Capital Region is at **Annexure-II**.

Now, therefore, the Government of NCT-Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh hereby agree on the following terms and conditions:-

This Agreement is made on this 2022 among the President of India for NCT-Delhi, Governor of Haryana, Governor of Rajasthan and Governor of Uttar Pradesh (which expression shall include their successors in office).

WHEREAS, in view of the rapid economic development and environment of the National Capital Region, to encourage unrestricted and seamless movement of interstate traffic of the passengers in the NCR and to regulate, coordinate and control their operations, it is necessary to make a reciprocal common Agreement among and through the Constituent States of NCR i.e. NCT-Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

AND WHEREAS the parties hereto agree that this Agreement which supersedes all the previous Agreements on this subject entered amongst them for NCR. This Agreement shall have an overriding effect over all the other Agreements applicable to NCR in this regard.

NOW THIS DEED WITNESSES and the parties hereby mutually agree as follows:-

- This Agreement shall come into force with immediate effect on issue of the signed Agreement by National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB). The Court Orders/Directions specific to movement of vehicle in the area shall have to be adhered & obeyed.³
- Stage Carriage Permits/Licenses:**
 - Reciprocal Agreement with regard to operations of Stage Carriage on inter-state routes between Delhi and Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana shall be as per **Annexure "A"** to "F", which is subject to 2.7 below. In future, the number of trips will be decided mutually by the State Governments concerned, as per the need/demand of the traffic from time to time.
 - A trip for purpose of this Agreement will mean single trip daily. The routes mentioned in **Annexure A, B, C, D, E and F** shall always mean the shortest direct route connecting the two terminals lying in the two States through the place mentioned therein. In case of Stage Carriage carrying daily commuters, the number of boarding/alighting points in Delhi would be as per mutual (bi-lateral) Agreements between the States. Any discrepancy discovered later in the name or length of route shown in the said Annexure shall be promptly corrected through correspondence between the reciprocating States and shall not be treated as any modification of the Agreement.
 - The time table for stage carriages plying as per **annexure "A"** to "F" shall be fixed by the concerned State Transport Authority/Regional Transport Authority.
 - Passenger fares shall be charged according to the rates fixed by the respective States for the Buses run by the respective State.
 - The stage carriage permits/licenses of these States falling under this common Agreement shall be signed as per applicable taxes as per Para 4 under this Agreement.
 - If for any reason, it has not been possible to decide an application for the renewal of the permit/license before its expiry, the home State may issue temporary permits/licenses under Section 87(1) (d) of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988.
 - No permit/license for Stage Carriage shall be granted or countersigned, other than that of State Transport Undertakings or their counterparts or other private operators of State/Regional Transport Authorities in respective States on NCR routes, by the Transport Authorities of reciprocating States for nationalized/non-nationalized routes or area or any portion thereof except as provided in a scheme, as the case may be, of such route(s) or area(s). Provided that in case of any breakdown or any contingency, State Transport Undertaking (or their counterparts in respective States) of these States can operate any route in the Agreement by any vehicle out of its own fleet.
 - The Competent Authority in respective State Governments may add services of Stage Carriages on new routes or increase the numbers of trips on any existing route keeping in view the overall public demand by mutual Agreement in writing. Permits/licenses of such services of Stage Carriages shall be countersigned by the reciprocating State, as per applicable tax under this Agreement.
- Corridor Arrangements for Stage Carriage:**
 - In pursuance to the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, for NCT Delhi, this Corridor arrangement is limited to passenger movement only. Other constituent states of NCR may also define similar corridor for movement of inter-state bus services in mutual consultation with other NCR participating states.
 - The traffic subject to corridor arrangement shall enter and pass out of the participating State along the shortest, direct and specified route only.
 - Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement among the constituents States of NCR, traffic taking advantage of the corridor arrangement shall neither pick up nor drop passengers, within the corridor of the State.
 - The Corridor State shall have the right to prescribe a time limit for the traffic to pass through along the route fixed by the corridor state.

- Contract Carriage Permits/Licenses:**
 - Motor Cabs/Taxis/ Auto rickshaws Permits/Licenses (Non-Temporary/Non Special Permits/Licenses): Contract carriage permits/licenses for motor cabs/taxi/auto rickshaw conforming to norms as per para 5.4 and registered in NCR area will be required to be countersigned by other participating States on being issued by any of these States. Such vehicles may move unrestricted, in such other participating States.
 - No additional permit/license charges would be required to be paid in addition to permit/license charges paid in the State where the vehicle is registered in NCR. However, countersigning of the permits/licenses for these vehicles would be required.
 - Inter-state movement of auto rickshaws in NCR would be as per numbers given in **Annexure- III**. Inter-state movement of auto rickshaws in Delhi would be subject to the relaxation of coking on its numbers by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
 - Contract Carriage Permits/Licenses other than Motor cabs / Auto Rickshaw/ Taxi (Non Temporary Permits under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988): Contract carriage permits/licenses for vehicles other than motor cabs, including educational institutional buses used solely for the purpose of transporting students/staff of the educational institutions in connection with any of its activities, conforming to norms as per para 5.4 and registered in NCR area will be required to be countersigned by participating States on being issued by any of these States.
- Contract Carriage Permits/Licenses (Temporary/Special Permits/Licenses under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988): Permits/licenses may be issued by the Transport Authority of these States irrespective of numbers without prior concurrence of the Transport Authority of the other State, according to the need of the commuters/passengers. The permit/license shall contain the detailed programme of the tour, showing the dates of onward and return journeys, the order in which the various places shall be visited along with an indication of the approximate date of the arrival and the departure from each such place.
- The Contract Carriage permits/licenses of these States falling under this common Agreement shall be signed as per applicable tax as per Para 4 under this Agreement.

Contract carriage permits/licenses for vehicles other than motor cabs, including educational institutional buses used solely for the purpose of transporting students/staff of the educational institutions in connection with any of its activities, conforming to norms as per para 5.4 and registered in NCR area will be required to be countersigned by participating States on being issued by any of these States.

- Contract Carriage Permits/Licenses (Temporary/Special Permits/Licenses under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988): Permits/licenses may be issued by the Transport Authority of these States irrespective of numbers without prior concurrence of the Transport Authority of the other State, according to the need of the commuters/passengers. The permit/license shall contain the detailed programme of the tour, showing the dates of onward and return journeys, the order in which the various places shall be visited along with an indication of the approximate date of the arrival and the departure from each such place.
- The Contract Carriage permits/licenses of these States falling under this common Agreement shall be signed as per applicable tax as per Para 4 under this Agreement.

Contract carriage permits/licenses for vehicles other than motor cabs, including educational institutional buses used solely for the purpose of transporting students/staff of the educational institutions in connection with any of its activities, conforming to norms as per para 5.4 and registered in NCR area will be required to be countersigned by participating States on being issued by any of these States.

- Taxation:**
 - The license/permit fee/countersignature fee for Stage Carriages and Contract Carriage shall be fixed by the members of all the participating states as per their respective policies. However, once the taxes are paid in the NCR State by such vehicles registered in NCR, countersigning by other NCR participating States shall be done, for plying within NCR, without any such fee /tax or any such tax called by any other name for the following categories:-
 - All Motor cabs/Taxis/Auto Rickshaws.
 - All Educational Institution vehicles
 - All Stage Carriage Buses of State Transport Undertakings (including City bus services) of NCR participating states

- Information regarding temporary permits/licenses issued under this Agreement shall, as soon as possible, be given by the permit/license issuing Transport Authority to the reciprocating State stating details of vehicle owner(s) registered laden weight of the vehicle/route for which the permit/license is granted and the period of validity of the permit/license. This information shall be given in the name of the Transport Commissioner /Secretary, State Transport Department, as the case may be.
- Further, all permits/licenses including temporary permits/licenses (Contract Carriage and also Stage Carriage, as applicable) shall be issued only on Vaahan Software, as updated from time to time. This shall also ensure that details of all such permits/licenses are shared automatically with the Transport Commissioners/Secretaries of each State by the other State.

- General:**
 - The reciprocating States shall accord recognition to the Tax tokens, drivers and conductor tokens, transport vehicle authorization and the certificate of fitness issued under the relevant rules of each of these States in respect of vehicles operating on Interstate routes, in accordance with this Agreement.
 - This Agreement shall be valid for next 10 years from the date of signing, or till such time a new Agreement is signed among the constituent States, whichever is earlier. The Agreement may be extended for further period of 5 years from the date of expiry with mutual consent of participating States. Agreement can be reviewed after five years, if need arises.

- Annual meeting of CoTS is mandatory and the same may be convened by the Chairman of CoTS to review the status of implementation. Meeting may also be held as and when requested by NCR participating States. Peripheral issues can be sorted out in annual meetings and re-notification for changes within the framework of Agreement can be done on annual basis.**

- Only vehicles complying with prevailing emission norms or those at the time of registration, whichever is later, can ply in NCR area.

- The age of the Stage Carriage vehicles as well as Contract Carriage vehicles shall be limited to ten years for diesel vehicles and fifteen years for petrol/CNG vehicles till any further directions are issued in this regard. **HOWEVER, directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Hon'ble NGT and Government of India (MoRTH), as applicable, shall have overriding effects on these provisions.**

- In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 20.11.97 and orders issued from time to time in The Government of National Capital Territory (GNCT) Delhi. The GNCT of Delhi in consultation with the NCR participating States, may define certain corridors for movement as may be decided by Competent Authority for inter-state Public Transport bus services to be operated by Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana through GNCT Delhi.

- The States shall take initiative to computerize the database of drivers, vehicle registration and other related information in the NCR districts on priority basis. States should also endeavor to implement the usage of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), Speed Control device, Fast Tag, Trauma Care, single window Tax collection, bar-coding of finger-prints of drivers and GPS vehicle tracking system in phased manner. The status will be discussed in every the Committee of Transport Secretaries/Commissioners (CoTS) meeting.

- Status of implementation of Reciprocal Common Transport Agreement (RCTA) (Contract/Stage Carriage) in terms of all kinds of vehicles registered under this Agreement be submitted to the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) by the NCR participating States in every six months as per the prescribed format at **Annexure-IV**. Similarly status shall be submitted as per **Annexure-V** for CNG/Electric Vehicles of all kinds.

- All permits/ licenses holders, whether Permanent or Temporary as well as drivers are subject to Police Verification.

- All Public Service Vehicles (except those specifically exempted by MoRTH Notification of 2016 quoted below), shall be mandatorily fitted with Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTG) and one or more emergency buttons to comply with Notification No. GSR 1095 (E) dated 28.11.2016 of Ministry of Road and Transport & Highways, Government of India as updated by the MoRTH Order No. 11028/12/2015-MVL dated 31.10.2018 or as applicable from time to time. NCR participating States will expedite decision and action with regard to vehicles registered upto 31.12.2018.

- Permits/Licenses issued within the terms of Reciprocal Agreement should normally be counter signed immediately on presentation before the Regional Transport Authority or the State Transport Authority of the concerned States, subject to payment of countersignature fee and other taxes due to that States for the time being, as per this Agreement.

- Before taking any action on breach of any conditions/provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 and the rules framed there under against the State Transport Undertaking of the reciprocating States, a reference to the Head of State Transport Undertaking concerned shall be made in order to decide if departmental action will not be adequate instead of taking resort to the Court of Law.

- Further, all participating States shall take necessary action for the following:

- Feed/signal of the vehicle-location tracking devices should be made available for all vehicles registered under RCTA (Contract/Stage Carriage) as per appropriate/applicable directions of the NCR participating State.
- The auto-rickshaws, motor cabs/ taxis and Contract Carriage buses registered in NCR and plying across the border would be given a colour code and logo for easy recognition.
- All these vehicles even with temporary/non-temporary/institutional permits/licenses will be subject to speed controlling Devices as per the orders of the Supreme Court issued from time to time and provisions of Rule 118 of CMVR, 1989.
- Any traffic obtaining a permit/license of Stage/ Contract Carriage and/or of corridor transit, shall be subject to legal action in case of violation of conditions thereof.
- Similarly, at present sufficient number of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS)/CNG stations, are not available in most of the areas of NCR and hence all the constituent States and other stakeholders will endeavor setting up of EVCS/ CNG Stations in NCR as per Government of India laid down norms and also take steps in encouraging electric vehicles/charging stations etc. However, all the vehicles originating for Delhi from the NCR districts which share the border with Delhi, shall use only CNG/Electric or such clean fuel, subject to availability, within 3 years of signing of this Agreement. Other NCR districts shall strive to achieve the same in 7 years of signing of this Agreement. NCRPB shall strive to facilitate CNG stations through MoPNG as per their 2017 commitment.
- NCR participating States shall expedite steps to formulate and harmonize rules for Motor Vehicle Aggregators for NCR in the spirit of Motor Vehicle Aggregators Guidelines, 2020, issued by MoRTH, GoI, as amended from time to time.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the parties hereto have signed this Agreement on day and year first above written.

For and on behalf of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh:	For and on behalf of the President of India for NCT of Delhi:
Rajesh Kumar Singh Principal Secretary, Transport Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh	Ashish Kundra Principal Secretary cum-Commissioner Transport Department, Government of NCT-Delhi
For and on behalf of the Governor of Haryana:	For and on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan:
Shatrueet Kapur Principal Secretary (Transport), Transport Department, Government of Haryana	Abhay Kumar Principal Secretary, Transport Department, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur
Witness:-	Witness:-
Archana Agrawal Member Secretary, NCR Planning Board, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India	Ravi Prakash Director (UT), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India

ANNEXURE - I

CONSTITUENT AREAS OF NCR

The Constituent Areas of the National Capital Region as notified in the official Gazette by the Central Government with the consent of the Government of the concerned participating States and in consultation with the Board are as under:

- NCT of Delhi (1,483 sq kms). This accounts for 2.7% of the total area of NCR.
- Haryana Sub-region comprising of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Rohtak, Sonapat, Rewari, Jhajjar, Mewat, Panipat, Bhiwari, Mahendergarh, Jind and Karnal districts (25,327 sq kms). This accounts for 46% of the total area of NCR.
- Rajasthan Sub-region comprises of Alwar and Bharatpur districts (13,447 sq kms). This accounts for 24.3% of the total area of NCR.
- Uttar Pradesh Sub-region comprising of seven districts namely, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Bulandshahr, Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar and Shamli districts (13,578 sq kms). This accounts for 27% of the area of NCR.

Thus, the total Constituent Areas of National Capital Region is 55,084 sq kms as indicated in the Map at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE - II

CONSTITUENT AREAS OF NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION



ANNEXURE - III

Number of Auto-rickshaws for Inter-state Movement for Contract Carriage in NCR

States	From	To	Number of auto-rickshaws*
Delhi-Uttar Pradesh	Delhi	Uttar Pradesh	5000
	Uttar Pradesh	Delhi	5000
Delhi-Haryana	Delhi	Haryana	5000
	Haryana	Delhi	5000
Uttar Pradesh-Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	Haryana	1000
	Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	1000
Rajasthan-Haryana	Rajasthan	Haryana	500
	Haryana	Rajasthan	500

* May be modified as mutually decided

ANNEXURE - IV

Format for status of implementation of Reciprocal Common Transport Agreement

Permits/Licenses issued or permission granted to State registered under RCTA (Contract Carriage) Vehicles.

Uptill:-----

Last Six Months:-----

Name of the State	Taxi	Bus	Auto	Remarks
UTTAR PRADESH				
Delhi				
Rajasthan				
Haryana				
Total in last Six Months				
Cumulative Total				

ANNEXURE-V

Format for status of CNG/Electric Vehicles being registered in NCR for all kinds*

Uptill:-----

Last Six Months:-----

Name of the State	Taxi	Bus	Auto	Any other	Remarks
UTTAR PRADESH					
Delhi					
Rajasthan					
Haryana					
Total in last Six Months					
Cumulative Total					

ANNEXURE - A

LIST OF ROUTES AND NUMBER OF PERMITS TO BE GRANTED AND COUNTERSIGNED IN NCR UNDER RECIPROCAL COMMON TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF DELHI, HARYANA, RAJASTHAN & UTTAR PRADESH FOR STAGE CARRIAGE VEHICLES

DELHI AND RAJASTHAN

Sl. No.	Route	Kilometers		Single Trips		Operational Kms.		No. of Permits	
		Rajasthan	Delhi	Rajasthan	Delhi	Rajasthan in Delhi	Delhi in Rajasthan	Rajasthan	Delhi
1.	Alwar-Delhi Via Nagaur- Sohni	38	25	16	18	650	1084	13	16
2.	Alwar-Delhi Via Tijara	95	25	18	16	450	1520	9	8
3.	Tijara-Delhi Via Dhanuhera	37	25	18	0	550	0	15	0
4.	Alwar-Delhi Via Tijara Sohni-Bhiwari	94	25	12	0	300	0	6	0
5.	Alwar-Delhi-Meerut	38	48	4	0	192	0	4	0
		302	148	58	44	2542	2584	51	24

State Transport Undertaking

Note: Buses shall originate and terminate at designated Bus Terminals.

ANNEXURE - A-1

LIST OF ROUTES AND NUMBER OF PERMITS TO BE GRANTED AND COUNTERSIGNED IN NCR UNDER RECIPROCAL COMMON TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF DELHI, HARYANA, RAJASTHAN & UTTAR PRADESH FOR STAGE CARRIAGE VEHICLES

DELHI AND RAJASTHAN

Private Stage Carriage Buses

Sl. No.	Route	Kilometers		Single Trips		Operational Kms.		No. of Permits	
		Rajasthan	Delhi	Rajasthan	Delhi	Rajasthan in Delhi	Delhi in Rajasthan	Rajasthan	Delhi
1.	Delhi-Alwar via Haryana	38	25	-	04	-	104	-	2

Note: Buses shall originate and terminate at designated Bus Terminals.

ANNEXURE-B
B-2
LIST OF ROUTES AND NUMBER OF PERMITS TO BE GRANTED AND COUNTERSIGNED IN NCR UNDER RECIPROCAL COMMON
TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF DELHI, HARYANA, RAJASTHAN & UTTAR PRADESH FOR STAGE CARRIAGE VEHICLES

DELHI AND HARYANA
Private Stage Carriage Buses

Sl. No.	Route	Kilometers		Single Trips		Operational Kms.		No. of Permits	
		Haryana	Delhi	Haryana	Delhi	Delhi in Haryana	Haryana in Delhi	Haryana	Delhi
1.	Delhi-Panipat via Sonapat	72	28	-	52	3744	-	-	8
2.	Delhi-Sonepat	22	28	-	4	88	-	-	1
3.	Delhi-Kharakhoda via Sampla	36	37	-	8	344	-	-	2
4.	Delhi-Gurgaon	10	25	60	54	540	1500	10	8
5.	Mehrauli-Gurgaon	10	12	-	12	120	-	-	1
6.	Delhi-Bawal via Sohna	85	25	-	22	1870	-	-	9
7.	Delhi-Ruana	100	25	-	4	400	-	-	1
8.	Delhi-Modi	71	13	-	4	284	-	-	2
9.	Delhi-Palwal	44	13	-	48	2112	-	-	12
10.	Delhi-Rohtak	53	37	-	8	318	-	-	3
11.	Delhi-Bahadurgarh	3	37	-	35	99	-	-	6
12.	Mehrauli-Bahadurgarh	3	43	-	4	12	-	-	1
13.	Narela-Bahadurgarh	3	23	-	18	54	-	-	2
14.	Delhi-Badli	3	35	-	30	90	-	-	1
15.	Delhi-Akshai via Haryana	133	25	-	4	440	-	-	2
Total				60	199	10315	1500	30	59

- Note:
- The valid Permits granted earlier by both the states on which Buses of private operators are being operated as on date has been considered to be a part of this Agreement for future operation.
 - For routes mentioned at Sl. No. 1, 6 & 9 the State Transport Authority, Haryana shall also countersign 2, 2 & 3 no. of permits respectively as reserve permits granted to the private operators by State Transport Authority, Delhi.
 - The above operation of the routes originating and terminating at the Interstate Bus Terminus of Delhi shall be according to the notification issued by Transport Deptt., GNCTO on 31.12.97 in compliance in the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dt. 20.11.97 in the matter of M/s. M.C. Mehta Vs. U.O.I & Others.
 - Buses shall originate and terminate at designated Bus Terminals.

(B-3)
LIST OF ROUTES AND NUMBER OF PERMITS TO BE GRANTED AND COUNTERSIGNED IN NCR UNDER RECIPROCAL COMMON
TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF DELHI, HARYANA, RAJASTHAN & UTTAR PRADESH FOR STAGE CARRIAGE VEHICLES

DELHI AND HARYANA
State Transport Undertaking

Sl. No.	Route	Kilometers		Single Trips		Operational Kms.		No. of Permits	
		Haryana	Delhi	Haryana	Delhi	Delhi in Haryana	Haryana in Delhi	Haryana	Delhi
1.	Delhi-Akshai via Sohna	111	-	-	30	3330	-	-	15
2.	Delhi-Akshai via Tijara	90	-	-	20	1800	-	-	10
3.	Kendriya (Trini)-Badli	2	-	-	16	32	-	-	2
4.	Anand Vihar-Bahadurgarh	3	-	-	60	180	-	-	15
5.	Karampura-Bahadurgarh	3	-	-	226	678	-	-	28
6.	N.D. Ry. Stn.-Bahadurgarh	3	-	-	168	504	-	-	21
7.	Narela-Bahadurgarh	3	-	-	120	360	-	-	15
8.	Ambekar Siddh-Bahadurgarh via GBT	3	-	-	80	240	-	-	23
9.	N.D. Ry. Stn.-Bulandgarh	17	-	-	40	680	-	-	10
10.	Ring Road-Bulandgarh	17	-	-	40	680	-	-	10
11.	Safdarjung (Trini)-Bulandgarh	17	-	-	80	1360	-	-	10
12.	Delhi-Banout Via	43	-	-	20	680	-	-	5
13.	Delhi-Dabri	80	-	-	30	800	-	-	5
14.	Anand Vihar-Faridabad	17	-	-	60	1020	-	-	15
15.	Chhatrabadi-Faridabad	17	-	-	80	1360	-	-	20
16.	Ring Road-Faridabad	17	-	-	200	3400	-	-	50
17.	Safdarjung (Trini)-Faridabad	17	-	-	180	3060	-	-	23
18.	Shahdara-Faridabad	17	-	-	80	1020	-	-	15
19.	Delhi-Hispan Zila	94	-	-	20	1880	-	-	10
20.	Ambekar Siddh-Gurgaon	10	-	-	80	800	-	-	15
21.	Delhi/ Anand Vihar-Gurgaon	10	-	-	80	800	-	-	15
22.	Badarpur Bdr.-Gurgaon	10	-	-	264	2640	-	-	53
23.	Kashmere Gate-Gurgaon	10	-	-	80	800	-	-	20
24.	Narela-Gurgaon	10	-	-	40	400	-	-	5
25.	Uttam Nagar-Gurgaon	10	-	-	40	400	-	-	10
26.	R.K. Puram-Gurgaon	10	-	-	200	2000	-	-	15
27.	Shahdara-Dary-Gurgaon	10	-	-	80	800	-	-	20
28.	Delhi-Gurgaon via Faridabad	44	-	-	80	3520	-	-	20
29.	Bahadurgarh-Gurgaon	13	-	-	194	2532	-	-	48
30.	Delhi-Gurgaon via Bahadurgarh, Baghara	10	-	-	50	500	-	-	13
31.	Anand Vihar-Gurgaon	10	-	-	80	800	-	-	20
32.	Karela-Bagh-Gurgaon	10	-	-	356	3560	-	-	49
33.	Wazirabad-Gurgaon	10	-	-	82	820	-	-	20
34.	Nangloi-Gurgaon	10	-	-	60	600	-	-	8
35.	Safdarjung (Trini)-Gurgaon	10	-	-	176	1760	-	-	22
36.	Seemarpur-Gurgaon	10	-	-	52	520	-	-	13
37.	Seemarpur-Gurgaon via Badarpur	10	-	-	56	560	-	-	14
38.	Delhi-Model	70	-	-	30	1400	-	-	10
39.	Delhi-Balgar	34	-	-	10	340	-	-	5
40.	Delhi-Charkhoda via Ruana	30	-	-	24	240	-	-	6
41.	Anand Vihar-Kundli	2	-	-	40	80	-	-	10
42.	Delhi-Nagina via Sohna	80	-	-	8	640	-	-	4
43.	Airport Delhi-NIT Faridabad	27	-	-	20	540	-	-	5
44.	Delhi-Panipat via Sonapat	75	-	-	40	3000	-	-	10
45.	CGO Camp-Palwal-Vihar	9	-	-	16	144	-	-	2
46.	Delhi-Palwal	43	-	-	72	2952	-	-	18
47.	Delhi-Palwal via Sohna	73	-	-	20	1480	-	-	5
48.	Delhi-Panipat-Gohana-Rohtak-Delhi	178	-	-	10	1780	-	-	10
49.	Delhi-Palwal	35	-	-	10	350	-	-	5
50.	Delhi-Punhana	70	-	-	10	700	-	-	5
51.	Karela-Bagh-Rajiv Chowk	13	-	-	64	832	-	-	8
52.	Delhi-Akshai	69	-	-	30	2070	-	-	15
53.	Delhi-Rohtak-Gohana-Panipat-Delhi	178	-	-	10	1780	-	-	10
54.	Delhi-Rohtak	48	-	-	40	1920	-	-	10
55.	Delhi-Rohtak-Gohana-Sonapat-Delhi	140	-	-	10	1400	-	-	10
56.	Delhi-Rohtak-Kharakhoda-Sonapat-Delhi	125	-	-	10	1250	-	-	10
57.	Karela-Bagh-Sohna	35	-	-	50	1750	-	-	13
58.	Delhi-Sohna via Palwal	73	-	-	30	2190	-	-	8
59.	Delhi-Sonapat	23	-	-	50	1150	-	-	13
60.	Delhi-Sonapat-Gohana-Rohtak-Delhi	140	-	-	10	1400	-	-	5
61.	Delhi-Sonapat-Charkhoda-Rohtak-Delhi	125	-	-	10	1250	-	-	10
Total					4154	77364			801

- Note:
- The above operation of the routes originating and terminating at the Interstate Bus Terminus of Delhi excluding the additional points other than ISBTs allowed to Haryana, shall be according to the notification issued by Transport Department, GNCTO on 31-12-1997 in compliance in the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 20-11-1997 in the matter of M/s.M.C. Mehta Vs.U.O.I & others.
 - Buses shall originate and terminate at designated Bus Terminals.

LIST OF ROUTES AND NUMBER OF PERMITS TO BE GRANTED AND COUNTERSIGNED IN NCR UNDER RECIPROCAL COMMON
TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF DELHI, HARYANA, RAJASTHAN & UTTAR PRADESH FOR STAGE CARRIAGE VEHICLES

HARYANA AND DELHI
State Transport Undertaking

Sl. No.	Route	Dropping Point in Delhi	Kilometers		Single Trips		Operational Kms.		No. of Permits	
			Haryana	Delhi	Haryana	Delhi	Delhi in Haryana	Haryana in Delhi	Haryana	Delhi
1.	Gurgaon-Bahadurgarh via Mahoudi, Badarpur	Am Ragner, Khan Paur, Badarpur	-	25	140	-	-	3270	26	-
2.	NIT-Cashmere Gate via Badarpur, Ashram, Sarai Kale Khan	Badarpur, Ashram, Ashram, Ashram	-	25	60	-	-	1500	8	-
3.	NIT-Sarai Kale Khan via Badarpur, Sarai Kale Khan, Kalindi Kunj	Badarpur, Sarai Kale Khan, Kalindi Kunj	-	15	20	-	-	300	2	-
4.	NIT-Bahadurgarh via Badarpur, Mehrauli, HFCO Chowk	Badarpur, Mehrauli, HFCO Chowk	-	30	52	-	-	2400	13	-
5.	NIT-Sarai Kale Khan via Badarpur, Ashram	Badarpur, Ashram	-	13	56	-	-	728	7	-
6.	Bahadurgarh-Safdarjung (T) via Badarpur, Ashram	Badarpur, Ashram	-	17	42	-	-	714	3	-
7.	Bahadurgarh-Sarai Kale Khan via Badarpur, Ashram	Badarpur, Ashram	-	13	42	-	-	548	7	-
8.	NIT-Airport via Badarpur, Kharpur, Ashram, HFCO Chowk	Badarpur, Kharpur, Ashram, HFCO Chowk	-	31	18	-	-	372	2	-
9.	Bahadurgarh-New Delhi Railway Station via Badarpur, Ashram, Ashram	Badarpur, Ashram, Ashram	-	25	40	-	-	1000	5	-

10.	Bahadurgarh-North Campus via Badarpur-Sarai Kale Khan, Kashmere Gate	Badarpur, Kalamore, Ashram	-	31	30	-	-	620	5	-
11.	NIT-Anand Vihar via Badarpur, Sarai Vihar, Kalindi Kunj, Noida	Badarpur, Sarai Vihar, Kalindi Kunj, Noida	-	25	50	-	-	1250	5	-
12.	NIT-Central Sect via Badarpur, Ashram, AIMS, S.I. Airport	Badarpur, Ashram, AIMS	-	25	40	-	-	1000	5	-
13.	Bahadurgarh-S.I (T) via Nehru place, R.K. Puram	Badarpur, Nehru Place, R.K.Puram	-	25	60	-	-	1500	10	-
14.	Fardabab-Nazafgarh via Badarpur, Mohrauli, Kapashera	Badarpur, Mohrauli, Bijwasan	-	48	60	-	-	2880	15	-
15.	NIT-Noida via Badarpur, Sarai Vihar, Kalindi Kunj	Badarpur, Sarai Vihar, Kalindikunj	-	15	30	-	-	450	3	-
16.	NIT-Nehru place via Badarpur, Kalka more	Badarpur, Madipur, Khader, Kalamore	-	30	40	-	-	400	5	-
17.	NIT-Delhi Gate via Badarpur, Ashram, Ring Rd	Badarpur, Kalamore, Ashram	-	20	40	-	-	800	4	-
18.	NIT-Hauz Khas via Badarpur, Kharpur, Outer ring road	Badarpur, Kharpur, Jandana	-	18	40	-	-	720	5	-
19.	Gurgaon-GBT Kashmere Gate via Chola Kunj, Ridge Rd, Filmistan	Mahipalpur, Dhoulakuan, Ridge Rd	-	31	80	-	-	2480	8	-
20.	Dhansa Bunder-SBT Kashmere Gate via Nazafgarh, Nangloi, Peeragarhi, Madhuban Chowk	Nazafgarh, Nangloi, Peeragarhi, Madhuban Chowk	-	36	30	-	-	1080	5	-
21.	Po Maneri Kandi-SBT Kashmere Gate via GTK by pass, Outer ring road	Singhu Bdr., Aligar, GTR bypass	-	28	20	-	-	560	2	-
22.	Po Maneri Kandi-Airport via Narela-Bhadurgarh, Nazafgarh	Singhu Bdr., Narela, Nazafgarh	-	42	12	-	-	504	2	-
23.	Po Maneri Kandi-Anand Vihar via Wazirabad, Bhajpurana	Singhu Bdr., GTR bypass, Wazirabad	-	45	40	-	-	1800	5	-
24.	Bahadurgarh-S.I (T) via Peera Garhi, Fardabi Bagh, Ring road	Nangloi, Peeragarhi, Dhoulakuan	-	42	40	-	-	1680	5	-
25.	Bahadurgarh-Airport via Nazafgarh, Bhujwan, Samalkha Xing	Nazafgarh, Bhujwan, Samalkha Xing	-	25	12	-	-	312	2	-
26.	Bahadurgarh-SBT K Gate via Nangloi, Peeragarhi, Madhuban Chowk, GTK by pass	Nangloi, Peeragarhi, GTR bypass	-	37	60	-	-	2220	6	-
27.	Bahadurgarh-Gurgaon via Nazafgarh, Bhujwan, Samalkha Xing	Nazafgarh, Bhujwan, Samalkha Xing	-	26	158	-	-	4056	20	-
28.	Bahadurgarh-New Delhi Railway Station via Peeragarhi, Punjab Bagh, Sarai Rohla, Fardabi Bagh	Punjab Bagh, Sarai Rohla, Fardabi Bagh, Karol Bagh	-	30	50	-	-	1500	5	-
29.	Bahadurgarh-Anand Vihar via Peeragarhi, Madhuban Chowk, Wazirabad Bridge, Bhajpurana	Peeragarhi, GTR by Pass, Wazirabad Bridge	-	57	20	-	-	1140	5	-
30.	Bahadurgarh-Noida via Peeragarhi, Madhuban Chowk, Outer Ring Road, SBT K Gate, Rajghat, Nazamuddin bridge	Peeragarhi, GTR by pass, Kashmere Gate	-	52	20	-	-	1040	5	-
31.	Gurgaon-Karela Bagh via Chola Kunj	Mahipal Pur, Palam more, Dhoulakuan	-	23	20	-	-	460	2	-
32.	Gurgaon-Central Sect via Chola Kunj, II Murti, RWL Hospital	Dhola Kunj, II Murti, RWL Hospital	-	25	24	-	-	600	4	-
33.	Gurgaon-Greater Noida via Chola Kunj, AIMS, Ashram, Sarai Vihar, Kalindikunj	AIMS, Ashram, Sarai Vihar, Kalindi Kunj	-	30	10	-	-	300	2	-
34.	Gurgaon-GBT Kashmere Gate via Air port, Dhola Kunj, Ridge Rd, Filmistan	Samalkha Xing, Air port, Chola Kunj	-	36	20	-	-	720	2	-
35.	Gurgaon-Bahadurgarh via Bagara	Chawla, Nazafgarh, Chawda Vill.	-	20	100	-	-	2000	20	-
36.	Gurgaon-New Delhi Fly Stn via Dhoulakuan, Ridge Rd, Fardabi Bagh	Dhoulakuan, Ridge Rd, Fardabi Bagh	-	31	54	-	-	1674	9	-
37.	Gurgaon-Sarai Kale Khan via Dhoulakuan, Ashram	Mahipalpur, Dhoulakuan, AIMS	-	25	48	-	-	1150	5	-
38.	Gurgaon-UIN Stadium via Mehrauli, Safdarjung, CGO Camp	Mehrauli, Safdarjung, CGO Camp	-	25	35	-	-	900	5	-
39.	Gurgaon-Central Sect via Chola Kunj, Teen Murti, Krishi Bhawan	Dhola Kunj, Teen Murti, Krishi Bhawan	-	25	14	-	-	350	2	-
40.	Gurgaon-Mangolpur via Dandehara, Bhujwan, Nazafgarh	Samalkha Xing, Bhujwan, Nazafgarh	-	20	50	-	-	1000	5	-
41.	Rajiv Chowk, Gurgaon-Nehru Place via Mehrauli, Khanpur, Kalkaji	Mehrauli, Mehrauli, Kharpur, Kalkaji	-	31	50	-	-	1550	5	-
42.	Gurgaon-S.I (T) via Mehrauli, Kharpur	Mehrauli, Kharpur, Ching Delhi	-	20	42	-	-	840	5	-
43.	Gurgaon-Central Sect via Mehrauli, Kharpur, AIMS, S.I. Air port	Mehrauli, Kharpur, Kalkaji	-	31	50	-	-	1550	5	-
44.	Gurgaon-Anand Vihar via Chola Kunj, AIMS, Sarai Kale Khan, Nazamuddin Bridge	Dhola Kunj, AIMS, Sarai Kale Khan, Nazamuddin Bridge	-	18	10	-	-	390	2	-
45.	Gurgaon-S.I (T) via Chola Kunj, AIMS	Mahipalpur, Dhola Kunj, AIMS	-	20	10	-	-	200	1	-
46.	Gurgaon-Noida via Dabab, Kharpur, Badarpur, Sarai Vihar, Kalindi Kunj	Qutub, Kharpur, Badarpur	-	30	40	-	-	1200	4	-
47.	Panipat-Delhi	-	-	28	80	-	-	2240	20	-
48.	Panipat-Akshai via Delhi	-	-	65	2	-	-	130	1	-
49.	Model Sarai Kale Khan	-	-	13	18	-	-	234	6	-
50.	Palwal-Sarai Kale Khan	-	-	11	68	-	-	858	17	-
51.	Palwal-Sonapat	-	-	53	10	-	-	530	5	-
52.	Sonapat-Delhi	-	-	28	194	-	-	5432	57	-
53.	Akshai Sarai Kale Khan	-	-	25	30	-	-	750	15	-
54.	Sohna-Sarai Kale Khan	-	-	25	44	-	-	1100	11	-
55.	Kharkhoda Delhi via Bawal	-	-	36	110	-	-	3960	27	-
56.	Jaholi-Delhi	-	-	28	28	-	-	784	4	-
57.	Bawal-Sarai Kale Khan	-	-	25	70	-	-	1750	20	-
58.	Bawal-Sarai Kale Khan	-	-	25	6	-	-	150	2	-
59.	Surawal-Sarai Kale Khan	-	-	25	2	-	-	50	1	-
60.	Bawal-Sarai Kale Khan via Sohna	-	-	25	28	-	-	700	7	-
61.	Rohtak-Delhi	-	-	37	54	-	-	1998	15	-
62.	Rohtak-Gurgaon via Bahadurgarh	-	-	26	80	-	-	2080	20	-
63.	Palongi-Delhi	-	-	17	2	-	-	74	1	-
64.	Rohtak-Delhi via Sonapat	-	-	28	12	-	-	336	6	-
65.	Ginswat-Gurgaon via Delhi	-	-	74	4	-	-	296	2	-
66.	Farrana-Delhi	-	-	16	2	-	-	72	1	-

ANNEXURE – C

05/0

LIST OF ROUTES AND NUMBER OF PERMITS TO BE GRANTED AND COUNTERSIGNED IN NCR UNDER RECIPROCAL COMMON TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF DELHI, HARYANA, RAJASTHAN & UTTAR PRADESH FOR STAGE CARRIAGE VEHICLES

DEH/AND/UP

Private Stage Carriage Buses

Sl. No.	Route	Kilometers		Single Trips		Operational Kms.		No. of Permits	
		UP	Delhi	UP	Delhi	UP in UP	Delhi in UP	UP	Delhi
1.	Shahdadi-Delhi	15.0	19	44	88	836	1320	11	10
2.	Garh-Delhi	96.0	59	152	54	2088	3264	39	20
3.	Muzaffargarh-Delhi	33.7	11	16	14	176	232	04	04
Total:		114.7	49	212	156	3000	5116	54	34

- Note:
- The valid Permits granted earlier by both the states on which Buses of Private operators are being operated as on date has been considered to be a part of this Agreement for future operation.
 - Buses shall originate and terminate at designated Bus Terminals.

16/0

LIST OF ROUTES AND NUMBER OF PERMITS TO BE GRANTED AND COUNTERSIGNED IN NCR UNDER RECIPROCAL COMMON TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF DELHI, HARYANA, RAJASTHAN & UTTAR PRADESH FOR STAGE CARRIAGE VEHICLES

DEH/AND/UP

State Transport Undertaking

Sl. No.	Route	Dropping Point in UTTAR PRADESH	Kilometers		Single Trips		Operational Kms.		No. of Permits	
			UP	Delhi	UP	Delhi	UP in Delhi	Delhi in UP	UP	Delhi
1.	AIMS (Delhi)-Vasankar Nagar (G. Bad)	Mohan Nagar, Ghazabad Bus Stand/Road/Dist.	19	-	-	80	-	1520	-	20
2.	Shivaji Stadium (Delhi)-ALTC G. Bad	Mohan Nagar, Ghazabad Bus Stand/Road/Dist.	17	-	-	160	-	2720	-	20
3.	Delhi-Gurgaon via Noida	International School, Sect-19, Khirka colony	25	-	-	86	-	2150	-	23
4.	Hajipur (Delhi)-Ghaziabad	Pasanda, Air Port colony/Mohan Nagar	14	-	-	320	-	4480	-	27
5.	Wazirpur (Delhi)-Ghaziabad	Pasanda, Air Port colony/Mohan Nagar	14	-	-	80	-	1120	-	20
6.	Delhi-G. Bad-Faridabad	Pasanda, Air Port colony/Mohan Nagar	14	-	-	100	-	1400	-	25
7.	Shivaji Stadium (Delhi)-Vasankar Nagar	Maharajpur Bdr, Dubar, Vasahat	6	-	-	34	-	144	-	8
8.	K.K. Puram (Delhi)-Greater Noida	Atta Chowk, Bagel, Kalesia Village	37	-	-	40	-	1480	-	20
9.	Katweri Nagar (Delhi)-Indraprastha	Maharajpur Bdr, Dubar, Vasahat	7	-	-	4	-	28	-	1
10.	Kashmere Gate (Delhi)-Greater Noida	Atta Chowk, Bagel, Kalesia Village	37	-	-	32	-	1184	-	8
11.	M.D. Old Rly Stn. (Delhi)-Greater Noida	Atta Chowk, Bagel, Kalesia Village	37	-	-	40	-	1480	-	20
12.	Shivaji Stadium (Delhi)-Faridabad	Maharajpur Bdr, Dubar, Ghaziabad	6	-	-	40	-	240	-	5
13.	Shivaji Stadium (Delhi)-Vijay Nagar	Khona, Makampur, Vijay Nagar Ring	10	-	-	32	-	320	-	4
14.	Shahdadi-Faridabad via Noida	Atta Chowk, Sect-37, International School	15	-	-	42	-	610	-	11
15.	Delhi Ind. Estate-Loori/Rameswar Park	Loori Bdr	2	-	-	16	-	32	-	2
16.	Delhi-Anand Vihar	Bulandshahr, Shivoli, Jhagradabad	118	-	-	12	-	1392	-	6
17.	Delhi-Anand Vihar	Bulandshahr, Shivoli, Jhagradabad	112	-	-	4	-	448	-	2
18.	Delhi-Baraut	Loori, Khokhna, Bagpat	44	-	-	10	-	440	-	3
19.	Delhi-Baraut via Sonapat	Goripur, Sonapat	16	-	-	20	-	320	-	5
20.	Delhi-Bulandshahr via Sonapat	Lal Kuan, Dabri, Sakindrabad	60	-	-	60	-	4140	-	15
21.	Delhi-Garh-Bhagat	Ghazabad Bus Stand/Hapur, Bahagat	82	-	-	30	-	2960	-	15
22.	Delhi-Hapur	Mohan Nagar, Ghazabad Bus Stand, Pithura	47	-	-	42	-	1974	-	12
23.	Delhi-Hazratpur	Mohan Nagar, Modi Nagar, Meerut	95	-	-	8	-	760	-	4
24.	Delhi-Kharja	Lal Kuan, Skindrabad, Bulandshahr	88	-	-	30	-	2640	-	8
25.	Delhi-Meerut	Mohan Nagar, Murad Nagar, Modi Nagar	56	-	-	150	-	8400	-	38
26.	Delhi-N.T.P.C. (G. Bad)	Mohan Nagar, Ghazabad Bus Stand, Meerut	39	-	-	6	-	234	-	2
27.	Delhi-Nangli Sarai	Mohan Nagar, Modi Nagar, Meerut	90	-	-	4	-	360	-	2
28.	Delhi-Narora	Bulandshahr, Shikarpur, Debari	133	-	-	8	-	1112	-	4
29.	Delhi-Priyadarshi Garh	Mohan Nagar, Modi Nagar, Meerut	85	-	-	4	-	332	-	2
30.	Delhi-Ranghat	Bulandshahr, Shikarpur, Debari	133	-	-	6	-	816	-	3
31.	Delhi-Rasool	Loori, Bhagat, Chitauri	19	-	-	8	-	152	-	2

- Note:
- States of UP & NCT-Delhi may review the situation depending upon the traffic demand as & when situation arises and take necessary decisions mutually agreed to both the states as per clause 2 (iv) of the Agreement.
 - Buses shall originate and terminate at designated Bus Terminals.

06/0

LIST OF ROUTES AND NUMBER OF PERMITS TO BE GRANTED AND COUNTERSIGNED IN NCR UNDER RECIPROCAL COMMON TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF DELHI, HARYANA, RAJASTHAN & UTTAR PRADESH FOR STAGE CARRIAGE VEHICLES

UP/AND/DEH

State Transport Undertaking

Sl. No.	Route	Dropping point in Delhi	Kilometers		Single Trips		Operational Kms.		No. of Permits	
			UTTAR PRADESH	Delhi	UTTAR PRADESH	Delhi	UP in Delhi	Delhi in UP	UTTAR PRADESH	Delhi
1.	Ank Nagar-Sarai-Delhi	-	-	12	10	-	120	-	5	-
2.	Aksh-Delhi	-	-	8	6	-	18	-	3	-
3.	Anand Vihar-Delhi	-	-	3	6	-	18	-	3	-
4.	Anand Vihar-Delhi Airport via NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Ring Rd, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	40	18	-	720	-	0	-	-
5.	Raghat-Delhi	-	-	12	26	-	312	-	8	-
6.	Baraut-Delhi	-	-	12	26	-	312	-	8	-
7.	Baraut-Delhi Airport via K.Gate, Sarai Kale Khan, Nehru Nagar, Dini Noida Pur, Dabri, Kalka J Mandir, Nehru Place, Ching-Delhi, IT Gate, Murekh/Vasant Vihar, Mahipal Pur, Ring Road	Nehru Place, Mahipal Pur, Ring Road	40	8	-	320	-	4	-	-
8.	Baraut-Delhi Airport via K.Gate, Sarai Kale Khan, Ring Road, AIMS, Mehrauli, Outab, Anand Vihar, Mahipal Pur, Ring Road	Sarai Kale Khan, Mehrauli	48	8	-	584	-	4	-	-
9.	Baraut-Delhi Connaught Place, K.Gate, Mahipal, Delhi Gate, Indraprastha, Regal	Delhi Gate, Regal	26	8	-	208	-	4	-	-
10.	Baraut-N.D. Rly Stn. via K.Gate, Rajghat, Delhi Gate	K.Gate, Delhi Gate	20	8	-	160	-	4	-	-
11.	Baraut-Noida via Delhi, Loori Rd, Ring Road, Anand Vihar, Sonapat	K.K. Xing, Anand Vihar	22	8	-	176	-	4	-	-

Sl. No.	Route	Dropping point in Delhi	Kilometers		Single Trips		Operational Kms.		No. of Permits	
			UTTAR PRADESH	Delhi	UTTAR PRADESH	Delhi	UP in Delhi	Delhi in UP	UTTAR PRADESH	Delhi
12.	Baraut-Faridabad via Delhi: K.Gate, Sarai Kale Khan, Ashram, Badarpur Bdr	Sarai Kale Khan, Badarpur	-	37	8	-	296	-	4	-
13.	Baraut-Gurgaon via Delhi: K.Gate, Ice Factory, Feroz Rd, Ridge Rd, Dhaula Kuan	Ridge Road, Dhaula Kuan	-	49	8	-	392	-	4	-
14.	Baraut-Delhi via Bahadur Nagar, Singhu Bdr, Ashram, G.T. By Pass Outer Ring Road	Singhu Bdr, G.T. By Pass	-	37	12	-	444	-	6	-
15.	Baraut-Palwal via Delhi: K.Gate, Sarai Kale Khan, Ashram, Badarpur Bdr	Sarai Kale Khan, Badarpur	-	37	12	-	444	-	6	-
16.	Baraut-Anand Vihar via Delhi: K.Gate, Sarai Kale Khan, Ashram, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	-	49	6	-	294	-	3	-
17.	Bilindi-Anand Vihar via Delhi: K.Gate, Sarai Kale Khan, Ashram, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	-	48	8	-	192	-	2	-
18.	Bulandshahr-Gurgaon via Delhi: NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Ring Rd, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	-	45	4	-	180	-	2	-
19.	Bulandshahr-Delhi	-	-	3	90	-	270	-	45	-
20.	Chandigarh-Delhi	-	-	12	10	-	120	-	5	-
21.	Chhapra-Delhi	-	-	12	10	-	360	-	10	-
22.	Chhapra-N.D. Rly Stn via K.Gate, Rajghat, Delhi Gate	-	-	20	8	-	160	-	4	-
23.	Chhapra-Delhi	-	-	12	10	-	120	-	5	-
24.	Faluda-Delhi	-	-	11	4	-	44	-	2	-
25.	Garh-Delhi	-	-	1	16	-	16	-	8	-
26.	Ghazabad-Shivaji Bdr via Maharajpur Bdr, K.K. Xing Vikas Marg, P. Marg, Mandi House	Shikarpur, ITD	-	14	18	-	252	-	3	-
27.	Ghazabad-Airport via Anand Vihar, Maharajpur Bdr, NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Ring Road, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	-	40	16	-	1440	-	18	-
28.	Hapur-Delhi	-	-	1	54	-	54	-	9	-
29.	Hapur-Shivaji Bdr via Maharajpur Bdr, K.K. Xing Vikas Marg, P. Marg, Mandi House	Shikarpur, ITD	-	14	18	-	252	-	9	-
30.	Hapur-Faridabad via Delhi: Maharajpur Bdr, NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Ring Road, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Kale Khan, Badarpur	-	25	18	-	450	-	9	-
31.	Hazratpur-Delhi	-	-	11	8	-	88	-	4	-
32.	Jawan-Delhi	-	-	1	3	-	9	-	1	-
33.	Kanana-Delhi	-	-	1	12	-	12	-	6	-
34.	Kanana-Delhi	-	-	12	8	-	96	-	4	-
35.	Kandla-Delhi	-	-	12	20	-	240	-	10	-
36.	Kanana-Delhi	-	-	3	2	-	6	-	1	-
37.	Khatoli-Delhi	-	-	11	10	-	110	-	5	-
38.	Khehra-Delhi	-	-	12	8	-	96	-	2	-
39.	Kharja-Bahadur via Delhi: NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Ashram	Sarai Kale Khan, Badarpur	-	28	4	-	112	-	2	-
40.	Kharja-Delhi	-	-	3	54	-	162	-	27	-
41.	Khatoli-Delhi	-	-	12	20	-	240	-	10	-
42.	Khatoli-Center Sect via CGO, K.Gate, Rajghat, Delhi Gate	Delhi Gate, Regal	-	26	4	-	104	-	2	-
43.	Meerut-Anand Vihar via Delhi: Maharajpur Bdr, NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	-	48	2	-	96	-	2	-
44.	Meerut-Delhi	-	-	11	158	-	1718	-	29	-
45.	Meerut-Faridabad via Delhi: NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Ashram	Sarai Kale Khan, Badarpur	-	38	4	-	144	-	2	-
46.	Meerut-Gurgaon via Delhi: NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	-	48	8	-	192	-	2	-
47.	Meerut-Delhi via Center Sect, Maharajpur Bdr, P. Marg, Regal, Maharajpur Bdr, K.K. Xing Vikas Marg, P. Marg, Mandi House	Shikarpur, ITD	-	25	24	-	600	-	12	-
48.	Meerut-N.D. Rly Stn via Maharajpur Bdr, K.K. Xing Vikas Marg, P. Marg, Mandi House	Shikarpur, ITD	-	18	24	-	456	-	12	-
49.	Meerut-Nehru Place via NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Dini College, SHPO, Kalka J Mandir	Sarai Kale Khan, Kalka J Mandir	-	28	24	-	696	-	12	-
50.	Meerut-Rewari via Delhi: Maharajpur Bdr, NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Ring Road, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	-	48	2	-	96	-	2	-
51.	Meerut-Airport via Mehrauli: NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Ring Road, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	-	59	24	-	1416	-	12	-
52.	Mehrauli-Delhi via Shahdadi Bdr	-	-	11	10	-	110	-	2	-
53.	Narora-N.D. Rly Stn via Anand Vihar, Maharajpur Bdr, K.K. Xing Vikas Marg, P. Marg, Mandi House	Shikarpur, ITD	-	18	8	-	144	-	4	-
54.	Narora-Delhi via Shahdadi	-	-	17	8	-	136	-	4	-
55.	Narora-Center Sect via CGO, Maharajpur Bdr, K.K. Xing Vikas Marg, P. Marg, Dini Dayal Upadhyaya Marg	Shikarpur, ITD	-	27	8	-	216	-	4	-
56.	Narora-N.D. Rly Stn via Anand Vihar, Maharajpur Bdr, K.K. Xing Vikas Marg, P. Marg, Dini Dayal Upadhyaya Marg	Shikarpur, ITD	-	18	8	-	144	-	4	-
57.	Narora-Air Port via Nehru Place: NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Ring Road, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	-	43	4	-	172	-	2	-

58.	Narora-Air Port via Mehrauli: NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Ring Road, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Kale Khan, Dhaula Kuan	-	51	4	-	204	-	2	-
59.	NTPC-Shivaji Bdr via Maharajpur Bdr, K.K. Xing Vikas Marg, P. Marg, Dini Dayal Upadhyaya Marg	-	-	14	28	-	392	-	1	-
60.	NTPC-Airport via NH-24, Nizamuddin Bridge, Sarai Kale Khan, Ring Road, Dhaula Kuan	Sarai Khan, Dhaula Kuan	-	40	14	-	560	-	4	-
61.	Park Road-Delhi	-	-	11	4	-	44	-	2	-
62.	Purba Delhi	-	-	11	4	-	44	-	1	-
63.	Raghat-Delhi	-	-	3	2	-	6	-	2	-
64.	Rasool-Delhi	-	-	12	20	-	240	-	5	-
65.	Sardhana-Delhi	-	-	11	4	-	44	-	2	-
66.	Shahdadi-Delhi	-	-	11	2	-	22	-	1	-
67.	Skindrabad-Delhi	-	-	1	26	-	84	-	7	-
68.	Syana-Delhi	-	-	1	4	-	4	-	2	-
69.	Tanda-Delhi	-	-	12	8	-	96	-	4	-
70.	Tandu-Delhi	-	-	12	22	-	254	-	11	-
				1107			18163		483	

OPERATION FROM NOIDA/GREATER NOIDA

71.	Noida-Airport Via DND Bridge, Ashram, Ring Road Dhaula Kuan	AIMS, Dhaula Kuan	-	27	14	-	378	-	4	-
72.	Noida-Airport Via DND Bridge, Ashram, Ring Road Dhaula Kuan	AIMS, Dhaula Kuan	-	27	10	-	270	-	4	-
73.	Noida-Airport Via Kalindi Kuri, Kalka More, Kalka Ji Temple, Nehru Palace, Ching Delhi, Vasant Vihar, Airport	Nehru Place, Andheria More	-	26	6	-	156	-	2	-
74.	Noida-Airport Via Kalindi Kuri, Kalka More, Kalka Ji Temple, Nehru Palace, Ching Delhi, Vasant Vihar, Airport	Nehru Place, Andheria More	-	26	4	-	104	-	2	-
75.	Noida-Airport Via Mehrauli, Kalindi Kuri, Kalka More, Kalka Ji Temple, Nehru Palace, Ching Delhi, Andheria Village, Andheria More, Vasant Kuri, Airport	Nehru Place, Andheria More	-	34	6	-	204	-	2	-
76.	Noida-Airport Via Mehrauli, Kalindi Kuri, Kalka More, Kalka Ji Temple, Nehru Palace, Ching Delhi, Andheria Village, Andheria More, Vasant Kuri, Airport	Nehru Place, Andheria More	-	34	6	-	204	-	2	-
77.	Korva-Central Sectt. Via DND Bridge, Ashram, Sant Nagar, CGO, Khan Market, Shahjahan Road, Akber Road, Shastri Bhawan	Ashram, CGO Complex	-	28	10	-	280	-	4	-
78.	Noida-Central Sectt. Via DND Bridge, Ashram, Sant Nagar, CGO, Khan Market, Shahjahan Road, Akber Road, Shastri Bhawan	Ashram, CGO Complex	-	2	12	-	28	-	2	-
79.	Korva-New Delhi Railway Sta Via S.Stide; Semachar Apt, Noida King, Nizamudin, Pragati Statesman Maidan, Bhagwandas Rd, Mandi House, Minfo Road, NDPS Gate No Noida- New Delhi Railway Sta via S.Stide, Semachar AptL Noida King, Nizamudin, Pragati Maidan, Bhagwandas Rd, Mandi House, Statesman, Minfo Road, NDPS Gate No 2	Pragati Maidan, Patamara, Pragati Maidan, Plocominno,	-	18	12	-	216	-	22	-
80.	Noida- Kachhwe Gate Via Shafdar; Semachar AptL, Noida King, Mother Dairy, Bhakarpur, Vikas Nagar, Swarn Cinema, Seem Pur, Shastri Park, Shyam Giti Minder	Shakarpur, Seelampur	-	26	16	-	416	-	22	-
81.	Korva- Kachhwe Gate Via Shafdar; Semachar AptL, Noida King, Nizamudin Bridge, Ring Road, Shantivan, Yamuna Esare	Pragati Maidan Xing, Raj Ghat	-	26	10	-	260	-	33	-
82.	Korva- Kachhwe Gate Via Durgapara, Kendli Xing, Ghodwar More, Anand Vihar, Shahdara Bdr, Seema Park, Anand Gurm, Nand Nagar, Joyti Colony, Babar Park Xing, Bhajjapara	Anand Vihar, Bhajjapara	-	24	8	-	192	-	8	-
83.	Noida- Kachhwe Gate Via Durgapara, Kendli Xing, Ghodwar More, Anand Vihar, Shahdara Bdr, Seema Park, Anand Gurm, Nand Nagar, Joyti Colony, Babar Park Xing, Bhajjapara	Anand Vihar, Bhajjapara	-	27	4	-	96	-	4	-
84.	Korva-Faridabad Via International School, Santa Vihar, Badarpur	Santa Vihar, Badarpur	-	10	8	-	60	-	2	-
85.	Noida-Faridabad Via International School, Santa Vihar, Badarpur	Santa Vihar, Badarpur	-	10	8	-	80	-	2	-
86.	Noida-Durgapara Via Inter National School, Santa Vihar, Badarpur, Khampur, Qutab, Silander Park Bdr	Santa Vihar, Badarpur	-	31	2	-	20	-	2	-
87.	Noida-Durgapara Via Inter National School, Santa Vihar, Badarpur, Khampur, Qutab, Silander Park Bdr	Santa Vihar, Badarpur	-	27	4	-	108	-	2	-
88.	Korva-Durgapara Via Inter National School, Santa Vihar, Badarpur, Khampur, Qutab, Silander Park Bdr	Santa Vihar, Badarpur	-	27	8	-	216	-	4	-
89.	Dabri-Corpm Via Inter National School, Santa Vihar, Badarpur, Khampur, Qutab, Silander Park Bdr	Santa Vihar, Badarpur	-	27	2	-	54	-	2	-
90.										
					156		3782		92	
					1269		21935		575	

Sl. No.	Route	Kilometers		Single Trips		Operational Kms.		No. of Permits	
		Haryana	UP	Haryana	UP	Haryana in UP	UP in Haryana	Haryana	UP
33	Bulandshahr-Delhi-Gurgaon	10	53	0	4	0	40	0	2
34	Delhi-Bulandshahr	59	54	2	0	108	0	1	0
35	Bulandshahr-Gurgaon via Jewar, Palwal	69	54	0	8	0	552	0	4
	TOTAL	1288	1779	200	424	4668	20610	43	135

Sl. No.	Route	Kilometers		Single Trips		Operational Kms.		No. of Permits	
		Haryana	UP	Haryana	UP	Haryana in UP	U.P.in Haryana	Haryana	UP
1.	Bhiwani-Garh-Hapur- Via Delhi		47	02		94		01	
2.	Garh-Delhi		66	02		528		01	
3.	Fardabad-Gazlbad via Delhi		14	16		224		04	
4.	Fardabad-Bulandshahr via Delhi	--	75	04	--	300	--	02	--
5.	Karnal-Gharlbad via Delhi		106	02		216		02	
6.	Panipat-Muzafnagar	--	68	04	--	272	--	02	--
7.	Palwal- Bulandshahr via Delhi	--	75	04	--	300	--	02	--
8.	Sonapat-Berat		16	12		192		06	
						1254			
9.	Meerut-Shamli-Bidault-Karnal	25	100	--	20	--	300	--	05
10.	Meerut-Bagpat-Sonapat	21	59	--	16	--	336	--	04
11.	Muzafnagar-Fnd via Panipat	50	57	--	04	--	228	--	02
12.	Khurja-Jewar-Palwal-Ballabgarh	42	54	--	4	--	168	--	2
13.	Bulandshahr-Jewar-Palwal- Ballabgarh	42	54	--	4	--	168	--	2
14.	Bulandshahr-Rewari-via Jewar-Palwal-Sohna-Dhanuhera	96	54	--	4	--	392	--	2
15.	Bulandshahr-Sonapat via Meerut-Bagpat	21	136	--	4	--	64	--	2
16.	Bulandshahr-Karnal-via Meerut-Shamli-Bidault	25	177	--	4	--	100	--	2
							1976		

Note:

- Operation for vehicle of private sector shall be dealt with separately on mutual consensus.
- Buses shall originate and terminate at designated Bus Terminals.

ANNEXURE - B

LIST OF ROUTES AND NUMBER OF PERMITS TO BE GRANTED AND COUNTERSIGNED IN ACP UNDER RECIPROCAL COMMON TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF DELHI, HARYANA, RAJASTHAN & UTTAR PRADESH FOR STAGE CARRIAGE VEHICLES

RAJASTHAN AND UP

State Transport Undertaking

Sl.No.	Route	Kilometers		Single Trips		Operational Kms.		Permits	
		UP	Rajasthan	UP	Rajasthan	Rajasthan in UP	UP in Rajasthan	UP	Rajasthan
1	Meerut-Alwar Via Delhi, Gurgaon	58	38	2	2	116	76	2	2
2	Biroh-Bansuh-Kashmere Gate - Alwar	73	38	4	0	0	152	4	0
3	Bansuh-Alwar via Gurgaon	52	38	6	0	0	228	6	0
4	Khairthol-Hastingspur Via Delhi-Meerut	68	93	2	0	158	0	0	2
	Total	252	213	14	2	314	456	12	4

Note:

- Buses shall originate and terminate at designated Bus Terminals.

UPID No. 174286 Date: 21.03.2022
www.up.gov.nic.in

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE
OF A PERSON ACCUSED**

(See Section 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Neeraj Tiwari, S/o Ashok Kumar, R/o H.No. 8, Gali No. 4, Prem Nagar, Najafgrah, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 29912/2018 U/S 411 IPC** PS Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Neeraj Tiwari** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Neeraj Tiwari** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Neeraj Tiwari** of **FIR No. 29912/2018 U/S 411 IPC** PS Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 23.04.2022.

By Order
Shri Harun Pratap
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No. 296A 2nd Floor
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/2092/N/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Sriakesh

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely **Sriakesh S/o Uday Pratap R/o A-1-A Railway Colony, Rampura, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi** Permanent Address: **Village-Deurawa, Siddharth Nagar, U.P.** has been missing since **20.02.2022 at 12:30 PM**. In this regard DD No. **40A Dated 04.03.2022** has been lodged at **PS Punjabi Bagh, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, **Age:** 30 years, **Height:** 5' ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White colour shirt & black pant, lining canvas shoes in feet.

Any person having information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delh**
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **Ph.:** 011-25541909
Tel. No.: 011-2436863/82/4368641 **Mob. No:** 8287641531/8750871124
Fax No.: 011-24368639 **DP/769/WD/2022**

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, राजस्थान राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड, जोधपुर प्रथम

निविदा सूचना संख्या 14 / 2021-22 (NIB NO AGM2122A0187)

रोडवेज डिवाइसों का प्रावधान प्राप्त भूमि पर कु.म.स. (केल सक्की) जोधपुर अन्तर्गत फुटकर मंडी प्रांगण व पूर्व रिसत फल सक्की मंडी प्रांगण भव्योपाय के सोनी मोडी प्रांगण में आधिकारिक की. सी. संकेत के अनुसार फल निर्यात कार्य पेंजेज-01 / 2021-22 लायक रु. 521.35 लाख, प्रथम मौका लागू निर्देश www.sppw.rajasthan.gov.in से ग्राहक से निर्दिष्ट 1.04.22 की साई 6.00 बजे तक बोर्ड एवं अन्य एग्रीकल्चर विभागों में चरणबद्ध शोधों में पंजीकृत सदस्यों को आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बंधित विस्तृत विवरण बोर्ड की वेबसाइट www.agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in/irsamb एवं www.sppw.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपस्थापित कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्य दिवस में देखे जा सकते हैं। (UBN NO AGM2122W00B5535)

राज.संवर्धन (सी.टी.)/13087 **अ.अ.जोधपुर-प्रथम**

CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PRESS NOTICE

All the contractor (s)/ firm(s)/ agencies intending to bid for works in Central Public Works Department (CPWD) are hereby informed that a new CPWD e-Tender & e-Auction website/ portal is proposed to be made operational soon in a phased manner. All intending bidders are advised to check both the existing website (<http://www.tenderwizdared.in/CPWD>) as well as the new upcoming website for participating the tenders published on the respective websites till further notice.

To participate in the bidding process for tenders to be hosted on the new website, all intending contractor(s)/ firms(s)/ agencies are requested to register/update their profiles on the new e-Tendering and e-Auction websites: <https://etender.cpwd.gov.in> and <https://eauction.cpwd.gov.in> respectively. Information on updation of profiles is available on CPWD Website <https://www.cpwd.gov.in> vide circular: https://www.cpwd.gov.in/WriteReadData/other_cir/50798.pdf. For any further assistance CPWD Helpdesk Team may be contacted on 012-6747214/4766312 or tendersupport@techmahindara.com.

**Sd/-
Executive Engineer (E)-Haldwani
CPWD, Haldwani Distt. Nainital
Uttarakhand**

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 35/40 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** White Kurta & Grey Pajama **Injury Marks** : Head injury during train accident was found dead at Railway Track KM Pole No. 1525/17 Between Okhla to TKD Station, Delhi on 15.03.2022. at 3.10 AM. In this regard, a **DD No. 2-A, dated 15.03.2022** has been lodged at PS H. Nizamuddin Rly. Station, Delhi. Dead Body preserved Subzi Mandi Mortuary For identification.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., H.Nizamuddin Rly.
Station, Delhi

DP/72/RLY/2022 Ph. : 011-24358593, 8750851311

18 THE WORLD

KYIV MALL REDUCED TO SMOULDERING RUINS

Ukraine rejects Russian call for surrender in Mariupol

Kremlin says no significant progress in peace talks

AP & REUTERS
LVIV, MARCH 21

UKRAINIAN OFFICIALS defiantly rejected a Russian demand that their forces in Mariupol lay down arms and raise white flags Monday in exchange for safe passage out of the besieged strategic port city.

Western governments and analysts say the broader conflict is grinding into a war of attrition, with Russia continuing to bombard cities. Kremlin said on Monday that peace talks between Russia and Ukraine had not yet made any significant progress.

Moscow has accused Kyiv of stalling peace talks by making proposals unacceptable for Russia. Ukraine has said it is willing to negotiate but will not surrender or accept Russian ultimatums.

In Kyiv, a shopping centre in the densely populated Podil district near the city centre was a smouldering, flattened ruin Monday after being hit the day before by shelling that killed eight people, according to emergency officials. The force of the explosion shattered every window in a neighboring high-rise. Artillery boomed in the distance as firefighters picked their way through the destruction.

Ukrainian authorities also said Russia shelled a chemical plant in northeastern Ukraine, sending toxic ammonia leaking into the air, and hit a military training base in the west with



Part of the Retroville mall in Kyiv that was shelled leaving eight people dead on Monday. *NYT*

cruise missiles. Strikes hit an art school sheltering some 400 people only hours before Russia's offer to open corridors out of the city in return for the capitulation of its defenders, according to Ukrainian officials.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said it was not clear how many casualties there were. "They are under the rubble, and we don't know how

many of them have survived," he said in a video address, vowing that Ukraine would "shoot down the pilot who dropped that bomb."

Russian Col. Gen. Mikhail Mizintsev had offered two corridors — one heading east toward Russia and the other west to other parts of Ukraine — in return for Mariupol's surrender. He did not say what Russia planned if the offer was rejected.

Biden to visit Poland on Friday to discuss war, next measures

DAVID SHEPARDSON
WASHINGTON, MARCH 21

US President Joseph Biden will travel to Poland on Friday to discuss the international response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine that has sparked a "humanitarian and human rights crisis," White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said late Sunday.

Biden will travel to Warsaw where he will hold a bilateral meeting with President Andrzej Duda, the White House said. Over two million refugees have entered Poland from Ukraine since the start of the Russian invasion on Feb. 24, the Polish border guard said on Friday.

Biden's Poland trip will come a day after he meets in Brussels with NATO Allies, G7 Leaders and European Union Leaders to discuss international efforts to support Ukraine after Russia's invasion, the White House said.

The White House also said Biden will host a call Monday at 11 am EST with President



Biden is not planning to visit Ukraine during his European trip this week. *AP*

Emmanuel Macron of France, Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany, Prime Minister Mario Draghi of Italy, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the UK to discuss their coordinated responses to the invasion.

On Thursday, Biden will attend an emergency NATO Summit on Ukraine and a G7 meeting. He will also join a scheduled European Council Summit to discuss Ukraine "including transatlantic efforts to impose economic costs on Russia, the White House said.

REUTERS

Israel's Bennett says big gaps remain in bid to end conflict

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, who has been trying to mediate an end to the Ukraine-Russia conflict, said on Monday that despite some progress big gaps remained between the sides. "There's still a long way to go, because ... there are several issues in dispute, some of them fundamental," he said. Bennett added that Israel, "together with other friends, will continue trying to bridge the gap and bring an end to the war". *Reuters*

Russian court calls Meta group extremist organisation, bans it

THE NEW YORK CITY
MARCH 21

A RUSSIAN court ruled on Monday that Meta, which owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, is an extremist organisation and banned it from operating on Russia's territory.

The "extremist" label will apply to Instagram and Facebook, but not to WhatsApp, and is effective immediately, according to Tass, a state news agency. The ruling followed Meta's decision to allow users in Ukraine to call for violence against the Russian Army in the context of the invasion.

During arguments in the



The extremist label will apply to Instagram and FB, but not to WhatsApp. *Reuters*

Tverskoy court in Moscow, the plaintiffs' lawyers said individuals will not be prosecuted for using Instagram or Facebook. But, according to an analysis by a le-

gal rights group that tracks internet freedoms in Russia, Net Freedoms Project, the court's ruling will mean that using Instagram or Facebook logos in public — for example, on a clothing store's website or on the door of a cafe — could result in up to 15 days in jail.

Additionally, buying ads from Facebook or Instagram, or trading Meta's stocks could be considered as "financing an extremist organisation" and result in a criminal case.

During the last two weeks, the Russian government has blocked Instagram and Facebook in the country, as well as Twitter, TikTok restricted access to its platform.

IN BRIEF

China to offer 10 mn yuan more of humanitarian aid

Beijing: The Chinese Red Cross will offer an additional 10 million yuan (\$1.57 million) of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told reporters on Monday. Wang's comments came at a regular briefing in Beijing and the promise of aid follows previous pledges of aid to Ukraine including one of 5 million yuan from earlier this month. *Reuters*



A mother embraces her son who escaped Mariupol and arrived at the train station in Lviv on Sunday. *AP*

SIMPLE RITUALS HAVE TAKEN A NEW, SURREAL MEANING IN THE CITY

Lviv, an ancient city transformed by war

MARC SANTORA
LVIV, MARCH 21

ON THE night before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a musician was singing on a cobblestone street in the heart of Lviv's old town, the glow from heat lamps casting a soft light on a yellow stone house.

Until the war, it was the home of Wild House, part exhibition space, part barbershop, part TikTok studio, and a gathering spot for artists and digital nomads. Now, it is a boardinghouse for people fleeing Russia's assault.

It started informally, with word of its existence spreading

in rushed phone calls and frenzied text messages. As the war expanded, so did word of Wild House, now part of an elaborate volunteer network dealing with a never ending stream of need.

Nadiya Opryshko, 29, an aspiring journalist turned humanitarian, is the driving force behind its transformation.

"The military of Russia, they are fighting for nothing," she said in an interview. "They did not know and cannot understand what they are fighting for."

"Ukrainian people, we know what we are fighting for," she continued. "We are fighting for peace. We are fighting for our country."



Statues and monuments around Lviv were wrapped with foam and plastic sheeting to protect them against bombs. *NYT*

And we are fighting for freedom." Her story, and that of Wild House, in many ways mirror the broader transformation that her city and her nation have undergone in only a few weeks of war.

The signs of change are visible everywhere, at once strange but also oddly familiar, former rituals playing out in a radically altered context.

There are the air raid sirens, wailing reminders of the destruction raining on cities across the country that, with the horrific strike last week on a military base just outside of town and another attack on Friday near the airport, are drawing

ever closer to the city itself.

But every day that Ukrainian forces around the capital, Kyiv, and other cities fight off the Russian onslaught is another day for Lviv to harden its defenses.

Artwork is now stowed in bunkers. Four limestone statues in Rynok Square, meant as an allegory for the Earth, are now wrapped in foam and plastic, turning Neptune into a silhouette with only his trident identifiable. The stained-glass windows of the Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, founded in 1360, are covered in metal to protect them from Russian rockets. *NYT*

REPRESSION OF MUSLIM ROHINGYA IN MYANMAR

US SAYS JUNTA COMMITTED GENOCIDE

Violent repression of the largely Muslim Rohingya population in Myanmar amounts to genocide, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, a declaration intended to both generate international pressure and lay the groundwork for potential legal action. Authorities made the determination based on confirmed accounts of mass atrocities on civilians by Myanmar's military in a widespread and systematic campaign against the ethnic minority.

NO FOREIGNER AMONG 132 PASSENGERS

China plane fell more than 20,000 feet in just over a minute

AGENCIES

BEIJING, MARCH 21

CHINA EASTERN Airlines' Flight MU-5735 left Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province, at 1.11 pm on Monday for what should have been an hour-and-a-half flight east to Guangzhou, a major commercial city in southeastern China.

After an hour, though, the flight turned horribly wrong, according to data from Flightradar24, a tracking platform.

About 2.20 pm, it "suddenly started to lose altitude very fast," Flightradar24 said in a tweet.

The plane was cruising at an altitude of 29,100 feet when, in just over a minute, it lost more than 21,000 feet. It appeared to briefly regain altitude around 8,000 feet before continuing its plunge, according to Flightradar24's data.

A manager for Wuzhou City Beichen Mining, Liao Wenhui, confirmed by telephone that their surveillance camera caught an image that appeared to be a plane plunging directly toward earth, but refused to say more.

Hopes to find the survivors among the 132 people travelling by the crashed aircraft in the thick forests receded as the night fell making efforts by scores of rescuers difficult. While the airline has announced that no foreigners were on board, families of some crew members from the crashed Eastern Airlines flight have arrived in the company's branch office in Yunnan Province and they were being assisted to "work on follow-up issues", state-run CGTN-TV reported.

The thunderous boom rippled across a tree-covered valley at midafternoon. Residents told



A piece of wreckage of China Eastern's flight MU5735 on the mountain in Tengxian County on Monday. *AP*



Source: Flightradar24

China's last big crash

EAN EMBRAER ERJ 190-100 operated by Henan Airlines and carrying a total of 44 passengers and crew hit the ground short of the runway on Aug. 24, 2010, while

landing in the northeastern city of Yichun. Everyone aboard was killed after the fuel caught fire. Investigators blamed an error by the pilot, who was landing at night and in reduced visibility.

Chinese news outlets that the plane, a Boeing 737 model,

plunged sharply to earth in a sparsely populated area.

Considering \$2.5 bn in loan, trade credits for Lanka: China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, MARCH 21

CHINA IS considering a \$2.5 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka, Beijing's top diplomat in Colombo said on Monday, as the island nation is reeling under an acute economic and energy crisis.

Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong's announcement came closely on the heels of last week's announcement by India to extend a \$1 billion line of credit to Sri Lanka as part of its financial assistance to help the country deal with the economic crisis.

"Sri Lanka has asked for \$2.5 billion that includes a \$1.5 billion buyer's credit. It (the request) is under consideration," Qi said.

"Both the countries now have to discuss how the loan and buyer's credit will be used," he added.

Qi, however, did not give any direct answer to questions on whether China would be restructuring the debt owed by Sri Lanka. During Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit in January, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had requested Beijing for debt restructuring to help the country overcome the current economic woes.

MUNIR AHMED
ISLAMABAD, MARCH 21

PAKISTANI PRIME Minister Imran Khan turned to grassroots supporters Monday, lobbying the poor and promising better hospital care as he faces a no-confidence motion in Parliament.

The opposition has demanded Khan step down over his alleged failure to improve the country's economy. Pakistan's key opposition parties launched a formal no-confidence vote for Khan earlier this month. Asad Qaiser, speaker of the National Assembly, convened a special session for Friday to deliberate whether Khan still has majority support in the house.

Under the constitution, the Parliament has three days to deliberate after which the lawmakers will vote, perhaps as early as Monday. Khan has remained defiant, claiming he still enjoys the backing of the majority of lawmakers in the 342-seat house.

On Monday, Khan spoke to a gathering at a hospital in Islamabad, lauding his government's efforts to provide free healthcare for the poor.

'SHEHBAZ SHARIF TO BE PML-N'S PM NOMINEE'

Islamabad: Pakistan's former premier Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz on Monday said PML-N leader Shehbaz Sharif will be the party's candidate to replace PM Imran Khan if the no-trust motion is passed in Parliament, a media report said. "Imran Khan! Your game is over. The Prime Minister is aware that no one will come to his rescue now that he has lost the game," she said, adding that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had officially broken up. *PTI*

But recent mutinies from within Khan's own Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party could easily tip the scales against him. As many as 13 lawmakers from his party have indicated they could vote against him. At a televised rally Sunday, he urged the dissenters to come back, saying he would forgive them, while also claiming they had been bribed by the opposition — a charge the tumcoats deny. *AP*

Economist Jayati Ghosh named by UN to advisory board

YOSHITA SINGH
UNITED NATIONS, MARCH 21

INDIAN DEVELOPMENT economist Jayati Ghosh has been appointed by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to a new high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism.

Ghosh, 66, is a Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She was previously professor of economics and chairperson of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is also a member of the UN's high-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs. Ghosh has been named to the 12-member board, which will be supported in its work by the Centre for Policy Research of the United Nations University in close coordination with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. In January last year, Ghosh was appointed by Guterres, along with 19 other thinkers and personalities from around the world. *PTI*

England rolls out fourth Covid vaccine dose for over-75s

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, MARCH 21

ENGLAND'S NATIONAL Health Service (NHS) opened bookings on Monday for the fourth Covid-19 vaccine dose for those aged 75 and over and high-risk immunosuppressed individuals as part of its spring booster vaccination programme.

The UK's independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation had advised a spring booster should be offered to those most vulnerable to Covid. The additional top up vaccine dose will be given around six months after the last dose.

"Spring boosters will help top up the immunity of the elderly and the most vulnerable to ensure they are protected and will help us continue to live with this virus," UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid said. Around 5 million people will be able to get a fourth dose during the latest NHS booster campaign by contacting over 600,000 people to invite them to book their vaccine. *PTI*

19 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 57,292.49 ▼ 171.44 (0.99%) NIFTY: 17,117.60 ▼ 169.45 (0.98%) NIKKEI: 26,827.43 ▲ 174.54 HANG SENG: 21,221.34 ▼ 191.06 FTSE: 7,450.80 ▲ 46.07 DAX: 14,420.07 ▲ 6.98

International market data till 1900 IST

DIGITAL WATCH
10-MIN QUICK COMMERCE

30-min delivery 'too slow', Zomato takes food q-comm plunge

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

A Zomato delivery worker, Mumbai. The firm will run the Zomato Instant pilot in Gurgaon. File

How will it work?

Zomato will fulfil quick deliveries out of "finishing stations" network located in close proximity to high-demand customer neighbourhoods. As part of the pilot, there will be four such stations in Gurgaon. Zomato's finishing stations seem similar to the dark store model used by q-commerce firms like Zepto and Blinkit that gives such companies greater control and influence over the operational chain.

Based on demand predictability and hyperlocal preferences, each finishing station will have around 20-30 items that sell the most in a given locality. These warehouses will also be equipped with dish-level demand prediction algorithms, and in-station robotics, the company said. Zomato said it was expecting that the model would help reduce the price for the end customer by around 50 per cent, while the absolute income for its restaurant partners and delivery workers will remain the same.

Why is Zomato venturing into food q-commerce?

Zomato co-founder Deepi-

EXPLAINED

nder Goyal said one of the reasons for launching Zomato Instant was that the 30-minute average delivery time by Zomato was "too slow" and would soon become "obsolete". "If we don't make it obsolete, someone else will."

He said restoring restaurants by fastest delivery time is one of the most used features on Zomato's app. "Customers are increasingly demanding quicker answers to their needs. They don't want to plan, and they don't want to wait."

What could be the impediments to this plan?

Even as q-commerce companies commence operations from hyperlocal stores after considering factors like road conditions, traffic, weather, etc, these aspects may present the biggest challenges to any 10-minute delivery plan in India. Zomato claimed that to fulfil its quick delivery promise, it will neither put pressure on delivery workers to deliver food faster, nor will it penalise them for late deliveries. It also claimed that delivery workers will not be informed of the promised time of delivery.

TO ALIGN WITH FORMULA-BASED RATES

Small savings rates need to be reduced in 9-118 bps range: RBI

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, MARCH 21

RBI has sought rate reduction on small saving instruments for Q1 of 2022-23. File

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has sought a further reduction in interest rates on small saving instruments (SSIs) for the first quarter of fiscal 2022-23 at a time when some banks have jacked up deposit rates. "The existing rates of interest on SSIs need to be reduced in the range of 9-118 bps for Q1 of 2022-23 to align them with the formula-based rates," it said in its 'State of the economy' report.

The government is expected to review interest rates on SSIs for the first quarter of 2022-23 on March 31, 2022, it added. Interest rates on SSIs are administered by the government. They include Public Provident Fund (PPF), Sukanya Samridhi Account (SSA), Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS), National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Post Office deposits. PPF now earns 7.10 per cent, SCSS 7.40 per cent and Post Office time deposits 5.5-6.7 per cent. These interest rates will

be valid for the period between January 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

These administered interest rates are linked to market yields on government securities (G-secs) with a lag and are fixed on a quarterly interval at a spread ranging from 0-100 basis points (bps) over and above G-sec yields of comparable maturities, the report said.

According to RBI data, total SSI outstanding as of February 2021 was Rs 12.24 lakh crore. Of this, PPF accounts for Rs 95,170 crore, Post Office deposits and NSS Rs 8,47,119 crore, and savings certificates like NSC Rs 2,82,482 crore.

Banks recover ₹61,000 cr via one-time settlement of loans

As many as 11 banks have recovered nearly ₹61,000 crore by way of OTS in nearly four fiscals, the Parliament was told

THE INTENT of such measures is to help banks promptly recycle their funds with advantage

THE FIGURES are for the last three financial years and up to December 2021 of the ongoing FY22 fiscal, MoS Finance Bhagwat Karad told the Lok Sabha

UNDER ONE TIME SETTLEMENT (OTS), recovery in NPA loan accounts are to be



effected to the maximum extent possible at minimum expense
Source: Government data/PTI

Banks are required as per Reserve Bank of India instructions to have a board-approved loan recovery policy

BRIEFLY
Labour Codes

New Delhi: At least 18 states and UTs have pre-published draft rules for 4 labour codes, MoS for Labour Ramshwar Teli told Lok Sabha.

India, Austria biz

New Delhi: Huge business opportunities exist for India & Austria, Austrian Minister for European and International Affairs Alexander Schallenberg said.

UN panel

New Delhi: Development economist Jayati Ghosh has been named by UN to a new high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism.

Privacy call

New Delhi: India, 8 nations and the EU called for fostering cooperation for high data protection and privacy standards based on core elements shared by Indo-Pacific, Europe and beyond.

Tata Altroz

New Delhi: Tata Motors launched Altroz with dual-clutch automatic transmission, starting at ₹8.09 lakh. PTI

Oil up over 6%

Houston: Oil rose over 6% on EU's plan to ban Russian oil. At 1633 GMT, Brent was up 6.6% to \$115.07, and US WTI by 5.6% to \$110.5. REUTERS

Chip sector plan: Training hubs for 6K scholars, 2.5L workers

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is in talks with select government funded higher education institutions to develop training and education programmes for around 2.5 lakh junior engineers for plant and shop floor management and around 5,000-6,000 research scholars who have at least a PhD, senior government officials said.

"We have a three-layer plan for creating talent for the semiconductor companies. The first one is scholarly capabilities, which will be useful in process and design element of manufacturing and fabrication. Then we have VLSI plant manufacturing capacity, which is the 85,000 engineers we will train. Then we have plans for plant and shop floor, manufacturing and testing types of skilled people," an official said.

For training 85,000 engineers who will work on core semiconductor technologies, the MeitY will seek inputs on the specific course and technology requirements of the semiconductor companies willing to set up units in India.

For people on the plant and shop floor, the ministry plans to check for specific areas and industries from which workers can be picked and either be re-skilled or up-skilled through certain short-duration training courses.

"Instead of saying the government will be doing the up-skilling or re-skilling, we will actively seek inputs from the industry for the



A semiconductor plant in Michigan, US. The IT Ministry will seek inputs on course requirements of firms willing to set up in India. Reuters file

capacity. The companies can lay down their demands in terms of broad skill set, specific skill set and high-end skill set. We can work with them to create educational and training hubs around their manufacturing unit or cluster," another senior MeitY official said.

These educational hubs, which will be created around the manufacturing units or such design and innovation clusters, will have a mix of high school, medium skill training centres such as industrial training institute (ITI) and high-end technology schools such as engineering colleges, the official added.

Specifically for training of the 85,000 engineers and 2.5 lakh shop and floor workers, the funding will come both from the government and the industry, the official said, adding that the Centre will fully finance these training programmes only if the companies commit to 100 per cent absorption of trained students and professionals, one of the officials quoted above said.

"So we will have all the pro-

grammes which will be NSQF (National Skills Qualifications Framework) compliant, and will be globally certifiable. Unlike in the past, these training programmes will be in part designed by the company which will so to say consume the trainees, and not some advisor who is unaware of the new changes," said an official.

The training programmes for researchers and PhD candidates — which needs both ample support in terms of funds and time — will, however, be funded "in totality at least initially" by the government, an official said.

"We want India to also start holding patents and intellectual property rights. There is no semiconductor company which does not have a designing base in India but most of the intellectual property for such designs are held by these companies, which in turn means that the governments of countries where these companies have their headquarters have much more leveraging power. We are also looking to enter that club," one of the officials said.

As per the latest All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) of 2019, which was released in June 2021, the total number of PhD admissions in the country increased from 1.26 lakh in 2015-16 to 2.02 lakh in 2019-20.

As per the report, 52,478 students were enrolled in various PhD programmes across the country in 19 sub-streams of engineering and technology, while among these computer science engineering had the most 7,682 students enrolled for PhD courses.

Lagarde on ECB, Fed

The world's two top central banks, the US Fed and the European Central Bank (ECB) will move out of sync in the foreseeable future, as the war in Ukraine has vastly different effects on their economies, ECB President Christine Lagarde said on Monday. REUTERS

'Will raise rates more aggressively if needed'



US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell. AP file

New York: The US central bank must move "expeditiously" to bring too-high inflation to heel, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said on Monday, adding that it could use bigger-than-usual interest rate hikes if needed to do so.

"The labor market is very strong, and inflation is much too

high," Powell told a National Association for Business Economics conference.

In particular, he added, "if we conclude that it is appropriate to move more aggressively by raising the federal funds rate by more than 25 basis points at a meeting or meetings, we will do so."

'INFLATION TO MODERATE GOING FORWARD'

Das: Economy well equipped to combat Ukraine spillovers

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 21

RBI GOVERNOR Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the Indian economy is well equipped to combat any spill-over effects from the global markets given the present Ukraine situation.

Acknowledging the prevailing global uncertainties and also the fact that the primary responsibility of the RBI is to maintain price stability, Das said, "though the current crisis in Europe could have an impact on inflation in India, the possibility of a prolonged breach of the laid down tolerance band is remote." Das said the central government and its monetary policy committee see no fears of stagflation — high inflation level and slow growth — in India. "Our target for inflation is 4 per cent plus or minus 2 per cent ... we are still within the range. We expect inflation to moderate going forward. India's growth projection is also 8.9 per cent. As far as we see it, the prospect of a stagflation does not arise," Das said while addressing the CEOs at the CII National Council Meeting.

Das said since the pandemic hit the economy in March 2020, the central bank has injected a whopping Rs 17 lakh crore into the system and assured abundant liquidity in the market to meet the "productive" requirement of the economy, Das said despite the



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das at the CII Meeting. PTI

headwinds arising from the Russia-Ukraine war, the economy is better placed given the high forex reserves and low current account gap. Most of the 60 high frequency indicators are now in the green with just the automotive sector in the orange, he said.

Despite the inflation being at 6 per cent for the last two months, Das said that the central bank does not see it as a problem until the issue persists consistently for the next three months. On the exchange rate, Das said the policy of the RBI has been to intervene only to address excessive volatility. The RBI used nearly \$10 billion from its forex kitty to defend the rupee in early March. When the rupee fell below the 77 level after the Russia-Ukraine war intensified and crude oil prices flared up, the RBI sold dollars to prevent a slide in the rupee value. Full report on

www.indianexpress.com

'LIC IPO: Govt files fresh draft'

New Delhi: The government has filed updated draft papers with market regulator Sebi for an initial public offer of LIC, incorporating December quarter financials of the insurance behemoth, an official said on Monday.

In the run-up to the mega IPO,

on February 13, the government had filed the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the regulator giving details of financial results till September. The DRHP got approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) early this month. PTI

CHINA PLANE CRASH

Boeing 737 fleet now put on 'enhanced surveillance': DGCA

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

INDIA'S AVIATION safety regulator will step up surveillance on the Boeing 737 fleet operated by airlines here, in light of Monday's crash of a China Eastern flight operating the same aircraft type. This means the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will increase "monitoring of procedures" followed by Indian carriers in operating, maintaining and keeping their 737 fleet airworthy.

Currently, budget airlines Air India Express and Spicejet, in addition to full-service carrier Vistara operate the Boeing 737 aircraft in their fleets. While most of these are the older generations 737 planes, Spicejet operates some new generation 737MAX planes in its fleet as well.

"Flight safety is a serious business. We are closely studying the situation and in the interim, we are mounting enhanced surveillance on our 737 fleet," DGCA chief Arun Kumar told *The Indian Express*, adding "We are deploying teams

'MONITORING'

■ The DGCA will increase "monitoring" of procedures followed by Indian carriers

to monitor flight procedures, airworthiness and operations." Spicejet has 47 older generation 737 aircraft, including 36 737-800 planes. Air India Express has 24 Boeing 737-800 planes, and Vistara has five 737-800 aircraft in its fleet. The China Eastern plane that crashed Monday with 132 people on board was an older generation Boeing 737-800, on its way from Kunming to Guangzhou.

Two Boeing 737MAX aircraft were involved in accidents from October 2018 to March 2019, claiming 346 lives. The DGCA had then banned Boeing 737MAX planes in India in March 2019. After Boeing made necessary software rectifications to the satisfaction of the DGCA, the ban on the aircraft's commercial operations was lifted after 27 months in August last year.

Crypto mining costs: No I-T deduction to be allowed, says govt

Loss from transfer of virtual digital asset can't be set off against income from transfer of another

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

CLARIFYING TAXATION aspects for cryptocurrencies or virtual digital assets, the government said Monday that infrastructure costs incurred in the mining of cryptocurrencies or any virtual digital assets will not be allowed as deduction under the Income-tax Act.

Also, loss from the transfer of virtual digital asset (VDA) will not be allowed to be set off against the income arising from the transfer of another VDA, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

The government will come out with a definition of VDAs with a view to levy 30 per cent tax on income from the transfer of such assets, he said, adding that currently cryptocurrencies are unregulated in the country.

The FY23 Budget has brought in clarity concerning the levy of income tax on crypto assets. From April 1, a 30 per cent income tax plus cess and surcharges, will be levied on such transactions.

"The (Finance) Bill also proposes to define VDA. If any asset falls within the proposed definition, such virtual asset will be considered as VDA for the purposes of the Act and other provisions of the Act will apply accordingly," Chaudhary said.

He added "infrastructure costs incurred in the mining of VDA (e.g. crypto assets) will not

be treated as cost of acquisition as the same will be in the nature of capital expenditure", which is not allowable as a deduction under the I-T Act.

Sandeep Jhunjhunwala, partner, Nangia Andersen LLP, said the clarifications provided by the government lays to rest some of the doubts that stakeholders of the crypto ecosystem had been grappling with and more might be required for withholding tax provisions on crypto transactions.

"Since intra-head adjustment of losses, i.e., set-off of loss arising from one VDA with the income from another VDA would not be permitted, such losses would be a sunk cost for the investors, causing a double whammy — paying taxes on gains and no offset of losses.

"This would lead to a situation where losses, say on account of transaction in altcoins (one VDA class) would not be permitted for set-off against gains on another VDA class, say any other programmatic token or bitcoin. Similar analogy could be drawn for set-off of losses within the same class of VDA, say ethereum vs dogecoin. Disallowance of infrastructure cost incurred in mining cryptocurrencies costs, as a permissible revenue expenditure, would further increase the cost of mining these assets," he said.

Meanwhile, the government is working on legislation to regulate cryptocurrencies, but no draft has yet been released publicly.

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED, JODHPUR
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING)
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342031

PHONE: (0291) 2742223

FAX: (0291) 2746539

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Tenders are invited for purchase of P.G. Clamp for ACSR Dog Conductor (Type-A), Weasel Conductor, Rabbit Conductor, Panther Conductor and T Clamp for Panther Conductor under TN-1758 (UBN JV22122GLOB00518) and Rate Contract for providing Spare Parts of VCB TN-1765 (UBN JV22122GRC00524).

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/djvni and also at <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>

Raj.Samwadi/CZ113084

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
विजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

राष्ट्रीय पशु जैव प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING)
An Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India

Survey No 37, Opp. Journalist Colony, Near Gowildoddy, Gachibowli, Hyderabad, Telangana, India - 500 032.

Advertisement No. 14 / 2022

NIAB, Hyderabad, an autonomous institute under the aegis of Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, is aimed to harness novel and emerging biotechnologies and create knowledge in the cutting edge areas for improving animal health and productivity.

NIAB invites applications from Indian Citizens for filling up the following positions on Direct Recruitment basis, as detailed below:

Positions	Pay Level	No of posts
Senior Manager (A&F)	Level 12	1 (UR)
Scientist – D	Level 12	2 (UR)
Scientist – C	Level 11	1 (SC)
Scientist – B	Level 10	1 (UR)

Please visit NIAB website www.niab.org.in for detailed advertisement and online application form.

Date of commencement of online applications : 20.03.2022

Last date for submitting online applications : 19.04.2022

Sd/- DIRECTOR

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project South, South Zonal Office Complex, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru -11

No.EEP(S)/E-Proc/21/21-22 Date:21.03.2022
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Project-South Division, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the work detailed in the table below:

S.I. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.)
1	Shifting of Inert Waste from Chikkanagamangala Waste Processing Plant.	200.00	3,00,000/-

Period of completion (Including Monsoon) : **3 Months.** 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website. 2) Pre bid meeting : **28.03.2022 at 03.00 p.m.** 3) Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **05.04.2022 upto 04.00 p.m.** 4) Date of opening of technical bid: **07.04.2022 at 04.30 p.m.** 5) Date of opening of financial bid: **11.04.2022 at 04.00 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project-South Division.

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene

**DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (SDW) NW
NSTP CORONATION PILLAR DELHI-110009
E-mail ID:- nstp.djb@gmail.com, Phone No 011-27602302**

SHORT PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 21 (2021-22)

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution	Last date / time for receipt of tender through E-Procurement Solution
1	Providing & Laying of 450 mm dia MS rising main in parallel of existing 600 mm dia from DD 6 lift pump house to inlet of STP Narela	3877315/-	77600/-	21.03.2022 2022_DJB_219240_1	26.03.2022 at 1.30 PM

NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on web sitet <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 1289 (2021-22)

Sd/- (Er. Ram Manohar)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VII

"STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

MP POORV KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
BLOCK NO.8, SHAKTI BHAWAN, RAMPUR, JABALPUR (M.P.)
Tel No:0761 2702473, Fax No.0761-2660048
CIN : U40109MP2002SGC015120

TENDER NOTICE
Jabalpur, dtd:16.03.2022

Online Tenders are invited for following item:-

S. No.	T.S. No. Discom-EZ/PUR	NAME OF ITEMS	APPROX. VALUE (Rs. in Lakhs)	TENDER FEE (in Rs)	DATE OF OPENING OF TENDER
1.	1224 (E-Tender No. 2022_PKVVC_191429_1)	11 KV & 33 KV CT:PT Units for Consumer Metering	238.65	5,900.00	20.04.2022

For other details visit our website- www.mpez.co.in & mptenders.gov.in

SAVE ELECTRICITY C.G.M. (PURCHASE)
"बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के निराकरण के लिए 1912 डायल करें"

Invitation for Bids Procurement of Works (Two-Envelope Bidding Process without Prequalification)

No. and Date:	CE/ARNIP/A/RI-2/01/2018/44, March 21, 2022
Loan No.:	To be assigned [Project No: 53335-001]
Loan Title:	Assam Road Network Improvement Project (ARNIP)
Contract Title:	Improvement, upgradation and 5-year performance-based maintenance works of Road A04: Jogighopa to Bongaigaon via Oudubi (Length: 36.791 km); Road A25: Borkhola-Kalain (Length:- 21.387 km); Road A26_1: Bhanga Sessabari, Hailakandi (Length:- 23.60 km); Road A26_2: Hailakandi - Dwarbond (Length-23.787 km)
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	May 5, 2022, till 2:00 PM IST

1. The Government of India has applied loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Assam Road Network Improvement Project. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contracts named below. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

2. The "Public Works Roads Department, Government of Assam" ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the following works given in the table below;

Package No.	Package Name	Estimated cost of work (INR, crore)	Completion Time (Months)	Bid Security (INR)
ARNIP/A/RI-2	Improvement, upgradation and 5-year performance-based maintenance works of Road A04: Jogighopa to Bongaigaon via Oudubi (Length: 36.791 km)	262.43	Execution = 36, post construction performance-based maintenance=60	5,25,00,000.00 using the instruments specified in ITB 19.3
ARNIP/A/RI-9	Improvement, upgradation and 5-year performance-based maintenance works of Road A25: Borkhola-Kalain (Length-21.387 km)	115.58	Execution = 30, post construction performance-based maintenance=60	2,31,00,000.00 using the instruments specified in ITB 19.3
ARNIP/A/RI-10	Improvement, upgradation and 5-year performance-based maintenance works of Road A26_1: Bhanga Sessabari, Hailakandi (Length-23.60 km)	133.41	Execution = 30, post construction performance-based maintenance=60	2,67,00,000.00 using the instruments specified in ITB 19.3
ARNIP/A/RI-11	Improvement, upgradation and 5-year performance-based maintenance works of Road A26_2: Hailakandi -Dwarbond (Length-23.787 km)	157.14	Execution = 30, post construction performance-based maintenance=60	3,14,00,000.00 using the instruments specified in ITB 19.3

A bidder may submit bid for one or more packages. Bids will be evaluated applying multiple contract criteria, as provided in the bidding document.

3. Open competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage Two Envelope (1S2E) procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries and with following key qualifications:

Package No.	Road	Minimum Annual Turnover	Contracts of similar size and nature
ARNIP/A/RI-2	A04	INR 175.00 crore	Participation in at least one contract with a value of INR 210.00 crore or two contracts with a value of at least INR 157.00 crore in each contract within 5 years.
ARNIP/A/RI-9	A25	INR 92.47 crore	Participation in at least one contract with a value of INR 92.50 crore or two contracts with a value of at least INR 69.30 crore in each contract within 5 years.
ARNIP/A/RI-10	A26_1	INR 106.70 crore	Participation in at least one contract with a value of INR 106.70 crore or two contracts with a value of at least INR 80.10 crore in each contract within 5 years.
ARNIP/A/RI-11	A26_2	INR 125.72 crore	Participation in at least one contract with a value of INR 125.70 crore or two contracts with a value of at least INR 94.30 crore in each contract within 5 years.

More details of qualification requirements are mentioned in the Bidding Documents

4. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact: Office of the Chief Engineer (EAP), PWRD Assam Address: Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati-781025, India, Email: as-ce.arnip@assam.gov.in

5. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders should:

- Download the Bidding Documents which will be available online on the e-tendering System <https://assamtenders.gov.in> from March 24, 2022 (from 05:00 PM) onwards, till May 5, 2022, 2:00 PM.

- pay a nonrefundable fee of INR 10,000.00 or equivalent in the form of Demand Draft from a commercial bank in India or from a reputed bank outside India and drawn in favour of the Assam State Road Board A/C No. 10566991479.

6. Deliver your bid through electronic submission:

- in the e-tendering system <https://assamtenders.gov.in> on or before the deadline May 5, 2022 upto 2.00 PM
- together with a Bid Security and tender fee as described in the Bidding Document.

7. Bids will be opened on May 5, 2022 at 02:15 PM after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

Chief Engineer (EAP), PWRD Assam
Janasanyog /CF/3824/21 **Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati - 781025**

**TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
E-TENDER NOTICE :TANGEDCO/SHORT/ PP-21/2022**

TANGEDCO invites E-Tender for procurement of RTC power upto 1000 MW from 4th April 2022 to 20th May 2022. Bidding will be done as per the revised guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power vide resolution dated 30.03.2016 and as per amendment dated 21.02.2022 through e-Bidding portal (DEEP) only. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com, and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consulting Ltd (www.pfcindia.com). Specification is available in TANGEDCO website and MSTC DEEP E-Bidding portal.

Chief Engineer/PPPTANGEDCO

ALAGAPPA UNIVERSITY
[Accredited with A+ grade by NAAC (CGPA:3.64) in the Third Cycle, Graded as Category-I University and Granted Autonomy by MHRD-UGC]

KARAIKUDI – 630 003
Ref: DDE/DE12/Tender/Printing of Course Materials/2022 dt.21.03.2022
Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are invited from reputed publishers for printing of course materials for various programmes being offered by DDE. Filled in Tenders shall reach on or before **25.04.2022 upto 3.00 p.m.** The details are available in www.tenders.tn.gov.in and University website www.alagappauniversity.ac.in

Place : Karaikudi Date : 21.03.2022 DIPRI/ 1422 /TENDER/2022 Prof. C. Sekar REGISTRAR i/c

"செய்தனை கூட்டு அத்திற்கும் அடைந்ததென்றும், சாத்தனை புரிந்து சரித்திற்கும் படைப்போம்"

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-07205)

Open Tender Enq. No. 365/P-3/EMP-W-11938 Dated: 17.03.2022
Dy Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites Open E-tender ID No. 2022_POWER_83065_1 for Breakdown/ Preventive Mtc. of TG Equipments & Overhauling of associated auxiliaries of 4x210 Mw 'KWU' Design BHEL Make TG Units at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 17.03.2022/ 06.00 P.M. onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> RTP-16/22 12904/Pb

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Rekha, D/o Meh Lal, R/o C-806, Phase-1, Metro Vihar, Holambi Kalan, Delhi.** Age 18 years 6 months, Height 5', Complexion Wheatish, Round Face, Normal Built, Wearing Pink colour shirt, blue colour jeans pant and pink colour hawai chappal in feet has been missing since 05.02.2021 at 12.00 am from her house. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this girl but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 52-A dated 04.04.2021 has been lodged at PS Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Email: clc@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Fax: 011-23011334 **PS: Narela Industrial Area, Delhi**
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218 **Ph.: 011-27787594**
DP/164/ON/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sageer S/o Fazru R/o Village Atorna Samsabad, Tehsil Firozpur, Jhirka, Mewat, Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 193/2018 u/s 279 IPC PS. Lahori Gate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sageer** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sageer** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. have been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sageer** accused of FIR No. 193/2018 u/s 279 IPC PS. Lahori Gate, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **27.06.2022**.

By Order: Ms. Neha Gupta Singh
Metropolitan Magistrate-09, Central, Room No. 286, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/2073/N/22

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Smt. Sarita R/o H.No. B-581, Hari Enclave, 2nd Kirari Delhi, New Delhi** has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 1242/2014 dated 14.03.2022 U/s 22/8 P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person **Smt. Sarita** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person **Smt. Sarita** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation are hereby made that the said accused person **Smt. Sarita** of FIR No. 1242/2014 Dated 14.03.2022 U/s 22/8, P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **09.05.2022**.

By Order
DP/1350/RD/2022 **Neeraj Gaur**
(Court Matter) Additional Sessions Judge-05 (NW), Room No. 309, 3rd Floor, District Courts Rohini, Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION NO.1, BARHAIT

e-Procurement Very Short Time Tender Notice
Tender Reference No. :- WRD/IRRIGATION DIV. NO.1 BARHAIT /F2-02/2021-22 Dt :16.03.2022

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Time of Completion	Last date & Time for receipt of bids	Date of Publication of Tender on website	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Contact no. of Procurement officer	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell
1.	Construction of P.C.C. road on right & left afflux bund under Gumani Barrage Scheme under Irrigation Division No.1, Barhait	Rs.16750300.00 (Rupees One Crore Sixty Seven lakh Fifty thousand Three hundred) only	360 days	01.04.2022 Up to 5.00 P.M.	23.03.2022 11:00 A.M.	Executive Engineer Irrigation Division No.1, Barhait	9431365175	06432-232477

Note :- Only E-Tender will be accepted.
Estimated cost may vary.
Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer
PR266531 (Irrigation)21-22'D Irrigation Division No.1, Barhait

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Anish Mohammad, S/o Gani Mohammad, R/o H.No. 45, Village Dabri, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 169/2020 U/S 188/269 IPC PS Janakpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Anish Mohammad** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Anish Mohammad** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Anish Mohammad** of FIR No. 169/2020 U/S 188/269 IPC PS Janakpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on 13.05.2022.

By Order
Neetika Kapoor
Metropolitan Magistrate-11
Room No. 05, Ground Floor
Dawarka District Courts, New Delhi

DP/775/WD/2022

**DELHI JAL BOARD DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-4
LUCKNOW ROAD, TIMAR PUR, DELHI - 110054**

Short NIT. No. 91 (Item no.1) (2021-22) E.E.(T)/A.C.E.(M)-4.

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Earnest Money	Tender fee (Non-refundable)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Engagement of 15 Nos SGB for desilting of sewer line in Malkaganj ward 13N in AC-03 under ACE(M)-04. I.D 2022_DJB_219117_1	Item Rate	17.03.2022 02 P.M. onward	59,200/-	500/-	Technical bid will be received 31.03.2022, 3:00 PM & opening of financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 1289(2021-22)

Sd/- (S.K. SINGH)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-T(M)-4

"STOP CORONA: "Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

**DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVERNMENT OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-1
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M)-57 / T-1
M-16, POCKET E, MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-II, DELHI-110091
Phone No. 011-22722392, Email ID: eeest1djb@gmail.com**

**PRESS NOTICE TENDER
NIT NO. 59 (2021-22)**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV) Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Fees	Date of Release of tender in E-Procurement Solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date/ Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
1.	Providing and laying new sewer line in left out portion in Mulla colony and Ghadoli Village in AC-56 Kondli under AEE(M)-56	26,96,509.00	54,000.00	500.00	19.03.2022 2022_DJB_219203_1	29.03.2022 At 03:16 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 1286(2021-22)

Sd/- (Sudhir Kr. Gupta)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M)-57

Stop Corona: 1. Wash Your Hands 2. Wear Mask 3. Maintain Social distance

**DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (T)
ROOM NO. 212, VARUNALAYA PHASE-II,
KAROL BAGH NEW DELHI-110005**

Filling up the 01 post Assistant Engineer (Civil) on Deputation Basis in Delhi Jal Board
Last Date of submission of application 04.05.2022

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up the 01 post of Assistant Engineer (Civil) on deputation basis in Delhi Jal Board in Pay Level-09 as per 7th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix of Rs. 53,100-1,67,800, initially for a period of one year or till this post is filled up on regular basis or till further orders whichever is earlier. For more information please visit our website www.delhijalboard.nic.in.

Sd/-
(A.K. KAUSHIK)
DIRECTOR (ADMN. & PERSONNEL)

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 1291 (2021-22)

"STOP CORONA: 1. Wash Your Hands 2. Wear Mask 3. Maintain Social Distance

e-Procurement Cell BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, JHARKHAND, RANCHI

Short Term e-Procurement Notice Date :21 -3-2022

Sl. No	Tender Reference No.	Work Name	Amount in (Rs)	Completion Time
1	BCD/Bokaro/15/2021-22	Construction of SDO Office Building at Chas, Bokaro, Jharkhand.	9,19,55,000/-	11 Months
2	BCD/Ranchi-1/16/2021-22	Proposed Construction of EVM Ware house at Ranchi .	7,68,62,000/-	11 Months
4	Date of Publication of Tender on Website		06.04.2022 at 11:00 AM	
5	Start Date of Submission of Bids		06.04.2022 at 11:00 AM	
6	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bids		20.04.2022 at 05:00 PM	
7	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bid Security Money and Tender Fee		22.04.2022 upto 12:00 PM	
8	Date/Time of opening of Bid		22.04.2022 at 02:00 PM	
9	Name & Address of office Inviting tender	e-Procurement Cell, Building Construction Department, Project Building, 3 rd Floor, Room No-326, Jharkhand, Ranchi.		
10	Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell		0651-2446166	

Any change can be seen on Website <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Any other information can be seen on <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in>.

Nodal Officer e-Procurement Cell
PR 266549 (Building)21-22'D Building Construction Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi.

Tender Notice

Golden opportunity for cargo operators and transporters to be a partner with Northern Railway through leasing Parcel Cargo Express Train in Firozpur Division.

Tender No. 179-C/PCET/1021/Reserve Price **Date: 21.03.2022**
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur invites E-tender through IREPS for leasing of Parcel Cargo Express Train having composition of 15 parcel Vans having CC 24 tonnes each (LVPHs) and one brake Van for a period of six years. (PCET shall be 15 parcel vans + 1 Brakevan, for first six months of contract, and after six months, the composition shall be 20 parcel van + 1 brakevan).

Tender Opening Date : 12.04.2022 at 15:00 hrs.

From	To	Total Tonnes	Minimum Frequency per month	Reserve Price	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Cost including GST @ 18 % (in Rs.)
Sanehwal (SNL)	Bhanga (BXG)	363.9	Four Round Trip	Rs. 25,64,040/- per round trip	50 Lakh	Rs. 11,800/- (Rs. 10000 + Rs. 1800 GST)

A. Tentative Time Table: Parcel Cargo Express Train Ex. Sanehwal to Bhanga and back to Sanehwal on round trip.

Days	Arrival	Departure	Station	Arrival	Departure	Days
Wed	-	18:05	Sanehwal (SNL)	13:55	-	Thu
Wed/Thu	23:55	06:30	Patel Nagar (PTNR)	00:05	07:30	Thu
Thu	12:00	16:20	Rampur (RMU)	11:00	17:50	Wed
Thu/Fri	23:20	03:20	Transport Nagar (TPNR)	02:10	05:10	Wed
Sat	01:00	05:00	New Jalpaiguri (NJP)	23:55	03:55	Mon/Tue
Sat	14:10	18:10	New Guwahati Goods Shed (NGC)	10:30	14:30	Mon
Sun	05:00	-	Bhanga (BXG)	-	23:45	Sun

Interested bidders may please visit official website for E-tendering i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for further details and submitting tender.

Important Note :-

- Bidders who wish to participate in the e-tendering will have to procure class-3 valid Digital Security Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can procure this certificate from any of the certifying authority of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) Government of India. Details of certifying authorities can be obtained from www.cca.gov.in.
- The bidder has to register, if not registered earlier with www.ireps.gov.in using DSC to participate in tender process. Detailed procedure for registration, system requirements and bidding are also available on www.ireps.gov.in.

601/2022

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav **NORTHERN RAILWAY** **Your Convenience - Our Concern**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Fritz stops
Nadal's winning
streak, earns
Indian Wells title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIAN WELLS (US), MARCH 21

HOURS FROM playing in the biggest final of his young career, Taylor Fritz was in severe pain. The prospect of having to withdraw against Rafael Nadal nearly had him in tears. His coach urged him not to potentially risk damaging his sore ankle further. Fritz stubbornly refused to bow out.

His faith in himself paid off. Fritz upset Nadel 6-3 7-6 (5) on Sunday to win the BNP Paribas Open and snap the 21-time major champion's 20-match winning streak this year. "It was a complete non-issue, didn't feel it at all, didn't hinder me at all," said Fritz, who tweaked his ankle late in his semifinal win over No. 7 seed Andrey Rublev.

Blue medical tape could be seen above his high sock and he had it numbed before the final. Nadal had his own health issue. He came into the match bothered by painful breathing that he first experienced in a three-set semifinal win. He took two medical time-outs during the final. The first one came after he lost the first set. Nadal went inside with a trainer after tapping his upper left chest. He got treatment on court after falling behind 5-4 in the second set.

"When I try to breathe, it's painful and it's very uncomfortable. It's like a needle all the time inside. I get dizzy a little bit because it's painful. It's a kind of pain that limit me a lot," said Nadal, who turns 36 in June.

"The thing that worries me now, it's about what's going on there, what I have to do now to recover and how long going to take."

Nadal's 20-0 start to the year included the Australian Open, his 21st major championship that broke a tie with Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer. He also won titles in Melbourne and Acapulco. "Of course, the last two months have been amazing, unforgettable, very emotional," Nadal said.

"I enjoy things that I never thought I could live again a few months ago."

In an error-filled women's final, Iga Swiatek defeated Maria Sakkari 6-4, 6-1. The 20-year-old Polish player and Fritz earned USD 1.2 million each for their victories. Fritz didn't waste any time in attacking Nadal, racing to a 5-1 lead in the first set with two breaks. Nadal got a break back in closing to 5-3, but his backhand error gave Fritz another break and the set.

"It's an honour to even be on the same court as this guy," Fritz told the crowd. "I grew up watching this guy win everything." Nadal fought off a match point on his serve with a forehand winner to tie the second set 5-all. He had two break points on Fritz's serve in the next game, but the American held for a 6-5 lead.

GAURAV BHATT

THE ROBELINDA2 channel must be run by an Indian.' 'It has to be more than one person, it's a team.'

Rob Moody has long gone public as the man behind the popular YouTube channel, but there's no end to the conspiracy theories. The 44-year-old from Melbourne — whose moniker Robelinda2 has earned over a million subscribers and a billion views on YouTube, complemented by a burgeoning presence on Twitter — shakes his head at the myths.

"Every day, I see these comments. Let me show you my team," Moody switches to the rear camera on his iPad during the video call and takes us into his lair. There's the desk with a system, editing equipment and discs lying atop. And the imposing walls of thousands of tapes and DVDs, neatly labelled a la 'Australia vs India, 2003-04'.

Moody switches back to the front-facing camera: "It's a one-man operation."

Moody is a modern-day archivist, the ultimate librarian and YouTube much before the term became a new-wave career choice. He is in his 40th year of taping cricket matches and cataloguing them. From this cache, he edits and publishes clips of moments seemingly lost. The latest offering is the fastest Test 200 by Nathan Astle, 20 years ago; "Cheat mode batting."

Sometimes, it is serendipitous. Last Friday, Moody posted Navjot Singh Sidhu's towering six off Aussie debutant Gavin Robertson in the 1998 Chennai Test.

"I was just looking at old videos on my account last year. I posted that Sidhu clip a year ago and thought 'let's retweet it'. Everyone went, 'Rob! Right on point'. I was like, 'what are you guys talking about?'" The day before, Sidhu, batting for Congress, had lost his Amritsar (East) seat in the Punjab Assembly polls to Aam Aadmi Party debutante Jeevan Jyot Kaur. "Everyone's like, 'wow, you're such a cricket fan that you follow Indian politics?'" Moody throws his head back laughing.

But the lucky nicks are rare. Moody's screamer-through-the-covers-for-four timing is part of his appeal. Earlier this month, Moody — a touring musician and guitar instructor — was back home after a late Friday night gig when a Twitter post broke the news of Shane Warne's death.

"Instantly, I thought 'come on, guys. You can't be joking about stuff like that.' I checked Google. I checked the news. Nothing on it, so I blocked the guy." Moody, who later unblocked the account after confirmations and tributes poured in, remembers "sitting there for ages, looking at the screen."

"In Australia, we were mostly asleep. But most of the cricket world was wide awake. I



The 44-year-old from Melbourne has earned over a million subscribers and a billion views on YouTube.

was about to go to bed but thought I should put up some Shane Warne videos. I've uploaded hundreds of videos anyway, so I just had to find them all and chuck them into a thread. But at the same time, I was shaking."

Tribute and archive

Since then, the 'Robelinda2' Twitter account has become a Shane Warne memorial site and educational tool rolled into one. There are clips of the Aussie great's battles with Kevin Pietersen and Nasser Hussain, the flippers and leg-breaks, etched in the collective psyche of cricket fandom. Then there's some 'old gold' straight from the Moody archives. The very first Warne-Sachin Tendulkar duel. And the "impossible ball" to Saeed Anwar, captioned: "Straight from my VHS tapes of the match in full, never been on the internet before with full replays and commentary!!!! (sic)"

"I knew that even when he was alive, everyone loved Shane Warne videos anyway. New fans get to see crazy deliveries and even crazier antics," says Moody. "People now can just celebrate all the positive things in the awesome footage."



Another Australian leggie Stuart MacGill

SPORTLINE

Cricket's video jockey

Rob Moody's Robelinda YouTube channel has become the unofficial visual record-keeper and point of reference for the game

"That's one aspect which always surprised me, that the players largely don't have a library of every ball of every innings. Like you would think that surely Tendulkar has got every ball that he's ever faced in cricket."

also benefitted from Moody's tapes.

"He asked me, 'how many balls would I have from his Test career?' I went, 'Every ball.' 'Are you kidding?' I sent him some stuff. He sent me some bottles of wine."

Cricketers, especially domestic cricketers in England, India, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have often contacted Moody for footage of themselves playing.

"That's one aspect which always surprised me, that the players largely don't have a library of every ball of every innings. Like you would think that surely Tendulkar has got every ball that he's ever faced in cricket."

The conversation then turns to the opaque, inconsistent and oft-frustrating world of copyright claims, channel strikes and bans. YouTube issues copyright strikes

to a creator if they've uploaded something within their video that they do not own the rights to. Three strikes mean the channel is terminated and the user is banned from creating another. 'Robelinda2' is always sitting on two strikes.

"Every day, I wake up and I check (if the channel is still up). Because I've seen it. I've had someone else's channel open, and the next day, I refresh it. 'This channel no longer exists, it has been terminated due to multiple third-party copyright violations'. That's gonna be me one day," Moody says. "I have given up caring. But I still don't do the really suicidal things like IPL or anything from the last 15 years if I can help it. ICC has told me I can't upload anything from '92 onwards."

Gradually, Moody has found support. Last year, the West Indies cricket board issued a bunch of strikes. Moody posted it on Twitter and the ensuing backlash prompted an official to contact him and sort the issue out within a day. Earlier, Cricket Australia came down heavily, resulting in Moody's Twitter account getting suspended. Fans rallied, journalists quizzed CA officials and former cricketer Tom Moody and Australia limited-overs captain Aaron Finch lent their voice. "Ridiculous...so short-sighted. Rob has done a wonderful job in celebrating our game and keeping our memories alive! (sic)," tweeted

Tom Moody.

The suspension, and copyright claims were revoked soon after.



The Moody household got its first VCR in 1982. It was a "rubbish, hunk of junk VCR", but for five-year-old Rob, it was "magic."

Anything and everything made it into the first batch of Moody archives — news, kid shows — before Rob zeroed in on cricket and music videos. "I got to the stage where I had to kick my parents out of their bigger bedroom because I needed the space for all the tapes. Even they were supportive enough for no real reason. They should have said, 'Oi! You're turning into a nutcase.'"

VCR tapes to more than 30,000 DVDs — "they scratch, they break, they don't work suddenly" — to now hard drives worth terabytes. Like his tools, the support for his passion too has grown. "When my wife Belinda (the channel is named after Rob and Belinda) first came to my parents' house and saw a room full of cricket videos... Obviously she was just trying to get out of there as soon as she could. Because clearly, it was not going to work out. But that was 23 years ago," laughs Moody.



Like his followers and subscribers, Moody too has his favourite videos.

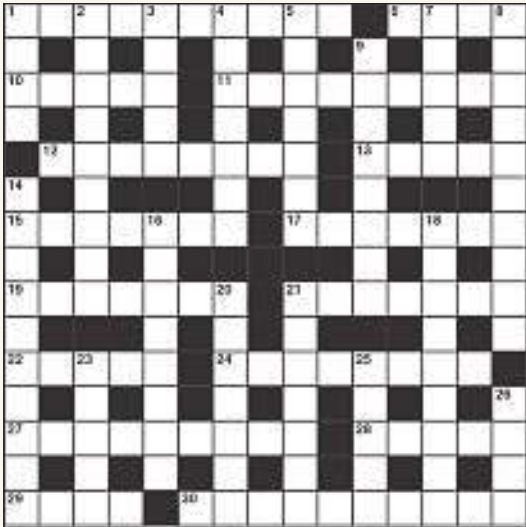
"If you're having a crappy day, or you're not feeling well, you watch the Inzamam (ul-Haq) run-outs video and you just die laughing." Each post by Moody invites umpteen requests for the rarest of clips. Often, he is able to scour his catalogue and fulfil demands. There is, however, a white whale.

"Every couple of days, I get some person from India asking me for the famous 175 by Kapil Dev," Moody says. "It doesn't exist because of the BBC's strike back then but every time... 'Rob, do you have the 175?' I'm like, 'Yeah. Would you like it in 4K? Let me go back to 1983 and record it on my phone sneakily.'"

"The best thing about the internet is the engagement with genuine fans, that will go 'Hey Rob, do you recall that pull shot from Greg Blewett in '97? Chris Cairns at 'Gabba? That bowler who broke the stump cam at SCG in '89?' Yes! That was Greg Campbell, Ricky Ponting's uncle. I'll go chuck the video up.' Every day I'm reminded of moments because of the fans. If I didn't have the videos, I'd be the one absolutely harassing people online for the same things."

(WITH INPUTS FROM MIHIR VASAVDA AND SHASHANK BHARGAVA)

CROSSWORD 4694



ACROSS

- 1 Stock answer to Solomon's dilemma (5,5)
- 6 Question the cause of inflation? (4)
- 10 New rates set for rents (5)
- 11 Concerning a will he's shameless (9)
- 12 Make up watch on the ship (8)
- 13 Plans to move aside (5)
- 15 Gets off with a slight dislocation (7)
- 17 Trying to interview royalty? (7)
- 19 One falling behind to pull the girl back (7)
- 21 Joke about girl being very moral (7)
- 22 Kind of paper that exposes plots (5)
- 24 They form some unit of the Canadian police (8)
- 27 From being in the red I possibly came into money (9)
- 28 All the points you start are interesting (5)
- 29 Treat ill (4)
- 30 Night watchman (10)

DOWN

- 1 Place it in the southeast (4)
- 2 Decoding any signal that's broadcast (9)
- 3 Stand in the drawing room (5)
- 4 Leaps out of bed perhaps (7)
- 5 They give judgment on strikes shameless (9)
- 7 A practice embodied in various agencies (5)
- 8 Urge a swell to become a publicity man (5,5)
- 9 Bully one who works around a colliery (8)
- 14 A miller no doubt likes a rest from it (5,5)
- 16 Receives news about the plants (8)
- 18 Engaged in current affairs? (2,3,4)
- 20 Acts in a degrading way (7)
- 21 Sack and what may be put in it (7)
- 23 Remains of burning trees (5)
- 25 Fitting end for a number with no heart (5)
- 26 He changes colour - sounds disastrous (4)

Solutions Crossword 4693: Across: 1 Leather, 5 Husky, 8 Suspender, 9 Ire, 10 Rate, 12 One-sided, 14 Touchy, 15 Pitted, 17 Subtract, 18 Stop, 21 Ava, 22 Terminate, 24 Ellen, 25 Dessert, Down: 1 Loser, 2 Ass, 3 Hied, 4 Riding, 5 Hardship, 6 Spindrift, 7 Yielded, 11 Thumbnail, 13 Sheraton, 14 Testate, 16 Scored, 19 Pleat, 20 Miss, 23 Awe.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

GLAEI

DOUHN

EGIRPP

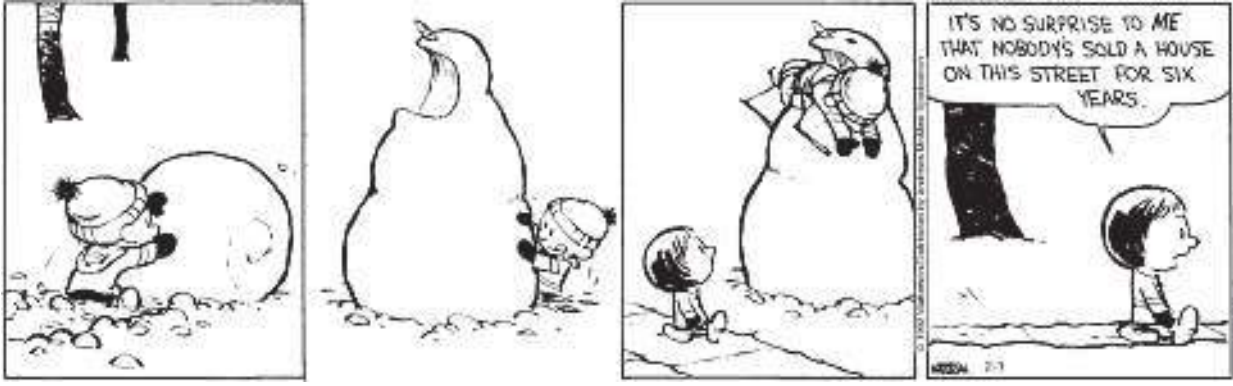
IINTBG

Answer: It's the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen. - John Wooden (3,.,8)

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4781

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4780



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

I am quite sure that in the past you have been slighted at work. However, it takes a brave person to get the better of you. At least a financial wrong should soon be put to rights. In matters of the heart, your feelings are still dominated by fantasies, rather than facts.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

A first glance at your planetary picture suggests that the current situation is rather simple. A deeper examination, however, reveals subtleties that are intimately bound up with how successfully you communicate with close partners. The golden rule is, always give them a chance to respond.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Mercury's intriguing relationship with unusual Uranus is highly significant because of its surprising influence over your entire life. The net result will be contradictory influences and a forecast of awkward choices. But, then, sometimes a middle helps you make your escape.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The planetary picture has been unsettled for so long, and a lot of troubled waters have flowed under the bridges in recent times. As from now, the Cancerian horoscope is becoming more relaxed. You'll do well, by the way, if you take the moral high ground.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Mercury has spent the last few weeks extravagantly influencing your sign, so you should have had ample room to gather information and to make your choices. There is no point at all in giving other people the run-around, you'll only waste valuable time.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

The Moon's practical presence encourages you to make your own way within the family and, in all matters concerning the home, you should keep your own counsel. Nobody can give you advice which will match your own ideas. That doesn't mean you shouldn't listen courteously.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Venus and Jupiter are offering all the help you need. Personally, emotionally and professionally, your life can be transformed. All you need to do is accept that a particular chapter has come to an end, and that the people who can help you might be the last ones you would have thought of.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

For quite some time you have buried your head in the sand, but then this is a terribly natural thing for any Scorpio to do. Looking at things from the other angle, why should you get involved in matters which you honestly feel are none of your business?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Please don't complain about your financial situation. There is a great deal you can do to help yourself and heave yourself up by your own boot straps. It is amazing how well you can do when you try. And the lesson here is that, as soon as you make an effort, you'll get more than you asked for.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You, as a Capricorn, know better than anyone that certain past obligations cannot be ignored. If you want to renege on a promise, do so with the absolute total minimum of fuss. At work, an employer needs placating, so tread carefully and smile sweetly.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

If there is any chance of a confrontation then it's likely to be caused by a massive muddle. I don't think you need work too hard or long to prevent some sort of showdown. When push comes to shove, you may indeed find that a threatened confrontation fails to materialise. Family members may even do what they're told.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The Moon moves on today, exerting an additional role in your partnerships. This means that you will have to take other people's wishes into account, but that partnerships will offer considerable benefits. Keep an eye on private priorities but give the emphasis to public projects.

Bridgetown (Barbados): The West Indies and England drew a second straight Test in Barbados, leaving their series to be decided in the third and final test in Grenada. England didn't declare its second innings until during the lunch break on Sunday, when it was 185-6 and led by 281 runs at Kensington Oval.

AP

A 10-team contest, 70 games, two host cities, changing corporate interest, T20 World Cup audition for players and the growing aura as the cricket world's most-important tournament. As a countdown to the start of cricket's richest league, *The Indian Express* brings together the varied threads of this unique reset season of reshuffled squads. Today: a look at how the IPL transcended parochialism.

Dhoni-CSK: Rest is history, not geography

The league started with the concept of local icon players, but the ‘*Thala*’ proved that success and creating a bond with fans led to stronger loyalty

SANDIP G
MARCH 21

THE JERSEY launch of Chennai Super Kings in 2008 was a grand and elaborate function at the Chennai Trade Centre, attended by the glitterati of the Tamil film industry, businessmen and politicians. The events of the evening, that crawled well into the night, included an acrobatic performance by a Taiwanese pair and a laser-effects show by a Russian artiste, apart from popular singers belting out chartbusters.

Dressed in a simple off-white T-shirt and grey jeans, sprawled on a sofa, Mahendra Singh Dhoni watched all these theatrics a bit amusedly, a boyish grin flickering on his face, hiding the restless wait for the jersey unveiling. After the jersey was launched, which Dhoni wore over the white T-shirt, the compere handed over the mic to him with this line: “By the end of your time here, you would be talking in Tamil to the fans.”

The smile on Dhoni's face broadened and he replied: “Don't know about that, but I will try to win you trophies,” he said, before he paused, creating suspense, and rattled out in a thick Hindi accent: “*Romba nandri* (thank you).” The applause was ear-splitting.

So began the making of the CSK *Thala* (leader), the start of a deeply emotional bond between a cricketer and the fans of the club. There began the delocalisation of the local hero too—the concept that the hero, by virtue of being a local, is more identifiable to the masses.

Dhoni, the eternal non-conformist in cricket, was to break another myth, and spin one of his own, with both his success, charisma and sheer magnetism of his persona. There began the supremacy of CSK, their foresight in terms of a business model as well as the most efficient franchise in the Indian Premier League, one that woos success mocking templates and tearing patterns.

Evolution

Fourteen years later, most franchises have long shed their fixation with local players, realising that it is success and relatability that matter most. Popular cricketers could forge an emotional connect, irrespective of where they are from or whom they play for. Franchises, in that sense, have dissociated themselves from regional identities and sought a more pan-national connect, a step in their evolution. Part of it owed to the realisation that though they have taken the name of a city or a state, they don't represent it. A club is an independent entity, unbound by regional affinities and not adhering to deep-rooted traditions.

So, Delhi Capitals are not fussing over acquiring Virat Kohli, arguably the greatest cricketer from the Capital city; Royal Challengers Bangalore, the franchise Kohli turns up for, did not heckle for Devdutt Padikkal, one of the most promising talents around, and one from the city, or KL Rahul. Shreyas Iyer, who has played all his cricket in Mumbai and would captain his state unit in the Ranji Trophy, has captained Delhi and would lead Kolkata Knight Riders this season.

So has been the case with Rahul, who skippered Punjab Kings and would now lead Lucknow Super Giants. The latter did not bother about Suresh Raina. Gujarat Titans appointed Hardik Pandya as captain to string a local connect — though technically, he is from Baroda — but shed no sentiment to snare Cheteshwar Pujara or Jaydev Unadkat.

Naseem helps Pakistan claw back in series-decider

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LAHORE, MARCH 21

PAKISTAN RECOVERED from dropped catches to restrict Australia to 232-5 and deny Usman Khawaja a second consecutive century on Day 1 of the third and final Test on Monday. Fast bowler Naseem Shah, the only Pakistan change from the second drawn test at Karachi, picked up 2-36 to lead a fight-back in the last session after Australia won the toss and opted to bat on another slow and low-bouncy wicket. Cameron Green was unbeaten on 20 and Alex Carey was not out on 8 when bad light stopped play two overs before the scheduled close. The Pakistan-born Khawaja, who scored 160 and 44 not out at Karachi and 97 runs in the opening test draw, fell for 91 when Babar Azam plucked a brilliant one-handed shin-high catch in the slip. Khawaja batted for nearly 5-1/2 hours for his resilient 219-ball knock before he tried to flick off-spinner Sajid Khan (1-65) to mid-wicket. But the ball spun away sharply and took the thick outside edge of the bat.



Most IPL franchises have long shed their fixation with local players, realising that it is success of the team and relatability of the brand that matter most.

IPL

Just 19 players (out of 250) represent the franchise based out of their state or city. In the first season, the corresponding number was 46 (out of 200).

Only Mumbai Indians have a natural-fit captain from their city — Rohit Sharma. But once he retires, it is not guaranteed that they would pick another from the city as captain.

The death of localism was inevitable — for dub culture in the country is primarily an urban phenomenon. Dhoni and CSK just hastened its demise.

A wave of lament flitted through the city's cricket circles when the list of franchise-icons was announced. They didn't have one, while all other established cricketing centres had a face they could call their own. Mumbai had Sachin Tendulkar; Kolkata Sourav Ganguly; Bangalore Rahul Dravid and Hyderabad VVS Laxman. It burst a proud cricketing culture's bloated ego. Vernacular dailies devoted vast editorial spaces to mourn the apparent death of Tamil Nadu cricket, its inability to produce superstar cricketers. A daily also drew a cartoon of Kris Srikkanth with the line, 'I can be an icon player, in my time I batted like in Twenty-Twenty cricket.'

Those were days when the concept of competitive club culture was nascent. Though cricketing superstars were loved and deified everywhere in the country, local stars established a deeper connection, and sometimes were antagonistic towards another superstar from a different city or state. No matter how much they loved Sachin Tendulkar, those in Kolkata loved Sourav Ganguly more.

The late 20th century and aughts were the time regional political parties and politicians were flexing their muscles in the country's political geography as well.

But CSK owners' thought differently. They were predominantly thinking on business terms, astute businessmen they were. “We didn't go for any icon players, because they had to pay the icon 10 percent more than the highest-paid player of the team in the auction,” then team owner N Srinivasan once explained.

This helped them in bidding for Dhoni, who was the most expensive player of the auction. “So, when the bidding went on for Dhoni, I was clear at any price, MS Dhoni. When it came to \$1.5 million, I think (Mumbai Indians) realised they would have to pay Sachin \$1.65 million and Dhoni \$1.5 million, five million was the purse and 60 percent of the purse would go to these two players. So, they stopped and that's how we got Dhoni because I said 'I don't want an icon,’” Srinivasan revealed.

Dhoni was a sharp investment at multiple levels. He was young, had just won the inaugural ICC World T20 as captain, had just been handed over full rein of the national team, was the most marketable face in the country and his stocks were surging. Contrarily, the icon-players were mostly dragging towards the end of their careers. Ganguly was to retire at the end of that year; Laxman could not quite crack the T20 code of batting; Dravid tried; only Tendulkar and Sehwag, among the icons, dazzled. By the end of the first season, most icons had become a burden on their franchises. And by 2010, only Tendulkar and Sehwag remained at their clubs.

The lament of the Chennai crowd now

became a melody.



Dhoni has recast the concept of the IPL hero in his own image so much that every franchise wants a Dhoni of their own. RCB thought they had unearthed one in Kohli. Soon after India won the 2011 50-over World Cup, he became the country's best batsman across formats. Soon after, he became the Test captain, and the world's best batsman. The Bengaluru crowd croons for him more than they would cheer for Mayank Agarwal or Rahul. Even during Test matches, all they want to watch is Kohli bat, or Kohli field. Fans squeeze past dozing guards to take a selfie with him on the pitch during the match. They can bear the pain the lathis were to inflict on their softer flesh or the lock-up lodging.

But still Kohli-mania does not quite match Dhoni-mania. There is not that spontaneous affection that Chennai pampers Dhoni with. Maybe, it is the cultural differences between the cities. Bengaluru is more cosmopolitan and pragmatic. Chennai is still conservative and romantic. Chennai still deifies; New-age Bengaluru is more defiant. In accepting heroes, Chennai, or rather the state at large, is less parochial. The most famous actor is non-Tamil (Rajinikanth); the most idolised hero-politician was non-Tamil (MG Ramachandran); the most loved cricketers (Sunil Gavaskar, Gundappa Viswanath and Sachin Tendulkar) in the pre-Dhoni era were non-Tamil too.

That Dhoni was more successful than Kohli too could be a reason — the latter could not win any silverware for his club in his tenure, rather RCB were considered perpet-

ual underachievers, and his appeal mostly dwelled on his batsmanship. But success, more so early success, is primary to win hearts — Dhoni has steered his club to four IPL triumphs and two Champions League successes.

But success alone would not guarantee love either. Gautam Gambhir won KKR two titles, yet he was no Dhoni in the love he received in return. The city did not weep or mourn when he left. So, it is clearly more than the number of trophies one has won or the number of runs one has scored, but something less tangible, and something more region or city-specific. Dhoni did not resort to anything gimmicky to win the fans either — he did not make public appearances every other day, he did not come dressed in veshti or sang Tamil songs or made cameos in movies, he did not make loud statements of love for CSK. There was no veil of artificiality — everything flowed smoothly and organically. He just won matches, amassed trophies and kept smiling that warm smile of his.

What worked in Chennai might not work in Delhi, and vice-versa. The franchises should be shrewd enough to grasp the specific and unique layers at work. Maybe, after all, it was just happenstance. Dhoni and the masses just clicked, like when one falls in love.

But the league has travelled a long way away from assigning local players as icons. The league has broadened its vistas from restrictive regional identities. Dhoni could be the overwhelming catalyst of this change. He might not be conversing in Tamil to his legions of fans, he might not be conversing at all, but has transcended the regional and linguistic barriers to recast the concept of the IPL hero in his own image.

ROYALS: THE JOURNEY MONEYBALL OR ODDBALL?

Rajasthan Royals aced the format in one go under Warne, but haven't repeated the feat. They are unlikely to fare much better this time too under Samson's captaincy

THE PAST

Rajasthan Royals were IPL's first movers. The world still sees them as the team that cracked the T20 code at the very first attempt. Back in 2008, before the inaugural season, when fans and franchise owners were talking about money,



they were being IPL's Moneyball team. They even defied convention to give the captain's arm-band to **Shane Warne**, the only retired and non-

Indian skipper of the first season. So, was it the smart shopping or a sharp captain that won RR their IPL title? It was a combination of both. However, RR took their Moneyball image too seriously. After the initial success, they haven't repeated that without a hands-on inspirational captain; one can't run a team of rag-tag rookies and seasoned pros.

THE PRESENT

RR is a team that is a victim of its own myth. After the first season high, they have never reached the final and, more often than not, ventured in the bottom half of the points table. Their pursuit to find Warne's replacement has been both relentless and futile. Shane Watson, Rahul Dravid, Steve Smith and Ajinkya Rahane have been RR captains before their last year's failed leap of faith. In 2021, RR under Sanju Samson won just five of the 14 games, finishing seventh in the 8-team league. In the past, they tried their best to follow the Warne template of 2008 but it didn't work. RR didn't win many games but have remained the people's team. There is something about RR that makes fans believe in miracles. Remember that night in Sharjah in 2020, Rahul Tewatia's five sixes? He hasn't done much after that but Gujarat Titans got him for Rs 9 crore this time.

WHAT NEXT

At the big reset auction of 2022, RR, like every other team, went back to the drawing board, and the algorithms. Once again, it's a mix of unknowns and seasoned players. There are trusted performers like Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Rassie van der Dussen, Devdutt Padikkal and Shriman Hetmyer and first-timers like Dhruv Jurel, Tejas Baroka, Kuldeep Yadav, Shubham Garhwal. But do they have a Warne? There will always be just one Shane Warne.

‘We’re back’: Barca make a bold statement with big win

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MARCH 21

BARCELONA'S PLAYERS had just returned to the locker room when Gerard Piqué put out a message on Twitter.

“We are back,” it read.

Piqué and his teammates had stayed on the field at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium celebrating the team's commanding 4-0 victory over Real Madrid in the Spanish league. They jumped and sang along with the few hundred visiting fans still left at the mostly empty venue. Inside, coach Xavi Hernández waited to embrace each player as they returned. “*Vamos, vamos!* (Let's go!),” was the common exchange. It was the type of statement Barcelona needed in a difficult rebuild year following the departure of Lionel Messi and the collapse of its finances.

The rout on the road against the team's biggest rival — which had been comfortably leading the Spanish league and had just eliminated Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League — reassured Barcelona that it's on the right path. “This can change the dynamic of the present and the future,” Xavi said. “We hadn't

been having many reasons to celebrate in the recent past and today we made a statement. You can say we are on our way back. We competed against Real Madrid in their stadium and could have won by more goals. It was spectacular.” Barcelona has finally found its stride after a slow start to the season, which included being eliminated from the Copa del Rey and Spanish Super Cup.

Xavi revamped Barcelona's offence and it has thrived recently with a more vertical attacking style that damages opponents with quick and efficient bursts.

The club has outscored opponents 24-5 in its last eight matches in all competitions thanks in part to new signings Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Ferran Torres. Aubameyang scored twice and Ferran added another Sunday to take their combined tally to 15 goals since joining the club this year.

“I think this is the beginning of a new era,” said the 32-year-old Aubameyang, who was signed as a free agent after losing space at Arsenal. Shortly after the match, he went on Twitter and posted the message: “Hello from the finished player.”

Ronald Araujo scored the other Barcelona goal against Madrid, which had won the last



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored twice & Ferran Torres added one to take their tally to 15 goals since joining the club this year.

five consecutive “clásicos.”

“This reinforces our project, reinforces our style, reinforces me as a new coach” Xavi said. “There is no doubt this is how Barcelona has to compete.” Xavi neutralized Madrid after counterpart Carlo Ancelotti tried to use Luka Modric as a false-nine to replace the injured Karim Benzema, Madrid's top player this season and the league's scoring leader.

“We were able to play well behind the lines when their midfielders moved up and that al-

lowed us to create many scoring chances,” Xavi said. “This victory gives us great confidence to keep working hard. We showed ourselves that we can compete against anyone.”

Ancelotti took the blame for the loss, saying his tactics were wrong. He tried to use Mariano Diaz up front in the second half but it also didn't work. Eden Hazard was on the bench but didn't play.

“I told the players it was my fault,” the Italian said. “It wasn't a good plan. Barcelona played better and deserved the victory.”

Barcelona's impressive rout also earned praise from outside Spain.

“It was a pleasure to watch this amazing performance tonight,” Bayern Munich forward Thomas Muller wrote on Twitter.

The victory kept Madrid from opening a 12-point lead over second-place Sevilla with nine matches to go. Barcelona is 12 points adrift with a game in hand. The Catalan club had been near midtable early in the season.

REAL MADRID	0-4	BARCELONA
Aubameyang 29', 51'		
Araujo 38'		
Torres 47'		